

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

In this part, the writing is divided into two parts: the theories applied and the research methodology applied in the study.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this subpart, the researcher provides the theories used to help the research. Theory of taboo words by Battistella (2005) is applied and explained, including the definition of taboo words and the types of taboo words. Additionally, the theory of taboo word translation strategies proposed by Davoodi (2009) is applied and described, including the concept of translation and types of strategies for translating taboo words.

2.1.1 Taboo Words

The term taboo originates from the Polynesian language, which means prohibited or restricted. This term is introduced by Captain James Cook, a British explorer who explored the Pacific Ocean and then documented his journey in a journal named “A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean” that was published by H. Hughs (Allan & Burridge, 2006). In addition, according to Trudgill (2000), the term taboo is an action that is inappropriate or forbidden. Also, Jay (1992) mentioned that taboo serves to suppress or inhibit certain behaviors. Based on these definitions, taboo is a manner that is regarded by society as improper or immoral.

In language, taboo words refers to words that are restricted from being spoken or used due to their immoral values based on the perspective of society. Furthermore, taboo words are prohibited words that are not allowed to be spoken because they are considered to have harmful effects on the hearers (Battistella, 2005). For example, in the English language, words regarding the private parts of the human body and sex are considered taboo words if they are not uttered in the right context. In addition, the Indonesian language also restricts the use of humans' private parts because they are seen as taboo. Hence, the use of taboo words is prohibited because of their inappropriateness in society.

2.1.2 Types of Taboo Words

To identify the types of taboo words, Battistella's (2005) classification of taboo words is applied. This theory is employed because it is compact and concise to find the types of taboo terms. Also, the distinction between each type is clear, unlike any other theory, in which sometimes the types of taboo words can overlap.

Battistella (2005) classified types of taboo words into four types.

1) Epithet

Epithet is an expression or a word that includes a wide variety of slurs, including ethnic slurs, racial slurs, gender slurs, and sexual slurs. It also refers to physical looks, disabilities, or any other traits. Some words that belong to epithet are bitch (refer to unpleasant person), retard (someone who has low intellectual), and wop (refer to someone who has Italian blood or born in Italy). These words can be seen as taboo if it is used to insult or derogate someone.

2) Profanity

Profanity, also known as religious cursing, refers to expressions regarding religious terms. It involves abusive use of what is considered sacred. In other words, it is usually to disrespect the use of God's name. Words that belong to profanity are hell (an afterlife place to punish bad people) and goddamn (to curse someone). These words occur as taboo terms if they are employed in no relation to religious events or just to show the expression of speakers such as angry, frustration, or sad.

3) Obscenity

Obscenity is a word or phrase containing sexual activity and sexual excretory that could develop a sense of disgust. Therefore, it is not allowed to be spoken publicly because it is viewed as lacking morals. Some words, such as fuck (having sex with someone) and shit (human solid waste) belong to obscene words because they refer to sexual intimacy and the excretory system of the human body.

4) Vulgarity

As the name suggests, it refers to the expressions that describe the sexual parts of the human body. Words such as ass, tits, and dick belong to this type. These words can be categorized as taboo words if they are not employed as medical or educational purposes.

2.1.3 Translation

In this era of globalization, access to information is becoming easier to find. However, it is not uncommon for the information obtained to be written in a

language that is not understandable to certain groups. Therefore, in order for the information conveyed to be understood by a particular group, a translation process is required. Translation itself means the process of transferring messages from the source language to the target language without changing the meaning of the messages (Newmark, 1988). In addition, Catford (1965) states that translation is a process in which the material from the source language is translated into its equivalent meaning in the target language.

However, the translation process is not only about translating information from the source language to the target language, but also ensuring that the meaning of the information is well-received in the target language. In the translation process, it is not uncommon to encounter obstacles because there may be differences in cultures, beliefs, and religions (Davoodi, 2009). For that reason, understanding the cultures in both the source language and target language is a must (Davoodi, 2009). By doing this, the translation process can be done as accurately as possible.

2.1.4 Strategies of Translating Taboo Words

Davoodi (2009) proposed four different strategies of translating taboo words: censorship, substitution, taboo for taboo, and euphemism.

1) Censorship

If the use of a taboo word is unnecessary or just an extra item, the taboo word can be omitted or removed directly. However, if the use of a taboo word is necessary or it is an important term, the taboo word cannot be omitted because it may change the meaning of the utterance (Davoodi, 2009). It can be said that as

long as the meaning of the utterance does not change while the taboo word is removed, censorship can be applied.

2) Substitution

Substitution refers to replacing the taboo word in the source language with another word in the target language. However, this strategy could sometimes distort the meaning. For example, a woman who works in a bar is a dancer. The word “dancer” is taboo in Iranian then the translator decided to replace it with the word “teacher” or “nurse”. This is nonsense because a teacher or a nurse does not work in a bar. Another example is that a man is extremely drunk after drinking wine, while the word “wine” is seen as taboo in certain cultures. If the translator decides to translate the word “wine” into other non taboo words, such as “water” or “milk”, readers may be left confused because it is not possible that a man who drinks water or milk can get drunk.

3) Taboo for Taboo

Taboo for taboo translation strategy is the easiest way of translating taboo words because the translator does not necessarily have to replace the term with another term. Even though the translator understands that the word is taboo, he/she stills maintains the taboo word in the target language to achieve the same meaning and feeling as the source language. The effect of this strategy is that the audience may feel uncomfortable.

4) Euphemism

Euphemism is the way an offensive expression is replaced with a more inoffensive one or an acceptable one. This is the best translation strategy for taboo words if the translator does not want to express offensive expressions. Also, the translation can be read by everyone due to the fact that the taboo term is softened. For example, the phrase “he passed away” is an euphemism of “he died”. Another example is that the word “senior citizen” is a euphemistic way of saying “old person”. However, it should be noted that translators must be familiar with the cultures of the source language and the target language to retain the original meaning of the message.

2.2 Research Method

In this section, the research methodology applied in the study is discussed by the researcher, including the type of research, research approach, data and data source, population and sample, method of collecting data and method of analyzing data. Each section will be described below.

2.2.1 Type of Research

The researcher employs a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the phenomenon supported by frequency counts. The frequency counts act as a tool to show what happens with the data while to describe the frequency, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative method. According to Kothari (2004), a descriptive qualitative method is a method to describe a phenomenon in depth. A descriptive qualitative method is applied because the intention of the researcher is to identify

the type of taboo words uttered by three main child characters and to analyze the translation strategies applied in translating taboo words.

2.2.2 Research Approach

The approach employed for this research is sociolinguistic and descriptive translation studies. According to Trudgill (2000), sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on investigating the relationship between language and society. By doing this, the taboo words investigated can be thoroughly explained because the concept of taboo is a phenomenon related to society, in which the meaning of taboo terms can vary across different languages. Furthermore, by applying the theory of taboo words proposed by Battistella (2005), the researcher could find the types of taboo words found in the movie.

Meanwhile, descriptive translation studies is an approach to describing the product of translation without judging whether the translation is right or wrong. The main focus is to analyze the translated texts themselves as they are (Toury, 1995). This approach is applied to examine how the texts are delivered in the target language, particularly those that contain taboo words. In addition, the theory of taboo words translation strategies proposed by Davoodi (2009) is used to explain the strategies employed in managing taboo words.

2.2.3 Data and Data Source

The data taken in this research are the utterances of the main characters, which are Max, Thor, and Lucas, in the Good Boys movie, specifically utterances that contain taboo words. The primary source of the data is gathered from

https://sublikescript.com/movie/Good_Boys-7343762 for the data in English and <https://sub-scene.com/subtitle/2548177> for the data in Indonesian. The Good Boys movie itself, watched from <https://hdtodayz.to/movie/watch-good-boys-hd-41526>, is used to determine the context of the use of taboo words.

2.2.4 Population and Sample

Utterances that contain taboo words uttered by Max, Thor, and Lucas (main characters) in the Good Boys movie serve as the population. The taboo words acquired are those based on the types of taboo words presented by Battistella (2005), both in the source language and the target language. There are 129 data in English and 39 data in Indonesian. Meanwhile, a total sampling is implemented, which means that all utterances containing taboo words uttered by the three main child characters are analyzed. However, not all of the data are presented in the analysis section. As there are four categories of taboo words, as identified by Battistella (2005), and four strategies for translating taboo words, as outlined by Davoodi (2009), there are two samples for each type of taboo words and their translation strategies. Therefore, a total of 16 samples are given.

2.2.5 Method of Collecting Data

To obtain the data, the observation method is used, which means the researcher is the vital person to retrieve the data because the researcher observes the utterances containing taboo words uttered by the main characters (Kothari, 2004). In order to do that, several steps are taken by the researcher:

- 1) The researcher reads the scripts of the Good Boys movie both in English and in Indonesian to check the availability of the data.
- 2) The researcher collects data containing taboo words uttered by the main characters using a note-taking technique to transcribe the data in the scripts.
- 3) The use of dictionaries such as Oxford Advanced Learner's English Dictionary Online and Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary Online serves as a parameter for determining whether the words are viewed as taboo words and the meaning of those terms.
- 4) The researcher watches the movie in order to understand the context and determine whether the taboo words uttered can be categorized as taboo words or not.
- 5) Then, taboo words obtained are grouped based on their types and their translation strategies in a table.

2.2.6 Method of Analyzing Data

After all the data are gathered, the data are classified using theory from Battistella (2005) for the types of taboo words, which include epithet, profanity, obscenity, and vulgarity. Then, the data are categorized using theory from Davoodi (2009) for the taboo words translation strategies, which include censorship, substitution, taboo for taboo, and euphemism. After that, common implications are given regarding the data for each research question. Furthermore, the conversations and the contexts are shown for each type of taboo words and each translation

strategy in translating taboo words, which the researcher then analyzes in detail to explain how the translation of taboo words is adapted to the readers, in this case, children. The last step is that the researcher reports a summary based on the findings.

