

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter will portray the theories of experts linked to this study in order to create deep perspective of the variables here. The concern of taboo words types will be based on theory developed by Jay (1992) as the main theory and the function of that particular language supported by Wardhaugh's theory (2006) as the supporting theory in analyzing the dialogue of Deadpool.

A. Taboo Words

Taboo words are related to sociolinguistics because this can be categorized as a unique language phenomenon in social life. At the beginning, taboo words are only conveyed in daily life and daily conversation but later taboo words are also applied in movies because it can show the natural of drama. Taboo words are sanctioned or restricted on both institutional and individual levels under the assumption that some harm will occur if a taboo word is spoken¹. Jay proposed several types of taboo words based on sociolinguistics²:

1. Profanity or Blasphemy

Profanity or blasphemy refers to religious words. This type of taboo word means to be secular or behaving out and to be ignorant to the words in a religious belief which seeks not to denigrate God, religion or holy affairs but would be based more on the ignorance of or indifference to these matters. Rather, the speaker may be expressing his or her emotional reaction to a certain stimulus. For example, *Jesus Christ, I'm tired of this!, Goddamn you!*.

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2. Sexuality

¹Jay, T. (2009). The Utility and Ubiquity of Taboo Words. *Association for Psychological Science*. 4 (2). 153.
²Ibid., 154.

Taboos in English are placed primarily on sexual references³. But later, it extended to other types. Sexuality is the sexual nature or characteristics of somebody⁴. Depart from the definition, this type of taboo words refers to physical function or physical appearance of human. For example: *blow job, cunt, fuck*.

There are three divisions of sexual terms in taboo words; sexual obscenities, personally defaming words and technical expression⁵. Sexual obscenities and personally defaming words can be assumed as taboo words which can emerge harm if it is said for particular people. The examples of those like *cock, cunt, bastard, bitch*. However, technical expression is mostly used in books or mass media such as *vagina, penis*.

3. Scatological Referents and Disgusting Objects

The term scatology refers to human waste process or products or called toilet humor. Toilet humor is popular among a wide range of ages, but is especially popular with children and teenagers⁶.

Disgusting objects define as strong dislike for something that someone feels is not right or something that looks, smells, unpleasant, etc⁷. In other words, these expressions act like verbal assaults where a speaker target is a specific individual, group, or thing and clearly wishes harm, pain, or other evil consequences on him, her, or it⁸. Examples: *Shit, crap, poop, douche bag, eat shit and die!*.

4. Animal Names

The intention of labelling someone with animal names is obviously to harm the person. The animals name are usually used in taboo words are *bitch, dog, pig, ass* etc.

³Ibid., 153.

⁴Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary: Fifth Edition. (1995). New York: Oxford University Press.1078.

⁵Mabry, E. (1974). Dimensions of Profanity. *Psychological Reports*. 35 (2). 388.

⁶https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/toilet_humor, accessed April 2nd 2017.

⁷Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary: Fifth Edition. (1995). 332.

⁸Mercury, R. (1995). Swearing: A "Bad" Part of Language; A Good Part of Language Learning. *TESL Canada Journal*. 13 (1). 30.

For make it clearer, the person is not similar as the animal but it is just for hurting his/her psychological feeling.

5. Ethnic-racial-gender Slurs

It can be said as a racialism in general because it uses a psychological qualities of the target. For instance: *nigger, dago, fag*.

Racialism is bad because it can cause huge mental health impacts on people who experience it because they will feel sad, angry, depressed, and being left out.

6. Insults

Insults are verbal attacks on other people. These words are also spoken to harm and to hurt other people. Insults are commonly based on abnormal physiological characteristics as like *retard, wimp, lard ass*.

7. Ancestral Allusions

Ancestral allusions can be categorized as insults but the existence of ancestral allusions are longer than insults. It is already used long time ago and used by people as taboo words. For instance: *son of a bitch, bastard, pervert*.

8. Vulgarity

Vulgarity is the quality of being vulgar⁹. A vulgarity or vulgar speech or language can refer to language which is offensive. Examples of vulgarity are *kiss my ass, fart face*.

Generally, these are expressions that are crude, raw, and from off the streets. Vulgar language is used to debase or devalue the thing or individual referred to or described. *I have to take a crap* and *Wow, look at her tits!* are just two colorful yet

⁹Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary: Fifth Edition. (1995). 1334.

vulgar utterances that would in some contexts be regarded as insensitive, distasteful, and offensive¹⁰.

9. Offensive Slang

Slang is very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language and are not thought suitable for formal situation. Slang is sometimes restricted to one particular group of people¹¹. That is the definition of slang in general but if we define slang in taboo words types, we can say that slang is to attack someone using angry and offensive language. Words can be considered as slang are *fuck*, *motherfucker*.

New taboo words can emerge, especially in slang because as the nature of language that language is very changeable.

Mostly taboo words are used for emerging harm and discomfort to a target speaker but there is expletive which used to express the emotion of speaker and not directed to anybody. As Mercury said, These are interjections that are clearly emotionally charged (i.e., *Shit! Balls!*). Not addressing anyone specifically, speakers use expletives to release their frustrations and vent their emotions. Often they are reflexive reactions to something that has unexpectedly happened to the speaker. For instance, what would one say after having stubbed a toe?¹²

Reasons for using or not using taboo words depend on the conversational goals of the speaker. Taboo words can be used to signify a number of emotions like anger, frustration, joy, surprise, sadness, etc. Taboo words can be used to achieve a variety of personal and interpersonal outcomes that may be positive, negative, or inconsequential in

¹⁰Carpenter, M. (1988). *The Link between Language and Consciousness: A Practical Philosophy*. New York: University Press of America. 57.

¹¹Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary: Fifth Edition. (1995). 1111.

¹²Mercury, R. (1995). Swearing: A "Bad" Part of Language; A Good Part of Language Learning. 30.

terms of their impact on others¹³. Negative social outcomes are achieved by using taboo words in the form of insults directed toward others and wishing harm on someone. Positive social outcomes are achieved by using taboo words in jokes and humor, social commentary, sex talk, story telling, in-group slang, and self-deprecation or ironic sarcasm in order to promote social harmony or cohesion¹⁴.

B. Function of Taboo Words

To describe the function of uttering taboo words in *Deadpool* movie, the researcher employs a theory of Wardhaugh. The functions of taboo words are divided into four; they are to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority¹⁵. Below are some short definitions and examples of the functions of taboo words.

- a. To draw attention to oneself: People utter taboo words to attract the attention of the listener by using strong, powerful language whose connotation can stimulate an instant reaction from the audience, e.g: hey you *son of a bitch!*
- b. To show contempt: People utter taboo words to insult the addressee because they think that somebody or something is completely worthless and cannot be respected, e.g: You're just *retarded* kid.
- c. To be provocative: Taboo words are uttered to provoke certain response such as violation or anger from the listeners. Taboo words are considered successful when the response meets the speaker's expectation, e.g. hey stupid *ass!* wanna fight me back huh?.
- d. To mock authority: Taboo words are used when some people are not satisfied with public image like government or institution. Therefore, taboo words are used to express the disappointment about reality e.g. *fucking* stupid politicians!

¹³Jay, T. (2009). The Utility and Ubiquity of Taboo Words. 155.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Wardhaugh, R. (2006). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics: Fifth Edition*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd. 239.

C. Synopsis of Deadpool

The synopsis is adopted from English wikipedia about Deadpool movie. It is accessed on April 7th 2017.

Deadpool is a 2016 American superhero film directed by Tim Miller and written by Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick, based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. It is the eighth installment in the *X-Men* Film series, and stars Ryan Reynolds as the titular character, as well as Morena Baccarin, Ed Skrein, T.J. Miller, Gina Carano, Leslie Uggams and Brianna Hildebrand. In the film, antihero Deadpool hunts the man who nearly destroyed his life while also trying to reunite with his lost love (Morena Baccarin).