

**TYPES OF TABOO WORDS FOUND IN THE MOVIE LAW ABIDING
CITIZEN BY RUPERT AMES, CLARENCE DARBY, NICK RICE, AND
CLYDE SHELTON**

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Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah membandingkan jenis-jenis kata tabu yang digunakan oleh karakter-karakter dalam film Law Abiding Citizen. Sumber data dikumpulkan dari skrip film dan fokus analisis jenis kata tabu ditujukan pada karakter utama film tersebut. Dari hasil analisa karakter-karakter utama dari film tersebut menggunakan jenis kata, yaitu tabu kecabulan (taboo of obscenity), tabu ketidaksopanan (taboo of vulgarity), dan tabu tidak senonoh (taboo of profanity). Penulis mengumpulkan data sebanyak 53 data yang digunakan di dalam percakapan. Sebanyak 33 data berjenis kata tabu kecabulan (taboo of obscenity). Sementara itu sebanyak 13 data yang termasuk kedalam kata tabu berjenis tabu ketidaksopanan (taboo of vulgarity), dan sebanyak 7 data tabu yang termasuk kedalam tabu tidak senonoh (taboo of profanity). Dari hasil analisis kata tabu yang digunakan oleh by Rupert Ames, Clarence Darby, Nick Rice, And Clyde Shelton dalam film Law Abiding Citizen penulis menyimpulkan bahwa tipe kata tabu yang paling sering digunakan adalah kata tabu berjenis kecabulan (taboo of obscenity), karena dalam film Law adibing Citizen penutur lebih sering megekspresikan kemarahan.

Kata Kunci : Taboo Words, Movie “Law Abiding Citizen”.

A. Introduction

Language is a human communication device to communicate each other. To create the successfull communication, the speaker may involved some terms in the conversation. Wardaugh (1992:8) who states that “Language allows people to say things to each other and expresses communicate needs”. In short, language is constantly used by humans in their daily life as a mean of communication.

Language can be used to express feelings and information to other people. By using language, other people will understand what we mean and what we are talking about. Everyone use different language variation to communication. Language and communication is related to language variation. The language will look higher and creative by making a variety in our communication. According to Wardhaugh (2006:135), language variation is one way of characterizing in certain variations is to say that speakers of a particular language sometimes speak in

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different dialect of that language. There are several characteristics of language and variation, which is social variation and regional variation. Studies of social variation in language means grew out of studies of regional variation.

One of the variations of language today is taboo words. According to Wardhaugh (2006:239) taboo is one way in which a society expresses its disapproval of certain kinds of behavior believed to be harmful to its members, either for supernatural reasons or because such behavior is held to violate a moral code. Taboo is ideas which are generally forbidden or discourage. Taboo words can be extremely negative aspects of social group. Taboo words exist in every language.

Holmes (2001:73) states that language variation is linguistics form which used based on social circumstances and also included vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation of dialect, and spelling in different language. So language variation is determined by social itself, their background, status, education, and degree of formality of a situation where the language is used. It means there is no language without variation. All languages in this world are involved in a great deal variation. Because of the variation, the speaker of the language speaks differently. The variation offers the speaker a choice of ways of expression in different ways. Holmes (2001:6), says that a variety is a set of linguistics form used under specific social circumstances such as with a distinctive social distribution. It is also include different accents, different linguistic styles, different dialects, and even different languages which contrast with each others for social reason. It means that all languages speakers language have a variety in their language.

Language has a potentiality for making communication successful and establishing social togetherness if it is used well. If not, it will be a handicap for successful communication and interaction. It is important to pay attention on certain aspect of language variation of styles of language to achieve successful and fluent communication.

Keraf (1991:113) says that language style is a way to express the idea with special language show the writer's soul, spirit and concern (the use of vocabulary). Good language must have 4 elements, thus are: honesty, respect, good manners, and the last is interest.

According to Akmajian, *et.al* (2001), language style has relationship with language variation. Both of them are almost the same language variety in talking about varieties of language. On the other hand, language style is the way to show our expression whether in formal or in informal situation. They talk about how people can communicate by using their own style. So that, language variation used to express and reflect social factors. It means language variation is a kind of linguistic variation refers to the range of differences among languages around the world.

Under the terms of language, taboo is one of scientific phenomenon, which is interesting to discuss, because every society has its own way to express their taboo. According to Wardhaugh (2006:239) notes linguistics taboo violated on occasion to draw attention to one self, to show contempt, to be aggressive or provocative, or to mock authority. The penalty for breaking a linguistics taboo can be served, for blasphemy and obscenity are still crimes in many jurisdictions. In

additions, the degree of violating the taboo is bigger among close or intimate relationship of breakers. For example, close friends have wider opportunity in expressing it. Social class and degree of education also affects the violating of the taboo.

Taboo words occur in most of all languages, moreover, to adhere because often-strict rules governing and using them can lead to punishment or public shame. Many people will never employ words of this type and most other will only use them in restricted set of situations. According to Wardhaugh, (2006:239), states that there are always those who are prepared to break taboos as irrational and unjustified, as in certain movements for free speech.

Taboo is originated from the primitive society and was mostly influenced and colored by the system of its religion and morale. According to Cassirer in Purba, (1987:63) state that in the primitive society, the system of taboo was considered as a priority principle for the religious and moral thought. The religion functions as laws that control the society life. The primitive society even regards taboo like an imperative category: the unconditional orders which rules the community to obey orders and perform good acts in their community, such as, touching religious instrument, handling the dead, blowing a sacred flute, etc was prohibited. Those who are violated and are against the religious orders will get a curse. However, taboo is closely associated with the notion of an innate power or force called manna, inherent for all objects, animals, and people that can cause fortune or misfortune.

In short, the concepts of taboo include things that are avoided as a normal course of action. Originally, taboo is coming from Tongan language or other related to Polynesian languages. Common etymology traces the word back to the Tongan tabu meaning under prohibition.

Taboo words are exist in every language. The writer sees that the kind of this word generally related to sex, genital organ, excretion, holyspirit, and death. Taboo words are also the kind of word which would make some definition of this term. According to Wardaugh (2006:239) stated that Taboos objects classified into animals, excretion, name of God and person, swearing, ominous expressions, part of human body, and certain function of the part of human body and supernatural beings.

In certain communities, name of God and persons are tabooed, for example the male Indian does not call the names of his sisters and of some other female relatives. According to Rahardjo (2002:34) also say that the English has rich taboo words. Such as; fuck, damn, shit, bitch, bloody, bullshit, piss turd, farther, feces, lust, erection, ass, prostate, bang, balls, buttocks, penis butter, arse, ass hole, ass peddler, bastard, blow, bone, clap, bugger, clit, cunt, and many others. These words had been familiar in English speaker, and they must know that words.

Further, Rahardjo (2002: 34) says that it is taboo to express the words ghost (genderwo, medi, demit) at night, barren (majer), whistle at night, give comment of food which is given by host when visit, et cetera in Javanese language. The Javanese speakers believe those words. Therefore, they must know these words. It is not only to be used but also to be avoided to use the words.

Accordance Formkin and Rodman (1997:286) states in their book that words relating to sex, sex organs, and natural bodily functions make up large part of the taboo words of many cultures. In all societies certain acts or behaviors are frowned on, forbidden, or considered taboo. The words or expressions referring to these taboo acts are then also avoided or considered impolite. So that, in this study the writers classify each type of taboo words, they are taboo of obscenity, taboo of vulgarity, and taboo of profanity.

Based on the theories and the explanation above, the purpose of this study is to describe the types of taboo words used in the movie *Law Abiding Citizen* By Rupert Ames, Clarence Darby, Nick Rice, And Clyde Shelton by using the types of taboo words proposed by Wardhaugh (2006).

B. Discussion

The analysis is focused on type of taboo words used in the movie *law abiding citizen*. The data is taken from movie script of the movie. Based on the data analysis on 53 of movie script, all of types of taboo words proposed Battistella in Ekstrom (2008)-taboo of obscenity, taboo of vulgarity, and taboo of profanity-are used in the movie *Law Abiding Citizen* by Rupert Ames, Clarence Darby, Nick Rice, and Clyde Shelton. The type of taboo words that mostly used is taboo of obscenity while the type that rarely used is expressive. The analysis of data can be seen in the analysis of 5 utterances of movie script.

Sample 1

CLARENCE DARBY: Let's go. Start the *fucking* car (00.23.16)

The taboo word in the sentence above is *fucking*. The utterance *fucking* is used as interjection expressing anger, and annoyance or disgust. The utterance *fucking* included taboo obscenity, because those are included of behavioral violence. They can insult other people, when someone is not carefully in using these utterances. Furthermore, the utterance above is used to insult the listener bad emotional feeling. This utterance is used to cursing other people and symbolized bad emotional feeling. These utterances are taboo in our culture and include of bad words that should not be said in every places. From the sentence above can be seen that Clarence Darby wants someone doing what he says. He do not want the people arguing what he says, so that he emphasizes by using taboo word *fucking*.

Sample 2

NICK RICE: You know Clyde, there is a lot of *assholes* in the prison thinks that smarter than me (00.38.03)

Asshole in the sentence above is a word that classified as taboo word that include to taboo of vulgarity. The reason *assholes* classified as taboo vulgarity is *assholes* means a vulgarism to describe the anus, often pejoratively used to refer to people. *Assholes* is bad words which is avoided in our society, because they can insult and make other people are shamed and angry. These utterances are taboo in our culture and include of bad words that should not be said in every places. From the sentence above, it means Nick Rice wants to emphasize his word to Clyde that does not play around with him, if you do it, you would be in trouble. So that the Nick uses *asshole* to make sure to Clyde that is careful with him.

Sample 3

CLYDE SHELTON: *Bitch* on the floor life in prison (00:21:38)

The next brief description is the utterance *bitch* that is spoken by Clyde Shelton means female dog or other animal of the dog family, the word *bitch* refers to derogatory a woman especially cruel and an unpleasant one, the word *bitch* also refers to unkind or bed tempered. However, in this conversation the utterance *bitch* is included taboo profanity and this is taboo to be spoken since this word in this conversation is used to mock other people. In this conversation, the utterance *bitch* is classified as taboo profanity, and it considered vulgar or bad words which is avoided in our society, because they can insult and make other people are shamed and angry. The utterance *bitch* here is expressed as the daily and common expressions which are still taboo to be declared.

Sample 4

NICK RICE: I'm just thinking maybe we shouldn't be looking for Darby. *Jesus Christ* (00:55:23)

The taboo word in the sentence above is *Jesus Christ*. The name of *Jesus* is dealing with Christ where he is the God name of Christian people. From sample 4 *Jesus Christ* is classified as taboo words means the feeling surprise. The utterance *Jesus Christ* is included as taboo words because *Jesus Christ* is religious include of word that should not be said in every places. However, Nick is shock when he looks Darby kill other prisoner. Based on the type's taboo words, the utterance *Jesus Christ* is classified as taboo words that included as taboo of obscenity because it means annoyed and expressing angry.

Sample 5

NICK RICE: Because there is a crazy *ass*, but... (00:12:49)

The utterance *ass* includes offensive word and considered as taboo profanity due to the fact that the utterance *ass* refers to arse or the part of the body. The utterance *ass* is included as taboo words because that utterance is the part of the body. As discussed in chapter 2, the writer finds that the utterance *ass* is included taboo profanity because this is included vulgar use. However, in this conversation Nick Rice uses that word to snap Clyde Shelton. *Ass* is included intimidation and bad words which are avoided in our society, because they can insult and make other people are shamed and angry.

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that all of types of taboo words proposed by Battistella in Ekstrom (2008) are used in the movie *Law Abiding Citizen* by Rupert Ames, Clarence Darby, Nick Rice, and Clyde Shelton with different frequency. The following table shows the finding containing the frequency of using types taboo words in the movie *Law Abiding Citizen* by Rupert Ames, Clarence Darby, Nick Rice, and Clyde Shelton.

Table. The total percentage of taboo obscene, taboo vulgarity, and taboo profanity from the whole data.

Types of taboo words	Total	Percentage
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1. Taboo obscenity	33	62.27%
2. Taboo vulgarity	13	24.52%
3. Taboo profanity	7	13.20%
	53	100%

Table above describes the total percentage of taboo words i.e. Taboo obscene, taboo vulgarity, and taboo profanity which was found in the movie *Law Abiding Citizen* script. From 53 data found, taboo obscene is the most kind of taboo words found in this script, with the percentage of occurrence for about 62.27%. Then, taboo vulgarity is 13 data from 53, with the percentage for about 24.53%. And the last is taboo profanity. It occurs 7 times from 53 data; it is for about 13.20%.

C. Conclusion and Suggestion

In this research, the writer analyzed the types of taboo words found in the movie *Law Abiding Citizen* by Rupert Ames, Clarence Darby, Nick Rice, and Clyde Shelton. After analyzing the data, the researcher found that the three types of taboo words namely taboo profanity, taboo obscenity and taboo vulgarity. From the finding of research and discussion, there are three general types of taboo words. A brief simple explanation of the classification is as following taboo words. Taboo words are divided into these following items; taboo obscenity, taboo profanity, and taboo vulgarity. Taboo which are expressed in the movie *law abiding citizen* indicate that something is forbidden because it is embarrassing, impolite, and because of social customs; it may be considered as unclean or dangerous.

In this analysis the writer found there are 53 taboo words that occur the movie *Law Abiding the Citizen* (2009). Taboo obscenity is the most kind of taboo words found in this movie script, with the percentage of occurrence for about 60.38%. Then, taboo vulgarity is 13 data from 53, with the percentage for about 24.53%. And the last is taboo profanity. It occurs 7 times from 53 data; it is for about 13.20%.

The writer suggested for the readers especially the students of English Department to choose the analysis of taboo words to find other sources in order to see the different uses of types of taboo words. And it is also suggested to use other theories concerning the classifications or types of taboo words in order to get more specific specifications of taboo word.

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