

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the introduction of the study. It consists of some subchapters, those are background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. They describe the study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool for exchanging information, idea and expressing a feeling from a person to a person or a person to a group. This is in line with Finegan's (1992: 3) statement, which says that "language is viewed as the vehicle of the thought, a system of expression that mediates the transfer of thought from one person to another".

Language can be used in many situations and many media, because it is used to express feelings or thoughts to establish and maintain relationship with human beings in which they are social beings who need to socialize or communicate each other. This is parallel with Kristeva's (1989: 7) statement, which says that there is no society without language and there is no society without communication".

In communicating, people commonly use two types of language; formal and informal. A formal language is a variety of language that is appropriate with the rule in which it is used in the texts or the situations that are serious and official, such as

books, journals, articles, news, reports, official documents and official speeches. Whereas, an informal language is a variety of language that is not appropriate with the rule in which it is more commonly used in situations that are relaxed and unofficial.

Taboo word is a part of informal language (Norman, 2003: 19). It is considered as impolite word to be uttered in front of public because it contains vulgar sense that tends to be embarrassing or offensive, such as something that relates to sexual activity and lavatory such as *fuck*, *shit*, *piss*, and *cock*. According to Wardaugh (2006: 239), “Taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behaviour believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame”. Even though they have known which one of the words that are included in taboo or not taboo, but they still use it in their conversation with different aims. For instance, to add emphasis on their statement, to convey their emotion, to connect people in a relaxed social atmosphere and many more aims.

The use of taboo word can be found either in speeches or in writings. One of writing forms is song lyric. A lot of taboo words are used in songs lyrics, especially rap songs lyrics. Eminem, one of the famous controversial American rappers, is accustomed to use this words. Eminem is a stage name that derives from the abbreviation of his full name, Marshall Bruce Mathers III. He got a lot of appreciation from Academy Awards, American Music Awards, Barbados Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards, Blockbuster Entertainment Awards, Detroit Music Awards, Grammy Awards, Guinness Book of World Records, Japan Radio Popular

Disc Awards, MTV Awards, Soul Train Music Awards, Teen Choice Awards, Vibe Magazine Special Awards, World Music Awards and many more.

Eminem has songs lyrics that are known as frontal, dirty and controversial. One of his lyrical fragments “stan” has officially been added as a new word in Oxford English Dictionary. According to BBC in the posting of detik.com on June 06 2017, the word “stan” is feasible to be a new word because of the popularity of Eminem’s song “stan” in which a lot of people have known the meaning of it. They like listening his songs, even they imitate to use those words. It means that the appearance of Eminem’s songs lyrics that have a lot of taboo words can influence indirectly on how the way people speak up in their social atmosphere and changing their perspective about taboo words. One example of the influence of Eminem’s songs lyrics is some of teenagers who imitate him to use it in their communication. It happens not only in overseas, but it also happens in Indonesia. This case is interesting to be analyzed, so that the writer chooses Eminem’s songs lyrics that include taboo words to be analyzed in this study.

Before this study was conducted, there had been a number of writers who conducted studies about taboo words. Those were Hendri Aditia (2011), Yolanda Louisa Charlin David (2002), and Cahya Beni Permadi (2017). Hendri Aditia (2011) explained about the types of taboo words and swear words. Yolanda Louisa Charlin David (2002) explained about the types of taboo words and the reasons of using taboo words. Cahya Beni Permadi (2017) explained about types of taboo words and the strategies of translation that are used in translating the taboo words. All of them used

the source of data from movie. However, none of them discussed the taboo words in songs lyrics and differentiated the functions of taboo words detailly; the using of taboo word is pointed for who (personal, interpersonal) and the using of taboo word is pointed for what (positive, negative, inconsequential). Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing taboo word in Eminem's songs lyrics.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problems

Related to the background of the study, the writer investigates some problems are:

1. What are the types of taboo words used by Eminem in his songs lyrics?
2. What are the functions of taboo words used by Eminem in his songs lyrics?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of research problem, the purposes of the study are:

1. To explain the types of taboo words that are found in the Eminem's songs lyrics.
2. To explain the functions of taboo words that are used by the Eminem's songs lyrics.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significances of this study are to give contributions theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to give understanding about taboo words that are used by Eminem containing positive meaning or negative meaning, because not all of taboo words have negative meaning. The writer also hopes the

readers can understand about the types of taboo words and the functions of taboo words. This study helps other students who are looking for references to their study or who are interested in analyzing taboo words.

Practically, this study is expected to be able to change people's perspective about taboo words that not all of taboo words have negative meaning, so that it will decrease conflict that is caused by misunderstanding. This study is also as an alternative for the hearer comprehends the meaning of Eminem songs that have been published and be heard to the public.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is taboo words. In addition, this study focuses on the types of the taboo words by Ronald Wardhaugh (2006) and the functions of taboo words by Timothy Jay (2009). Furthermore, the limitation of this study is the taboo words in Eminem's songs lyrics that have been published in 2016.