

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will present five sub-chapters, they are background of study, statements of research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope of limitation of the study. They are important to explain because they describe this study generally.

3.1 Background of the Study

Language, as an important aspect of culture, reflects the values that exist in human social interaction. Language functions as a medium through which humans communicate with each other. It conveys desires, expresses emotions, exchanges ideas, and shares information. Language is a means of communication. Through language, a person can communicate with each other, convey their desires, express their feelings, exchange ideas with each other, and convey messages to exchange information (McKay, Davis, & Fanning, 2009). In line with that, stated that language has many functions like giving information, sending messages, showing emotions, convincing people, entertaining, and sharing thoughts (Trudgill, 1974, as cited in Shofie, 2021).

By language, a person can talk to others, and express their desires, feelings, and ideas. For example, in a state of sadness, it is common for a person to express their emotions through tears. Meanwhile, expressions of joy are often accompanied by joyful excitement. How easily someone can express themselves using language according to their feelings. However, to communicate well, it is important for them to use language that is polite, comfortable to hear, and understood by the person they are talking to. It is different when someone feels angry or disappointed. Someone may emphasize their feelings by using language that they think represents their

feelings. Someone utters words that are considered rude and inappropriate to say. Sometimes, a person deliberately uses taboo words to emphasize his intentions to others. They think that this is an effective way to express dislike or anger.

Taboo, also known as "*tabu*", is a Tongan term in the language spoken by Polynesians in the Pacific islands which refers to the prohibition or avoidance of certain behaviors in a society, because these behaviors are believed to be detrimental to its members, potentially causing anxiety, embarrassment, or shame (Allan and Burridge, 2006; Wardhaugh, 2006). These taboo words are usually associated with various factors. The use of prohibited taboo words is considered impolite and rude because it is considered inappropriate and offensive language.

One example of taboo words is "Fuck". The word "fuck" is the most common taboo word everywhere, such as on social media, in film dialogue, in songs, and in any other media. According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (n.d.), the word "Fuck" means "to have sex with someone" and is "a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to express anger, horror or surprise". An example of using the word fuck which means expressing anger is "Fuck off!". "Fuck off!" is usually said when someone expresses anger towards something that makes them unhappy.

In Indonesia, there are a lot of taboo languages. One of the famous ones is "*Jancok!*". In its use, the word "*Jancok*" can have various meanings. The meanings of the word "*Jancok*" include feelings of expressing anger, shouting for joy, a sense of admiration, and a sense of familiarity. The word "*Jancok*" can have many meanings, depending on the intonation in its pronunciation (Herdiana et al., 2023). For example, "*Jancok, koen, ojok koncoan mbek aku maneh!*" (*Jancok*, don't be friends with me anymore!). The word "*Jancok*" here means expressing anger to the interlocutor, because he has annoyed the speaker, and the speaker does not want to be friends with him anymore. The meaning and function of the word "*Jancok!*" in Indonesia is the same as the word "Fuck!".

Despite taboo words being associated with negative expressions that should not be used in daily conversation, many people, particularly young people or teenagers, and even adults, who continue to use them in their daily lives. Allan and Burridge (2006) employ such language for various reasons, including expressing solidarity, casualness, intimacy, and closeness. The use of taboo words, based on the context and reasons for their use, does not always have a negative connotation, even though they contain a negative meaning. According to this statement, it makes the study of taboo language interesting to research.

Songs are an effective medium for conveying a message. Songs can capture and evoke patterns of feelings such as hope, desire, joy, and even madness. Song is a series of tones combined with a harmonious rhythm and complemented by poetry that forms a beautiful harmony. Songs are often used as a tool to convey a message to other people.

The lyricists not only want to use taboo words in song lyrics, but sometimes they also insert taboo words to make the song lyrics more colorful, so that the use of taboo words can attract the listeners' intentions. This is the reason the writer wants to conduct research on taboo words in song lyrics, precisely by the band Bring Me the Horizon.

Bring Me the Horizon is a rock band founded in Sheffield, England, in 2004. Bring Me the Horizon band consists of Oliver Sykes as singer, Lee Malia as guitarist, Matt Kean as bassist, and Matt Nichols as drummer. Until March 2024, Bring Me the Horizon has released 6 albums. Their debut album was "Count Your Blessings", which was released in 2006. Their latest album, "Amo", was released in 2019.

Regarding the lyrics, all the song lyrics were written by singer Oliver Sykes. Oliver Sykes' lyrics have a strong feeling of catharsis to him. He draws heavily on his personal experiences and describes concerts as therapy for him. Therefore, it is common for Oliver Sykes to express his emotions and experiences, one of which is

through embedding taboo language in his lyrics. So, Bring Me the Horizon is one of the bands whose songs are colored by taboo words.

Based on the various things above, the writer decides to research the taboo words contained in the lyrics of the song Bring Me the Horizon. The writer will take the data from this band because the writer, as an enjoyer of Bring Me the Horizon's songs, knows that this band's lyrics contain a lot of taboo word data which can be very useful for this research. In addition, this band has a high number of monthly listeners on the online music streaming platform Spotify, reaching 13,539,062 monthly listeners (as of March 12, 2024).

From the explanations above, the writer is interested in conducting research entitled “An Analysis of Taboo Words Used in Bring Me the Horizon’s Song Lyrics”.

3.2 Statement of Research Problem

Referring to the background of the study that has been described, the writer identifies a number of problems that will be discussed. These problems are described as follows:

1. What are the categories of taboo words used in the selected song lyrics by Bring Me the Horizon?
2. What are the functions of taboo words used in the selected song lyrics by Bring Me the Horizon?

3.3 Objectives of the Study

Referring to the statements of the research problem, it can be seen that the writer intends to:

1. Explain the categories of taboo words used in the selected song lyrics by Bring Me The Horizon.

2. Describe the functions of taboo words used in the selected song lyrics by Bring Me the Horizon.

3.4 Research Significance

Theoretically, the writer expects that this study will contribute new insights to the realm of taboo words in song lyrics. Furthermore, readers will gain insight into the categorizations and functions of taboo words. Besides that, to understand the categories and functions taboo words uses by Bring Me the Horizon.

Practically, through this research, the writer hopes that readers can have a different perspective towards words that are considered taboo. Even though the use of taboo words is prohibited, it does not rule out the possibility for them to study these words in order to gain a better understanding of them. In addition, the writer hopes that this research can be useful for future researchers when they want to conduct similar research or wish to conduct different research.

3.5 Scope and Limitation

This study explores the realm of Sociolinguistics and focuses on analyzing the presence of taboo words in selected songs by the band Bring Me The Horizon, with a special focus on the categories of taboo words as described by Jay (2009). Furthermore, the writer uses Wardhaugh (2006) theory to reveal the functions for using taboo language in the lyrics of Bring Me The Horizon's selected songs.

The limitations of this research are the selected song lyrics by Bring Me the Horizon on the albums *Count Your Blessings* (2006), *Suicide Seasons* (2008), *There Is a Hell Believe Me I've Seen It. There Is a Heaven Let's Keep It a Secret* (2010), *Sempiternal* (2013), *Amo* (2019), Extended Plays (EP) *Post Human: Survival Horror* (2020), and *Post Human: Next Gen* (2024).