TABOO WORDS ON ‘CIGARETTES AFTER SEX’ SONG LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to delve into the intricate realm of taboo words and shed light on their multifaceted nature, challenging the commonly held belief that they are solely confined to harsh or offensive language. The study adopts a semantic approach, considering the meanings, social context, and cultural norms associated with taboo words. The theoretical framework draws on linguistic semantics, which explores how languages organize and express meanings. The research references three articles that discuss taboo words in different contexts, employing qualitative methods and descriptive analysis. The analysis focuses on taboo words found in the lyrics of songs by the band Cigarettes After Sex, revealing a predominance of taboo words related to sexual themes. The findings of this investigation make noteworthy contributions to the understanding of semantic meaning within language. By uncovering the extensive presence of taboo words pertaining to sexuality, this research underscores the breadth and depth of taboo expressions, surpassing the conventional realm of mere profanity. It serves as a reminder that taboo words encompass a wide array of sensitive topics, including but not limited to swearing, and are integral to the complex tapestry of language. By shedding light on this often-overlooked aspect of communication, this research enriches our comprehension of language's intricacies and offers insights that have implications for linguistic analysis and sociocultural studies.

Keywords: Taboo Words, Cigarettes After Sex, Meaning

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyelami dunia yang rumit dari kata-kata tabu dan menerangi sifat mereka yang beragam, menantang keyakinan umum bahwa mereka hanya terbatas pada bahasa kasar atau ofensif. Studi ini mengadopsi pendekatan pendekatan semantik, mempertimbangkan makna, konteks sosial, dan norma budaya yang terkait dengan kata-kata tabu. Kerangka teoritis penelitian ini didasarkan pada semantik linguistik, yang mengeksplorasi bagaimana bahasa mengorganisir dan mengekspresikan makna. Penelitian ini merujuk tiga artikel yang membahas kata-kata tabu dalam konteks yang berbeda, menggunakan metode kualitatif dan analisis deskriptif. Analisis ini berfokus pada kata-kata tabu yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu dari band Cigarettes After Sex, yang mengungkapkan dominasi kata-kata tabu yang terkait dengan tema seksual. Temuan dari penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi yang berharga untuk pemahaman tentang makna semantik dalam bahasa. Dengan mengungkapkan kehadiran kata-kata tabu yang luas yang berhubungan dengan seksualitas, penelitian ini menegaskan kedalaman dan luasnya ekspresi tabu, melampaui ranah konvensional profanitas semata.
INTRODUCTION

Language is a way to communicate with a fellow human. Besides communicating, language is also used to deliver emotions. Language helps us understand our world. Human interaction is made accessible by communication. Because, at their core, people are social beings. Humans need the tools to communicate in this interaction, particularly language. Humans utilize language as a tool for communication.

Humans can therefore easily express their thoughts through language. Humans must always be aware of their surroundings and circumstances when communicating thoughts and concepts through language. Misunderstandings resulting from improper language use or even poor word choice frequently result in societal conflicts. For this reason, we must consider the rules and boundaries that apply in a given society before communicating.

Language is an important way to communicate. The study of language is Linguistic. This linguistic study helps us to improve communication between people to translate activities. Linguistic has numerous branches of linguistic, one of them called Semantic.

Semantics is concerned with the study of meaning in language which allows speakers to communicate facts, feelings, intentions that can be conveyed using taboo words (Cruse, 2006). Taboo words are discussed in semantics.

Semantics deals with words whose meaning is found in dictionaries. As a result of the new expressions tendency to be viewed as being too closely related to the tabooed point of reference, taboo is frequently renewed in the dictionary."Taboo Words" are phrases that go against rules or laws in some countries. Taboo words are ones that individuals in society typically avoid using.
In general, the rules and norms that are in place always place boundaries on talks regarding taboos, whether they are caused by words or deeds (Jay, 2009). However, in some professions, such as art and comedy, the use of something that is looked down upon is accepted.

When someone is watching humour, hearing taboo terms (often ones that refer to genitalia or profanity) won’t make them feel uncomfortable. In addition to comedy, song lyrics frequently contain banned language. Some song lyrics feature singers expressing their emotions through the use of taboo words.

The writer used Semantic approach to analysis taboo words considering their meanings, social context, and cultural norms. A semantic approach to knowledge representation and processing. It uses semantic context and background knowledge to indirectly determine the meaning of expressed knowledge.

Linguistic semantics has been defined as the study of how languages organize and express meanings. The term semantics (from the Greek word for sign) was coined by French linguist Michel Bréal (1832-1915), who is commonly regarded as a founder of modern semantics.

Taboo words have been classified into seven categories by psychology professor Timothy Jay of Massachusetts College of Liberals Arts, including: Cursing is one of the banned or "dirty words" categories that Timothy Jay claims is used the most frequently.

Based on an attempt to "hurt the feelings of others by using certain words or phrases," he wraps up that there is proof of the "curse" (Jay, 1996: 8). Jay’s definition of swearing or cursing doesn’t, for some reason, make "curses" any different from "curses." In other words, the differentiation between swearing and cursing depends on the present and past tenses of the verb.

Second, profanity is the power of religion is belittled yet again by yet another category of taboo words that Jay calls “indecent.” These words or phrases are based on the church’s distinction between secular and religious preaching (Jay, 1996: 10). Jay writes “Profanity means being worldly or ignorant or intolerant of certain religious guidelines.”
But indecency is not a direct attack on religion or the church (1996: 10). An example of using an obscene word is for example “For the love of Christ, get off the phone!” (Jay, 1996: 10). Jay mentions that such language has become commonplace and malleable. “We hear profanity so often that we no longer pay attention to it and do not recognize how often it is said” (1996:10).

Third is Blasphemy. Blasphemy also has a role in religious terminology. But the difference is in the way the language treats religion. Profanity does not directly criticize the church or religion, while blasphemy directly targets the church and religious leaders (Jay, 1996:2).

Montagu writes that blasphemy mocks religion (1967), because the church no longer has the power it once had in America, blasphemy has lost its power to irritate Americans”, although it still has the power to bore listeners in the ghastly area of religion. (Jay, 1996: 13).

Forth is obscenity. In contrast to Montagu, Jay uses a different taboo term that has a legal definition in America. He moves to the legal term “obscenity” which is referred to as “unprotected talk” (1996: 14). With this term, the taboo has lost. Jay writes “While the notion of taboo restricts or prevents what speakers will say, obscenity serves to protect listeners from harmful language” (1996:14).

Jay notes that taboo has more power in "speaker content" to protect speech (1996:14). In America, as in many other cultures, obscenity is usually associated with sex. The taboo or the obscene word is the word 'fuck' (1996:15).

Fifth is sexual harassment. Another area of sex and the law that Jay labels as taboo or dirty is sexual harassment. Jay points out that the definition of this phrase is always evolving. He states, “What constitutes verbal sexual harassment in a school setting will evolve and expand through federal and state decisions just as the definition of obscenity changes” (1996: 14).

Jay writes that each new case updates another point (1996:17). The division for the currently accepted definition is described as “unwelcome sexual comments, dirty jokes, references to a person's sexual appearance or behaviour.” (Jay 1996: 17).
This category includes the following: “Comments about how a person appears comments about someone’s sexual behaviour sexual freedom; or sexual orientation; mention of body parts derogatory mentions of someone based on their gender or dirty jokes uttered to people who do not want to hear them (Jay, 1996: 18).

Sixth is vulgar language. Vulgar means "the language of the common people" (Jay, 1996:19). This description alludes to what Jay refers to as "linguistic snobbery" that existed when King William declared French to be the language of authority. The use of coarse language started to be connected to sex in the late 19th century. Vulgar terms that are currently often used include “snot, bloody, up yours, boobs, slut (Jay, 1996: 20).

Vulgarity is a socially structured phenomenon and is considered a marker of social status (1996: 20). The word vulgarity depends on the context "some societies may produce more vulgarity than other societies, depending on the prevailing society, intelligence, economic conditions and values prevailing in society (Jay, 1996: 20).

Seventh is name-calling and insulting. This category is “slurs, name-calling and ethnic insults. Like cursing, such words were said with the purpose of hurting, humiliating, and degrade listeners (Jay, 1996: 22). Jay wrote “Insults get their impact by showing negative traits that real or imagined victims (1996: 22). Lots of insults involved with “a lack of respect for others in the speaker (Jay, 1996: 22).

In conclusion, the writer employed a semantic approach to analyze taboo words, taking into account their meanings, social context, and cultural norms. The study of linguistic semantics, which explores how languages organize and express meanings, forms the basis of this approach.

By examining taboo words, the writer aimed to understand their categorization and impact on communication. The seven categories of taboo words identified by psychology professor Timothy Jay shed light on the frequency and purpose behind their usage. These categories include cursing, profanity, blasphemy, obscenity, sexual harassment, vulgar language, and name-calling/insults.
Each category carries its own significance and societal implications, ranging from the intention to offend or hurt others to challenging religious boundaries and societal norms. Through the analysis of taboo words, the writer emphasizes the intricate relationship between language, culture, and social dynamics, highlighting the need for careful consideration and awareness when engaging in communication.

The term "taboo" refers to something or items that are forbidden in a certain society. Taboo can take the shape of actions (doing something forbidden) or speech (saying something unlawful) or speech (saying something that is forbidden). According to its etymology, the word "taboo" means something that is "forbidden" or "not allowed."

Captain James Cook, an English adventurer, coined the term "taboo" for the first time in 1777 (Ullman, 2007: 258). Taboo (taboo) originates from the Polynesian term “tapu”, which means "not permitted" and is used in Tonga. This controversial idea hasn't altered since it was first presented. However, the concept of taboo expanded from the Polynesian islands.

Cigarettes After Sex was formed in El Paso, Texas, in 2008 by Greg Gonzales. The band consists of Greg Gonzalez (vocals + guitar), Randall Miller (Bass), and Jacob Tomsky (Drums). Cigarettes After Sex is an indie-pop band that has gained a lot of popularity in recent years due to its unique sound and dreamy tunes. The band's music explores themes of love, desire, and intimacy. Their lyrics often contain imagery that is both romantic and melancholic.

The group was formed almost accidentally in 2008 while Gonzales was living in El Paso, Texas. Then a student at the University of Texas, he was experimenting with capturing the spacious sound of recording songs in a four-story stairwell at the university. Their music involves not only the powerful feeling of euphoria inherent in the band’s name but also, somehow, gives you the intense powerful visual that one would get after watching an iconic romantic movie.

The writer has found and learn about taboo words in previous article/research. There are 3 different articles that the writer found. To start with, the title is “Tabu Ungkapan Dalam Budaya Bahasa Jawa Ngapak Banyumasan” in
2022 authored by Muhammad Al Farobi, Muhammad Afiq Aminullah, and Titi Mulyanti. This article discusses the taboo language used by the Javanese people in the Banyumas area. Methods of this article is using qualitative by interviewing people related to research.

In the second place, the title is “An Analysis of Taboo Words in Rich Brian’s Song Lyrics” in 2019 authored by Derli Elsa Putri, Barnabas Sembiring, and Imranuddin. Taboo words in Rich Brian’s song lyrics were analyzed in this article. The researcher described what kinds, functions, and meanings of taboo words used in Rich Brian's song lyrics. This article using descriptive qualitative methods through described in form of words, clauses, phrases, and sentences.

At last, the title is "Analisis Kata Tabu dan Klasifikasinya di Lirik Lagu Eminem pada Album The Marshal Mathers LP" in 2017 authored by Laily Nur Affini. The writer analyze the taboo expressions that encounters in the lyric songs by Eminem based on certain theories and classifications and using descriptive qualitative method.

From among the three different articles, there are similarities in them. The three of them discussed the same taboo words and their meanings. The same methods were used, namely qualitative methods. Both of the second and third article uses random sampling technique. Aside from, there are differences among three of them. In the first article entitled "Tabu Ungkapan Dalam Budaya Bahasa Jawa Ngapak Banyumasan" uses a descriptive qualitative method that does not use numbers or calculations mathematics or statistics when interpreting the data although using interviews as collecting data.

Second article entitled “An Analysis of Taboo Words in Rich Brian’s Song Lyrics” uses qualitative descriptive methods with percentage as a result. And the last one, "Analisis Kata Tabu dan Klasifikasinya di Lirik Lagu Eminem pada Album The Marshal Mathers LP” collecting the data which consists of 2 parts, firstly, primary data and secondly secondary data.

In this current research, the writer analyses taboo words originating from songs by the band Cigarettes After Sex. Which turned out the taboo words that were found were mostly about sex things, not like the taboo words in the previous article.
Semantic meaning in language is concerned with understanding the meaning conveyed by words, phrases, and sentences. It involves exploring denotation and connotation, examining lexical semantics and sentence meaning, considering pragmatics and contextual meaning, and analysing semantic roles and relations.

Understanding semantic meaning is crucial for effective communication and interpreting language in various contexts. Additionally, the study of semantics extends to taboo words, which are language expressions that are considered offensive or inappropriate.

Researchers investigate the use and meanings of taboo words, and their studies contribute to our understanding of language and cultural norms. Based on the explanation above, this research would like to analyse the meaning of taboo words and explained that taboo words are not always used to say harsh things like swearing, but can also be used for sex things.

**METHOD**

This study used a descriptive qualitative research approach. A descriptive qualitative approach uses words, clauses, phrases, and sentences to describe the data. According to Crabtree and Miller (1999) Qualitative descriptive explores the meaning, variation, perceptual experience of phenomena and capture the overall nature or interrelated. In this study, the population that will be selected by the writer is Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics which consist of 10 songs.

The writer analysis using secondary data that collected from website, journal, books, and articles. The writer using a past study on this subject, which is mostly use qualitative method. The analytical technique used in this article is semantic analysis. Semantic technique is a data analysis technique that examines the language in which meaning must be used appropriately.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Following are the results of analysis and discussion of data for the 10 songs sampled in this article. The songs sampled were titled Sunsetz, K.,
Apocalypse, Young and Dumb, Kiss It Off Me, You're The Only Good Thing In My Life, Pure, Heavenly, Hentai, and I'm Firefighter.

Title of Song = SUNSETZ  
Lyrics = So you open your dress and show me your tits.  
Tits = Soft organs on the chest of a woman.  
Category = Vulgar Language

The song title “SUNSETZ” is a song that sets the scene of a romantic encounter or intimate moment. The lyrics mention the line “So you open your dress and show me your tits,” which uses a vulgar term to describe a woman's breasts. It is important to note that the use of explicit language or objectifying terms is not encouraged.

Respectful and considerate language promotes a positive and inclusive environment. However, it is important to understand that the lyrics aim to depict a moment of heightened sensuality or vulnerability. It is crucial to approach discussions of physical intimacy with sensitivity and respect.

Title of Song = K.  
Lyrics = We had made love earlier that day with no strings attached.  
Made love = Sexual activity  
Category = Insult

The song title “K” is a song that explores a romantic encounter and the intimacy shared between two individuals. The lyrics mention the line “We had made love earlier that day with no strings attached. And I'm kissing you lying in my room,” indicating a consensual physical connection. While the mention of sexual activity is explicit, it is important to approach the topic with respect and understanding.
Title of Song = APOCALYPSE
Lyrics = Your lips my lips
Lips = An organ on top or bottom edge of mouth
Category = Vulgar Language

The song title “APOCALYPSE” is a song that explores a sense of intense connection and intimacy between two individuals. The lyrics mention the line “Your lips my lips,” emphasizing the physical and emotional bond shared through the act of kissing. The song captures the passion and intensity of a profound connection amidst a metaphorical backdrop of an apocalyptic scenario.

Title of Song = YOUNG AND DUMB
Lyrics = You wanna go where the girls are young and dumb and hot as fuck.
Dumb = Stupid
Category = Name Calling

The song title “YOUNG AND DUMB” is a song that explores the allure of a specific type of environment or lifestyle. The lyrics include the line “You wanna go where the girls are young and dumb and hot as fuck,” which uses a derogatory term to describe a group of people. Name-calling and derogatory language are not encouraged, as they can contribute to negativity and disrespect. It is important to promote inclusive and respectful communication.

Hot as fuck = Very attractive
Category = Name Calling

The word “Hot as Fuck” in the lyrics of the song means describe the attractiveness or desirability of the girls mentioned in the song. It is a slang phrase that highlights a great degree of sexual or physical attractiveness.
Title of Song = KISS IT OFF ME
Lyrics = Know I'd make you forget about all of those rich fuckboys.
Fuckboys = Naughty boy
Category = Name Calling

The song “KISS IT OFF ME” is a song that explores the power of a passionate connection in overcoming past experiences. The lyrics contain the line “Know I’d make you forget about all of those rich fuckboys,” which employs a term that can be seen as derogatory or insulting when referring to individuals.

Name-calling is not encouraged, as it can contribute to negative and disrespectful communication. The song, however, emphasizes the ability of a genuine and intimate connection to help one move past negative experiences and find solace and happiness.

Title of Song = YOU’RE THE ONLY GOOD THING IN MY LIFE
Lyrics = You only fuck for love.
Fuck = Sexual activity
Category = Insult

The song title “YOU’RE THE ONLY GOOD THING IN MY LIFE” include an offensive term. The line “You only fuck for love” utilizes a strong and vulgar word associated with sexual activity. The use of such explicit language can be seen as derogatory and insulting. It is important to promote respectful and considerate communication in all aspects of life, avoiding derogatory terms or insults.

Lyrics = Naked, tanning by the swimming pool.
Naked = With no shirts on
Category = Vulgar Language
The word “Naked” describes a scene of someone sunbathing without clothing. While the mention of nudity might be considered explicit. However, it is essential to promote respectful and considerate language in all aspects of communication. The song celebrates the importance of a significant individual and the connection shared, emphasizing their unique role in bringing joy and positivity to one’s life.

Title of Song = PURE  
Lyrics = And I say, “Take it off” so you tell me to watch.  
Take it off = Removing clothes  
Category = Sexual Harassment

The song title “PURE” contains lyrics that touch upon a sensitive topic related to sexual harassment. The line “And I say, “Take it off” so you tell me to watch” implies a request for someone to remove their clothes. This portrayal of a situation can be seen as inappropriate and potentially contributing to a culture of sexual harassment. It is important to note that sexual harassment is a serious matter that should not be trivialized or encouraged.

Title of Song = HEAVENLY  
Lyrics = Touch me with a kiss, feel me on your lips  
Kiss = Intimate gesture  
Category = Obscenity

The song titled “HEAVENLY” explores the profound connection between two individuals through the intimate act of a kiss. The lyrics paint a picture of the sensual experience, inviting the listener to imagine the sensation of lips touching and the deep emotional impact it can have. While the song touches upon themes of obscenity, it does so by challenging societal norms and celebrating the beauty of raw, unfiltered expressions of love and desire.
Lips = An organ on top or bottom edge of mouth
Category = Vulgar Language

The word “Lips” in the lyrics of the song means refers to the lips of the person being addressed in the song. It suggests that the speaker wants to be felt or experienced by the other person through the physical sensation of their lips coming into contact with the speaker's own lips.

Title of Song = HENTAI
Lyrics = I told you about the night that we first made love
Made love = Sexual activity
Category = Insult

The song titled "HENTAI" takes a provocative turn as it delves into the lyrics that state, "I told you about the night that we first made love." This line explicitly refers to engaging in sexual activity, highlighting an intimate encounter between two individuals. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that the inclusion of such lyrics does not automatically classify the song as an insult. While the lyrics may involve sexual content, it is important to differentiate between explicitness and insult.

Lyrics = About a girl who, as soon as she made you cum
Cum = Result of sexual activity
Category = Sexual Harassment

The song titled “HENTAI” takes a controversial and potentially problematic direction with its lyrics, particularly the line those states, “About a girl who, as soon as she made you cum” The term "cum" refers to the result of sexual activity and carries explicit sexual connotations. It is important to note that the inclusion of such lyrics can be seen as highly inappropriate and potentially fall into the category of sexual harassment.
Sexual harassment involves unwelcome sexual comments, advances, or behaviour that creates a hostile or offensive environment for the recipient. In this context, the lyrics seem to objectify and demean the girl mentioned, reducing her to a mere instrument for the satisfaction of sexual desires. Such lyrics perpetuate harmful attitudes and contribute to the normalization of sexual harassment.

Title of Song = I’M A FIREFIGHTER
Lyrics = And now I'm longing for your kiss.
Kiss = Intimate gesture
Category = Obscenity

The song “I’M A FIREFIGHTER” takes an engaging turn as the lyric “And now I'm longing for your kiss” begins. Given that a kiss is generally regarded as an intimate gesture between two people, this straightforward word stirs up feelings of desire and intimacy. It is important to remember that the existence of such lyrics does not automatically classify a music as obscene.

Although the idea of wanting to kiss someone may have romantic overtones, it does not necessarily involve anything explicit or improper. The use of words or content that is seen as offensive, obscene, or sexually explicit falls under the category of obscenity.

CONCLUSION

The writer provides an overview of the research on taboo words and their meanings. It emphasizes that taboo words extend beyond offensive language and can include references to sexual topics. The research adopts a semantic approach, considering the meanings, social context, and cultural norms associated with taboo words. It references three articles that discuss taboo words, employing qualitative methods such as interviews and descriptive analysis.

The analysis focuses on taboo words found in the lyrics of songs by the band Cigarettes After Sex, revealing a predominance of taboo words related to sexual themes. The findings contribute to our understanding of semantic meaning in language and highlight that taboo words encompass a wide range of expressions.
beyond swearing, including sensitive topics such as sexuality. The research concludes that understanding semantic meaning and the study of taboo words are essential for effective communication and interpreting language in different contexts.

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