

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Linguistics as a study of language has developed from time to time. It has developed in British University since about 1960. Linguistics is a branch of language study. Referring to the application, linguistics can be applied into three branches. They are psycholinguistics, etnolinguistics, and sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics is one of the fields of language study that involve society. It refers to the application of linguistic study to the solution of practical, educational, and social life of all types in real world aspects such as; age, sex, socioeconomic class membership, regional grouping, and status. They have to do with the focusing of sociolinguistics. Besides, different setting for the using of language results different degrees and types of language learning. It may give effect of the socio-cultural setting in the learner's language and also the relationship between learner and target language community. If we study sociolinguistics, we also have to pay attention to society. So, sociolinguistics can be defined as the study of language in relation to the society.

In 1777, Captain James Cook discovered taboo terms and he gave definition of taboo as anything forbidden to be eaten, made used of, or to be said. The words taboos were known by people all over the world but the origin were still in Polynesia. Nowadays, they are widely used in English speaking world.

Language variation is one of the main topics of discussion in the sociolinguistic study. According to Hudson, language variation is a variety of language as a set of linguistic items with similar social distribution (1980:24). In other words, each of varieties of language is used by the same community in the same social distribution. Every social distribution has its own variety of language. People have different point of view toward language in the society. It depends on social distribution between speakers such as age, socio-economic, and classes or sex and it will be reflected in their language. For example *penis* is a term used in Great Britain as well as the United States. It may be inappropriate in many situations, but in fact it would not fall into the category of taboo words. This is because it is the proper medical term used for male sex organ. But one can see the difference sex, social level or nationality of the speakers if looking at the many other names applied to the male genital such as *John Thomas, Percy, Stiffy, dick, trouser snake, dong, prick, mutton, joint, Johnson*, and so on. As a result, *penis* becomes respectable anatomical term and appears in textbooks or scientific written, it means that *penis* is not taboo anymore.

To match the communication, speaker and hearer have to get the same intention and interpretation. Furthermore, Trudgill says that when two people do communicate successfully, it is clear that much more is involved than the mapping of internal structure (1984:8).

“That goddamned little shit actor,” Ray said.

“You mean those lies that I told him about you because I wanted to get him for my self? Well, shit, honey, can you blame me? He had the *biggest Willy* in L.A. when I saw the thing. We were out to diner at a restaurant and he puts my hand on it under the table, and I got so excited. I took it out of his pants and started rubbing it, and one of the waitresses saw it and started

screaming 'cause it was so big and then we got thrown out- I said that thing is mine. I ain't sharing with anyone" (13/66).

Taboo term in the example above is *big Willy* which refers to men's genital organ. People in the community create it because they want to create their own term to called penis. That is why, the speech community will understand what is the meaning of *big Willy*. It means that the communication is done successfully.

Nowadays, sociolinguistics is widely used as the field of linguistic study. It is fact that society cannot be separated with language. By studying sociolinguistics, the researcher can understand deeply about any kinds of variety which occurs in society. Taboo terms are very popular and the frequencies of the use are very high in the Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*. It makes the researcher is challenged to analyze it based on the sociolinguistic study. Besides, taboos are very phenomenon to be analyzed because they also deal with semantics when they have to do with the context in which the words are used.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the topic of discussion in this research, three problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the taboo terms used in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*?
2. What are the purposes of using those taboo terms in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*?
3. Who are the users of the taboo terms in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*?

### 1.3 Objective of the Study

Related to the statement of the problem, this study aims to analyze the taboo terms. Hence, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify taboo terms used in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*.
2. To explain the purposes of using taboo terms in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*.
3. To find out the users of taboo terms in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*.

### 1.4 Source of Data

The researcher chooses the novel entitled *Sex and the City* by Candace Bushnell as the source of the data. Many commentators who are listed on the first page of this novel have opinion that the novel is the real description of New York culture elite. That is why, the novel is very interesting and also very familiar all over the world. It is also a valid source of data to solve the problems of the study.

Besides, taboo terms as the main data for this research are very high in the case of the use and are frequently uttered by the characters in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*. That is why, they can be the valid data for this research.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

It is necessary to limit the problems in order to get a detailed understanding about taboo terms, which deal with sociolinguistic study in Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*. There are many kinds of sociolinguistic study such as; register,

code switching, style shifting, dialect, idiolect, etcetera. In this study, the researcher does not discuss all kinds of sociolinguistic study. However, the researcher focuses on taboo terms.

### **1.6 Benefit of the Research**

It is expected that this research may contribute a valuable thing for the readers, especially for other researchers who are interested in analyzing the same topic. To be more specific, it gives advantages for the readers who feel unfamiliar to such terms and they can have good understanding about taboo terms. Hopefully, this study can help the readers to understand more about the content of Candace Bushnell's *Sex and the City*.

### **1.7 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis consists of five chapters. The organization of the thesis is as follows:

#### **Chapter I**

INTRODUCTION includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope and limitation, benefit of the research, source of data, and organization of the research.

#### **Chapter II**

UNDERLYING THEORIES consists of the theories that are used to support the analysis. It includes the theory of sociolinguistics, speech community, language variation, taboo terms, and the type of taboo terms.

### Chapter III

METHOD OF RESEARCH includes the method of research used as a guide in doing analysis. It consists research design, population, sample, technique of data collecting and technique of data analysis.

### Chapter IV

ANALYSIS discusses the analysis of the data

### Chapter V

CONCLUSION consists of drawing the result of the analysis.