

Taboo Words Expressed in Get Hard Movie

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ABSTRACT

This research discussed about translating cultural taboo words Get Hard movie. The aim of this research is to explain the translation strategies of taboo words. This research focused on Batistella's theory about types of taboo words that are Epithet, Profanity, Vulgarity, and Obscenity, and Karjalainen's theory about motives of using taboo words that are Psychological motive, Linguistic motive and Social motive. This research applied descriptive qualitative method in revealing data. In collecting the data, the researcher used note taking as instrument in order to get the valid data. As the result of the research, it was found there were four types of taboo words and three motives of using taboo words in Get Hard movie. The most common types and motives of using taboo words in Get Hard movie is Epithets and Psychological motive.

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1. Introduction

Language as a system of vocal symbol is used for human communication. Language cannot be separated with human interaction or people daily life because language is a tool or medium of communication. Goldstein (2008:294) states that language is a system of communication using sounds or symbols that enables us to express our feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experiences. Yet it is also the place where our sense of ourselves, our subjectivity, is constructed.

Language in society is constantly changing. As language changes, societies, attitudes towards words are considered offensive too. Language is used to avoid saying certain things expressed thing as well as to express them. Hornby (2000:721) states that language is the system of communication in speech and writing that used by people of particular country and the way of expressing ideas, feeling by using movement, symbol and sound. In society, people communicate with others not only about words, but also about language deals with social context and social values. Therefore, there are certain things in language which not to be said, and when people talk about those things, they are talked about in contradiction ways that is called linguistic taboo.

Linguistic taboo exist in most cultures, taboo words generally being culture-specific and relating to bodily functions or aspects of a culture that are sacred. Fairman (2009:27) states that linguistic taboo is things that you're not supposed to say with. Such words are avoided, considered inappropriate, and loaded in affective meaning. Jay (2009:141) defines taboo terms as "offensive emotional language". Portray taboo as immoral and improper, but people cannot deny that nowadays taboo words often find in society.

Basically the taboo words in various countries or groups of society there are similarities and differences depending on the community. Therefore, the researcher took the category of taboo word's from Batistella's theory that can accommodate two cultures, Indonesian and American which in fact the film researched comes from the culture of American culture.

2. The Concept of Taboo Word

Batistella (2005:72) suggests four types of taboo words; epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity.

a. Epithets

Epithet is an adjective or descriptive phrase expressing a quality characteristic of the person or thing mentioned. Epithet is characterized by the existence of several types of slurs, such as bitch and fag. Many insults are related with a lack of respect for others in the speaker. Ethnic insults are clearly related to a lack of sympathy. The term "wop" and "nigger" is a long-standing example of how insulting it is related to race. Other references that are included as epithet are connected to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, one's appearance, and disabilities such as *nigger*, *midget*, and *motherfucker*.

b. Profanity

Montagu, (2001:102) states that "profane" actually means "the abuse of anything sacred". It similar to Batistella (2005: 72) he state that profanity can be categorized as religious cursing because it usually includes the foul-mouthed use of what is considered to be sacred. Profane expressions are involving the use of religious terms in a profane, secular or uncaring manner.

Furthermore, profanity is based on a religious distinction. It 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 ignorance of or indifference to these matters.

The aim of the speaker is not to vilify God or anything connected with religion but it may be used to express emotional response to certain motives. The word "God" is a taboo word because in English society, there are certain words that should not be spoken, especially for Christians is strictly forbidden to use the word 'take the lord's name in vain'. Another words belong to this type are *Jesus Christ*, *hell*, *damn*, and *goddamn*.

c. Vulgarity

Vulgarity and obscenity have the same reference especially to words or expressions that contain sexual anatomy and excretory function in a rough manner. It is used to humiliate or bring down the thing or individual referred to or described to. And also is simply done by saying body parts that you shouldn't be saying.

The word vulgar depends on the context "some people may generating more cultivation than any other, depending on applicable society ,intelligence, economic conditions and prevailing values in society. Jayin Doyle, (2009: 1) state s that vulgarity demonstrates the raw expression of street language and the words that belong to this type are *cock*, *dick*, *ass*, and *tit*. Thus, Vulgarity means the language of the common person, 'the person in the street', or the unsophisticated, un-socialized, under-educated. It does not serve any particular need or function beyond the normal communication demands of the common human. Vulgarity is not necessarily obscene or taboo, it just reflects the crudeness of street language.

D. Obscenity

According to Batistella (2005: 72) obscenity is defined as words or expression which involves sex differentiating anatomy or sexual and excretory function that usually uttered in rough manner. Schussler (2013:856) states that obscenity within the parameters of sexual repression; as long as sexuality is a taboo it is understood that any action that contains sexual characteristics fits within the parameters of the taboo. In any language there are certain things which must be avoided of mentioning. It applies to the words with such connotations as well. In English, the first of these that occur to people are words dealing with excretions. In fact, except tears, all the words concerning bodily excretions are believed taboo.

Obscenity refers to expressions that are prohibited from public use since they involve repulsion to the sense, abhorrent, impolite and detestable to morality Example of obscenity words are : *fucking*, *fuck*, and *shit*.

3. Finding and Discussion

Based on the data analysis of the taboo words in Get Hard movie, the researcher found some taboo words which were contained in the movie about epithets, profanity, vulgarity and obscenity. The researcher also focused on the motive of taboo words that was uttered by the characters in this movie. Such as in the conversation,

Datum 2:

Darnel : *Just before I get to another level of anger, Mr King tell me for giggles*

James King : *One of the three **black men** will find themselves incarcerated during their lifetime*

In minutes 00:25:30, there were conversation between James King and Darnell that carried *black* signified epithets. Before that, King explained that he and Darnell are the same, except Darnell cannot vote, ever. It conveys about right, the different right between white and black man. Then the next dialogue King makes clear his idea by saying *black men* in front of Darnell. Surely it offended Darnell as black guy. Moreover, the way James King explained his idea in the dialogue by using several different words, indicated as linguistics motive.

Epithets as suggest by Patel (2014:91) are anaphoric expressions that look like definite descriptions, in the sense that they consist of a nominal component and a determiner. Additionally, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, someone's appereances, and disabilities were included as epithets. Epithets consider as the most common types of taboo word created by the main characters in this movie. It ocured 6 times as seen in **datum 1** until **datum 6** which followed by word **white, black man, bitch, motherfucker, negros, and nigga**.

Datum 13:

Employer 1 : *Are you getting this?*

Employer 2 : **Shit** yeah! Get out of the way!

There was *shit* in the dialogue of movie which contained obscenity taboo because it was impolite and showed in rough way. The event took place in King's house when he held a party and invited his friends and families. Everybody was happy and enjoyed the party. But suddenly, FBI came and under arrested James King for 43 counts of fraud and 30 counts of embezzlement. Thus, the man as employer recorded that even by his mobile phone, and while recording some people blocked his way, and then he said that taboo word "*Shit, yeah! Get out of the way!*". It expressed his emotional response toward the people who covered his way. Therefore, *Shit* here which conveyed in 00:18:57, considered as psychological motive.

Obscenity is believed to be prohibited from public use since they involve repulsion to the sense, abhorrent, impolite and detestable to morality. Obscenity is described as a term which characterized sex differentiating anatomy or sexual and excretory function in a crude way, for instance: **shit** in **datum 13** and **turd** in **datum 14**.

4. Conclusion

After analyzing Get Hard movie, the researcher makes conclusion related to the study about Taboo Words as follows; this study was carried out on twenty taboo words found in the Get Hard movie. The researcher found that there were four types contained in Get Hard movie, Epithets, Profanity, Vulgarity, and Obscenity.

The Epithets is the most common type of taboo words used in Get Hard movie, and there were six data found. This finding also concluded that there were three motives offered in the movie Psychological motive, Social motive, and Linguistic motive. Based on the findings of this study, it can be summed up that the most preferred motives of taboo words in Get Hard movie is Psycholinguistic Motive.

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