

**SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF TABOO LANGUAGE EXPRESSED IN THE  
MOVIE OF AMERICAN GANGSTER**

**SKRIPSI**

*Submitted In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd)  
English Education Program*

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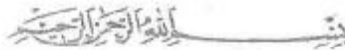


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## ABSTRACT

**Hesti, Mia Kartika. 1402050334. Social Background of Taboo Language Expressed in American Gangster Movie. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education University of Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara Medan. 2018**

The research with the types and function of taboo words in American Gangster Movie. The objectives of the research was to analyze the type and function of taboo words in American Gangster Movie. The data were analyzed by identifying types and function taboo words in American Gangster Movie taken from the script of dialogues American Gangster. All taboo words consisted of ephitet, obscenity, vulgarity and profanity appeared in the movie. Ephitets were 49 appereances (33%) obscenity were 43 appereances (29%), profanity 30 appereances (20%) and vulgarity 27 appereances (18%). The highest frequency of the types of taboo words was Ephitets appeared 49 times out of 149 of the total data (33%), and the lowest was obtained by vulgarity appeared 27 times out of 149 of the total data (18%). There were four functions appeared in the movie : to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative and to mock authority. To show contempt got the highest percentage 54% and appeared 80 times. The lowest function was to mock authority with 1 % and appeared 2 times.

Key words : social background taboo language, movie.

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Medan, September 2018

Researcher

**HESTI MIA KARTIKA**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the study**

According to researchers men and women have been proven to talk and behave differently (Coates, 2004; Stenström et. al, 2007; Graddol and Swann, 1989). Studies have shown that there is a male respective female language. What these researchers refer to is the use of certain linguistic forms within the English language. Women tend to use more minimal responses even called back-channels which are words inserted within an utterance to state that the listener is listening. Mhmm, Yeah, right are some examples of minimal response. Women also tend to use more hedges I'm not really sure but I think... to soften their utterances while men use more commands Shut up! and directives Get me my filofax! to get someone to do something as well as to show they have power (Coates, 2004; Graddol and Swann, 1989). Studies have showed that men are mostly the ones using taboo or swearing within language than what women are because of the old sayings of women being lady-like and behaving properly like a lady. Ladies should not swear or use taboo or vulgar language (Coates, 2004: 13; Graddol and Swann, 1989: 115). This phenomenon is recalled as taboo language.

Language is condered to contain special powers – be able to cure sickness, keep away evils, bring good to oneself and harm to an enemy. This belief that words control objects, people and spirits influences human activities through human history since ancient time. Such language usually has to be used with great care, and meticulous attention is paid to pronunciation and wording.

Taboo is wide phenomenon across the world and it has become so sensitive that the word taboo itself is taboo. Words or sentences, even some topics, have at the moment become so sensitive to talk about that they have become taboo. Some taboo words and phrases have been used for so long that they at this point have become so frequent and widespread. As a result of taboos frequency they have in the present time been seen more or less as not being taboos anymore.

The use of taboo words or utterances is also found in movie. The actor or actresses expresses or speaks taboo utterances to attract the viewers, but unfortunately not all viewers understand these utterances this condition is caused by many factors. Especially by culture factor as the result they do not understand what the movie conveys/delivers about as found in American Gangster movie.

This research aims to reveal the truth about this statement. The emphasis here lays in the fact or enlightening what viewers see as taboo. Some words and expressions have been used for such a long time that they have become common in language use and might therefore not be seen as taboo today.

The New Oxford Dictionary of English explains that taboo is a social or religious custom prohibiting or restricting a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place, or thing. Based in this statement the researcher is interested in analyzing taboo expression since in American Gangster movie there are taboo utterances spoken by the characters that not all are understood enough by the viewers especially that movies is watched by Indonesian viewers this is the reason why the researcher wants to know types of

taboo utterances and what are actually the function of those who watch that movie to understand it.

### **B. The Identification of Problem**

Related to the background, the problem of study were:

1. Language is condered to contain special powers – be able to cure sickness, keep away evils, bring good to oneself and harm to an enemy.
2. Taboo is wide phenomenon across the worl and it has become to sensitive.
3. The use of taboo words or utterances is also found in movie.
4. Not all viewers understand taboo utterances as the result they do not understand what the movie.

### **C. The Scope and limitation of the study**

The scope this research is about social linguistic and it is limited in taboo utterances. It is help ful the readers to understand the taboo utterances.

### **D. The Formulation of the Problem**

The problem of this research will be formulated as follows :

1. What types of taboo utterances are found in American Gangster movie?
2. How are the functions of taboo utterances found in American Gangster movie?

### **E. The Objectives of The Study**

In relation to the problem, the objectives of the research are :

1. to find out and the types of taboo utterances found in American Gangster movie.
2. to describe the functions of taboo utterances found in American Gangster movie.

### **F. The Significance of Study**

The researcher expect that the research will contribute a great significance both theoretically and practically.

#### **a. Theoretically**

The research finding will be give additional information on the linguistic aspects especially about taboo utterances.

#### **b. Practically**

1. Teachers/lectures, as the source of information to intrese the teaching learning process especially in Sociolinguistic.
2. Students, as an editional information in understanding taboo language.
3. Readers/ other researchers, as an input a to do the same research of different point of view.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **A. Theoretical Framework**

The analysis of taboo language in movie American Gangster is mainly base on the taboo language theory. In this chapter, the theoretical framework is presents in order to give some clearer concept will lead to much better analysis of variables chosen because they help the researcher to limit the scope of the problems. Beside, the discussion should start from theoretical concepts so as to avoid misinterpretation of the term used.

#### **1. Linguistics**

Lyons in Jandal (2002:5) says that language are principlal system of conventional spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of a social group and participant in its cultute, communicate. Language as means of communication play very important role for human being life. Language can be form as sound or text that has meaning. Language is mediator used by people to transfer what they have in their mind. The researcher explain that no matter which explanation you go for – both will be seen as a taboo.

Linguistic is the scientific study of language. There are three aspects to this study : language from, language meaning, and language in context. Clark (1997:3) states that linguistics is the discipline that describes the structure of language, including grammar, sound system, and vocabulary. Linguistics also include the study of other aspects like influence of social, cultural, historical, and political factors on language. Studying linguistic enables you to understand how language work. How it used and how it is developed and preserved over time.



There are many sub-fields concerned with particular aspects of linguistics structure, ranging from those focused primarily on form to those focused primarily on meaning :

- a. Phonetics is a study of the physical properties of speech (or signed) production and perception.
- b. Phonology is a study of sounds (or signs) as discrete, abstract elements in the speaker's mind that distinguish meaning.
- c. Morphology is a study of internal structures of words and how they can be modified.
- d. Syntax is a study of the words combine to form grammatical sentences.
- e. Semantics is a study of the meaning of word ( lexical semantics ) and fixed word combinations (phraseology), and how these combine to form meaning of sentence.
- f. Pragmatics is a study of how utterances are used in communicative acts, and the role played by context and non-linguistics knowledge in the transmission of meaning.
- g. Discourse Analysis is an analysis of language use is text ( spoken, written, or signed).

## **2. Sociolinguistic**

The existence of language cannot be separated from the society. This phenomenon is studied in Sociolinguistics. According to Yule (2010:254),

sociolinguistics is a part of sociolinguistics study which focuses on language which is dealing with social and cultural phenomenon in one society. It usually explores the field of language, society, and things which are related to social sciences, especially psychology, anthropology, and sociology. The idea proposed by Yule is also in line with Trudgill. He states that the study of sociolinguistics is related to cultural phenomenon so that it can affect the way people speak or talk since it is determined by the social context (Trudgill, 2000:32). Sociolinguistic is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used (Holmes. J, 2013:1).

### **3. Taboo**

Taboo is actually connected with something that is avoided and forbidden to talk about. Allan and Burridge (2006: 1) assert that taboo originates from social restriction on one's behavior which can bring about uneasiness, harm and injury. Since it is resulting in uneasiness, harm, and injury, people in the society are supposed to avoid taboo which has a vulgar sense. To give a clearer explanation, Trudgill (2000: 18) defines taboo in the following way.

Taboo terms were firstly introduced by Capten Cook on his first voyage of 1768-71 in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when he was sent to Tahiti to observe the transit of the planet Venus across the sun. According to Allan and Burridge (2006:1-2) Taboo or known as *Tabuis* a Tongan term that arises out of social constraint on the individual's behavior where it can cause discomfort, harm or injury. Fomkin (2003:489) also says that the taboo language was borrowed from Tongan, a politeness language, in which refer to acts that are forbidden, or to be avoided. Such

taboos are, in some form, almost universal. For instance, there are food taboos in most societies.

The taboo is social phenomenon. It characterized as being concerned with some behaviors that are forbidden, or regarded as immoral or improper. It means that an action or behavior that is forbidden in a community. The action or behavior can not be separated from the taboo concept in the community. But not every taboo language for general people.

According to Wardhaugh (2000:234), taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behavior believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame. In the statement above, Wardhaugh tried to emphasize that a certain object can only be referred to only in certain circumstances. It also means that the use of taboo words can create misunderstanding between two people who are involved in a conversation if they have different knowledge since they belong to different societies and different circumstances. In addition, Freitas (2008:26) who states that certain words and expressions mat be considered as taboos for certain people, especially when these words and expressions are used by other social class members.

Literature as a part of media in society has a responsibility to affect the readers or viewers. The use of taboo language in such of literature is possible to affect the readers to recognize the function and the meaning in a conversation among people. It can be conclude that, the finding of taboo language in literature in directly support the spreading of taboo language throughout people.

#### **a. The Cause of Using Taboo**

Nowadays, many people often used taboo language to express their emotions to others. Most of the people usually do not clumsy to convey taboo language but they regard it as social authority. Taboo language is actually universal because all languages and all societies have taboo language in their social structure. Wardaugh (2006:239) defines tabooed subject can vary widely; sex, death, excretion, bodily function, religious matters, and politics. Whereas According to Hasan (1985:282) taboo language seems to spring three causes:

1) Unpleasant word

Dictated by a sense of delicacy: when we have to talk of such unpleasant topics as illness and that physical or mental deficiencies, and such criminal and acts, such as cheating, stealing or killing, we often recourse to euphemism and this can permanently effect the meaning of the latter; instead of veiling a tabooed subject, the equipment will become indissolubly linked with, such as blind and paralyze can be change into handicap, and dead become pass away.

2) Part of body and Bodily Functions.

Taboo bans may result from a sense of decency and property, references to sex, names certain parts and function of body, and swear are particularly subject to this from of taboo, such as ass, tits, dick, cock, and etc.

**b. Types of Taboo Words**

1. Religious taboos

In English, the most potent swear words currently consist of words referencing various body parts and bodily function. Expletives that reference faith have become notably less offensive over time unless you're in particularly religious company.

However, in other languages, that's not necessarily the case. For example, in French-speaking Quebec, the words for "chalice" and "host" are considered "some of the roughest words in the language."

Centuries ago, in English, religious oaths were much more offensive than, say, the c-word or the f-word, both which were used quite casually in medieval times. In one manuscript that dates back to 1528, a monk even used the f-word to describe his abbot. Obviously, the meaning wasn't complimentary, but the monk in question clearly wasn't afraid of being struck by lightning, either.

## 2. When your Mother-In Law Is "She Who Cannot Be Named"

"Mother-in-Law" jokes were once a staple in Western comedy. You might not get along with your in-laws, but what if you literally had to treat them like Voldemort? An entire category of joke would have never existed!

Some cultures follow a practice called "avoidance speech," where it is forbidden to say your mother-in-law or father-in-law's name. The details of this taboo vary by specific culture. The taboos most commonly affect daughters-in-law, and they don't always stop with just names. For example, consider the Kambaata language of Ethiopia. As Bryant

Rousseau explains in the New York Times, some married women who speak the Kambaata language of Ethiopia follow ballishsha, a rule that forbids them from using words that begin with the same syllable as the name of their father-in-law or mother-in-law.

This rule can complicate a conversation, but there are workarounds. Certain basic words in the vocabulary come in synonymous pairs. “One is the normal term, used by everybody; one is the term used by women who are not allowed to say that word,” said Yvonne Treis, a linguist at a French research institute, Languages and Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa. Some languages also have rules about which words you can use in the presence of your in-laws. And in some Australian aboriginal cultures, men aren’t even allowed to speak to their mothers-in-law. Which might sound like a relief, until you realize how much it would complicate family gatherings.

### 3. The Weird Language Taboos of Victorian England

Of course, by the Victorian era, the pendulum had swung the other direction. Now, anything that might even remotely be associated with sex was taboo. Of course, words relating to sex are (or were) taboo in many cultures. But the Victorians took it to an entirely different level. It was considered impolite to say “leg,” for example. Fun fact: That’s why we now eat chicken “drumsticks.” Pants or trousers were called “inexpressibles”, and breasts were the “upper stomach”, and the word

“bull” was also a no-no. Apparently, the Victorians were afraid that saying “bull” would get people all hot and bothered. (Yikes!) Instead, a proper Victorian would say “cow brute, a gentleman cow, a top cow, or a seed ox.”

#### 4. Taboo language and Animal Names: Lions and Tigers and Bears.

Which brings us to our next type of taboo: the names of certain animals. These taboos usually date back much earlier in human history, when people were more dependent on animals and also had more reason to fear them. For example, many languages, including Germanic languages like English, use words for “bear” that aren’t related to the original Indo-European root word. The English word “ber,” for example, derives from “the brown one.” Russian and Czech uses “medved,” which means “honey eater.” Baltic languages, like Lithuanian, use words that derive from the Indo-European root \*tlakis, which means “hairy.” Some linguists believe this is because saying the actual Indo-European word for “bear” was taboo. It was not done, except perhaps during rituals, either for religious reasons or because people believed that saying the word would summon one. So, instead of saying bear, people said “the honey-eater” or “the brown one.” Over time, they stopped saying the “true name” almost completely.

#### 5. Modern Day Taboos: Hate Speech and Slurs

The strength of the language taboos of old is fading in many English-speaking cultures. Of course, you still want to avoid using “strong language” in many business and professional contexts. And probably when you’re visiting your grandparents. But George Carlin’s “7 dirty words” are no longer quite so unspeakable.

Here’s the strongest modern-day taboo: words that degrade people based on factors like culture, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability status. To see how much things have changed over the past century, all you have to do is pick up a copy of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Language like that was once commonplace, but thankfully it’s no longer acceptable. To quote *The Economist*, “Western taboos now respect neither god nor sex, but they do respect individuals. And this is as it should be.”

Changing taboos can cause problems for businesses, especially when your business is international. For example, in 1971, German babywearing company Didymos introduced a baby wrap to help European women carry their babies hands-free. It was inspired by a trip the founder took to Mexico. There, she saw indigenous women using similar wraps. She named the product “Indio”, having no idea that term was often used as a slur. But over time, the product name rightfully became an issue. In 2016, the controversy came to a head, and Didymos received a thorough social media shaming. The company renamed the wrap “Prima.” But the damage to their reputation remains. (Note: there are also concerns about cultural appropriation based on the design itself).



### c. The Functions of Taboo Language

1. to strengthen power and intensity Some words are obviously taboos in common life. Participants in certain settings use those words to strengthen power and intensity. For example, the word “bloody” in “Not bloody likely” in 1962 is a strictly tabooed word because its association with “Christ’s blood”. Then, it has been used among the lower classes, however, the educated consider it as “a horrible word”. Here the word “bloody” was used to strengthen the mood and express the narrator’s emotion without any intention to offend anybody individually. It is considered normal for people to utter a strong oath or a taboo word at such moments. Using taboo words under such circumstances would not be evaluated as negatively as when they are used elsewhere. Due to linguistic taboos’ nature, the linguistic taboo has a mysterious and unimaginable power. It is used to strengthen power and intensity in communication or to vent one’s pent-up feelings.
2. to relieve spiritual tension Individuals may use taboo words to vent pent-up emotions such as anger, pressure or frustration, especially when encountering unpleasant, frustrating and irritating situation. If people have stressful occupations or keep staying in stressful condition, they tend to relieve their tensions by using taboo words more. That is also the reason why there is a high degree of taboo word use among these men working on board since such work was quite dangerous and stressful.

3. to indicate attitude The linguistic taboos could be used in some formal situations to indicate the opinion or the attitude of the speaker or the writer. The simplest example is die or pass away. The word die is a strictly tabooed word both in English and Chinese. The word “die” in “Chiang Kaisheck died.” “Khrushchev died.” means much than merely “stop living”.

It embodies a strong expression of disdainful and contemptuous attitude toward the dead. Pass away in “Master Hong passed away.” is a euphemism, which is always followed by some other complimentary remarks such as “live in our hearts forever” or “great loss”. In this formal setting, the linguistic taboo has the function to indicate the addresser’s attitude to the addressee in the communication.

4. to reveal the relationship As members of social group, the participants in the communication are not isolated individually. One of language’s functions is to act as a symbol of a group identity. Linguistic taboo’s observance and violation can reveal the relationship between participants in communication. For example, the workers in factories stay together every day and have same social status. Therefore, the relationship is more intimate than others. In daily greeting, certain taboo words are used to show the acquaintance and intimacy.

The situation in the government is rare because of the relationship concerning power and solidarity. Another example, a girl tells another girl, “You’d better loose your weight.” If they are best friends, this sentence will be taken as a suggestion or a joke. It is acceptable

according to the degree of intimacy of the relationship. If a stranger utters it, it will be much offensive because it may mean a criticism of the girl's figure.

#### **4. Movie**

Movies, also known as films, are a type of visual communication which use moving pictures and sound to tell stories or inform. Most movies are made so that they can be shown on screens at cinemas or movie theatres. Meanwhile, Azhar (2011:49) define movie as picture in a frame where frame is projected through the projector lens mechanically so that the pictures in the screen looks alive.

Jesse (2007) states that movie is a photographic record of an artistic performance, but not an artform in its own right. After movies are shown on movie screen for a period of time, movies are shown on pay television or cable television, and sold or rented on DVD disks or videocassette tapes, so that people can watch the movies at home. You can also download or stream movies. Later movies are shown on television stations. Movie is truly a motion picture- a flowing, ever changing stream of images and sound sparkling with freshness and vitality all its own, a fluid blend of images, sound, and motion possessed by a restless compulsion to be vibrantly alive, to avoid the quite and the static. According Richard Barsam (2009) movie also known as film is a motion pictures with series of images which are constructed of multiple individual shots joined to another in an extended sequence. Movie itself has kinds of genre, below are the genres of movie:

**a. Action**

Action movies have a lot of exciting effect like car chases and gun fights, involving stuntmen. They usually involve 'goodies' and 'baddies', so war and crime are common subjects. Action movie usually need very little effort to watch, since the plot is normally simple. For example, in Die Hard, terrorists take control of a skyscraper and ask for a big ransom in exchange for not killing the hostage workers. One hero somehow manages to save everyone. Action movie do not usually make people cry, but if the action movie is also a drama, emotion will be involved.

**b. Adventure**

Adventure Movies usually involve a hero who sets out on a quest to save the world or loved ones. Adventure films are usually exciting stories, with new experiences or exotic locales, very similar to or often paired with the action film genre.

**c. Comedies**

Comedies are funny movies about people being silly or doing unusual things that make the audience laugh. Comedies are light-hearted plots consistently and deliberately designed to amuse and provoke laughter (with one-liners, jokes, etc.)

**d. Fictional**

Fictional film or narrative film that tells a fictional or fictionalized story, event or narrative. In this style of film, believable narratives and characters help convince the audience that the unfolding fiction is real. Lighting and camera movement, among other cinematic elements, have become increasingly important in these films. Great detail goes into the screenplays of narratives, as these films rarely deviate from the predetermined behaviours and lines of the screenplays to maintain a sense of realism. Actors must deliver dialogue and action in a believable way, so as to persuade the audience that the film is real life.

## **B. Relevant Study**

Eckert articulates the significance of approaching sociolinguistic variation from an indexical perspective by showing how, although there is evidence in early variationist studies that the meanings attached to variants are ideologically motivated, this evidence is not fully recognised or developed in these accounts. She argues, for example, that Labov interpreted the correlation between the centralization of /ay/ and certain categories of people in Martha's Vineyard, as evidence that the meaning of the variation is a local construction: in this case it signalled resistance to mainland incursion. However, as she goes on to argue, such local meanings were not actually addressed by Labov, or by subsequent variationist sociolinguists. For example although, as Eckert points out, Trudgill argued that it was the "perceived toughness of working-class men" that explained language change in that it led to middle-class men adopting regional working-class variants, she goes to argue that this account does not address the process by

which “meanings become associated with social categories or with variables” (Eckert, 2008:455). Following Silverstein (2003), Eckert reinterprets the findings of large-scale social surveys from this perspective, showing the significance of explaining the correlational data of such surveys as indexical. Starting from the premise that once an association has been made between a social group (for example, a specific class of people in New York) and a form used by that group (for example, post-vocalic /r/) that form is available to be used indexically (e.g. by a worker in a New York store to indicate something about social status). Her argument is that the goal of sociolinguistics today should be to explain how variants function by focusing on the ideological field that generates the indexical potential of variants. She describes this field as a product of “the continual reconstrual of the indexical value of a variable” (Eckert, 2008:463-4). Her point is also that whenever a linguistic resource is used, it has the potential to change that field.

### **C. Conceptual Framework**

Movie as one of media to give information is interesting to study. It is said so because there are many aspect can be studied and enjoyed in a movie. One of the aspect interesting to be analyzed is the language which is connected to content of the movie itself. In a movie the dialog spoken through various of language use one of them is the use of taboo language. In American Gangster movie, taboo language is delivered in the form of utterances. This taboo utterances become attractive since it can cause confusing to the viewers. This is also the reason to know the taboo utterances found in American Gangster movie because the

understanding of the language of the movie will help the viewers to understand and enjoy the movie.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

##### **A. Research Design**

This research used descriptive qualitative method. This method applied because it was intended to analyze and describe types of taboo utterances and their function in American Gangster movie. Creswell (2007:37) states that qualitative research began with assumption, a worldwide, the possible used of theoretical lens, and the study during research problems inquiring into the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social problem. So this method accounts for accumulations of the basic data. It mean this study did not intend to find out a new theory but this study was purposed to describe the theory.

##### **B. The Source of the Data**

The source of the data is taken from the content of the script of American Gangster movie in which the researcher analyses all the utterances found in this movie in order to found out the types of taboo utterances and their function.

##### **C. The technique of Collecting the data**

In collecting the data the procedures done are :

1. Watching the American Gangster movie
2. Reading all the content of the script of American Gangster movie

3. Identifying an underlining the taboo utterances in American Gangster movie.

#### **D. Technique for analyzing the data**

There were some steps to analyze qualitative research according to Miles and Huberman (2012):

1. **Data Reduction** : Data reduction occurs continually through the analysis. In the early stages, it happens through editing, segmenting and summarizing the data. In the middle stages, it happens through coding and memoing, and associated activities such as finding themes, clusters and patterns. In the later stages, it happens through conceptualizing and explaining, since developing abstract concepts also a way of reducing the data.
2. **Data Display** : Data display organize, compress and assemble information. Because qualitative data are typically voluminous, bulky and dispersed, displays help at all stages in the analysis. There are many different ways of displaying data : graphs, charts, networks, diagrams of different types, and any way that moves the analysis forward is appropriate. Displays are used all stages, since they enable data to be organized and summarized, they show what stage the analysis has reached and they are the basis for further analysis.



3. Drawing and verifying conclusion : The reasons for reducing and displaying data are to assist in drawing conclusions. While drawing conclusions logically follows reduction and display of data, in fact it takes place more or less concurrently with them. Thus possible conclusions may be noted early in the analysis, but they may be vague and ill formed at this stage. They are held tentative pending further work, and sharpened during it. They are not finalized until all the data are in, and have been analyzed.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS

#### A. The Data

This chapter discussed the examples of taboo words and classified the function of taboo words based on Wardaugh theory. The data were taken from the subtitle of American Gangster. The data were classified into Batistella's theory (2005:72), they were Ephetets, Profanity, Vulgarity and Obsenity.

##### a. Ephetets

The main characteristic of taboo of ephetets were that various types of words or expression which contained slurs, racial slurs, ethnic slurs or sexual slurs. The words that shown of ephetets which contained racial slurs was:

1. A **white male** apparently feel from the sky above downtown Los Angels today.

The bold word has meaning Racism (Western person)

2. Okay, **Chow mein**, who do you work for?

The bold word has meaning Racism (India)

3. Hey, **Menudo**, where's the fucking Social club? Uh, dondeesta La Social Club? Buenos nachos, **white boy**.

The bold word has meaning Racism (Mexico and Western)

4. You like sushi, **Chinese man**?

The bold word has meaning Racism (Chinese)

5. You pair of sausage-**Nigga**.

The bold word has meaning Racism (Negro)

6. I take it you're the **faggot**.

The bold word has meaning Homosexual

7. Man, fuck that shit, **Puto**.

The bold word has meaning Homosexual

8. The **faggot**, oh sorry the ferret.

The bold word has meaning Homosexual

9. Yeah, the **Chinese** shit.

The bold word has meaning Racism (Chinese Person)

10. Well, you do got a big-ass dick for a **white boy**.

The bold word has meaning Racism (Western Person)

The total numbers of Ephetet taboo words were 49 words. There are 13 kinds of ephetet taboo words appered. Chinese, Nigger, Nigga, Faggot, Menudo, Chow mein, Bitch, Motherfucker, Bastard, Whore, Pussy White male and Puto. The word that has the highest frequency was Motherfucker, 14 occurances.

#### **b. Profanity**

The main characters of Profanity are that every word is associated with religious cursing. The words that shown of profanity was:

1. X: Yeah, doc it's Chelious.

Y: **Jesus** H. Chelious.

The bold word has meaning Christian's God's name

2. **Goddamn!** Get off me.

The bold word has meaning Curse

3. **Hell** no, we work blow.

The bold word has meaning Curse

4. X: **Holyshit.**

Y: Chopchop

The bold word has meaning Curse

5. Why the **bloody** hell do you do the things you do, son?

The bold word has meaning Curse

6. Yeah yeah yeah, **fucking hell.**

The bold word has meaning Curse

7. **Jesus**, Christ, that's not fucking possible, Chevy.

The bold word has meaning Chistian's God's Name

8. X: I can't control myself

Y: **Jesus**

The bold word has meaning Chistian's God's Name

9. **Jesus** what the fuck are you doing?

The bold word has meaning Chistian's God's Name

10. **Jesus**, it's so hard to keep a straight face

The bold word has meaning Chistian's God's Name

The total number of Profanity taboo words were 30 words. There were 8 kinds of Profanity taboo words appeared. Jesus, Christ, Damn, Goddamn, Bloody, Hell, God and Holyshit. The word that has the highest frequency was Jesus, 7 occurances.

### c. **Vulgarity**

Vulgarity types deal with a word that mention sexual anatomy and excretory function. The words that shown vulgarity was:

1. X: You big **cock** English  
Y: Strong like a horse  
The bold word has meaning Man's sex organ
2. You looking to get you **ass** killed, Doc?  
The bold word has meaning Buttock
3. I rather stick my **dick** in a blender.  
The bold word has meaning Man's sex organ
4. Suck my fucking **tits**.  
The bold word has meaning Niple
5. X: **Cunt!**  
Y: Shit  
The bold word has meaning Woman's organ sex
6. Who is this fucking **asshole**.  
The bold word has meaning Buttock
7. Fucking fuck your **balls**, Chelious.  
The bold word has meaning Man's organ sex
8. Raise your **buttock** upward by first.  
The bold word has meaning Bottom
9. You ain't tapping my **ass**.  
The bold word has meaning Bottom
10. I know his **ass**.  
The bold word has meaning Bottom

The total numbers of vulgarity taboo words were 27 words. There were 9 kinds of vulgarity taboo words appeared. Cock, Ass, Nut, Dick, Asshole, Cunt, Tits, Buttock and Balls. The word that has the highest frequency was Ass, 9 occurrences.

#### d. Obscenity

Obscenity type deal with a word that word of expression that are prohibited from public use because it is considered as lack of morality since they mention sexual activity and excretory function which can generate disgust. The words that shown obscenity in dialogues was:

1. **Shit, shit, shit, shit.**

The bold word has meaning Excrement

2. **Fuck** you Chelios.

The bold word has meaning Have sex

3. Listen I'm deadly, **fuckin'** serious, doc!

The bold word has meaning Curse

4. The **bullshit** the most likely are.

The bold word has meaning Excrement

5. **Shit**, that better than none, I guess.

The bold word has meaning Excrement

6. Once the internal battery take over, you got one **fuckin'** hour.

The bold word has meaning Curse

7. Who the **fuck** is el hurrón, the ferret?

The bold word has meaning Have sex

8. **Fuck** off cheli-fucking-os.

The bold word has meaning Have sex

There were 43 total obscenity taboo words. There were 9 kinds of obscenity taboo words appeared. Fuck, shit, fuckin', fucker, bullshit, fuckhead, sucker and suck. The word that has the highest frequency was fuck, 17 occurrences.

### **B. The Data Analysis**

The total data collected in this research were 149 words. They were divided into 4 kinds of taboo words. The four kinds were Ephetet, Profanity Vulgarity and Obscenity. All of them appear in the conversation spoken by the character in the movie.

The following table shows the result of total number taboo words into 4 kinds of taboo words.

#### **4.1 Freuency of Occurences of Types and Function of Taboo Words in American Gangster Movie**

No	Types of Taboo Words	Function of Taboo Words				Total	Percentage (%)
		To Draw Attention of Oneself	To Show Contempt	To be Provocative	To Mock Authority		
1.	Ephitets	7	36	6	-	49	33
2.	Profanity	11	17	2	-	30	20
3.	Vulgarity	4	15	8	-	27	18
4.	Obscenity	24	12	5	2	43	29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>Precentage (%)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	

From the table above, it could be noticed that the most dominant type used by the characters was ephitets, which appeared 49 times (33%), the second was obscenity 43 times (29%), the third was profanity 30 times (20%) and the last was vulgarity 27 times (18%).

The table also showed that all functions of taboo words were found in the movie. However, each of them had different frequency. There are four function of taboo words namely to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock authority. From the four functions, the highest frequency of taboo words was to show contempt 80 (54%), to draw attention to oneself is in second position with 48 appeared (32%). Next to be provocative taked the third position with 21 appeared (13%). The last position was to muck authority with 2 appeared (1%).

### **C. Research Finding**

After analyzing the data, some findings found as follows:

1. The four kinds off taboo words applied in American Gangster Movie were the total words taboo in the movie were 149, ephitets were 49 (33%), obscenity were 43 (29%), profanity were 30 (20%) and vulgarity were 27 times (18%).
2. The most dominant kinds of taboo words used in American Gangster Movie were Epithet, with 49 (33%).
3. There were four functions of taboo words applied in American Gangster Movie. The total function of taboo words were 149, to show contempt was 80 (54%), to draw attention to oneself was 48 appearances (32%), to be



provocative was appereances 21 appeared (13%). The last position was to muck authority with 2 appearences (1%).

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### **A. Conclusion**

Based on the data and the data analysis in chapter IV, some conclusion could be formulated as follows:

1. All taboo words that consist of epithet, obscenity, vulgarity and profanity appeared in the movie. Epithets were 49 (33%) obscenity were 43 (29%), profanity 30 (20%) and vulgarity, which appeared 27 times (18%).
2. The highest frequency of the types of taboo words was Epithets appeared 49 times out of 149 total data (33%). And the lowest was obtained by vulgarity appeared 27 times out of 149 total data (18%).
3. There are four functions appeared in the movie : to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative and to mock authority. To show contempt get the highest percentage with 54% and appeared 80. The lowest function was to mock authority with 1 % and appeared 2 times.

#### **B. Suggestion**

Based on the conclusion above, some suggestion could be stated as follows:

1. To readers and students of linguistics, a movie which was the representation of human real life could be a good and interesting medium to learn. But readers / people have to know that sometimes a lot of movies contain some kinds of taboo words. They should know the meaning of

each words, and they have to know the function of taboo words itself because that function meaning was not always that speaker wants to hurt other people's feeling. They can be functioned to show a good relationship by calling one's name with the certain types of taboo words.

2. To other researcher, this research focuses on identifying the types of taboo words and also the function of taboo words in the movie: American Gangster. There are other problem such as taboo words in gender or taboo words in social status which are not analyzed so if other researcher intend to do the similar research it is suggested to analyze those problem.

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## Appendices 1

### Table of Ephitets

		Types of Taboo Words		Function of Taboo Words			
No	Dialogues	Ephitet Word	Meaning	T D A	T S C	T B P	T M A
1.	A white male apparently feel from the sky above downtown Los Angels today.	White male	Racism (Western person)	ü			
2.	X:Okay, Chow mein, who do you work for?	Chow mein	Racism (India)	ü			
3.	X:Hey, Menudo, where's the fucking Social club? Uh, dondeesta La Social Club?  Y:Buenos nachos, white boy	Menudo and White boy	Racism (Mexico and Western)	ü			
4.	X:You like sushi, Chinese man?	Chinese man	Racism (Chinese)			ü	

5.	X:I'll be in touch when I find that Chinese cocksucker that's got me pump.	Chinese	Racism (Chinese)		ü		
6.	X:Chinese? Y: Sharon, I just shut down?	Chinese	Racism (Chinese)		ü		
7.	X: You pair of sausage-Nigga	Nigga	Racism (Negro)		ü		
8.	X: Yeah, the Chinese shit.	Chinese Shit	Racism (Chinese)		ü		
9.	X: Well, you do got a big-ass dick for a white boy	White boy	Racism (Western)			ü	
10.	X: Eight seconds, nigger yeah!	Nigger	Racism (Negro)	ü			
11.	X: You know my nigger you can't get no bigger. L.A. underground.	Nigger	Racism (Negro)				ü
12.	X: Don't leave no skid marks, nigga.	Nigga	Racism (Negro)	ü			
13.	X: I take it you're the faggot Y: No no no X: I take it day. I faggot	Faggot	Homosexual			ü	

14.	Y: The faggot, oh sorry the ferret.	Faggot	Homosexual				ü
15.	X: Man, fuck that shit, Puto	Puto	Homosexual			ü	

**Table of Profanity**

		Types of Taboo Words		Function of Taboo Words			
No	Dialogues	Profanity Word	Meaning	T D A	T S C	T B P	T M A
1.	X: Yeah, doc it's Chelious. Y: Jesus H. Chelious.	Jesus	Christian's God's name	ü			
2.	X: Doc! Jesus fucking Christ. Y: I'm sorry.	Jesus	Christian's God's name		ü		
3.	X: Goddamn! Get off me.	Goddamn	Curse		ü		
4.	X: Jesus, Christ, that's not fucking possible, Chevy.	Jesus	Christian's God's name			ü	
5.	X: Hell no, we work blow.	Hell	Curse	ü			
6.	X: Jesus, oh shit! Y: for fuck sake's move`	Jesus	Christian's God's name		ü		
7.	X: I can't control myself Y: Jesus	Jesus	Christian's God's name	ü			
8.	X: What the hell are you doing there?	Hell	Curse		ü		
9.	X: I have no idea what the hell you just did.	Hell	Curse	ü			



10.	X: Jesus what the fuck are you doing?	Jesus	Christian's God's name		ü		
11.	X: Holyshit. Y: Chopchop	Holyshit	Curse		ü		
12.	X: Why the bloody hell do you do the things you do, son?	Bloody	Curse	ü			
13.	X: Yeah yeah yeah, fucking hell	Fucking hell	Curse		ü		
14.	X: Jesus, it's so hard to keep a straight face	Jesus	Christian's God's name		ü		

### Table of Vulgarity

		Types of Taboo Words		Function of Taboo Words			
No	Dialogues	Vulgarity Word	Meaning	T D A	T S C	T B P	T M A
1.	X: You big cock English Y: Strong like a horse	Cock	Man's sex organ		ü		
2.	X: You looking to get you ass killed, Doc?	Ass	Buttock			ü	
3.	X: You ain't tapping my ass	Ass	Buttock		ü		
4.	X: I rather stick my dick in a blender	Dick	Man's sex organ		ü		
5.	X: I know his ass	Ass	Buttock		ü		
6.	X: Suck my fucking tits.	Tits	Niple		ü		
7.	X: Cunt! Y: Shit	Cunt	Woman's organ sex		ü		
8.	X: Who is this fucking asshole	Asshole	Buttock			ü	
9.	X: You pair of cunt	Cunt	Woman's organ sex		ü		
10.	X: I think I need to stick	Dick	Man's organ	ü			

	my dick in a socket.		sex				
11.	X: Come here cunt. Y: Fuck you chelious	Cunt	Woman's organ sex		ü		
12.	X: Look like you pulled my lilly-white ass	Ass	Buttock		ü		
13.	X: What dude? Y: Asshole	Asshole	Buttock			ü	
14.	X: With my ass in the wind in front of eight thousand people	Ass	Buttock	ü			
15.	X: Well, you do got a big ass dick for a white boy	Dick, ass	Man's organ and buttock		ü		
16.	X: Get your dick wet yeah	Dick	Man's organ sex		ü		
17.	X: Fucking fuck your balls, Chelious.	Balss	Man's organ sex		ü		
18.	X: What the fuck do you continue to protect this asshole.	Asshole	Buttock		ü		
19.	X: Dick like this don't come for free	Dick	Man's organ sex				
20.	X: Raise your buttock upward by first	Buttock	Bottom	ü			
21.	X: My fuckin' nut	Nut	Woman's		ü		

			organ sex				
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**Table of Obscenity**

		Types of Taboo Words		Function of Taboo Words			
No	Dialogues	Obscenity Word	Meaning	T D A	T S C	T B P	T M A
1.	X: Shit, shit, shit, shit	Shit	Excrement		ü		
2.	X: Fuck you Chelios	Fuck	Have sex		ü		
3.	X: Triad motherfucker cut out my fuckin' heart	Fuckin'	Curse		ü		
4.	X: Fuck that, that's not so bad	Fuck	Have sex		ü		
5.	X: Who the fuck is el hurron, the ferret?	Fuck	Have sex				ü
6.	X: Jhony fucking vang?	Fucking	Curse		ü		
7.	X: Listen I'm deadly, fuckin' serious, doc?	Fuckin'	Curse	ü			
8.	X: The bullshit the most likely are	Bullshit	Excrement	ü			
9.	X: Fuck off cheli-fucking-os	Fucking	Curse		ü		
10.	X: Yeah, you take your fucking time, doc	Fucking	Have sex	ü			
11.	X: Shit, that better than	Shit	Excrement			ü	

	none, I guess.						
12.	X: Once the internal battery take over, you got one fuckin' hour	Fuckin'	Curse	ü			