

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter will give explanation and arguments about background of this study, research questions, objective of this study, scope and limitation, significance of this study, and the last point is definition of some key terms related to this study.

### A. Background of the Study

Taboo refers to forbidden phenomena in our custom in general. Taboos arise out of social constraints on the individual's behaviour where it can cause discomfort, harm or injury<sup>1</sup>. Taboo occurs in some form. For instance, there are taboo topics in certain communities. Abortion and death can be assumed as topic taboos for certain people but not for other people because it is related to their occupations like doctor, nurse and so on. Taboos on food also exist in our neighborhood. Take for example, the proscription of pork in Islam, proscription of eating human flesh or called cannibalism. In some table manner, using fingers during eating is a bad manner but in Javanese or Indonesian in general it is already common. From these cases, a conclusion can be taken that taboo occurs in many aspects, as well as in language.

The term 'taboo' was used by Captain Hook in his journal of 1777 while he was in Tonga. It comes from the Tongan word 'tabu', an adjective which refers to things or persons 'under prohibition, forbidden or set apart'<sup>2</sup>. Today, this word can refer to something 'forbidden' or something 'to be avoided' including in language. Most people call it 'taboo words'. Taboo words can be defined as some inappropriate words used both

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<sup>1</sup>Allan, K. & Burridge, K. (2006). *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Tse, A. Y. (2011). Linguistic Word Taboos in Chinese Culture. *British Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. 1 (2). 135.

in written text or spoken context because it can make discomfort, harm or offensive to the reader or to the listener.

Taboo words can be associated with sex such as ‘fuck’, religion such as ‘for Christ’s sake’, bodily functions such as ‘piss’, race or ethnicity such as ‘white trash and Negro’, scatological stuff such as ‘shit’, death such as ‘go to the hell’<sup>3</sup>. These kind of words are better not to be used both in written text or spoken conversation because it can cause harm for the listener or the speaker. But today some people break the rules by using it either in written text or daily conversation without understanding well the meaning and the effect of those words. It can be a serious problem when they say it just to imitate western people without knowing the meaning, the effect and the function. Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct the research about taboo words and its function related to the context.

Taboo words can be seen easily regarding the development of technology today. This particular language feature can be found in anywhere such as articles in online media, songs, reality shows, videos in youtube, movies or even cartoons and those can be accessed easily by everyone. Only some people have awareness to filter which language feature can be used and which one is not. Technology awareness is a necessary point in this matter.

Movie includes audio-visual media which need listening and watching to catch the plot of the movie. Listening is needed because the characters in the movie is having dialogue and using particular language. In certain genre movies, like adult movie called R rating, taboo words appear several times.. Deadpool is rated R by the MPAA for strong violence and language throughout, sexual content and graphic nudity<sup>4</sup>. This is a

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<sup>3</sup>Soori, A. & Sherafat, Z. (2015). Iranian EFL Learners’ Perception of English Taboo Words. *International Journal of English and Education*. 4 (2). 67.

<sup>4</sup><http://parentpreviews.com/movie-reviews/film-info/deadpool>, accessed on March 19th 2017.

reasonable reason why we can hear many taboo words said and it is not for middle schoolers for sure.

Depart from the arguments above, the researcher is going to analyze taboo words used in *Deadpool* movie and this study entitles “The Analysis on Taboo Words Used in Tim Miller’s *Deadpool*”.

## **B. Research Questions**

The questions below will guide the researcher to get the data when conducting the research. Here the research questions:

1. What are the types of taboo words used in *Deadpool*?
2. What are the functions of taboo words found in the dialogue of *Deadpool*?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the research questions, the researcher has formulated the objective of this study. The objective of this study is to know the types of taboo words used in the movie and its function in the dialogue.

## **D. Scope and Limitation**

The existence of scope of the study is a necessary one in order to focus and to keep on the track on the description of this research. Taboo words will be analyzed in this research and it will not touch other words which is not linked to taboo words. Taboo words will be found only in the *Deadpool* movie as the title of this research.

As other researches, this research certainly cannot represent all taboo words and its function. There will be a big possibility found other taboo words in other movies, daily

conversation or written text. It will occur because there is a scope in this research but by this research the movie viewer and the research reader are able to know the taboo words said in the movie.

### **E. Significance of the Study**

Nowadays, taboo words can be heard and found easily in every English media, such as social media, music, and movies. In some movies, taboo words are used frequently and some EFL learners tend to imitate everything about English without understanding the meaning behind the statements. This case will create a gap between language users' interpretation and use of taboo words. Through this research, the researcher hopes it will help English language users choose proper language in their daily activities.

Moreover, just few studies have been carried out on the area of taboo and its interpretation from movie standpoint. As a result, findings of this study can expand generalizations in the field of discourse and sociolinguistics.

### **F. Definition of Key Terms**

The key terms definition will arise the same understanding between the researcher and the readers because there will be no misunderstanding linked to the terms will be frequently used in this study.

#### **1. Taboo Word**

Taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behaviour believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup>Wardhaugh, R. (2006). *An Introducing to Sociolinguistics: Fifth Edition*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing. 239.

## 2. Deadpool

Deadpool is a 2016 American antihero film directed by Tim Miller and written by Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name<sup>6</sup>.

Ryan Reynolds as Wade Wilson is the main character of Deadpool. This movie is also starred Morena Baccarin as Vanessa, Ed Skrein as Francis Freeman, T.J. Miller as Weasel, Gina Carano as Angel Dust and many more supporting actors and actresses.

This movie is categorized as rated R because showing strong violence and language throughout, sexual content and graphic nudity.

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<sup>6</sup>[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deadpool\\_\(film\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deadpool_(film)), accessed on March 20th 2017.