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# A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TABOO WORD CHARACTER IN MILKMAN NOVEL

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## ABSTRACT

Sociology is the objective and scientific study of humans in society, and of the social institutions and processes that exist in society. Linguistics is a field of science that studies language, or a field of science that takes language as its object of study. In sociolinguistics, taboo words are part of sociolinguistics related to language and society. The word taboo is a word that is not considered good by the public or is better avoided, because they mention facts that are considered rude and disrespectful, in this study using a literature study taken from the milkman novel using reading techniques and marking parts of the word taboo in novel and the results obtained are obscenity 4 taboo sentences, profanity 2 taboo sentences, vulgarity 3 taboo sentences, epithet 1 taboo sentence, and taboo sentences in milkman novels are sentences that are usually spoken to insult or give nicknames to others.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Taboo, Milkman Novel

## ABSTRAK

Sosiologi adalah kajian objektif dan ilmiah mengenai manusia di dalam masyarakat, dan mengenai lembaga-lembaga, dan proses sosial yang ada di dalam masyarakat. Linguistic adalah bidang ilmu yang mempelajari bahasa, atau bidang ilmu yang mengambil bahasa sebagai objek kajiannya. Dalam sosiolinguistik, kata tabu adalah bagian dari sosiolinguistik yang terkait dengan bahasa dan masyarakat. Kata tabu adalah sebuah kata yang tidak dianggap baik oleh masyarakat atau lebih baik dihindari, karena mereka menyebutkan kenyataan yang dianggap kasar dan tidak sopan, dalam penelitian ini menggunakan studi literature yang diambil dari novel milkman menggunakan teknik membaca dan memberikan tanda pada bagian dari kata taboo dalam novel dan didapatkan hasil obscenity 4 kalimat taboo, profanity 2 kalimat taboo, vulgarity 3 kalimat taboo, ephitet 1 kalimat taboo, dan kalimat taboo dalam novel milkman merupakan suatu kalimat yang biasa diucapkan untuk menghina atau memberi julukan kepada orang lain.

**Kata kunci:**Sociolinguistik, Taboo, Milkman

## INTRODUCTION

Literary work is the result of human work by padding the images contained in the author (Citra, 2015). One of the forms of literary works is the novel. By definition, according to Ahyar (2019), the novel is a form of literary work in the form of prose that has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The word novel itself comes from the Italian language, namely novella which means a story or story. The process of character building in a person is influenced by the typical factors that exist in the person concerned, which are often also called innate factors (nature) and the environment (nurture) in which the person concerned grows and develops. However, it should be borne in mind that innate factors can be said to be beyond the reach of the society to influence them (Raka, 2007).

By definition, according to Ahyar (2019: 148) that a novel is a form of literary work in the form of prose that has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The word novel itself comes from the Italian language, namely novella which means a story or story. While writers who write a novel are called novelists. The content of the novel itself is longer and more complex when compared to the contents of the short story. In addition, the novel does not have certain structural or rhyme boundaries. A novel also usually tends to tell or describe human life that interacts with the environment and also with each other. Sociolinguistics is one of the literary works in language.

Sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary science between sociology and linguistics, two fields of empirical science that have a very close relationship, so to understand what sociolinguistics is, it is necessary to first discuss what sociology and linguistics mean. Sociology is the objective and scientific study of humans in society, and of the social institutions and processes that

exist in society. Linguistics is a field of science that studies language, or a field of science that takes language as its object of study (Rokhman, 2013). Taboo words are part of sociolinguistics related to language and society. Taboo words are words that are not considered good by society or are better avoided, because they mention facts that are considered disrespectful (Freud, 1992).

Taboo itself is essentially a "prohibition" or "prohibited thing" regarding certain aspects (Yayuk, 2019). An individual is prohibited from doing an action or uttering certain words that are tabooed by society. This prohibition also certainly has its own consequences in the event of a violation, such as the existence of social sanctions from the community to the perpetrators of taboo violators.

In the taboo sentence, it is divided into several types of words spoken in a character, types of taboo words. There are four types of taboo words according to (Battistella 2005). There are epithet, profanity, vulgarity and obscenity.

### A. Epithet

An epithet is a word or an expression that contains by existence several types of slurs, such as racial slurs, ethnic slurs, gender slurs, and sexual slurs. Some words that belong to this type are bitch, motherfucker, tit-man, etc.

### B. Profanity

Profanity is related to the word that is related to the religious term or expressions in a secular way with aiming to vilify God or anything that is associated with religion. In line with (Battistella 2005), he stated that "profanity is religious cursing.

### C. Vulgarity

Vulgarity type is a word or expression that relates to the sexual anatomy and excretory function in a rough manner. It is related to the language that is often used by

a person who is under-educated or lower class.

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#### D. Obscenity

Obscenity refers to the words that are prohibited from public use. It is because considered as lack of morality or abhorrent to morality since mentions scatological references to the body or bodily function or sexual activity which can generate disgusting senses.

### RESEARCH METHODS

Research is defined as a process of collecting and analyzing data that is carried out systematically and logically to achieve certain goals. The data collection in question is by using scientific methods, one of which is qualitative methods (Bachtiar, 2010).

This type of research design uses qualitative research, where the researcher reads a novel first and underlines the taboo sentences found in the novel, then the writer distinguishes the taboo sentences based on the type.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the taboo sentence, it is divided into several types of words spoken in a character, types of taboo words. There are four types of taboo words according to Battistella (2005).

#### FINDING

This section describes research findings on spoken taboo words by a character in a milkman novel. From the analysis process, the total data collected in this study were 10 sentences and displayed in the form of sentences, shows the frequency of occurrence of the types and functions of taboo words spoken by the characters in the milkman novels. The results are diverse and they will be shown in the following sentence.

### A. Obscenity

first brother-in-law: "my quante, my tail, my contry, my box, my jar, my contrarines"

(page 6)

The dialogue above contains the type of obscenity because the first sister-in-law said a word that usually describes sexual activity in a literal sense. Moreover, that word can trigger disgust so it is very restricted for general use next example.

Prajurit : "your boot, they'd say. Your box, they'd say. Your suitability for doxies. Then, what we'd do to your face if... Or something like that"

(page 72)

The speech made by the soldiers addressed to all women because the sentence is considered natural for women to receive bad treatment from a soldier.

Prajurit : "or having your bum felt as you're walking along."

( page 119 )

The words that the soldiers across the water made to the women they met, because they were considered normal in speaking, they felt they were taller so they had no shame in speaking.

Residents across the water : "fuck who would have though !"

(page 20)

the f\*\*k sentence that is spoken is included in the obscene sentence, the speech is issued from across the water which is addressed to man-to-girlfriend.

### B. Profanity

MA : "she called me a liar"

(Page 43)

One thing that MA said to the middle sister because she did not believe what was explained by the middle sister and preferred to listen to what people outside said about her middle sister.

Mcsomebody : *"this is not the sort of place, you sub-cat"*

( Page 223 )

Sayings from mcsomebody to a middle brother who always terrorizes will kill a middle brother if he refuses love from someone.

### C.Vulgarity

Neighbor: *"not particularly balanced then."*

( page 13 )

When the middle brother and third brother-in-law wanted to go to the park to do sports, suddenly some men approached the middle brother and third brother-in-law to say a sentence addressed to the third brother-in-law.

Friends : *"uptight control freaks. Obsessive. Anally retentive nutcases of -anyway, what class of bastard goes runnin'?"*

( page 15 )

After going on a garden trip on the road suddenly met a girl friend and she said a sentence that should not be said and the sentence was addressed to her middle sister and third brother in law

DA : *"backside"*

( page 44 )

Speech made by DA (father of the middle sibling) to the middle sister, which is said by laughing with the younger siblings of the middle sibling.

### D.Epithet

MA : *"you're some sort of mob-woman"*

( Page 43)

The words came from the mouth of MA (middle sister's mother) who accused her son (middle sister) of seeing men regularly to do immoral things.

## DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher discusses the findings in depth to answer the problem formulations listed in Chapter I. To provide a complete explanation, which is presented to answer the first and second problem formulations.

### A. Obscenity

The first taboo on obscenity is found in several conversations and dialogues in the novel Milkman. At least in the novel Milkman, obscenity appears four times, some of which are:

first brother-in-law: *"my quaint, my tail, my country, my box, my jar, my contrariness"*

( page .6)

This first brother-in-law's expression really shows how obscenity taboo behavior is present in the novel Milkman. This kind of expression, according to (Junaidi&Wardani 2019), is included as a language taboo. The reason is that the first brother-in-law's expression contains elements of "disrespect", especially the words "dirty" and related to genitals. The language taboo itself is interpreted by Junaidi&Wardani (2019) as a prohibition to use certain words because they are considered to bring havoc, violate etiquette, defame, and get angry from humans and God.

In addition to the words of the first brother-in-law, there are taboos of obscenity

expressed by some soldiers in the novel Milkman.

Prajurit : "your boot," they'd say. "Your box," they'd say. "Your suitability for doxiness." Then, "what we'd do to your face if... Or something like that,"

(page 72)

Prajurit : "or having your bum felt as you're walking along"

( page 119 )

Of course, according to (Junaidi&Wardani 2019), the expressions of some of these soldiers are language taboos. The reason is, his expression contains elements of "impoliteness", dirty words, even related to sexuality. Even according to (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020) that obscene words are actually less moral or disgusting, because the expressions contain elements of the body or body functions or sexual activity that can cause disgusting feelings.

In addition to the soldier's expression, there were also curses expressed by Residents across the water which also contained elements of obscenity. The utterances are as follows:

Residents across the water : "fuck who would have though!"

(page 20)

According to (Pinker 2007) in (Kaeng 2017), there are at least five types of swearing namely Desphimism, Crude Swearing, Idiomatic Swearing, Affirmation Swearing and Cathartic Swearing. As for the word "fuck" expressed by Residents across the water, this is a rude curse, which has the connotation of harassing, intimidating, or humiliating others. Moreover, the word "fuck" in this context is included in the

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language taboo as the previous obscenity word expressed by the first brother-in-law.

The reason is that the taboo of language itself for (Junaidi&Wardani 2019), is certain words that have an element of defaming someone's name.

## B. Profanity

According to (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020) that Profanity is an expression, or dirty words expressed by someone with the aim of vilifying others. In Milkman's novel, there are several expressions that are classified as Profanity, such as:

MA : "she called me a liar"

( page 43 )

MA expression as a form of distrust of the middle brother contains elements of dirty words. Even the word includes swearing affirmation to the interlocutor. According to (Pinker 2007) in (Kaeng 2017) affirmation is a firm swear used to emphasize an argument.

Besides MA expression, Somebody's Profanity expression contains profanity elements.

Mcsomebody : "this is not the sort of place, you sub-cat"

( Page 223 )

Mcsomebody's words to middle siblings are classified as Profanity. The reason is that Mcsomebody's expression has the aim of vilifying someone as explained by (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020) that Profanity is an expression, or dirty words expressed by someone with the aim of vilifying others. .

## C. Vulgarity

According to (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020), vulgarity is a type of word or expression that is closely related to

sexuality, vulgarity, and has a crude excretory function. For the novel Milkman itself, there are several expressions that are included in this vulgarity.

Friends : "uptight control freaks. Obsessive. Anally retentive nutcases of - anyway, what class of bastard goes runnin'?"

( page 15 )

While taking a trip in the park, the middle sister and her third brother-in-law get an expression of vulgarity from a friend. The expression of a friend is full of vulgarity and sexuality which has a rough connotation. So that the expression is classified as vulgarity according to the taboo concept of (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020).

In addition to the expression of a friend, is the expression of DA (father of the middle sibling) which also reflects the taboo of vulgarity and sexually oriented abusive.

DA : "backside"

( page 44 )

The expression of DA (middle brother's father) is not much different in terms of concept as expressed by a friend before. The reason is that this DA's expression also contains elements of sexuality that are roughly oriented. So that this DA expression is classified as vulgarity in the taboo concept according to (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020).

Apart from that, there are other expressions in Milkman's novel which are also included in vulgarity.

Neighbor : "not particularly balanced then."

( page 13 )

This phrase addressed to the third brother-in-law indirectly intimidates a person physically. If according to (Pinker

2007) in (Kaeng 2017), that this expression is included in rude swearing that aims to insult or intimidate others.

### A. Epithet

According to (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020), an Epithet is a word or expression that contains elements of several types of insults, such as racial slurs, ethnic slurs, gender slurs and even sexual slurs. In Milkman's novel, there are four taboo expressions that are classified as Epithet.

MA : "you're some sort of mob-woman"

( Page 43 )

The phrase "mob-woman" was used by MA (mother of older sister) to accuse her son (older sister) of frequently seeing boys for committing immoral acts. The phrase "mob-woman" is included as an Epithet according to (Battistella 2005) in (Sari 2020). The reason is that the expression "mob-woman" contains elements of gender slurs and even slurs on sexuality. Even the expression "mob-woman" is included as a curse of dysphemism if according to (Pinker 2007) in (Kaeng 2017). The reason is, these expressions force listeners to think about negative or provocative things.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, several conclusions can be drawn which are formulated as follows:

1. In the novel milkman is divided into several types of taboo sentences that have been grouped. In milkman novels, taboo sentences are common and are often done to insult or give nicknames to others.
2. From the results of the study, there were 4 types of taboo words consisting of obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, epithet in the novel milkman. The word vulgar is a taboo word that is most often used because it is the most effective way to

insult someone. The most rarely used taboo word is epithet. Which is used to get someone's attention by calling someone's name with a type of slur.

## ADVICE

Based on the conclusions above, some suggestions can be put forward as follows.

1. To students: in analyzing taboo words, students pay attention to the function of taboo words which do not always mean that the speaker wants to hurt other people's feelings. They can serve to show intimacy or to maintain good relations by mentioning names with certain types of taboo words.
2. To the lecturer: a novel is a representation of real human life can be a good and interesting story in a novel to learn about taboo words. In addition, using novels as a medium in learning activities will be much more fun because students can enjoy stories and learn taboo words spoken by characters in novels. To other researchers, this research focuses on knowing the taboo sentences in the milkman novel and the public's view of the taboo sentences in the milkman novel. Similar research that will be carried out in the future should address these taboo issues.

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