

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Humans are required to interact with other humans. When interacting, language is one of the essential aspects that enable interactions to run smoothly (Bloch & Tranger, 1942). However, interlocutors may sometimes use bad language or taboo words when interacting with each other in real life.

The same case also applies in a movie, specifically in the *Good Boys* (2019) movie, a film by Gene Stupnitsky, where people, particularly children, use taboo words. This movie follows the story of three 12-year-olds (sixth graders) named Max, Thor, and Lucas, who embark on a wild journey from their late childhood into early adolescence, filled with taboo words. Having an interest in knowing how to kiss girls properly, this leads to chaos, including damaging the drone of Max's father, skipping school, being chased by teenage girls, and accidentally having drugs. All these things are done to attend the kissing party with other children of their age.

In that movie, Max, Thor, and Lucas (the main characters) utter taboo words to show their emotions, to show their strength, and to make jokes. They utter taboo words not only to their friends who are the same age, but also to people who are older than them, including adults. This movie also marks the transition from children to adolescence era. The use of taboo words by children is not a strange

phenomenon. This has been identified by Whiting & Edwards (1973), who suggested that children from the age range of 3- to 11-year-olds have produced taboo words. Jay (1992) also mentioned that even from the age range of 1- to 2-year-olds, they have uttered taboo words, even though they may not understand the meaning yet.

Nowadays, foreign movies are accessible to everyone in the world due to globalization. Therefore, translation is crucial since it provides the meaning from the source language to the target language (Catford, 1965). However, translators need to consider some factors in translating the texts, specifically those that contain taboo words, such as the readers and the strategies (Davoodi, 2009).

In a movie in which children are the main characters and in which taboo words are uttered by children, the translator needs to be familiar with the culture of the source language and the target language regarding the use of taboo words. A translator must be able to manage the translation of the taboo terms uttered by children wisely because the movie transcript could be read by children.

The term taboo itself means forbidden, which is seen as inappropriate in certain conditions. Moreover, taboo words refer to the expressions that are restricted from being expressed in public because they might offend others (Wardhaugh, 1998). For instance, the words fuck, shit, and ass are considered taboo because of their inappropriateness in some specific contexts.

Because of that, conducting research that focuses on taboo words and their translation strategies on children's characters is the interest of the researcher. The

researcher intends to explain how taboo words spoken by the children's characters in the movie are translated into the Indonesian version, in which taboo words are a sensitive topic. Also, how translator deals in managing the translation strategies on taboo words, whether they are retained, substituted, or even completely removed, uttered by children's characters from the source language to the target language, is an interesting topic because the translator may or may not consider the readers of this movie, who are children. Thus, the researcher focuses on explaining the types of taboo words uttered by the three main child characters in the movie and the translation strategies for translating taboo words from English into Indonesian.

This study is important because it enriches the understanding of the readers and translators, especially regarding how to manage the translation of taboo words spoken by child characters in a movie. Also, most translation studies focus on adult-oriented movies; this study focuses on children's characters when uttering taboo words in a movie, so it provides a different perspective.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

In order to answer the issues in the *Good Boys* (2019) movie directed by Gene Stupnitsky that are stated earlier, the following questions are the focus of this research:

1. What are the types of taboo words uttered by the main characters from the source language to the target language?
2. How are the strategies applied in translating taboo words uttered by the main characters?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the issues previously mentioned, this study aims:

1. Identify the types of taboo words uttered by the main characters from the source language to the target language.
2. Describe the strategies applied in translating taboo words uttered by the main characters from English into Indonesian.

### 1.4 Previous Studies

Studies focusing on the Good Boys movie, taboo words, and translation strategies focusing on taboo words have been conducted several times. The researcher has collected several studies to show the differences between the previous research and this research. Research that focused on Good Boys is listed first, followed by taboo words, and the translation strategies of taboo words. The researcher will describe the previous studies concisely.

There are two studies focusing on the Good Boys movie, Mushaf (2022) and Tamola et al. (2023). Mushaf (2022) focused on analyzing the types of slang words, their functions, and their motives. The findings suggest that the slang type of society slang is the most uttered, the purpose is to show emotive feeling, and the reason is to amuse the superior public. Meanwhile, Tamola et al. (2023) focused on analyzing the types of swear words using the theory by Andersson & Trudgill. The results show that expletive swear word is commonly used to show their frustration,

anger, and shock. In addition, a humorous swear word is used only as a joke, so it does not offend the hearers.

Studies related to taboo words were conducted by Hasnah et al. (2022), who focused on the students in the classroom and Anjani & Gunawan (2022), who focused on the *Birds of Prey* movie. They both applied Battistella's theory to reveal the type of taboo words and Wardhaugh's theory to understand their functions. The results show that students mainly applied vulgar words and the function is to draw attention to themselves, to show contempt, and to provoke. Meanwhile, in the *Birds of Prey* movie, the findings highlight that obscenity is the most common type of taboo word and the function is to draw attention to oneself.

Likewise, studies by Fazri and Laili (2022) and Aliffia et al. (2023) both employed Battistella's theory to discuss the classification of taboo words and Wardhaugh's theory to explain their functions. Fazri and Laili (2022) concentrated on the use of taboo words by the mother character in the *Bad Moms* movie. The researchers chose the mother character because she takes care of her children in the absence of her husband and seeks to be free from her daily routines. The findings highlight that nearly all of the kinds of taboo words are profanity. Additionally, the major purpose is to draw attention because the mother character desires to have recognition from other characters. Meanwhile, Aliffia et al. (2023) concentrated on the usage of taboo words in the *Emergency 2022* movie. The results suggest that almost all of the kinds of taboo words are obscenity and the key function of taboo words is to show contempt.

Studies focusing on taboo words translation strategies have been conducted by Meera & Basari (2023) in the *Family Guy* from English into Malay and Sudiarta et al. (2023) in the *Project X* movie from English into Indonesian. By using Jay's theory and Baker's theory, the results in Meera & Basari (2023) showed that insults and slurs are the most applied type of taboo words and paraphrasing using related words is the most common strategy of translating taboo words. Meanwhile, the findings in Sudiarta et al. (2023) revealed that by employing Battistella's theory and Baker's theory, vulgar words are the most common type of taboo words and translation with more general words is the most applied in translating taboo terms.

Dewi et al. (2022) also studied the type of taboo words using Wardhaugh's theory and translation strategies on taboo words using Davoodi's theory in a novel entitled *Beautiful Bastard*. It stated that sex words are commonly applied words and the translation strategies commonly employed are taboo for taboo translation. Furthermore, Wibowo (2022) used Jay's theory in understanding the type of taboo words and Davoodi's theory in knowing the translation strategies on taboo words. The results showed that the main character mainly used epithets to show her anger and the substitution strategy is mostly applied.

Based on the previous studies mentioned above, there is no research that aims to understand the translation strategies of taboo words uttered by child characters in a movie. Therefore, the researcher intends to understand the translation strategies applied in translating taboo words spoken by child characters. The theory of taboo words by Battistella (2005) and the theory of taboo words

translation strategies by Davoodi (2009) are applied to analyze the utterances of the main characters in the Good Boys (2019) movie.

By doing this, the researcher aims to understand whether the results of translation strategies on taboo words uttered by children's characters mostly retain the taboo words, substitute the taboo words using other terms, or completely remove the terms because this movie contains taboo words uttered by children, not adults, in which the translator may need to consider the readers of this movie.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is this study attempts to analyze the usage of taboo words, particularly in translating taboo terms uttered by children characters from English into Indonesian in the Good Boys movie. Theory of taboo words by Battistella (2005) and theory of taboo words translation strategies by Davoodi (2009) are applied as a theoretical framework for analysis. Furthermore, the researcher limits the study to focus only on the utterances held by the main characters that contain taboo words in the Good Boys movie.