

TYPES AND FUNCTIONS OF TABOO WORDS FOUND IN LIL DICKY'S SONG ON ALBUM *PROFESSIONAL RAPPER*

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on analysing the types and function of taboo words found in Lil Dicky's Song on Album Professional Rapper. The data source was taken from Lil Dicky's Song on Album Professional Rapper it was released on July 31, 2015. Descriptive qualitative method was used in this study to describe the use of taboo words in song lyrics. In this study, the descriptive qualitative method was used to describe the use of taboo words in song lyrics. The method was used to offer a clear analysis of the data based on the theory. This study employed the theory from Batistella (2005) which is proposed to analyse the type of taboo words found in Lil Dicky's Song on Album Professional Rapper and the theory from Wardhaugh (2006) which is proposed to analyse the functions of taboo words found in Lil Dicky's Song on Album Professional Rapper. Based on the analyses there are 295 data about the types and functions of taboo words found. There are four types of taboo words found those are epithet, profanity, vulgarity and obscenity. Obscenity becomes the most types found in the lyrics of the song which found 152 times. And Profanity becomes the least types found which is found 19. And four functions of taboo words are found in the song lyrics those are to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock authority. The most function found is to show contempt which is found 1107 times and to mock authority becomes the least functions with only found 3 times.

Keywords: Taboo words, Types, Functions, Song lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Communication is the exchange of information between people using the same symbol, language, gesture, or behaviour. It could be defined as the transfer of meaning between the sender and the receiver. Baldwin, et al. (2014) Communication is the process through which individuals create and communicate symbolic and interpretive behaviours. People must communicate with one another in order to share information. In communication People require a language as a tool to communicate as intermediates in order for communication going smoothly and successfully.

Every person on this world communicates using a language. Through a language people can understand the feelings or thoughts of the other. Even in a communication, people can show surprise, worry, hatred, upset and so on. When they are surprised or upset, Certain individuals might choose to employ language that has a powerful impact, for example, they use language that is considered offensive. When people are in this situation, they usually use gestures, expressions, and words and it will happen reflexively, usually the use words or body movements in this case is usually considered as rude, vulgar and may be considered as insulting, in terms of linguistic this is known as taboo word.

Taboo words are terms that can only be used in specific situations, particularly in informal situations, since the taboo word has a rude connotation that has a powerful impact. Trudgill (2000) state that the term the term taboo refers to issues that are not spoken of, mainly phrases and expressions that are not utilized. In mutual communication, people may employ taboo words. The use of taboo words is not only used to express an emotional feeling or anger, but it is also used to express a sense of friendship or closeness with others.

Moreover, taboo words also show identification in a communication. The use of taboo words can be found in various films, novels, informal situations and also can be found in a song lyric. One of the song lyrics that contain of taboo words is found in a rap song owned by Lil Dicky in the album Professional Rapper.

Professional Rapper is one of Lil Dicky's albums he is an American rap singer, most of his songs are about rap music. Rap music is a music genre that originated in the United States in the 1970s and incorporates the rap style, which is a rapid way of speaking. Despite the fact that some of Lil Dicky's rap songs contain some taboo words. During this time, using taboo words is considered the finest and strongest way to show disappointment. Based on this consideration, the use of taboo words in music lyrics is worth investigating. Researcher chose rap songs as a data source than other kinds of songs because most rap songs contain taboo words that typically pertain to black culture in America, everyday life, fighting, or drugs.

According to Rose (1994) rap songs came from the culture of black people who come from suburban America. They rap about avoiding gang pressure but still earning respect, dealing with the loss of friends in gunfights and drug, overdoses and raising political issues. However, the lyrics of rap music can also be an expression of real human life. Therefore, the researcher thinks that song lyrics especially rap song can be used as a data source. The researcher used Lil Dicky song on album Professional Rapper as the data source. This song is a rap song; in this song the singer frequently uses taboo words in the lyrics to express their feeling.

This study is only focused on the various types of taboo words in Lil Dicky album Professional Rapper based on the theory of Batistella (2005) and the function of the taboo based on the theory of Wardhaugh (2006).

DATA SOURCE

The data of this study were collected from a song by Lil Dicky's on album *Professional Rapper*. Lil Dicky or David Andrew Burd, is an American rapper, comedian, and actor. Lil Dicky was born in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania, on March 15, 1988. The album was released through Commission Records, Dirty Burd Music, and the Alternative Distribution Alliance on July 31, 2015. Snoop Dogg, Rich Homie Quan, Fetty Wap, Jace, Brendon Boyd Urie from Panic at the Disco, and T-Pain were among the guests on this album, which was narrated by Hannibal Buress and Lil Dicky's parents. The album debuted at number seven on the US Billboard 200 with first-week sales of 22,000 copies, resulting in a total of 26,000 equivalent album units in the US. Because it contains a lot of prohibited phrases, the researcher chose Lil Dicky's song from the album *Professional Rapper* as the data source.

METHODS

The observation method was used to collect the data. The data were observed and explained to each of taboo words. There are some steps in collecting the data, they are: First, downloading the song and lyrics from Internet and YouTube. Second, listening to the songs carefully while comparing them to the lyrics. Third, reading the song lyrics repeatedly from Lil Dicky song on album *Professional Rapper*. Fourth Note taking the data found in Lil Dicky song on album *Professional Rapper*. After note taking the data, the writer classifying and identifying each taboo word to the related types and functions of taboo words.

The data were analysed using qualitative method and supported with the quantitative method to show the percentage of each type and function of taboo words. This study's findings are provided in both formal and informal method. The data is presented in the form of a table using the formal method. The first table contains taboo words from Lil Dicky's album *Professional Rapper*. The second table contains the function of taboo words used in Lil Dicky's song from the album *Professional Rapper*. And the informal method used to present the data by explaining the types and also the functions of taboo words. The data was described in detail using words or phrases.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

There are two distinct theories that are employed. The theory used in this study was proposed by Batistella (2005) which proposed to analyse the types of taboo words, and Wardhaugh (2006) which proposed to analyse the function of taboo words. Batistella (2005) proposed four types of taboo words there are "epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity". And Wardhaugh (2006), state taboo words are often ignored in certain cases because there are various functions include "to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority".

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presented the result of the analysis of taboo words found in Lil Dicky’s Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper. There were 295 data belong to taboo words, it was identified that there were four types of taboo words found in Lil dicky’s Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper such as epithet, obscenity, vulgarity and profanity. In this song lyrics, it was identified that there were four functions of taboo words such as to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority. the findings were presented in the following table. The researcher can analyse the taboo words in Lil Dicky’s Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper by making a list of taboo words and categorized them according to the four types and function of the taboo word. The findings were presented in the following table:

Table 1. The Types of Taboo Words in Lil Dicky’s Song Lyrics on Album *Professional Rapper*

No	Types of Taboo Words	Number of Occurrence	Percentage
1.	Epithet	91	30,84 %
2.	Profanity	19	6,44 %
3.	Vulgarity	33	11,18 %
4.	Obscenity	152	51,52 %
Total		295	100%

The table above show four types of taboo words contained in Lil Dicky's Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper those are epithet, profanity vulgarity and obscenity. They were all found in Lil Dicky's Song Lyrics from the Album *Professional Rapper*. According to the data above, the singer's most often used kind is obscenity, which appears 152 times (51,52%). The second most common word is epithet, which appears 91 times (30,84%). The third occurrence is vulgarity, which occurs 33 times (11,18%). Finally, the least frequent occurrence is profanity, which occurs 19 times (6,44%).

Table 2 The Functions of Taboo Words in Lil Dicky’s Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper

No	Functions of Taboo Words	Number of Occurrence	Percentage
1.	To Draw Attention to Oneself	99	33,55 %
2.	To Show Contempt	107	36,27 %
3.	To Be Provocative	86	29,15 %
4.	To Mock Authority	3	1,01 %
Total		295	100 %

Table 2 shows that there are four functions of taboo words found in Lil Dicky's Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper, namely to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority. However, each has a distinct frequency. Of the four existing functions, it was found that to show contempt appeared 107 times (36,27%) being the most frequent functions appears in the Lil Dicky’s Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper. Then to draw attention to oneself became the second most frequent functions which appears 99 times (33,55%). Then, to be provocative became the third most frequent functions, which was 86 times (29,15%). and the function that appears the least is to mock authority which only appears 3 times (1.01%). To show contempt appears to be the most frequently occurring functions in Lil Dicky's Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper.

Then to mock authority appears as the least functions to occur in the song because the theme of the song is not to mock the public image.

1. Types of taboo words

There were four types of taboo words discovered in Lil Dicky's song lyrics from the album *Professional Rapper*. Those are epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity.

a. Epithet

Epithets are a form of taboo word that is employed as incendiary language. An epithet is a term that is used to stigmatize another individual based on their race, ethnicity, appearance, or impairments. Several forms of slurs can be found in epithets, such as wop, raghead, and bitch. Often these are related to appearance, sexuality, gender, ethnicity, disabilities. Words that include in this type such as *race, motherfucker, retard, midget, nigger and bitch*. (Batistella 2005:72). Epithets may appear because the person who said the word was based on frustration or anger towards something. Therefore, they use emotional language by saying taboo words directed at others.

Data 1

It's too bad *bitches* sleeping on me threesome

(Bruh..., line 100, Lil Dicky)

In the lyrics of the song "It's too bad *bitches* sleeping on me threesome" above, the word taboo *bitches* is found, the word taboo *bitches* is categorized into an epithet type because the word *bitches* is a derogatory word for someone, typically, a lady. It refers to a lady or girl who is belligerent, unreasonable, wicked, domineering, aggressive, or dominant.

b. Profanity

Batistella (2005:72), profanity words could be classified as words related to religion because they usually involve the misuse of something that is considered sacred. The speaker's purpose is not to discredit God or certain spirituality, but it might be used to indicate an emotional reaction to a specific motive. Dammit, damn, hell, and Jesus Christ are examples of words in this category.

Data 2

God damn Dicky, you too old to be fucking all these kids

(Work (Paid for That?), line 66, Lil Dicky)

In the lyrics of the song, the taboo word *God damn* is found, the word *God damn* in the lyrics of the song is categorized into the Profanity type because the word *God damn* above is a religious idiom that should only be used in church. The word *God damn* relates to Jesus Christ as a God. However, the word *god damn* becomes taboo because it is used beyond of ceremonial events, and significantly, the speaker used the word in a profane manner without comprehending how sacred the word may be.

Vulgarity

Vulgarity and profanity have a similar relationship, specifically for terms or statements that are closely related to the intimate components of the body's excretory function. Batistella (2005:72). The distinction between vulgar and obscene is usually measured by the degree of vulgarity spoken, and vulgarity is a street language that is often used by people to mock someone. As a result, pronouncing of vulgar language is frequently meant to degrade or denigrate something or person. Words that fall into this category are *ass, tit, cock, cunt and dick*.

Data 3

Her *tits* looking like they hard boiled eggs

(Lemme Freak, line 104, Lil Dicky)

In the lyrics of the song “Her *tits* looking like they hard boiled eggs” found the taboo word *tits*, the word *tits* is categorized into Vulgarity because the word *tits* refers to the impolite word for a woman's breast. Moreover, the word *tits* is an expression in which the speaker uses words related to the part of the intimate body function of excretory.

c. Obscenity

Obscenity is a term that is not permitted to be used in public because it is disgusting, obnoxious, unpleasant and morally repugnant. Batistella (2005:72), state that obscenity is a word or phrase that refers to gender-specific anatomy or sexual and excretory functions, often expressed roughly. For example: *piss, crap, fart, shit, fuck, bastard, and wank*.

Data 4

No, you just *fucking* repetitive dawg

(Professional Rapper, line 128, Lil Dicky)

In the lyrics of the song “No, you just *fucking* repetitive dawg” above, the word *fucking* taboo is found, the word *fucking* above is categorized into obscenity type because the word used to emphasize or express annoyance with someone or something. Therefore, this word is really offensive when used and produced by someone else to swear even in personal situations and in public space and usually can trigger someone else's attention or emotions.

2. Functions of Taboo Words

This part presents the function of taboo words found in Lil Dicky's song lyrics from the album *Professional Rapper*. The various functions include to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority.

a. To Draw Attention to Oneself

This function occurs if people pronounce a taboo word to attract the attention of the listener. The audience will respond immediately to the speaker because the speaker uses strong language. Mc Edward (in Mc Guire 1973: 5-6) state shock rhetoric is used to get people's attention. Those who use this strategy attract attention by employing powerful, impassioned language that elicits an immediate

emotional reaction from the listener, generally one of indignation. This function aims to attract the attention of the audience by saying taboo words. Therefore, people use taboo words, because of their strong connotations, they are considered to have the power to attract the attention of the audience.

Data 5

Like what the *fuck* would it be like?

(Pillow Talking, line 64, Lil Dicky)

The song describes Lil Dicky's dialogue with a one-night stand after they had sex. The discussion ranges from sex to the war, to God, to Uber, and beyond. The functions of the taboo words in the lyrics "Like what the fuck would it be like?" is to draw attention to oneself because Lil Dicky because the lyrics of the song above were sung by Lil Dicky, where he asked the one-night stand using the word taboo. By using the taboo word Lil Dicky will directly get the attention from his one-night stand and besides that using the word taboo is the most effective way to get a response directly.

b. To Show Contempt

People display or express contempt when they utilize taboo words to offend the target since they believe someone or something is absolutely useless and cannot be valued. According to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2008:93) contempt mean has no feelings or not having value or a person who has no ability and can't be respected, lack of respect for rules, danger, and contemptible. Which mean someone attempted to communicate contempt by using a taboo word, the speaker would offend the other person by saying words that would hurt the other person's feelings.

Data 6

I'm like oh, that's my boss, she a *bitch*

(Work (Paid for That?), line 13, Lil Dicky)

The theme of the song above is about Lil Dicky's transition from working in an office to entering the crazy rap lifestyle. The lyrics of the song above explain that Lil Dicky says his boss is bitch, which is where the word bitch is categorized into the function to show contempt because Lil Dicky demeans or does not respect a woman by saying the word bitch to a woman. "Bitch" is a derogatory slang term for a woman. When used to a woman or girl, it refers to someone who is aggressive, irrational, spiteful or dominant. Therefore, the word bitch in the lyrics of the song can hurt a woman's feelings and that the word can bring down a person's self-esteem.

c. To Be Provocative

This function appears if someone utters a taboo word, and he or she may be intending to elicit a specific reaction from the other person, such as hurt or anger. Rothwell in Fitzgerald (2007: 17) states that obscene words can be the most effective symbolic process offered to protesters intended to invite chaotic reactions. It is believed that using taboo words spoken by someone is the most effective way to create chaos.

Data 7

Like please *let me freak*

(Lemme Freak for Real Tho (outro), line 51, Lil Dicky)

The lyrics of the song above talk about Lil Dicky where he explains the trials and tribulations of trying to get a girl and end up having sex with the girl. The function of the word taboo in the lyrics of the song "Like please let me freak" is to be provocative because Lil Dicky provokes the woman, he got to have sex with him.

d. To Mock Authority

This function appears when people have previously voiced dissatisfaction with a reality that differs from what they desired. This is in line with Rothwell (in Fitzgerald 2007: 17) asserts that verbal obscenity indicates a major contempt for society's rule, a revolt against government, and impertinence for things held sacrosanct. It shows when individuals are disappointed with the public image such as government and institutions

Data 8

I just fucked around and quit a *fucking* job where I was making triple digits then the comma got involved, dawg

(The Antagonist, line 82, Lil Dicky)

The song above introduces his alter ego David Burd or Lil Dicky, ironically the alter ego is his real identity. David Burd or Lil Dicky explains his lack of haters and what motivated him to rap. And the function of the word taboo in the lyrics of the song above is to mock authority because Lil Dicky is upset with the office work, he does that is not in accordance with what he wants and eventually he leaves the job.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysed in the Lil Dicky's song on album Professional Rapper. there were 295 data concerning to the types and functions of taboo words. Researchers found four types of taboo words which are epithet, profanity, vulgarity and obscenity. Furthermore, the researcher also found four functions of taboo words, those are to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock authority. From these findings, the taboo word that was found the most was obscenity. Obscenity appeared 152 times with a percentage (51.52%). while the taboo word that was found the least was profanity. Profanity appears 19 times with percentage (6.44%). Obscenity has been the most commonly used of taboo words since it is considered as the most efficient method to criticize another. And profanity is the least used taboo word. As a result, it is clear that profanity is ineffective as an insulting phrase for undermining the pride of others. Furthermore, the researcher found there are four functions of taboo words that appear in the song lyrics. Those are to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock authority. To show contempt becomes the most frequent found which is 107 found with percentage (36,27%) and to mock authority becomes the least functions with only found 3 occurrences with percentage (1.01%) Most frequently

found functions is to show contempt that found in Lil Dicky's Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper because it may signify that the singer's purpose for using taboo words is to convey contempt for others. Moreover, because it is focused and intended to harm one's self-esteem, it is perhaps the most effective function of expressing contempt for others. And to mock authority appears as the least function in Lil Dicky's Song Lyrics on Album Professional Rapper because most songs from Professional Rapper album talk about the singer's journey.

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