

# ***IDENTIFYING TABOO WORDS UTTERED BY THE CHARACTERS IN HITMAN'S BODYGUARD MOVIE***

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**Abstract:** *this descriptive research was conducted in order to find out the taboo words in the hitman's bodyguard movie. The data were collected using the sociolinguistic approach. The data were in the form of utterances, while the contexts of the data were the dialogues uttered by the characters in the movie. The sources of the data were the video of Hitman's Bodyguard movie and its transcript. The data were collected by selecting dialogues containing taboo words after watching the video and matching the transcript with the video carefully. The primary instrument of this research was a data sheet. The results of this research are stated as follows. Firstly, all of the types and the function of taboo words are appear in this movie. The types are obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, ephitet and for the functions are to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, to show contempt, and to mock authority. From four of the types that appear in the movie, obscenity become the type with the highest frequency (46.29%) 25 times, the second is vulgarity with (20.37%) 11 times, the third is ephitet with (18.51%) 10 times, and the last one is profanity with (14.81%) 8 times. From four of the functions that appear in the movie to be provocativet become the function with the highest frequency (50%) 27 times, the second is to show contempt with (27.77%), the third is to draw attention to oneself with (20.37%), and the last one is to mock authority which is onle appear once in the movie (1.85%).*

**Key Words:** *Sociolinguistics, Taboo Words, Hitman's Bodyguard Movie*

# IDENTIFIKASI KATA TABU YANG DIUCAPKAN OLEH KARAKTER DALAM FILM PENGAWAL PEMBUNUH BAYARAN

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**Abstrak:** penelitian deskriptif ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui kata-kata tabu dalam film pengawal pembunuh bayaran. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosiolinguistik. Data dalam bentuk ujaran, sedangkan konteks data adalah dialog yang diucapkan oleh karakter dalam film. Sumber data adalah video film *Hitman's Bodyguard* dan transkripnya. Data dikumpulkan dengan memilih dialog yang mengandung kata-kata tabu setelah menonton video dan mencocokkan transkrip dengan video dengan hati-hati. Instrumen utama penelitian ini adalah lembar data. Hasil penelitian ini dinyatakan sebagai berikut. Pertama, semua jenis dan fungsi kata-kata tabu muncul di film ini. Jenisnya adalah kecabulan, carut-marut, kekasaran, rasisme dan untuk fungsi adalah untuk menarik perhatian pada diri sendiri, untuk menjadi provokatif, untuk menunjukkan penghinaan, dan untuk mengejek otoritas. Dari empat jenis yang muncul dalam film, kecabulan menjadi jenis dengan frekuensi tertinggi (46,29%) 25 kali, yang kedua adalah vulgar dengan (20,37%) 11 kali, yang ketiga adalah ephitet dengan (18,51%) 10 kali, dan yang terakhir adalah senonoh dengan (14,81%) 8 kali. Dari empat fungsi yang muncul dalam film menjadi provocativet menjadi fungsi dengan frekuensi tertinggi (50%) 27 kali, yang kedua adalah untuk menunjukkan penghinaan dengan (27,77%), yang ketiga adalah untuk menarik perhatian kepada diri sendiri dengan (20,37) %, dan yang terakhir adalah mengejek otoritas yang hanya muncul satu kali dalam film (1,85%).

**Kata Kunci:** Sosiolinguistik, Kata-Kata Tabu, Film Pengawal Pembunuh Bayaran

## INTRODUCTION

According to Keith Davis (1967 as cited in Singla 2008) communication is the process of passing information and understanding from one person to another. Communication plays a vital role in human's life. Without communication, people in the society will not be able to understand each other since they do not have any social contact. Social contact is very essential for human being because it is the foundation to build strong connection among people in the society. According to Goodwin and Heritage (in Liddicoat, 2007:01), social interaction is a means to transact the business of social world which can also affirm participants' identities and also transmit cultures to others. Therefore, to make a social contact functioned and transmitted properly; people need to have language as a means of communication.

There are several functions of language as a means of communication, based on Michael Halliday (1975) via Scribd language has 7 main functions. First one is instrumental, language used to fulfil a need on the part of the speaker. Directly concerned with obtaining food, drink and comfort. Second one is regulatory, language used to influence the behaviour of others, concerned with persuading / commanding / requesting other people to do things you want. The third is interactional, language used to develop social relationships and ease the process of interaction. Concerned with the phatic dimension of talk. The fourth one is personal, language used to express the personal preferences and identity of the speaker. Sometimes referred to as the 'Here I am!' function announcing oneself to the world. The fifth is representational, language used to exchange information. Concerned with relaying or requesting information. The sixth one is heuristic, language used to learn and explore the environment. Child uses language to learn; this may be questions and answers, or the kind of running commentary that frequently accompanies children's play. Last one is imaginative, language used to explore the imagination. May also accompany play as children create imaginary worlds, or may arise from storytelling.

Furthermore Chaika (1982:2) also states that people use language to reveal or conceal personal identity, character, and background without realizing that they are actually doing so. Uttering taboo words is a way of speaking that some people use to express their feelings of anger, annoyance, and frustration, or when they want to hurt someone else's feelings. Some people may prefer to use language that has a strong impact when they are sad or angry. For instance, people sometimes use certain kind of words that are considered as bad language which is actually inappropriate to use. One of the ways to express their feeling is by producing taboo words. People usually produce taboo words to swear because that is the strongest way to express their dissatisfaction. They sometimes emphasize people's real intention.

Captain Cook is the one who firstly introduce taboo term in the late 18th century when he is sent to Tahiti. According to Allan and Burridge (2006:2-3), taboo or known as tabu is a Tongan term that denotes a person, object or act which is dangerous and therefore it must be avoided. The example of this case can be seen in Nguni societies of Southern Africa. In Nguni, it is forbidden for a woman to mention her husband and father-in-law's name directly. If she violates this rule, she will be punished by the rule in the society.

There are many problems that can be created by someone when they utter taboo words without understanding the meaning and the function. Moreover, the researcher is interested to analyze the problems that may happen through a movie since we can

assume that movie is a representation of human real life in society. The researcher uses Hitman's Bodyguard movie since this movie contains so many uncensored taboo words.

With the short explanation above, there are problems that make the researcher feels interested to explore it. The first one is related to the types of taboo words that are used to swear. The characters in Hitman's Bodyguard movie frequently produce taboo words such as f\*ck and s\*it. It is very interesting to analyze the types those words.

The second problem is analyzing the functions of taboo words from the characters in Hitman's Bodyguard movie conversation is very interesting. Because the functions of taboo words used by the characters may vary in different context.

The third problem is the social factors that influence the occurrence of taboo words uttered by the characters in *Hitman's Bodyguard* movie. It is interesting to analyze the social factors such as the participants, the setting, the topic and the function that can describe all kinds of interaction that happen among the characters.

Next the social status becomes the fourth problem which is interested to be explored. There is an assumption that the taboo words only uttered by lower class people with a lower educational background. In the other hand the characters in Hitman's Bodyguard movie still using taboo words eventhough they have a good educational background. It is interesting to analyze the correlation between these two factors.

Language can not be separated from society. This phenomenon is studied is sociolinguistic. 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).

Actually taboo is an implicit prohibition on something (usually against an utterance or behavior) based on a cultural sense that it is excessively repulsive or, perhaps, too sacred for ordinary people. But in sociolinguistic taboo is connected with something that is forbidden or avoided 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.

Based on Batistella (2005:72) there are four types of taboo words:

1. Ephitet
2. Profanity
3. Vulgaritiy
4. Obscenity

There is always a reason behind all of the utterances that is using a taboo words in it. According to Wardhaugh (2006:239), taboo words are disregarded in particular occasion because they have several functions such as:

1. To draw attention
2. To show contempt
3. To be provocative
4. To mock authority

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed a descriptive method, since it involved the collection of data for the purpose of describing the existing condition. According to Vanderstoep and Johnson (2009:167) this method focused on cultural, social, personal identity and its goal is more descriptive than predictive. Moreover, Strauss and Corbin (1998:11) state that qualitative research is achieved not by means of quantification or statistical technique. It can give complex detail about particular phenomena which are difficult to be expressed with quantitative method. Therefore, the findings of qualitative research will not be in the form of statistic data which usually belong to quantitative research. In this research, qualitative method was chosen as the appropriate method because it represents what the researcher has studied.

According to Moleong (2009:56) the researcher acts as the main instrument. The researcher is the planner, data collector, data analyzer, and data reporter. In addition, a data sheet was also employed as the secondary instrument. The data sheet was functioned to write down the classified data. The data sheet is in the form of a table for presenting two objectives which became the focus of the study, which were, the types of taboo words and the functions of taboo words. The format of the data sheet could be illustrated in the table below.

Table 1: Sample Data Sheet of Types and Functions of Taboo Words in Hitman's Bodyguard

No	DIALOGUES	TYPES OF TABOO WORDS				FUNCTION OF TABOO WORDS				EXPLANATION
		EP	PR	VU	OB	TDA	TSC	TBP	TMA	
1.	Bodyguard 1: Nothing for mile Chief. Almost boring. Bryce: And what's our motto? All of the bodyguard: Boring is always best Bodyguard 2: Client down! Code seven! <b>Jesus!</b>		√			√				Bodyguard 2 utters <b>Jes*s</b> to draw other bodyguard attention. Because the client has been shot by an unknown hitman.

### Types of Taboo Words

EP: Ephitet  
PR: Profanity  
VU: Vulgarity  
OB: Obscenity

### Functions of Taboo Words

TDA: To Draw Attention to Oneself  
TSC: To Show Contempt  
TBP: To Be Provocative  
TMA: To Mock Authority

In analyzing the data, the steps of data analysis were described as follows:

**1. Categorizing**

After the data were collected, they were categorized. The data that have been collected will be transferred into categorization system which was drawn to a table presented as Table 1. The categorization was about the types and the functions of taboo words.

**2. Classifying**

The next step to do after the categorization system was done is putting the selected utterances containing taboo words as the raw data into the table.

**3. Analyzing**

After classification is finish, the data that have been collected were ready to be analyzed. The classified data in the table were analyzed to describe the types and the functions of the taboo words in the dialogues. Moreover, in this research, the data analysis employed quantitative method since it involved number to get the percentage of each phenomenon in the table. Then, those fixed percentages were used to support the interpretation of the data.

**4. Discussing**

The researcher confirms the findings with the theories that were employed in the analysis. After that, the researcher also explained the findings in order to answer the objectives of the research.

**5. Reporting**

The last step was reporting the findings and finally the researcher also add some points of conclusions and suggestions.

**FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

In this section the taboo words that have been uttered by the characters in Hitman's Bodyguard movie are described. From the analysis process, the total data collected in this research are 54 data and all of the data are displayed in table 2.

Table 2. Frequency of Occurrence of Types and Functions of Taboo Words in Hitman's Bodyguard movie

No.	Types of Taboo Words	Functions of Taboo Words				TOTAL	PERCENTAGE (%)
		To Draw Attention to Oneself	To Show Contempt	To Be Provocative	To Mock Authority		
1.	Obscenity	5	6	13	1	25	46.29
2.	Profanity	2	1	5	-	8	14.81
3.	Vulgarity	2	5	4	-	11	20.37
4.	Epithet	2	3	5	-	10	18.51
TOTAL		11	15	27	1	54	100
PERCENTAGE (%)		20.37	27.77	50	1.85	100	

There are four types of taboo words, obscenity, profanity, vulgarity and epithet. All of them appear in the conversations spoken by the characters in the movie. From the table above, it can be noticed that the most dominant type used by the characters is obscenity, which appears 25 times (46.29%). Then, the second highest frequency is vulgarity which appear 11times (20.37%). Then the third highest frequency is ephitet which appears 10 times (18.51%). Finally, the least to occur is profanity which appears 8 times (14.81%).

Table 2 above also shows that all functions of taboo words are found in the movie. However, each of them has a different frequency. There are four functions of taboo words, namely to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock authority. From those four functions, the highest frequency of functions of taboo words is to be provocative which appears 27 times (50.00%). To show contempt is in the second position with 15 occurrences (27.77%). Next, to draw attention to oneself takes the third position with 11 occurrences (20.37%) and the last position is to mock authority which only occurs once and gets (1.85%).

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussions in Chapter IV, some conclusions can be formulated as follows.

1. The first objective of this research is to identify and to describe the types of taboo words in Hitman's Bodyguard movie. All the four types of taboo words that consist



of obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, and epithet appear in the movie. The highest frequency of the types of taboo words is obscenity. Obscenity appears 25 times out of 54 total data (46.29%). The lowest frequency is obtained by profanity with 8 data (14.81%). Obscenity becomes the most frequently used taboo words because it is considered as the most effective way to insult someone. Moreover, obscenity type is frequently used by the characters when they want to show their disrespect toward the addressee. By using obscenity that contains disgust to the sense, is repulsive, indecent, and lack of morality, the speaker can easily debase other people's pride and their goal to hurt other people's feeling will be easily accomplished. The least frequently used taboo word is profanity. Therefore, it can be noticed that profanity is not effective enough to be used as an offensive word to debase other people's pride. Instead of using profanity as offensive language, the characters in Hitman's Bodyguard movie use profanity to draw someone's attention.

2. The second objective of this research is to describe the functions of taboo words in Hitman's Bodyguard movie. There are four functions that appear in the series: to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock authority. To be provocative gets the highest percentage with 50.00% and appears 27 times. The lowest function is to mock authority with only 1 occurrence (1.85%). To show contempt appears as the most frequent function to occur in Hitman's Bodyguard movie because it can represent the speaker's intention of using taboo words that is to show their disrespect toward other people. Moreover, it can be the most effective function to express the disrespect feeling toward other people since it is directed and aimed to hurt someone's pride. In the movie, the characters employ taboo words when they want to show their dislike toward someone. Then, to mock authority appears as the least function to occur in the movie because of its theme. Hitman's Bodyguard movie is a romantic comedy which is concerned in creating humorous and romantic atmosphere to the movie. Therefore, this kind of theme is not concerned in criticizing governmental stuffs which usually show some negative perspectives about the government in general.

## **Suggestion**

Based on the conclusions above, some suggestions can be stated as follows.

1. To Student of Linguistic

In analyzing taboo words, students of Linguistics had better pay more attention to the functions of taboo words which do not always mean that the speaker wants to hurt other people's feeling. They can be functioned to show intimacy or to maintain a good relationship by calling one's name with certain types of taboo words.

2. To English Lecturers

A movie which is the representation of human real life can be a good and interesting medium to learn about taboo words. Moreover, using a movie as the medium in learning activity will be much more fun because the students can enjoy



the story as well as study the taboo words that are uttered by the characters in the movie.

3. To Other Researcher

This research focuses on identifying and describing the types of taboo words, and also describing the functions of taboo words in Hitman's Bodyguard movie. There are other problems such as gender issue and social status issue which are not analyzed in this research. Similar researches that will be conducted in the future are better to discuss those problems. The other researchers can observe the relationship between the use of taboo words and gender issue. They can also observe the relationship between the use of taboo words and social status in the society. Moreover, since this research only contains 54 data, other researchers who are planning to conduct a research with the same topic can use other movies that contain more data for their research.

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