



THE COMPARISON OF TABOO WORDS AND SWEARWORDS USED BY MEN AND WOMEN OF *SUKU ANAK DALAM* IN *DESA BALAI RAJO*

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Abstract

The aims of this research is to describe the types of taboo words and types and functions of swearwords used by men and women of Suku Anak Dalam, the differences of swearwords used by men and women. The type of this research was a descriptive qualitative research. The data were the taboo words and swearwords used by the informants. The informants were (men and women) of Suku Anak Dalam. The data were collected by using interview method with stimulation technique. It is found there are five types of taboo words used by men. Meanwhile, there two types of taboo words used by women. It is also found there are six types of swearwords used by men. They are swearwords from sex organs, minor (animals and diseases), mother type, body function, scatology and religious. Meanwhile, swearwords used by women are only three. They are sex organ, minor (animal) and religious. Swearwords have various functions in *Suku Anak Dalam*. For men, there are three functions of swearwords, expletive, abusive, and humoristic. Meanwhile, for women there are two functions of swearwords, abusive and expletive. In short, men have more various types of taboo words and swearwords than women. Men mostly use the type of sex organs for the taboo words and swearwords, ruder and impolite than women's. While, women have fewer types of taboo words and swearwords. Men use swearwords to abuse and mostly to express anger. Meanwhile women use abusive function to express anger and disappointment.

Key words: types and the functions, taboo words and swearwords, men and women, Suku Anak Dalam.

A. INTRODUCTION

The use of taboo words and swearwords is seen as a common attitude to language in informal conversation. For instance, people often use taboo words and swearwords in the traditional market. People use it to show a close relationship with others and it is also used when people express strong feelings. They also use

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them in expressing anger. From this example, it shows that taboo words and swearwords cannot be excluded from informal society. Taboo word is a word or phrase that is generally considered blasphemous, obscene, vulgar, or otherwise offensive. Swearword is also known as *swearing*, *bad word*, *obscene word*, *dirty word*, and *four-letter word*. Meanwhile, swearwords are a category of taboo words that is used to express feelings.

In society today, taboo words and swearwords are used by both men and women. The difference of gender forces human being to have different role in society. Men tend to work outside and women tend to work inside. So, their different role in society will influence the use of language and also influence their way to speak. Generally, women tend to speak more politely than men. It is assumed that the men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam* almost have the same way to speak from common people because they are also using language in society.

Suku Anak Dalam is a primitive ethnic who lives in the forest of *Tebo*, Jambi. They are very primitive and a marginal ethnic. They still keep their culture in this modern era. For example, they still decide to live in the forest and sometimes move from one place to the other places. Some of them have stayed in one place and planted and hunted for living. Usually they bring a gun for hunting. They hunt many animals in the forest and they also exploit the nature resources for living. Now, in *Desa Balai Rajo, Kecamatan VII Koto Ilir Kabupaten Tebo, Provinsi Jambi*, government concerns with them, because there is almost no forest and only a wide farm in their habitat. Government gives them some area for living. It is seldom for them to interact with other people. They only interact with people when they are selling their farm yield and there are only some people that have farm at that area who interact with them. So, it makes them an isolated ethnic. They still keep their culture such as their language and it is hard to understand them if they are talking each other.

The studies of *Suku Anak Dalam* in linguistics field have attracted many researchers to conduct the study on them. The first study is *Address Terms Used by Suku Anak Dalam* by Mutiara (2015). This study found 28 address terms used by *Suku Anak Dalam* which are classified into four categories; 4 terms in second personal pronouns, such as *diria*, *mikae*, *senamo* and *urangmeru*; 8 terms in kinship terms, such as *induk*, *bepak*, *kakok*, *nenek jenton*; 4 terms in title and rank categories, such as *temenggung*, *bepak kepala adat*, *ibu guru*; and also 12 terms in other categories, such as *guding*, *bebet*, *kinde*, *waris* and *jenang*. Furthermore, address terms used by *Suku Anak Dalam* has some social functions such as to show politeness, to show intimacy, to show solidarity, and to maintain social status. In addition, the phenomenon of swearwords also has attracted many researchers to conduct study on them. First, the study was investigated by Wulandari (2009). The result of her research shows swearwords in Minangkabau language in sub-dialect of Muarabodi has four forms; they are *animals*, *body parts and functions*, *excretions* and *devils*. In addition, was conducted by Rahmayani and Fitrawati (2018). They analyzed about types and functions of taboo words in "The Wolf of Wall Street" movie. This study found that there are 3 types of taboo languages with the highest percentage in the movie "The Wolf of Wall Street" namely; Obscenity (64,8%), Ephetets (13,1%) and Vulgarity (8,2%).

Related to taboo words and swearwords definition, according to Swan (2006:565) swearwords are strong language expressed by person to their powerful emotion. It shows that swearword is used by person to show his emotions with someone else. In addition, according to Wardhaugh (2006:239) taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behaviour believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause the embarrassment or shame.

There are six types of swearwords Ljung (2011:37). The first is religious/supernatural. In Christian the religious/supernatural, the words like *God, Jesus/Christ, the holy* and diabolic swearing involving the *Devil and hell*. In Muslim cultures religious swearing involves *Allah, the Prophet, holy places*, etc. But there seems to be no diabolic swearing. Eventually lost their taboo charge and religious swearing is now regarded as a mild type of swearing. The second type is scatological. It is represented in English swearing by words like *ass/arse, asshole, arsehole, crap, fart, piss, shit* and *turd*. The third type is sex organ. Common English exponents of this type are of course *cunt* and *prick*. The next type is Sexual activities. In English we can find many words like *fuck, fuck you, stupid fuck* and *not give a fuck*. The next is mother type. The mother is also exploited in name-calling in many languages, as for instance when somebody is referred to as *a son of a bitch* or *a motherfucker*. The last type is Minor. There are also other less widespread types, of which five will be mentioned here and we can find in other types like in *ancestors (aboriginin Australia), animals (pig of God, cow), death (push up the daisies, kick off.), disease (pokkersstor, God klere!)* and *prostitution (Bordel!, whore)*.

According to Hirsch (1985:53-56) there are five functions of swearing. The first is expletive, means giving expression to his emotions and attitudes in the form of an exclamation. The second is abusive, abusive in which the speaker abuses, offends or defames something or someone. The third is humoristic. In humoristic swearing the actual Content-Function category is interpreted to its opposite. The fourth is euphemistic, in euphemistic swearing the 'definition of the situation' is such that words that normally do not fit into the Content-Function categories are taken to do so. These words often bear some phonetic or semantic resemblance to the words that are typical for the Content-Function category. The last is habitual. In the case of habitual swearing knowledge of the participants in the situation about each other's speech habits can alter the interpretation of the words that would normally fall under a Content-Function category.

From the explanation above, there are three reasons why this study is needed to be conducted. First, *Suku Anak Dalam* language is one of the marginal languages, only few people speak with it and the speaker is only *the Suku Anak Dalam*. It is also minority language in Jambi. Second, in the context of taboo words and swearwords, only few research focus on them, especially in *Suku Anak Dalam*. It is not found yet a study about taboo words and swearwords used by *Suku Anak Dalam*. *Suku Anak Dalam* also known as an isolated and marginal ethnic. They have their own daily dialect and they have their own taboo words and swearwords to express about their feeling. Then, it is needed to understand men and women language because theoretically men and women have different way in conversation, especially in *Suku Anak Dalam*. The writer also wants to know more

about *Suku Anak Dalam*, especially the types of taboo words and the types and functions of swearwords used by them. By conducting this research and better understanding about taboo words and swearwords used by *Suku Anak Dalam*, it is directed to the differences use of swearwords in its gender. This research compares the use of taboo words and swearwords by men and women, which types of the taboo words and swearwords are used most by the men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam* and the researcher also compares about the function of swearwords between men and women.

According to explanation above, the purpose of this research is to describe the types of taboo words and types and functions of swearwords used by men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam*, and to know the differences of swearwords used by men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam*.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of this research was a descriptive qualitative research because the data presented in explanation and the data are not using numerical number. In collecting the data, the researcher used the interview method (*metode cakap*) which is done with a conversation and there is an eye contact between the researcher and the informan. According to Sudaryanto (1993:137) interview method (*metode cakap*) has three techniques: (1) stimulation technique (*teknik pancing*), practically this method realized by stimulating, the researcher should stimulate someone to talk for getting the data. (2) recording and noting techniques (*teknik rekam dan teknik catat*), when the researcher conducted research activities, the researcher directly recorded, then followed by noting in the notebook. (3) face to face interview (*cakap semuka*), In this case, the researcher recognizes the conversation and is directed according to his interests to obtain complete data. The data of this research were the taboo words and swearwords used by men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam*. The informants of this research were native speakers using taboo words and swearwords (men and women) of *Suku Anak Dalam*.

The researcher classified the data of types swearwords based on theory used by Ljung(2011:37) such as religious/supernatural, scatology, sex organ, sexual activity, mother (family), minor (ancestors, animals, diseases, death and prostitution). The researcher also classified the data function of swearwords based on theory used by Hirsch(1985:53-56), he states that there are five functions of swearwords: the functions are as expletive, abusive, humoristic, euphemistic and habitual. In analyzing the data, the researcher identified the types used most by men and women and also the functions of swearwords based on context, determine the particular context used by the speaker of swearwords and then grouping the data into similar types and also their functions and meanings.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

Types of taboo words

Table 1 the comparison of the types taboo words used by men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam*.

| Men's taboo words | | | Women's taboo words | |
|-------------------|---------------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| No. | Types | Total | types | Total |
| 1. | Sex organs | 7 swearwords | Sex organs | 1 swearword |
| 2. | Minor types | Animals 3 swearwords Diseases 1 swearword | Minor (animals) type | 2 swearwords |
| 3. | Scatology | 1 swearword | - | - |
| 4. | Mother | 1 swearword | - | - |
| 5. | Body function | 1 swearword | - | - |

From Table 1, it can be seen that men have five types of taboo words. Meanwhile, women only have two type taboo words and fewer types of taboo words than men. From the table it is found only one sex organ used by women. It can be said that women are very rare to use taboo words.

Types of swearwords

Table 2 the comparison of the types swearwords used by men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam*.

| Men's Swearwords | | | Women's swearwords | |
|------------------|---------------|--|----------------------|--------------|
| No. | Types | Total | types | Total |
| 1. | Sex organs | 7 swearwords | Sex organs | 1 swearword |
| 2. | Minor types | Animals 3 swearwords Diseases 1 swearword | Minor (animals) type | 2 swearwords |
| 3. | Religious | 3 swearwords | Religious | 2 swearwords |
| 4. | Scatology | 1 swearword | - | - |
| 5. | Mother | 1 swearword | - | - |
| 6. | Body function | 1 swearword | - | - |

From Table 2, it can be seen that men have six types of swearwords. Men mostly use sex organ, animals and religious as the swearwords and men swearwords seems rude than women. Meanwhile, women only use three swearwords and fewer types of swearwords than men. From the table it is found only one sex organ used by women. It can be said that women are very rare to use rude swearwords.

Functions of swearwords

Table 3 the comparison of the functions swearwords used by men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam*.

| Men's Swearwords | | | Women's swearwords | |
|------------------|-----------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| No. | Functions | Total | Functions | Total |
| 1. | Abusive | 12 swearwords to express anger, 2 swearwords to express | Abusive | 3 swearwords to express |

| | | | | |
|----|------------|---|-----------|---|
| | | surprise, 1 swearword to express hurt and 1 swearword to express amazement. | | anger. |
| 2. | Expletive | 1 swearword to express anger, 1 swearword to express thankful, 1 swearword to express tiredness, 1 swearword to express surprise and 1 swearword to express hurt. | Expletive | 1 swearword to express hurt and 1 swearword to express surprise/anger |
| 3. | Humoristic | 1 swearword to express humor | - | - |

From Table 3, it can be seen that men use three functions of swearwords, those are abusive, expletive and humoristic. Men mostly use abusive function and use it to express anger, surprise, amazement and hurt. Meanwhile in using swearwords, women only use abusive and expletive function. Women also mostly use abusive.

2. Discussion

In *Suku Anak Dalam*, There are five types of taboo words used by men in *Suku Anak Dalam*. They are from sex organs, minor types (animal and dissesaes) mother type, scatology and body function type. meanwhile, there two types of taboo words used by women in *Suku Anak Dalam*. They are from sex organs and minor types (animal and dissesaes).

People use taboo words as swearwords to express their feelings. There are six types of swearwords offered by Ljung (2011:37). In this research, it is found that there are five types of swearwords used by men related to Ljung (2011:37) theory. First, swearwords from sex organs, the name of sex organs that are used as swearwords are *cicih*, *culoh* 'men's genital', *cuheng*, *bilak* 'women's genital' and *culoh anjing*, *cicih anjing* 'dog's genital'. These swearwords are only used by men to men; it is not allowed to be used by men to women. Second, swearwords from Minor types (animal and dissesaes) are used by men, such as *bebi* 'pig', *anjing* 'dog', *beghuk* 'monkey' and *gilo* 'crazy'. Third, men use swearwords from mother type such as *anak kampang* 'bastard'. Fourth, swearword from scatology type is used by a man such as *tahi* 'shit'. Fifth, men use swearwords from religious types; those are *Tuhan* 'God' and *ya Allah* for Muslim. In addition, the researcher got one type of swearwords that are not offered by Ljung (2011:37) it is swearwords from **body function type** such as *bengak* 'stupid'. Meanwhile, it is found that there are three types of swearwords used by women that related to Ljung theory. First is a swearword from sex organ, the name of sex organ that is used as swearword is *bilak* 'women's genital'. Second, swearwords from minor (animal) types are used by women. The names of animals that are used as swearwords by women are *bebi* 'pig' and *anjing* 'dog'. Third, women use swearwords from religious types, those are *Tuhan* 'god' and *Lailah Tuhan* 'Lailah God'.

From the five types of swearwords used by men and the three types of swearwords used by women of *Suku Anak Dalam*, this result is almost similar

to the study conducted by wulandari (2009) who found that there are four types of swearwords used by people in Muarobodi Subdialect. They are animals, body parts and functions, excretions and devil. Meanwhile in *Suku Anak Dalam*, there is no devil type for swearing.

The uses of swearwords have various functions in *Suku Anak Dalam*. There are five functions of swearwords offered by Hirsch (1985:53-56), but in this research, it is found three functions of the swearwords used by men related to Hirsch theory. The first function is expletive. Based on the data, expletive is used to express hurt, anger, surprise, thankful and tired. The second function is abusive. Based on the data, the abusive is used to express anger, surprise, amazement and disappointment. The last function is humoristic. Based on the data, humoristic is used to express humor. Meanwhile, in this research, it is only found two functions of swearwords used by women that related to Hirsch theory. The first function is expletive. Based on the data, expletive is used to express hurt, surprise and anger. The second is abusive. Based on the data, abusive is used to express anger, disappointment and threat.

From explanation above, it can be said that men mostly use the various types of taboo words and swearwords. They are more rude and impolite than women's. It is because their characteristics to have larger vocabulary than women. Meanwhile, women have fewer types of taboo words and swearwords because basically they are shy to speak to others, especially to other men. They only speak to other men if it is needed and their relation to others is also limited by their law tradition. It is in line with Jay (2000) that men use a larger vocabulary of curse words than do women; and men use more offensive curse words than do women. Besides that, Montgomery (2008:151) says women use fewer taboo types than men. Bluett and Shuttleworth (2012:21) also say that those women are more polite, whereas men swear more. Holmes (2013:159) also says women are more linguistically polite than men. Related to the use of swearwords functions, in the findings men mostly use abusive function. It is in line with Bluett and Shuttleworth (2012:21) that men insult each other.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Language as a tool for human communication has an important role for interacting among people in society. So that, what we feel may be said in language. The feelings can be good or bad. In this case, people often use swearwords to express their feelings.

From the result of this research, there are five types of taboo words used by men in *Suku Anak Dalam*. Meanwhile, there two types of taboo words used by women in *Suku Anak Dalam*. Related to swearwords, the taboo words are used as swearwords in *Suku Anak Dalam*, it is found that there are six types swearwords used by men of *Suku Anak Dalam*. They are swearwords from sex organs, minor (animals and diseases), mother type, body function, scatology and religious. Meanwhile, swearwords used by women are only two three. They are sex organ, minor (animal) and religious. The uses of swearwords have various functions in *Suku Anak Dalam*. For men, there are three functions of swearwords. They are

expletive, abusive, and humoristics. Meanwhile, women only use two functions of swearwords. They are abusive and expletive.

In short, men have various types of taboo words and swearwords than women. Men mostly use type of sex organs for swearing and more rude and impolite than women's. Meanwhile, women have fewer types of taboo words and swearwords. Men use abusive functions and mostly to express anger. Meanwhile women use abusive function to express anger and disappointment.

In this research, the researcher gives some information about taboo words and swearwords used by men and women of *Suku Anak Dalam*. There are many types of taboo words and swearwords used by women that have not been discussed yet in this study because the access of the researcher to women of *Suku Anak Dalam* is limited by the law of the tradition. Therefore, the researcher suggests to other researchers, especially to women to study hard and to analyze the relevant researches and to find out other types of taboo words and swearwords, especially the types of taboo words and swearwords used by women of *Suku Anak Dalam*. Finally, the researcher expects that the readers get much information of taboo words and swearwords and this research would be useful for the readers and further researches

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