

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TABOO WORDS IN THE EMERGENCY 2022 MOVIE

Firda Aliffia¹, Wahyu Widiyanto², Sri Wahyuni³

Universitas PGRI Semarang

¹Firdaaliffia04@gmail.com, ²Wahyuwidiyanto@upgris.ac.id

³Sriwahyuni@upgris.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the Sociolinguistic Analysis of Taboo Words in The Emergency 2022 Movie. The qualitative method used was content analysis. The data of this research were taken from the Emergency 2022 movie. The data was collected by watching the movie and reading the transcript, identifying and underlying the taboo words. The data were analyzed using Batistella's theory to describe the types of taboo words and Wardhaugh's theory to describe the function of taboo words. First, the result there are 143 taboo words used by characters with percentages for each type: epithet 16 instances (11.2%), profanity 22 instances (15.4%), vulgarity 10 instances (7%), and obscenity 95 instances (66.4%). The obscenity type is the most frequently used taboo word. Second, there are four functions, which can be seen in the movie with the following percentages: 23 cases (16.1%) to draw attention, 66 cases (46.1%) to show contempt, 51 cases (35.7%) to be provocative, and 3 cases (2.1%) to mock authority. The most common function in the Emergency 2022 film seems to be to show contempt.

Keywords: Sociolinguistic, Taboo words, Emergency 2022 movie.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berfokus pada Analisis Sociolinguistik Kata-kata Tabu dalam Film Emergency 2022. Metode kualitatif yang digunakan adalah analisis isi. Data penelitian ini diambil dari film Emergency 2022. Data dikumpulkan dengan menonton film dan membaca transkrip. Kemudian, mengidentifikasi dialog dan menggarisbawahi dialog yang mengandung kata-kata tabu. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori Batistella untuk mendeskripsikan jenis-jenis kata tabu dan teori Wardhaugh untuk mendeskripsikan fungsi kata tabu. Pertama, hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 143 kata tabu yang digunakan oleh tokoh dengan persentase untuk setiap jenisnya, yaitu epitet 16 contoh (11,2%), kata-kata kotor 22 contoh (15,4%), kata-kata kasar 10 contoh (7%), dan kata-kata cabul 95 contoh (66,4%). Jenis kecabulan adalah kata tabu yang paling sering digunakan. Kedua, terdapat empat fungsi yang dapat dilihat dalam film dengan persentase sebagai berikut: 23 kasus (16,1%) untuk menarik perhatian, 66 kasus (46,1%) untuk menunjukkan penghinaan, 51 kasus (35,7%) untuk provokatif, dan 3 kasus (2,1%) untuk mengejek otoritas. Fungsi yang paling umum dalam film Emergency 2022 tampaknya adalah untuk menunjukkan penghinaan.

Kata kunci: Sociolinguistik, Kata-kata tabu, Film Darurat 2022.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is essential for individuals and communities to communicate and understand each other. Language is the means of communication spoken by the members of a given society (Wardhaugh 2006: p.1). People would not be able to communicate effectively or understand the perspectives of other individuals without language. Language significantly influences every aspect of culture.

Language change can be the result of social change because language is a reflection of society (Trudgill, 2000: p.17). When social norms, values, beliefs, or practices are changing or changing, they are often reflected in language. As society develops, adapts, or changes significantly, linguistic changes may occur to accommodate and reflect those social changes. In this way, changes in society can have a direct impact on changes in language.

According to (Holmes, 2013: p. 1), Sociolinguistics is the academic study of the relationship at the link between language and society. It is focused on understanding why people in different places, situations, and contexts speak differently. The

study of language and society provides a wealth of cognitive knowledge about how language performs, about the relationships that exist between societies, and about how language users communicate and construct dimensions of their social identities through their use of language.

In their daily lives, people may have specific ways of expressing their emotions through the use of language. For example, people may sometimes resort to using taboo words to express anger, disappointment, or frustration (Ariani, 2021). These expressions are called linguistic taboos because they often involve contradictory or euphemistic language.

The taboo word has become a phenomenon in nowadays lives. It occurs in almost all languages because every person in the community has various expressions of their thoughts in language. In different sources like movies, song lyrics, social media, and TV shows or series, The presence of taboo words can be seen in various sources such as movies, song lyrics, social media, and TV shows or series (Lubis et al., 2020).

The researcher chose to use the movie "Emergency 2022" as a source for their study of taboo words because the people in this movie often use taboo words in their dialogue. The use of taboo words can present challenges for people who lack an understanding of the underlying purposes and meanings behind the use of such language. the researcher has identified several topics that are very interesting to research. The main concern relates to the most commonly used taboo words for swearing in the film Emergency 2022. Additionally, it is crucial to investigate the functions of taboo words in order to find the meaning of the production of taboo words by the characters.

Based on the preceding paragraphs, the researcher has formulated the following research problems for the study of taboo words in the movie "Emergency 2022":

1. What are the types of taboo words spoken in the Emergency 2022 movie?
2. What are the functions of the taboo words spoken by the characters in the Emergency 2022 movie?

Based on the problems identified, the study will have the following aims:

1. To identify and explain the types of taboo words spoken by the characters in the Emergency 2022 movie.
2. To describe the functions of taboo words spoken by the characters in the Emergency 2022 movie.

B. METHODOLOGY

The research design of this study involves the use of qualitative methods to analyze the sociolinguistics of taboo words in Emergency 2022. movie. Qualitative research is for exploring and understanding the meaning of an individual or group considered the social or human problem (Creswell, 2018).

In qualitative research, sampling may not follow statistical guidelines, but the quotes and illustrations that qualitative researchers present to their readers serve the same function as the use of sampling. Citing typical examples to support a common point implies the claim that they represent analogous, if not absent, cases. (Krippendorff, 2004: p.84).

The specific qualitative research methods used in this study may include content analysis. Content analysis is the process of organizing information into categories related to

the central questions of the research (Bowen, 2009:p 32).

The data collection procedures for this research involved the following steps:

1. Watching the Emergency 2022 movie.
2. Reading the script of the movie:
3. Identifying and underlining taboo utterances:

The steps of data analysis are described as follows:

1. Categorizing:

After collecting the data, it was categorized and entered in Table 1

2. Classifying:

After completing the categorization system, the subsequent step is to classify the chosen utterances that contain taboo words in Table 1.

3. Analyzing:

The data was analyzed by grouping the types and functions of taboo words in Table 1. Once completed, the number of occurrences of taboo words can be calculated and made into a percentage depending on the

types and functions of taboo words.

4. Discussing:

The researcher validated the findings by utilizing the theories incorporated in Table 1 analysis. Subsequently, the researcher presented a discussion of the findings to address the research objectives.

5. Reporting:

The final phase consists of the inclusion of conclusions and recommendations by the researcher.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

This section presents the researcher's findings on the taboo words spoken by the characters in the Emergency 2022 movie. Based on the analysis of the Emergency 2022 movie, a total of 143 data points were collected in Table 1. The table provides details on the frequency of occurrence, as well as the types and functions of the taboo words used by the characters in the movie.

Table 1 Frequency of Occurrence of Types and Functions of Taboo Words in Emergency 2022 Movie

No.	Types of	The function of taboo words	Total	Percenta
-----	----------	-----------------------------	-------	----------

	taboo words	To draw attention	To show contempt	To be provocative	To mock authority		ge (%)
1.	Ephitets	6	4	6	-	16	11,2%
2.	Profanity	6	14	2	-	22	15,4%
3.	vulgarity	2	6	1	1	10	7%
4.	obscenity	9	42	42	2	95	66,4%
	Total	23	66	51	3	143	100%
	Percentage (%)	16,1%	46,1%	35,7%	2,1%	100%	

Table 2 Type and Function of taboo words in the Emergency 2022

Note:

EP: Ephitet

TDA: To Draw Attention to Oneself

PR: Profanity

TSC: To Show Contempt

VU: Vulgarity

TBP: To be Provocative

OB: Obscenity

TMA: To Mock Authority

No	Dialogue	Types of taboo words				The function of taboo words			
		EP	PR	VU	OB	TDA	TSC	TBP	TMA
1.	Kunle: "Don't do that." Sean: "What's wrong? What's the matter? She likes your big head. She's craving that BBC or small BC."	√						√	
2.	Sean: "She just said nigg* three times." Kunle: "Well, what do you want me to do about it?" Sean: "Ask her. Inquire	√				√			

No	Dialogue	Types of taboo words				The function of taboo words			
		EP	PR	VU	OB	TDA	TSC	TBP	TMA
	about it."								
3.	Sean: "Don't do it. Don't grab it. Ah, you nasty b*tch. "		√				√		
4.	Kunle: "No, she's just being nice." Sean: "Yeah, she is being nice to your d*ck. "			√		√			
5.	Sean: "Carlos, you were here the whole f*ck*ng time. What's your alibi, huh?"				√		√		
6.	Sean: "Anybody ever called you a n*gge*? "	√				√			
7.	Maddie: "Are you just gonna believe them? What, are you a f*ck*ng id**t? "		√				√		
8.	Alice: "No, Maddy, I'm not a f*ck*ng idi*t. He genuinely looks like he's trying to help."				√		√		
9.	Sean: "She wants your d*ck, bro. "			√				√	
10.	Rafael: "You're under arrest. Sean: f*ck*ng police."				√				√

DISCUSSION

This section is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on the categories of taboo words in the Emergency 2022 movie and aims to answer the first problem formulation. The second part examines the functions of taboo words and is presented to address the second problem formulation. The subject matter starts by exploring the various forms of banned words.

1. Types of Taboo Words

There are four types of taboo words used by the characters in the Emergency 2022 movie: epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. Each will be defined and accompanied by examples.

a. Epithets

In the Emergency 2022 movie, epithets get a percentage of 11,2%. An epithet is a word or phrase that contains slurs, racial slurs, ethnic slurs, and sexual slurs. An illustration is shown below.

Kunle: "Don't do that."

Sean: "What's wrong? What's the matter? She likes your big head. She's craving that **BBC** Or small BC"

The conversation includes the word "BBC", categorized as an epithet. The word "BBC" has a sexual connotation that is linked to racial stereotypes about black people having b*g bl*ck pen*ses. This word is often used to refer to specific physical attributes and is applied to men.

The next example is taken from a conversation between Sean and Kunle which is presented below.

Sean: "She just said **n*gg*** three times."

Kunle: "Well, what do you want me to do about it?"

Sean: "Ask her. Inquire about it."

The use of racial slurs categorized as epithets, is illustrated in the interaction between Sean and Kunle above. Sean uttered the racial slur "n*gg*", which is used as a derogatory term to refer to a negro.

There are nine types of taboo words contained in Epithets in the Emergency 2022 movie: BBC, Black, Black Dudes, Black Men, N*gg*, N*gg*r, Small BC, White Girl, and White Boy.

b. Profanity

In the Emergency 2022 movie, profanity is the second most frequently observed type of taboo

word by the characters, accounting for 15.4% of the total. Profanity consists of words or phrases regarded as curse words, blasphemy, and offensive language. Typically, these words employ terms that are considered taboo or foul in particular religions or cultures. An illustration of profanity would be the following.

Sean: "Don't do it. Don't grab it.

Ah, you nasty **b*tch**."

In this context, there are taboo words that are classified as profanity. The term "b*tch" is considered to be profanity because it is used as an offensive and derogatory term to insult someone and the use of it can be disrespectful and inappropriate in most situations.

In the movie *Emergency 2022*, there are nine different forms of profanity: B*tch, B*tches, D*mn, G*d, H*ll, Id**t, J*s*s, Motherf*ck*r, Motherf*ck*ng.

c. Vulgar

Vulgarity refers to the use of coarse language that includes explicit references to sexual anatomy and the use of offensive slang terms. The movie has a total of 7% vulgarity. The following dialogue serves as an illustration of vulgarity.

Kunle: "No, she's just being nice."

Sean: "Yeah, she is being nice to your d*ck."

In the conversation mentioned above the words d*ck can be categorized as vulgarity. In the content, d*ck refers to the human male genitalia organ that refers to male genitalia in a crude.

In the movie *Emergency 2022*, there are five different types of vulgarity words such as A*s, A*shole, D*ck, D*ckh**d, and P*ssy.

d. Obscenity

Obscenity is the last type of taboo language used by the characters in the film *Emergency 2022*, obscenity is the most frequently used type of taboo word by the characters, accounting for 66,4% of the overall and the dialogue in question contains several examples of obscenity. This type of language pertains to words or expressions that are restricted from public use due to their perceived lack of morality, specifically their reference to sexual activity and excretory functions, which can elicit disgust. The words that indicate obscenity in dialogues were.

Sean: "Carlos, you were here
the whole **f*ck*ng** time.
What's your alibi, huh?"

The use of the word "fucking" in this context is considered a taboo or profane expression. It is generally used as an intensifier to express strong feelings of frustration or anger.

There are four various types of obscenity in the film *Emergency 2022*, including **F*ck**, **f*ck*d**, **F*ck*ng**, **Sh*t**.

2. Functions of taboo words

This section deals with the functions of taboo words used by characters in the film *Emergency 2022*. This section's full descriptions focus on the second research topic raised in Chapter I. All four functions of taboo words are illustrated in instances below, covering draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, to show contempt, and to mock authority presented with some examples below.

a. To Draw Attention to Oneself

To show contempt appears 23 times with a frequency of 16,1%.in total. This is one of the functions that can be fulfilled by using a taboo word with a negative connotation to attract the listener's attention. Furthermore, listeners will react quickly to the

words of the speaker when he uses a strong vocabulary such as "taboo". Two examples of this function are shown below, with the explanation of each in turn, in order to clarify what the meaning is.

Sean: "Anybody ever called you
a **n*gge*r**?"

Kunle: "You call me **n*gg*** all
the time."

conversations, the phrase **n*gg*r**" or **n*gg*** has historically been used to degrade and diminish individuals of Black descent. This function word is used to draw attention to oneself.

b. To show contempt

To show contempt is displayed 66 times with a 46,1% frequency of Occurrence. To Show contempt is a function of the taboo words that are used to express their disrespectful feelings towards the addressee, this function may take place because they believe that others on the other side are absolutely useless, it can be argued that the speakers are meant to offend their pride. Several examples of showing contempt are given.

Maddie: "Are you just gonna
believe them? What, are
you a **f*ck*ng idi*t**?"

Alice: "No, Maddy, I'm not a
f*ck*ng **idi*t**. He
genuinely looks like he's
trying to help."

In the conversation words,
f*ck*ng and idi*t are to show
contempt. Maddie shows her
disrespect toward her friend Alice.

c. To be Provocative

To be provocative appears most
frequently with a frequency of 35.7%
with 51 occurrences. To provoke a
specific reaction from listeners, some
individuals use prohibited terms that
are considered provocative, causing
disregard or frustration. This function
becomes powerful when taboo words
are incorporated into another
person's speech. As a result, some
people often try to use taboo words in
conversation to provoke the desired
reaction from the listener.

Sean: "She wants your d*ck,
bro."

The term "d*ck" serves to incite
a reaction from someone. Sean
employed the term "d*ck" to provoke
Kunle by saying that Bianca was nice
to him and only wanted his d*ck.

d. To Mock Authority

To mock authority is the last
function of taboo words that occur

three times with the frequency 2,1%
in the movie. This function can be
used or challenge or undermine
authority figures, institutions, or social
norms. Such words may be used as a
form of rebellion or protest against
those in power.

Rafael: "You're under arrest."

Sean: "**Fucking** police."

The term "fucking" is employed
to mock the authority of the police.

D. CONCLUSIONS

This concludes the various
types and functions of the taboo
words that are used in the film *The
Emergency 2022*, as described in the
sections that follow:

1. The first objective of this research
is to identify and explain the types
of taboo words spoken by the
characters in the movie
The Emergency 2022. All four types of
taboo words, which consist of
epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and
obscenity appear in the movie.
There are 143 taboo words used
by characters with percentages for
each type: epithet 16 instances
(11,2%), profanity 22 instances
(15,4 %), vulgarity 10 instances
(7%), and obscenity 95 instances
(66,4%). Obscenity is frequently
used as a taboo term because of
its perceived effectiveness in
insulting others. Additionally,
characters often use obscenity to
exhibit disrespect towards their

recipient, thereby achieving their objective of hurting their feelings and causing emotional distress. Additionally, characters often use obscenity to exhibit disrespect towards their recipient, thereby achieving their objective of hurting their feelings and causing emotional distress.

2. The second objective of this study is to describe the functions of profanity used by the characters in the *Emergency 2022* film. The movie showcases four main functions of taboo words, namely, to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority. The distribution of these functions is as follows: Out of the 143 instances of taboo language in the *Emergency 2022* movie, 23 (16.1%) were used for drawing attention to oneself, 66 (46.1%) for showing contempt, 51 (35.7%) for being provocative, and only 3 (2.1%) for mocking authority. Showing contempt appears to be the most prevalent function of taboo language in the film, as it can signify the speaker's intention to disrespect others. Furthermore, using profanity can be a highly effective means of displaying disrespect towards others as it is specifically targeted to damage one's dignity. The characters in the film use vulgar language to convey their disdain towards certain individuals.

REFERENCES

- Ariani, windy. (2021). *Windy Ariani-Skripsi st.17*.
- Creswell, J. W. (2018). *Research Design Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches* (H. Salmon, Ed.; Fifth Edition). SAGE Publications.
- Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (Fourth Edition). Routledge.
- Lubis, C. E. R., Lubis, S., & Putri, D. M. (2020). English Taboo Words in Sex Education Tv Series. *Language Literacy: Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Language Teaching*, 4(2), 333–339.
<https://doi.org/10.30743/ll.v4i2.2693>
- Trudgill, P. (2000). *Sociolinguistics An introduction to language and society: Vol. Fourth Edition* (D. Crystal, Ed.; Fourth Edition). Penguin Books.
- Wardhaugh R. (2006). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (Wardhaugh R, Ed.; Fifth-edition). Blackwell Publishing Ltd.