

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language and society are two things that cannot be separated because language is used by the society in communication. Language in relation to society is studied in sociolinguistics. Moreover, sociolinguistics also focuses on language varieties. The varieties of language can be in the form of colloquialism, jargon, swear words, argot, register and taboo terms.

Taboo terms are variety of language which is inappropriate to utter in certain context. As a matter of fact, taboo terms are part of culture since the taboo terms are used by the society even in their daily conversation. However, the use of taboo terms is forbidden in formal conversation. According to Wardhaugh, taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behavior believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame (2006: 239). Due to the quotation, taboo terms are something that should be avoided by the society because they can cause unwanted things to happen.

The use of taboo terms can be positive and negative. They are related to both words and context of uttering them. The following example of taboo terms which are taken from Mike Lacher's *On the Bro'd* may clarify the discussion.

They scoped us driving by, and we saw them lick their lips from inside their stupid cars-those ugly *bitches* wished they could get with us. (Lacher, 2012: 21)

Commonly, the meaning of the term *bitch* is a female dog. According to the context the term *bitch* means a girl who works as a prostitute. For some people this work ruins the morality. In this case, *bitches* is included as a taboo term because it is used to insult others by judging someone's behavior. It is interpreted as a word which degrades someone's personality in terms of taboo.

Although taboo words have negative meaning, people still use them in their daily conversation for some reasons. People have desire to express their idea, feeling or humor. Therefore, to achieve these purposes, people sometimes use taboo terms. The following example is presented to elaborate the discussion on the use of taboo terms.

I was bored as *hell* for most of the bus ride, but I did get more amped when we started getting closer to San Fran. (Lacher, 2012: 61)

Actually, the meaning of the term *hell* in some religions is a place of eternal punishment for the wicked after death. In this sentence the term *hell* means a misery condition. It belongs to taboo terms because it is used in inappropriate place and it is used to depict a suitable situation in the novel, that is, misery condition. Further, the word *hell* is classified as a religion taboo term because it is usually used in religion purposes.

The explanation above implies that taboo terms are very commonly used by the society and it is part of culture. Taboo terms have existed for a long time and they develop from time to time. Observing taboo terms are very interesting, however, the research on them is still rare to be found. Therefore, the use of taboo terms is regarded as a topic necessary to investigate scientifically.

Besides, it is actually a further research from the previous one entitled *Bro-Speak Slang in Mike Lacher's On the Bro'd* conducted by Yusita Astriana. In the previous research, the topic focuses on the kinds and the purposes of using Bro-speak slang, while this research focuses on the kinds and the purposes of using taboo terms in Mike Lacher's *On the Bro'd*.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

In relation to the topic of discussion, the problems discussed in this study are as formulated below:

1. What are the kinds of taboo terms used in Mike Lacher's *On the Bro'd*?
2. What are the purposes of using taboo terms in the novel?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem, this research aims to answer the questions related to the use of taboo terms as the following:

1. To describe the kinds of taboo terms used in Mike Lacher's *On the Bro'd*
2. To explain the purposes of using taboo terms in the novel.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

It is necessary to limit the scope of the discussion in order to get the detailed information about taboo terms. In this research, taboo terms are analyzed through sociolinguistic perspective, since taboo terms have a relationship with

society. Hence, taboo terms are included in sociolinguistics. Moreover, this research focuses only on taboo terms which occur in Mike Lacher's *On the Bro'd*. The taboo terms here are discussed in terms of their kinds and the purposes of their use.

1.5 The Source of the Data

The data of this research are words and phrases taken from Mike Lacher's novel entitled *On the Bro'd*. This novel is a parody novel of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* which is published worldwide and it has many readers. This novel talks about the American youngsters who are from middle to high social level. They like hanging out, chugging, having sex, and getting drunk. In such activities they commonly use slang. This novel is very popular among its readers and it frequently makes use of taboo terms within it. Therefore, this novel can be a valid source of data for this research.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

This research is very useful especially for those who like to read novels. Therefore, this study is certainly helpful for them to comprehend the content of novels which use taboo terms within them. Furthermore, the results of the research may stimulate other researchers to conduct further researches on the topic more comprehensively. In addition, it is hoped that the results of the research can enrich references on the study of sociolinguistics, especially on the use of taboo terms.