

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool that is used by human being to communicate each other. It holds important role for human's life to communicate and make interaction. As stated by Ifan Yuwanto in his thesis, according to *Media, Message and Men*, John C. Merrill and Ralph L. Lowenstein, 1979: 5 said that communication is basically a social process. Not only with a spoken and written language do we communicate, but also with a wide variety of actions (kinesthetic communication), with smiles, frowns, gestures, nods, handshake, shrugs, embraces, pushes, blows, etc. Moreover, when we speak in a communication (a process), there must be both sender (communicator) and receiver (communicate).

In our daily life, usually young people have to speak politely to the older. But, if the people who have the same age, they are inclined to use impolite language to express their feeling, such as illness, unpleasant and anger. As we know, impolite words are called as taboo words. The English word *taboo* derives from the Tongan *tabu*, which came to notice towards the end of the eighteenth century (Allan and Burridge, *Forbidden Words*, 2006: 2) . According to Radcliffe-Brown:

In the languages of Polynesia the word means simply 'to forbid', 'forbidden', and can be applied to any sort of prohibition. A rule of

etiquette, and order issued by a chief, an injunction to children not to meddle with the possessions of their elders, may all be expressed by the use of the word tabu. (Radcliffe-Brown 1939: 51).

Taboo is a proscription of behaviour that affects everyday life. Taboos include bodies and their effluvia (sweat, snot, faeces, menstrual fluid, etc); the organs and acts of sex; micturition and defecation; diseases, death and killing (including hunting and fishing); naming, addressing, touching and viewing persons and sacred beings, objects and places; food gathering, preparation and consumption (Allan and Burridge, *Forbidden Words*, 2006: 1).

Taboo words have relation with swear words. They are parts of taboo words, it means that not all taboo words are used for swearing, but all of swear words are parts of taboo words. Swearing is the way someone uses obscene words orally to insult, to curse or even to offend something (someone or action), and also for emphasizing, when the person has strong emotion (Hughes, 1991: 206).

Reason for using or not using taboo words depends on the conversational goals of the speakers. Swearing is like using the horn on your car, which can be used to signify a number of emotions, like anger, frustration, joy, and surprise. Taboo words can be used to achieve a variety of personal and interpersonal outcomes that may be positive, negative, or inconsequential in terms of their impact on others, although some might argue all uses of taboo words are harmful to some degree (Jay_Taboo.pdf).

Most of the people utter swear words to show their negative feeling. According to Clark, 1996; Jay, 2000; Zoglin, 2008 there are some positive social

outcomes are achieved by using taboo words in jokes and humor, social commentary, sex talk, storytelling, in group slang, and self-deprecation or ironic sarcasm in order to promote social harmony or cohesion (as cited in Jay_Taboo.pdf).

Based on Wardaugh, there are some categories of swear words: (One's) mother-in-law is the term for describing a woman who has affair with many partners ("mother fucker", "bitch"); certain game animal is the term connected with religious beliefs and practices from prehistoric times ("anjing/dog", "bullshit"); sex is the term refers to the sexual activities ("fuck"); death is the term refers to something that frightened people ("go to hell"); excretion is the term related to human excretion ("shit" "piss"); bodily functions is the term related to human genital ("ass", "asshole"); religious matters is the term related to something religious or god ("gosh!", "dolly!", "god damn you"); the left hand is the term refers to the symbol of sexual intercourse by showing the middle finger of the left hand ("fuck you", "screw you"). Based on J. Dan Rothwell, the types of swear words are copulative terms ("fuck"), excretory terms ("shit" and "piss"), terms related to the human genitals ("cunt" and "cock") and terms related to the sexual irregularities ("bastard" and "bitch").

We are as human being cannot avoid the swear words in our society. They do exist in every culture, every society, every community, even in some literary works such as novel and film. The use of swear words can be easily find either in Indonesia, English, and even Javanese. The example of Javanese swear words can be seen in the animation films entitled "*Grammar Suroboyo*". There are many

swear words find out in every parts of communication between the characters, such as *jancok*, *asu*, *nggateli nggapleki*, etc. Surabaya people can easily produce swear words for any kind of conversations, even the conversation with friends or other colleagues. For example in the middle of daily conversation among friends, one of them will use the word *jancok*. *Jancok* itself means sexual intercourse in rude Javanese and it is usually used to show the speaker's negative emotions like anger and frustration (Hernianda Putri, Ditha, In her thesis).

Swear words are used in informal situation, because if the speakers use these in formal situation it will cannot be accepted. Even if the swear words are spoken in informal situation, but the speakers does not know each other, it is better to avoid using the swear words because Indonesian society known as the eastern-cultured. It means Indonesian people prefer to avoid saying that are not supposed to be said. Usually, the people using swear words are to create attention, discredit, provoke, show identification and provide catharsis.

In this research the writer will try to investigate the use of swear words produced by the characters in the animation films entitled "*Grammar Suroboyo*". The writer finds out there are a lot of swear words produced by the characters named *Suro* and *Boyo* that exist in every episode. The writer knows it because those animations not only has been popular in Surabaya society particularly in youth generation.

Grammar Suroboyo is a series of short animation film created by *Gathokaca* studio. The duration for each film is about 8 minutes and it has 5

episodes with the different title. The characteristics of this animation is the humour of language style that is used by the characters in the inside of the conversations. The dialogues which is produced by both of the characters (*Suro* the fish and *Boyo* the crocodile) using Surabaya special dialects, completed by swear words.

Especially for Surabaya society, they have known well about Surabaya special grammar, a conversation language that filled up with some cursing words to say. For example the word *Cok*, this word some often uttered by adolescent in nowadays particularly in East Java. Surprisingly the adolescent consider that word as a tool to strengthen the friendship.

In this development period, technology is a main part that needed for each individual. The curse words have been trend for Surabaya young generation that wrapped into short duration films. Those films have spread out in the East Java and became the winner of *indie* film festival. Those films tell about *Suro* (shark) and *Boyo* (crocodile) friendship who are living in Surabaya, completed with Surabaya special dialects. The most important thing in those films is when the characters utter a curse word spontaneously it will be add the point in the right top column of the film.

The films made by Solikhin or popularly named *cak* Ikin, an alumnus of *Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember* institute start his career with his two friends, they are Ari and Gunawan. They act as dubbers in those films.

The existence of cursing words in those films is to introduce the characters of Surabaya mythology local. The producers of those films hope that the

audiences know the characters well, everyone can feel the characters alive, not only for fight mythology story that everyone can not feel it, but also those films tell about Surabaya society life. In fact, those films do not teach or allowed to everyone to curse. It depends on personal views.

It cannot be denied, cursing is a bad habitual action that has adhered in Surabaya society and hard to be deleted. So, those films also cannot be separated from curse words because they have to be part of Surabaya grammar.

Those films categories for adult, it means for everyone who are able to differentiate which one is good and which one is bad, because actually there are many positive things which can be taken from those films. For the example, the friendship of Suro and Boyo and Indonesia social issues. It is forbidden for children to watch those films, because it will be worrying if they imitate the contains of those films. But, the producer has been created those animations in children version entitled "*Grammar Suoboyo Junior*".

The first episode of this animation entitled "*Grammar Suroboyo*". The duration of this film is 2 minutes 49 seconds. It tells about Suro who wants to borrow some money to Boyo for his operation cost. He will do operation because when he swam into the river, suddenly he got an asthma and his fish gills possessed by mud. The second episode entitled "*Beda Grammar (Jancok Suroboyo)*" tells about Suro who leaves Surabaya to look for a better job in Jakarta. In this part, Boyo speaks special dialect of Surabaya completed with many curses and Suro speaks Jakarta dialect and they talk about city park of

Surabaya as a main of topic. In this episode, the social issue in that film is about Boyo's thoughtfulness when he realizes that the government does not provide a suitable place for teenager to develop themselves in the art field such as art and music. Here, Boyo wants to build a building named Gedung Tosan as a medium for channelizing the teenager's talent. The third is entitled "*Lontong Balap*". it tells about Surabaya special food named *lontong balap*. Difference with the two parts before where Suro and Boyo just communicate through the telephone, in this part they communicate and meet directly. Both of them are looking for a food stall which sells *lontong balap*. This film tells not only the origin and history of *lontong balap* but also the secret of *petis* (condiment of the fermented fish or shrimp) that makes *lontong balap* more delicious. The forth is entitled "*Kere Tapi Mbois (Miskin tapi Gaya)*" tells about Boyo is being bankrupt and he ask an helping hand to Suro to reach up his ambition to build *Gedung Tosan* in Surabaya. The last episode is entitled "*Mantab Jaya Pol-Polan*" it is a cooperation project with *Indie* band for a mission to made up a purse.

Through this reserach, the writer has intended to have the research on the swear words as used by the characters (*Suro* and *Boyo*) of animation films "*Grammar Suroboyo*". It is interesting for the writer, so she can analyze what swear words uttered by the characters in the conversation of the those animation film. Then, the writer will use the theory of swear words classification based on the words meaning by Jay Timothy (Hernanda Putri, Ditha) to see what swear words are used by the characters *Suro* and *Boyo* in the short animation film

Grammar Suroboyo and the theory of function of swear words by Anderson and Trudgill to see what the functions of the swear words used the characters.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problem in this research is about the existence of swear words that are condemned and forbidden, but they still commonly used in daily conversation. The writer also find this matter in the animation film of Surabaya specific language.

Therefore, the writer tried to analyze the swear words as used by the characters (*Suro* and *Boyo*) of animation films “*Grammar Suroboyo*”. The writer divided into some research questions as follows:

1.2.1 What are the swear words used by the characters in the “*Grammar Suroboyo*” animation films?

1.2.2 What are the functions of swear words used by the characters in the “*Grammar Suroboyo*” animation films?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Through this research, the writer stated the objectives of the study as follows:

1.3.1 To describe the swear words used by the characters in the “*Grammar Suroboyo*” animation films.

1.3.2 To describe the functions of swear words used by the characters in

the “*Grammar Suroboyo*” animation films.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research on swear words as used by the characters (*Suroand Boyo*) of animation film “*Grammar Suroboyo*” has theoretically significance. It conducts to help people or the readers have more understanding in sociolinguistic field about swear words which have imperative roles in the daily conversation of Surabaya’s society. As the proof in the series of animation films entitled “*Grammar Suroboyo*”. In the daily conversation, Surabaya’s society can be separated by using swear words that shows by the characters as Surabaya indigeneouse.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding about the term used in this research, the writer needs to explain the definition of the term as follow:

1.5.1 Swearing is the way someone uses obscene words orally to insult, to curse or even to offend something (someone or action), and also for emphasizing, when the person has strong emotion (Hughes, 1991: 206:).

1.5.2 Swear word is linguistic forms of how people show their emotions, such as anger, surprise, frustration, etc (Timothy, 2000: 93)

1.5.3 Character is a person in a novel, play, or film (Oxford dictionary)

1.5.4 Animation is the process of creating the continuous motion and

shape change illusion by means of rapid display of a sequence of static images that minimally differ from each other (Wikipedia.org)

1.5.5 Grammar *Suroboyo* is a series of short animation film created by *Gathokaca* studio that contains specific Surabaya language. The characteristics of this animation is the humour of language style that is used by the characters in the conversations. The dialogues are produced by both of the characters (*Suro* the fish and *Boyo* the crocodile) using Surabaya special dialects, completed by swear words.