

THE TYPES AND THE FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES OF TABOO WORDS IN *EUPHORIA* SEASON 2 TV SERIES SCRIPTS

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Abstract: The objectives of this research are to identify the different types of taboo words and to describe the functions of taboo words as they are used by characters in the Euphoria Season 2 TV show. The descriptive qualitative method was used in this research because the data is in words rather than numbers. This study's primary theory is that of Michael Swan (2005) and Timothy Jay (1992). The researcher discovered four types of taboo words after classifying 50 data of taboo words in Euphoria Season 2 TV Series, namely lavatory 4 data (8%), private parts of body 17 data (34%), religion 12 data (24%), and sexual activity 17 data (34%). Meanwhile, from those 85 data of taboo words, the researcher found some functions of taboo words anger and/or frustration 14 data (16%), descriptive-evaluative 40 data (47%), joking 9 out data (11%), surprise 6 data (7%), and sarcastic irony or insult 16 data (19%).

Keywords: Taboo, Sexual Activity, Tv Series, Descriptive.

INTRODUCTION

Communication is the best way to represent human thoughts. It can also serve as a bridge to develop good relationships with others. Many people around the world communicate in a variety of languages. There are two kinds of language based on the way to convey namely spoken and written language. Spoken language is communicated directly, whereas written language is communicated indirectly. Sapir (1921:8) states that language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desire by means a system of producing symbol voluntarily.

Language is deeply ingrained in their people's culture because it reflects their norms and taboos. As a result, ignoring these beliefs during an interaction may result in misunderstandings between speakers and listeners, because every individual is expected to behave appropriately in society in accordance with the norms. In this case, it should be noted that certain words, expressions, sentences, and topics are prohibited from being uttered or discussed in public in all languages. However, in real-life communication, people frequently forget about their culture's various principles. People have a tendency to speak and act in ways that are prohibited, such as using forbidden words and gestures. This language or words of language are referred to as taboos.

Taboo words are used in informal language. The term "taboo" originally referred to acts that were forbidden or should be avoided. It can now refer to both such acts and the references to them. These expressions are related to a society's religious and cultural beliefs, which define its socio-cultural structure.

Furthermore, the use of taboos varies from person to person and is influenced by social factors such as anger, frustration, annoyance, and so on. For those reasons, the researcher wishes to conduct research on taboo words in English, particularly those used by the characters in the *Euphoria Season 2* TV series.

The researcher used TV series entitled *Euphoria*, a HBO original series. The series follows a group of high school students such as Rue Bennet, Cassie Howard, Nate Jacobs, Jules Vaughn, Maddy Perez, Kat Hernandez, Fezco, Chris McKay and so on. As they navigate identity, trauma, drugs, self-harm, family, friendships, love, and sex. The characters in this series frequently use taboo words in everyday conversation. The researcher chose to examine this series because the characters use many taboo words in it.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in analyzing this topic because many people believe that this taboo language is only used by the lower class, but many upper-class or public figures who use it have made it commonplace and no longer taboo. Therefore, the researcher wishes to examine taboo words in English through this research.

SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Language is a tool that cannot be separated from society, as explained by sociolinguistics. According to (Gumperz, 1971, p. 223) defines sociolinguistics as an attempt to discover correlations between social structures and to observe any changes that occur. However, (Wardhaugh, 1986, p. 13) explains that sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society in order to gain a better understanding of language structure and how languages function in communication. In accordance with the statements above, (Trudgil, 2000, p. 32), he states that the study of sociolinguistics is related to a cultural phenomenon so that it can affect the way people speak or talk since it is determined by the social context.

From the study above, it can be concluded that sociolinguistics is a study that aimed to understand the relationship between the language and the social context itself in order to get a better understanding in communication.

TABOO

Taboo is a part of sociolinguistics that deals with culture and society. Taboo is a part of language that is used in social situations and communication. According to (Jay, 1992, p. 4) in his book *Cursing in America* taboo as a word means set apart as charged with a dangerous supernatural power and forbidden to profane use or contact. However, (Fromkin, 2011, p. 596) explain that taboo is a word that is not to be used at least in polite soci Based on the ideas presented above, it can be concluded that taboo is divided into two categories: taboo words that are verbally spoken and taboo acts or behavior. Taboo is always associated with something impolite in society that possesses dangerous supernatural power and is prohibited from profane use or contact. Based on those explanations, the researcher focuses on taboo words rather than taboo acts.

TYPES OF TABOO WORDS

Taboo words have several types, according to (Swan, 2005, p. 575) there are four of taboo words e.g. religion, part of body, sexual activity and lavatory.

Lavatory

Lavatory is a term that refers to the removal of bodily wastes. Example are taken from (Maulana, 2020, p. 14)

<i>piss</i>	=	urine; urinate
<i>sh*t</i>	=	excrement
<i>crap</i>	=	defecate
<i>fart</i>	=	let digestive gas out from the anus

Private parts of body

Some private body parts are also frequently used in taboo words. Example of taboo word in Private part of Body are taken from (Maulana, 2020, hal. 14).

<i>Arse</i>	=	bottom
<i>Asshole</i>	=	penis
<i>Balls</i>	=	testicles
<i>Bollocks</i>	=	testicles
<i>Cock</i>	=	penis
<i>Dick</i>	=	penis
<i>Prick</i>	=	penis
<i>Tits</i>	=	breasts
<i>Cunt</i>	=	woman's sex organ

Twat = woman's sex organ

Religion

Some people regard several words associated with Christian religion as holy. Example of taboo word in religion are taken from (Maulana, 2020, hal. 15).

Damn = condemn to hell
Blast literal = strike with divine punishment
God, Jesus, Christ

Sexual activity

Sexual activity is specific terms that have connection with sexual intercourse, oral sex, sex climax, masturbation, etc. It use often to prevented or substituted by different terms in formal situation the words that categorized as taboo words. Example are taken from (Maulana, 2020, hal. 16).

*F**k* = having sex
Wank = masturbate (having sex with oneself)
Come = reach a sexual climax (orgasm)
Bitch = female dog; earlier used for 'imoral' woman
Whore = prostitute
Bastard = child of unmarried parents

FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES OF USING TABOO WORDS

According to (Jay, 1992, p.63) in his book entitled *Cursing in America*, he states "five functional categories were used and are described here to indicate how episodes were tabulated." The five categories are below:

Anger and/or Frustration

Anger and/or frustration were combined due to the difficulty in distinguishing these emotions by language alone. An example of anger-frustration was when a boy who had his basketball field goal attempt blocked responded, "what the fuck." It would be difficult to determine if he was angry at the blocker or himself by that phrase alone. In this example, the word "fuck" shows anger or frustration.

Descriptive – Evaluative

The Descriptive-Evaluative category was used to indicate how speakers described connotatively or denotatively the objects and events around the camp. "This game sucks" is an evaluation of the baseball game; while "my sneakers are shitty" is a denotative description after stepping in dog feces. Taboo words also intensify descriptions, for example, "he beat the hell out of him" indicates the level of physical energy used in the fight.

Joking

The Joking category was used for formal joke frames and humor usage with taboo words. At this camp, non-dirty jokes were often regarded as "corny" and the teller was laughed at rather than his or her joke. At times obscenities were added to jokes and stories to make them appear as funny as possible.

Surprise

Surprise reactions to unexpected achievement, loss or other behavior. These usages are typical of expletives and commonly involve religious terms, for example, "jesus" or "oh god."

Sarcastic irony or insult

The last category was for Sarcastic Irony or insults. These episodes involved derogatory words and descriptions, "you fag" or "scum face" are good examples. Here the speaker attempted to mock or criticize the target of abuse in front of peers. Rather than only expressing anger on the part of the speaker, insults served the function of denoting undesirable qualities of the target, whether these were real or imagined by the speaker.

RESEARCH METHOD

According to (Sugiyono, 2013) "Qualitative research methods are used to examine the natural state of an object (as opposed to experimental research methods), in which the researcher is the primary instrument,

data collection is triangulation (combined), also data analysis is inductive or qualitative, and research findings are more important than generalizations.”

From to the explanation above, the research collects data using a descriptive qualitative method. This method is frequently used to describe data collection in the form of words, in this case quotes or images. This research attempted to locate an object or data in the form of words and analyze which dialogues are included in the types of taboo words and its function in the *Euphoria Season 2* series.

In this research, the researcher uses the following steps to obtain the data: Watch the whole scene of *Euphoria Season 2* TV series carefully in order to know how the character uttered the taboo words, take note of the dialogues that were proposed to the taboo words, then list them and include all of the dialogues that contain taboo words as data.

After the data was collected, the researcher analyzed in the following steps: Identify the taboo words in the dialogues and find out the types and functions, recheck the data to make sure that data are relevant with the theory, classify the data based on Michael Swan’s and Jay Theory. There are 4 types of taboo words religion, private part of body, sexual activity and, lavatory this from Michael Swan’s theory. From Jay theory the researcher use function of taboo words there are anger and/or frustration, descriptive-evaluative, joking , surprise and, sarcastic irony insult, analyze the data by using dialogues of the characters to get the types and motives of taboo words, and draw the conclusion based on the result.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

In this chapter, the researcher will discuss the research result. The research objectives are to describe the types of taboo words from the data entitled *Euphoria*, which has 8 episodes and was produced by Sam Levinson. The researcher only analyzed the second season of this TV series, which has two seasons. The researcher discovered 50 data which are included into taboo words in the TV series *Euphoria season 2* and classified them into four types namely *lavatory* 4 data (8%), *private parts of body* 17 data (34%), *religion* 12 data (24%), and *sexual activity* 17 data (34 %).

After analyzing 50 taboo words as the data in this research, the researcher discovered 85 data which are included into the function of taboo words namely *anger and/or frustration* 14 data (16%), *descriptive-evaluative* 40 data (47%), *joking* 9 out data (11%), *surprise* 6 data (7%), and *sarcastic irony or insult* 16 data (19%).

Discussion

Types of Taboo Words

1. Lavatory

Lavatory is a term that refers to the removal of bodily wastes. Such as *piss, pee, shit, crap*, and several data down below.

Datum 16

Episode 1

Duration: 0:30:05 – 0:30:10

Maddy : I’m just usin’ the bathroom!

Nate : Just a second! Fuckin *pee* outside!

Maddy : Are you taking a shit at party?

The word “*pee*” refers to lavatory from types of taboo words. This taboo word is categorized as waste liquid from the body (urine). In this scene, Maddy asking to Nate why he takes so long to use the bathroom.

2. Religion

In this type are connected with christian religion are considered holy by some people for example like *God, Jesus, Hell, damn*, etc. Several data of religion are presented down bellow.

Datum 32

Episode 2

Duration: 0:34:26 – 0:34:29

Kat : Oh my *god*. Are you fucking joking?!

Woman : Kat! Are you fucking serious?

The word “*god*” is a taboo word that refers to religion. This word is considered a taboo word because it is usually used in a formal context, whereas it was used in this scene in an informal context. In this scene, Kat being insecure about her body and her imagination says that she’s not allowed to be insecure with herself.

3. Sexual Activity

Sexual activity is specific terms that have connection with *sexual intercourse, oral sex, sex climax, masturbation*, etc. It use often to prevented or substituted by different terms in formal situation the words that categorized as taboo words. Examples of words fuck, wank, come, whore, etc. Several data of sexual activity are presented down bellow.

Datum 27

Episode 2

Duration: 0:04:55 – 0:04:56

Cal : *You fuckin’ whore. Slut*

The word “*whore*” is a taboo word that refers to sexual activity. The word “*whore*” refers to a woman who works as a prostitute or a woman who has sex with a lot of men. In this scene, Cal calls his prostitute with “*whore*”.

4. Private Parts of Body

Some private body parts are also frequently used in taboo words. The words that are often used by people such as *arse, asshole, penis, pussy, tits, cunt*, etc. The analysis below serves several data of private parts of body.

Datum 81

Episode 8

Duration: 0:12:29 – 0:12:33

Maddy : *Because Hallie is a two-faced cunt.*

Cassie : *I’m not a cunt! You’re the cunt!*

Maddy : *You’re the fucking cunt, bitch!*

The word “*cunt*” or (woman’s vagina) is a taboo word that refers to private parts of body. This word is considered a taboo word because it is impolite to use or hear in public or anywhere. In this scene, Maddy doesn’t like when Cassie ruined the show and when she cheated with her ex.

Function of Taboo Words

1. Anger and/or Frustration

In this function, all utterances of taboo words were used to express anger and/or frustration. This function classifies several kinds of data.

Datum 68

Episode 5

Duration: 0:23:24 – 0:23:41

Maddy : *Rue? When was this?*

Rue : *Right after New Year’s.*

Maddy : *Oh! You dumb fucking bitch! I’m gonna fuck you—Don’t fuckin’ run away from me, you stupid fucking bitch!*

The function of the word “*bitch*” in this context is classified as anger and/or frustration. In this scene, Rue tells Maddy that Cassie fucked her ex-boyfriend and Maddy was unaware of it, which makes Maddy angry with Cassie because she feels betrayed and Cassie is her best friend but also had sex with Nate (her ex boyfriend).

2. Descriptive-Evaluative

The descriptive-evaluative function is used to demonstrate how speakers use the word taboo to describe objects and events around them in connotative or denotative ways. These are some of the data that are included in this function.

Datum 26

Episode 2

Duration: 0:03:27 – 0:03:30

Cal : *I want you to come with my tounge in your ass.*

Man 1 : *Ah, fuck*

The function of the word “*come*” in this context is classified as descriptive-evaluative. The word “come” means sexual climax or orgasm, despite the fact that the definition of “*come*” in the dictionary is not sexual climax or orgasm. In this scene, Cal had sex with someone and they were in climax sex.

3. Joking

The Joking category was used for formal joke frames and humor usage with taboo words. At times obscenities were added to jokes and stories to make them appear as funny as possible. These are some of the data that are included in this function.

Datum 34

Episode 3

Duration: 0:00:10 - : 0:00:15

Cal : *on cellphone

Cal : Morning, dingleberry. Yeah... No, I'm gonna kick your *ass*.

The function of the word “*ass*” in this context is classified as Joking. In this scene, Cal called Derek (his best friend) on the telephone and joked to him with “*ass*” word that if they met later, he would punch him.

4. Surprise

Surprise reactions to unexpected achievement, loss or other behavior. These usages are typical of expletives and commonly involve religious terms. These are some of the data that are included in this function.

Datum 41

Episode 3

Duration: 0:22:37 – 0:22:48

Elliot : How many guys have you fucked?

Rue : She doesn't wanna answer that question 'cause she's kind of a *whore*.

Elliot & Jules : A *whore*?!

The function of the word “*whore*” in this context is classified as surprise. In this scene, Elliot asked Jules how many times she had sex with men, and Rue replied.

5. Sarcastic irony or insult

This category includes words and descriptions that publicly insult, mock, or criticize the target of harassment. Instead of simply expressing the speaker's anger, insults serve to indicate an unfavorable quality of the target, whether real or imagined by the speaker. These are some of the data that are included in this function.

Datum 62

Episode 4

Duration: 0:39:11 – 0:39:14

Kat : What, you don't think I have a mind of my own?

Nate : No, I'm sure you do.

Maddy : Ooh, he's such a *cunt*!

The word “*cunt*” or (woman's vagina) in this context is classified as Sarcastic irony or insult. In this scene, Maddy is offended by Nate's words to her, and Kat agrees with Maddy (her best friend). Nate had always been gaslighting Maddy, so Maddy used the word “*cunt*” to insult him.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

This chapter will provide the conclusion to the preceding chapter's analysis. The primary goal of this research is to identify the taboo words and their functions in the TV series *Euphoria* season 2. The descriptive qualitative method was used by the researcher. Then divide it into four types represented by the taboo words. Following that, the researcher analyzed the data obtained using Michael Swan's theory of types of taboo words. . Based on the data collected, the researcher discovered four types: *lavatory*, *religion*, *private parts of the body*, and *sexual activity*. The researcher discovered 50 words in *Euphoria* season 2 and classified them into four types: *lavatory* 4 of 50 (8%), *private parts of body* 17 of 50 (34%), *religion* 12 of 50 (24%), and *sexual activity* 17 of 50 (34 %).

Suggestion

Nowadays, the word taboo is frequently used by the people themselves. The community's use of taboo words makes it their daily language. Whether or not the meaning of the words they use is appropriate, especially among children and adolescents. As a result, the discussion of this taboo word is a very interesting topic to be discussed. The researcher hopes that this study will inspire other researchers to conduct linguistics research, particularly in sociolinguistics in literary works and in everyday life. The researcher also suggests that other researchers develop analyses based on relevant theories, because this approach can be used to analyze many aspects.

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