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## TABOO WORDS ANALYSIS IN *FAST AND FURIOUS 8* MOVIE

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### Abstract

This study analyzes the taboo words in *Fast and Furious 8* movie by F. Gary Gray. Taboo words occur not only in everyday life but also in the movie. This study aims to investigate the types of taboo words using the theory of Jay (1992) and the functions of taboo words using Wardhaugh's theory (2006). This study employed a descriptive qualitative as a research method. The result of this study shows there are seven types of taboo words, namely cursing 17 data, profanity 9 data, obscenity 1 data, epithet 15 data, vulgarity 14 data, insult and slur 7 data, and scatology 6 data. Then, there are four functions of taboo words, namely to draw attention 42 data, to show contempt 16 data, to be provocative 10 data, and to mock authority 1 data. Based on the analysis results, the word *hell* appears to be the second most taboo word used in this movie and has become the most dominant type of taboo word, namely cursing. This is because they use cursing to express their feelings, such as anger, annoyance, or shock, and to emphasize something in an utterance. Furthermore, all the words *hell* in this movie have the function as to draw attention. To draw attention appears as the most dominant function in *Fast and Furious 8* movie because it can represent the character's intention of using taboo words.

**Keywords:** Sociolinguistics, Taboo Words, *Fast and Furious 8* Movie

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas analisis kata-kata tabu yang terdapat dalam film *Fast and Furious 8*. Bahasa tabu tidak hanya terjadi dalam kehidupan sehari-hari tetapi juga dalam film. Penelitian ini menganalisis jenis kata tabu menggunakan teori dari Jay (1992) dan fungsi kata tabu menggunakan teori



*dari Wardhaugh (2006). Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tujuh jenis kata tabu yaitu cursing sebanyak 17 data, profanity sebanyak 9 data, obscenity 1 data, epithet sebanyak 15 data, vulgarity sebanyak 14 data, insult and slurs sebanyak 7 data, dan scatology sebanyak 6 data. Kemudian terdapat empat fungsi kata tabu dalam penelitian ini yaitu untuk menarik perhatian sebanyak 42 data, untuk menunjukkan penghinaan sebanyak 16 data, untuk memprovokatif sebanyak 10 data, dan untuk menegjek otoritas 1 data. Berdasarkan hasil dari analisis data, kata hell termasuk kedalam jenis cursing yang menempati urutan kedua kata tabu yang paling banyak muncul setelah kata shit dan menjadi jenis kata tabu yang paling dominan muncul karena mereka menggunakannya ketika ingin mengekspresikan berbagai perasaan seperti marah, kesal atau terkejut dan untuk menekankan sesuatu dalam ucapannya. Selanjutnya, semua kata hell dalam film ini berfungsi untuk menarik perhatian. Untuk menarik perhatian menjadi fungsi kata tabu yang paling dominan muncul karena dapat mewakili niat karakter dalam menggunakan kata-kata tabu.*

**Kata kunci:** Sociolinguistik, kata-kata tabu, film *Fast and Furious 8*

## A. Background Of The Study

Language is a communication and conversation system used by people to communicate and interact to express our feeling, argument, mind, ideas, and others towards something. According to Kridalaksana (2008, p.24) states that language is a system of sounds with arbitrary characteristics that society uses to cooperate, communicate, and identify itself.

Furthermore, many language phenomena exist in the world. One of the

phenomena is taboo words. Taboo is the study of sociolinguistics that exists in all cultures. According to Rahardjo (2002, p.35) taboo words are one of the phenomena of linguistics, occurring in most languages because each member of society has various ways of expressing

their minds; it depends on moral values, norms, and communities that have been grown and developed in a society that exists and agreed together. Every culture has its taboos; for example, in America,

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words like *nigger* are considered taboo, whereas in British English, such as *blood* is considered taboo. Because they come from different cultures, taboo terms differ from one culture to the next. According to Ohoiwutun (2007, p.94), something forbidden reflects local tradition and culture.

The use of forbidden words is apparent in the movie as well as in social media and song lyrics. *Fast and Furious 8 movie* is suitable for this study because the characters often use taboo words in the dialogue and represent real human life. Society needs to study taboo words because we often use taboo words in everyday life without realizing it. Therefore, this research is interesting to analyze. People need to know the types and functions of taboo words and why their use should be restricted

Based on the background of this study, the purpose of the study are present below:

1. To identify the various types of taboo words used by the characters of the *Fast and Furious 8 movie*

2. To describe the functions of taboo words used by the characters in the *Fast and Furious 8 movie*

There are several previous study related to taboo words as reference in this presents study. First, the study conducted by Shirley Maya Argasetya (2009) entitled "*Common Features of English Taboo Words*". Second, the study conducted by Hanhan Lovihandrie, Januarius Mujiyanto, and Djoko Sutopo (2018) entitled "*Translation Strategies Used by Lingliana in Translating Taboo Words in Sylvia Day's Bared to You*". Third, the study conducted by Pujian Masitha (2016) entitled "*EFL Learners' comprehension of English Taboo Words in Internet Meme*". Fourth, the study conducted by Johanna Henriksdotter Olsen (2013) entitled "*A Sociolinguistic Study on Taboo Words and Acceptance in Social Communities*". Fifth, the study conducted by Arum Sugiarti (2013) entitled "*Taboo Words in Patriot Day Movie*".),

This study used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the phenomenon of taboo words uttered by

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11 characters in the *Fast and Furious 8* movie. The data classification in the *Fast and Furious 8* movie is used to conduct the study analysis. The data include words or sentences which would contain taboo words.

## B. Findings

Based on the data in this study, in order to analyze the types and functions of taboo words found in the *Fast and Furious 8* movie, the theory of Jay (1992, p.2-9) and Wardhaugh (2006, p.239) was used. After analyzing the data, there are 69 taboo words found in the movie. They are included in the seven types of taboo words and four functions of taboo words. In this study, some expressions can be cross-categorized in their use based on the context used. The analysis of 7 types and 4 functions of taboo words with the following explanation serves below.

### 1. Cursing

According to Jay (1992, p.2), a cursing word is an offensive word used with an angry or irritated expression to harm someone or something. Cursing is

the intentional infliction of harm on another person through specific words or phrases. 17 expressions are considered cursing in the *Fast and Furious 8* movie. The example presents below.

**Datum 39/ minute 01:43:11/ Hell**

Roman : What the **hell** is he talking about?

This utterance is found in minute 01:43:11. The setting was on the ice land. The utterance above occurred when Cipher instructed Matty to start the submarine. Then, Tej said that Cipher just rebooted that sub's command. In data 39, Roman is someone who utters the cursing word. He uses the word *hell* to express his feelings.

The word *hell*, in literal meaning, is described as a place full of torture and suffering so that people who hear it can also be afraid (Merriam Webster's-Collegiate Dictionary, 2003). Based on the theory from Jay (1992, p.2), the word *hell* is sacred, and Roman uses the word *hell* outside of religious occasions; that is why it includes a religious type of cursing, the word *hell* is impolite and has a

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negative connotation. In this context, this word is not offensive; it emphasizes what Tej is saying because he was annoyed to hear that. In addition, when people are angry or annoyed by something or somebody, they tend to use taboo words to express their feelings.

## 2. Profanity

According to Jay (1992, p.2), profanity is a taboo word that uses religious words in their pronunciation. To be profane means to ignore words of religious belief or taboos that are not meant to belittle God, religion, or sacred things but rather based on ignorance or indifference to them. 9 expressions are considered profanity in the *Fast and Furious 8* movie. The examples present below.

### Datum 4 / minute 23:01 / Jesus Christ

Hoobs :Roman, **Jesus christ**.

This utterance model is found in minute 23.01. The setting was in the car at night. This utterance occurred when they got a problem because of Roman. He used all the explosives they had when being

chased by someone else. So then, Hoobs is surprised that Roman used up all he should have used so little.

The word *jesus Christ* is the name of God (in some religions) and is a maker and ruler of the universe (Merriam Webster's-Collegiate Dictionary, 2003). Based on the theory from Jay (1992, p.2), the word *Jesus Christ* is classified as a taboo word because the speaker uses a word related to religious matters. *Jesus Christ* is a formal word usually used in a formal situation. The expression above is profanity since it shows ignorance or disrespect by using words related to religious beliefs used by the character in the movie. Based on the data above, the word *Jesus christ* includes profanity because it is used outside of religious context.

## 3. Obscenity

According to Jay (1992, p.5), obscenity refers to terms that are not permitted to be used in public. Obscenity words are considered the most offensive and rarely, if ever, used in public places because they are seen as lacking in



morality or disgusting to morality. Obscenities are pointed sexual in nature; this kind of expression is indecent. One expression is considered obscenity in the *Fast and Furious 8* movie. Here is an example.

**Datum 31 / minute 01:08:33 / Fuck**

Magdalena: I will give you until  
 I finish my cup up. I am  
**fucking** Thirsty.

This utterance model is found in minute 01.08.33. The setting was in the cafe. This utterance occurs when Magdalena and Dominic have a secret meeting at the cafe and discuss a big plan.

The word *fuck* describes having sexual intercourse with someone (Concise Oxford Dictionary, 2004). Based on the theory from Jay (1992, p.5), the word *fuck* in the utterance above refers to obscenity, because it refers to sexual contact. This word is powerful and rude if people use it in front of the public. It is considered offensive and unacceptable in the formal situation. Therefore, this word is usually used in sexual activity. However, the word

*fuck* does not only mean having sexual intercourse but can also interpret to emphasize something according to the situation and context of the conversation. In this case, the word *fuck* in the utterance above is not to have sexual activity but to emphasize her emotions that she is very thirsty.

**4. Vulgarity**

Jay (1992, p.6) defines vulgarity as a common language of individuals on the street. It is primitive, unsocialized, and undereducated". It serves no specific need or function other than the communication needs of the average person. One expression is considered obscenity in the *Fast and Furious 8* movie. Here is an example:

**Datum 16 / minute 36:32 / Ass**

Deckard: You must have misplaced that. When I kicked up your ass up in down that office of yours.

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Hoobs : Yeah. Just like you British,  
rewriting History, huh?

an *ass*, you think they are silly or do silly  
things (Collins dictionary, 2006).

This utterance model is found in minute 36:32. The setting is in the prison. This utterance occurred when he underestimated the muscular strength of Hoobs's arm and challenged his ability. In datum 16, Deckard is someone who utters a vulgar word. He uses the word *ass* to express his feelings.

The word *ass* refers to anatomy, especially a person's buttocks or anus (Concise Oxford Dictionary, 2004). Based on the theory from Jay (1992, p.6), the word *ass* is classified as a taboo word, especially vulgarity. The word *ass* is vulgar because it refers to private parts of the body, especially a person's buttocks or anus. The word *ass* is an impolite word to talk moreover in public. It will give a bad mark to society. The vulgar word conveys a sense of general, ignorant disrespect of the social norm or unthinking and representation of street language's crudeness. If you describe someone as

## 5. Epithet

Jay (1992, p.7) states epithets are offensive emotional outbursts of single words or phrases to express the speaker's frustration, anger, or surprise. Here is an example:

### Datum 1 / Minute 19:59 / Shit

Mr Nobody :So your intel was spot on,  
a democly 7 EMP  
weapon that went missing  
in the gulf. Arm dealer  
from the liberation front  
have it in berlin.

Hoobs : **Shit!**

This utterance model is found in minute 19:59. The setting was Jerman on the soccer field. This utterance occurred when Hoobs watched his daughter's soccer game, and then Mr. Nobody brought news that the EMP gun had been stolen. In datum 1, Hoobs is someone who utters the epithet word. He uses the

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word *shit* to describe his feeling. Hoobs was annoyed because something bad had happened.

Based on the theory from Jay (1992, p.7), the word *shit* is short word, but it is a forceful burst of emotional language. Therefore, the word *shit* classify as a Taboo word, particularly an epithet word. In literal meaning, the word *shit* refers to feces from the body (Concise Oxford Dictionary, 2004). In the conversation above, Hoobs uses the word *shit* to express his anger because a democly 7 EMP weapon that went missing in the gulf, Arm dealer from the liberation front have it in berlin. So, the word *shit* is becoming taboo because it is considered offensive, like an explosive word in uttering emotions such as frustration, anger, and, despair.

## 6. Insult and slurs

According to Jay (1992, p.8), insult words uses to verbally offend or insult someone to disrespect their target's feelings. Insult and slurs are words used to harm another person by the word alone.

They do not get their power from religious or societal unity. Here is an example:

### Datum 22/ minute 44:19 / Bitch

Hoobs : Mr. Nobody you want to tell me, why you just put me in a room with this teen trumpeting criminal some **bitch**?

This utterance model is found in minute 44:19. The setting was in the new base. In data 22, Hoobs utters the insulting word, especially animal imagery. In this case, Hoobs uses the word *bitch* because he feels annoyed with Deckard. Hoobs utters this utterance when they are gathering at the new base, and suddenly Mr. Nobody invites Deckard to come to the base.

Based on the theory from Jay (1992, P.8), the word *bitch* is classified as a taboo word, especially insult type, because it is one of many insults which refer to sexual terms. *Bitch* originally meant a female dog (Merriam Webster's-Collegiate Dictionary, 2003), but it has a different

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meaning when used to insult another person. If the word is used to insult a woman, it refers to a female prostitute; meanwhile, if the word is used to insult a man, it refers to a homosexual. The word *bitch* is considered offensive and not acceptable in a formal situation. Therefore, In this conversation above, Hoobs uses the word *bitch* to insult Deckard.

## 7. Scatology

According to Jay (1992, p.9), scatology is a taboo word that refers to a disgusting object. It is more inclined towards human disposal or something related to human waste.

### Datum 42 / minute 01:47:44 / Piss

Cipher: Now you're starting to **piss** me off!

This utterance model is found in minute 01:47:44. The setting was in the plane. In data 42, this utterance occurs when Ramsey tries to damage Cipher's plans by hacking data. Then, Cipher tries to manage

his data again and feels annoyed, so she uses scatology type by saying, "Now, you're starting to *piss* me off!"

The word *piss* literally means urinated (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 2003). Based on the theory from Jay (1992, p.9), the word *piss* refers to a taboo word because she uses the word relates to the lavatory or human defecation. In this case, Cipher uses the word to express her feelings that she feels annoyed toward Hoobs and his friends. In addition, the word *piss* is only used in the bathroom. Sometimes people use this word to express emotions like annoyance with someone, anger, or irritation (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 2003). As written in the dictionary, *piss* has become a taboo word because this word shows the meaning of discarding urine and is not used in the right place.

## 2. Functions of Taboo Words

Taboo words are usually spoken because there is a reason for them. According to Wardhaugh (2006, p.239),

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forbidden words are ignored on certain occasions because they serve several functions, such as to draw attention, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority.

### 1. To Draw Attention

Person use taboo words to get the listener's attention by using strong language with a meaning that can create an emotional reaction from the listener.

#### Datum 1 / minute 19:59 / Shit

Hoobs : **Shit!**

Mr Nobody : This thing can wipe out.  
An entire electrical grid  
in a major city. No lights,  
no power, instant stone  
age.

Hoobs utters the word *shit*, a strong word with connotation, to gain the listener's attention. Based on the theory from Wardhaugh in datum 1 minute 19:59, the word *shit* refers to the function of taboo words, that is, to draw Mr. Nobody's attention because it seems that Mr. Nobody keeps telling bad things. This

function occurs because something bad happens. In the conversations of datum 1, it is clear that Hoobs's utterance using the taboo word *shit* attracts Mr. Nobody's attention because he feels annoyed to hear what Mr. Nobody said.

In real-life American society, just like any language, they have bad words. The word *shit* in America is a common and vulgar word; it is the most complicated word; like how can it be if something bad happens? They say, "it shit," and if something is really good, they also say, "it's the shit". They use the word *shit* in some situations to express their emotion and get the listener's attention. The word *shit* can be used to mean stuff or things.

The social context of the conversation is closeness in friendship when the word taboo is used among groups of friends. The word is uttered since the speaker and listener have a relationship of trust between friendships, so they are not embarrassed or hesitant while using the word. However, if the word is uttered in public, it takes a negative turn.

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## 2. To Show Contempt

People use forbidden words to insult the addressee because they believe that person or thing is worthless and cannot be respected. This function can happen when individuals use forbidden words to express their disregard for the addressee. The speaker intends to irritate their pride because they believe their partners are worthless.

### Datum 5/ minute 23:55/ Holy shit

Dom : Tej, dropit  
Tej : Bombs away  
Dom : Split now!  
Roman : **Holy shit!**

Based on the theory from Wardhaugh in datum 5 minute 23:55, Roman utters the word *Holy shit*, and the function is to show contempt. In this case, the taboo word above emphasizes how Roman feel surprised and use the word *holy*, which is usually used in formal situations and religious activities. In the literal meaning, the word *holy* is sacred, and Roman uses a word related to religious matters. This is a formal word usually used in a formal

situation. The expression above is to show contempt since it shows ignorance or disrespect by using words related to religious beliefs. In American society, the expression 'holy shit' has no literal meaning. It is an interjection expressing dismay, disgust, surprise or shock. It is generally said in an formal situation, especially among friends.

## 3. To be Provocative

Using taboo words in someone's utterance is the most effective way to stimulate a chaotic reaction. This function occurs when a speaker uses forbidden words to elicit a specific response from the listener, such as violation or anger. As a result, some people use taboo words in their conversations to produce the desired response from the listener. There are example of conversation which shows to be provocative function, which is presented below

### Datum 22 / minute 44:19 / Bitch

Hoobs : Mr. Nobody you want to tell me, why you just put me in a room with this teen

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trumpeting criminal some  
**bitch**

Deckard : You got a big mouth on  
a small head. Coming from  
prisoner 6753.

Hoobs uses the word *bitch* to elicit a specific reaction from Deckard. According to Wardhaugh's theory in datum 22 minutes 44:19, the word *bitch* refers to the function of taboo words, which is to be provocative. This function occurs when the speaker uses forbidden words to elicit a specific response from the listener, such as anger or displeasure. This function happens when a speaker utters taboo words to provoke a certain response from the listener, such as violation anger. The word *bitch* means a female dog, but it has a different meaning when used as a word to protesters to invite chaotic reactions. When the answer is appropriate to the expectation of the speaker. It becomes taboo because this utterance is offensive and a verbal attack on other people.

Therefore, Hoobs choose to utter the word *bitch* to emphasize his emotion

toward Deckard. This expression shows that the speaker launches the word *bitch* at Deckard to provoke his anger successfully. Deckard is angry and says, 'You got a big mouth on a small head. Coming from prisoner 6753.'

In real-life American society, just like any language, they have bad words. Acceptable or not, it is based on the context of how they use it. The word *bitch* in America is an offensive taboo word if they use this word to insult people and show disrespect to other people. However, If they are referring to the word *bitch* to a female dog, it is always acceptable, and If they are referring to a man, it is not acceptable and can cause anger from the man.

#### 4. To Mock Authority

To mock authority has the lowest frequency of all taboo word functions, appearing only once in 69 data. This function can happen when individuals utter forbidden words because they are displeased with public images such as government and institutions. As a result, they use taboo

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words to mock authority to demonstrate their skepticism about governmental matters. Below is an example of a mock authority function conversation

### Datum 3 / minute 21:04 / Bullshit

Hoobs: Let me tell you something. The only thing that I love more than saving lives is my daughter. So you don't shut up with this government **bullshit**, right now!

Based on the theory from Wardhaugh in datum 3 minute 21:04, the word *bullshit* refers to the function of taboo words, that is, to mock authority. This function only appears once in the movie because the movie's theme is an action movie that is not concerned with criticizing governmental stuff. The function only appears once when Mr. Nobody invite Hoobs to save the stolen EMP Damocles 7 weapon. He utters the taboo word *bullshit* to indicate his dissatisfaction toward government authorities. Hoobs utters the taboo word not directly to the

government, but it shows his negative view toward governmental stuff, which is seen from the way he comments on Mr. Nobody.

In real-life American society, just like any language, they have bad words. They use the word *bullshit* to show the disagreement or disbelief of the speakers towards their interlocutor's statements is considered untrue or lies. Furthermore, language can help people communicate and interact with each other, but it also limits their words, in other words, as taboo does. The word *bullshit* in America is a common taboo word.

### C. Conclusion

Based on the result and discussion, there are seven types of taboo words found in their conversation in this movie, which is cursing type becomes the dominant type of taboo word in *Fast and Furious 8* movie. The characters frequently use cursing to express their emotion, such as anger, surprise, or to emphasize something. Hoobs is someone who frequently produces cursing type. He

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uses this type to express his anger.

Furthermore, there are four functions of taboo words found in *Fast and Furious 8* movie. The function of taboo words in this movie shows that the characters frequently use taboo language to interact and emphasize their emotion such as; to draw people's attention, to show contempt, to be provocative and to mock authority.

To draw attention become the dominant function of taboo words. Characters in *Fast and Furious 8* movie mostly use the function to draw people's attention more than other functions. Because it can represent the character's intention of using taboo words in some situations and contexts, such as; to notice something, to emphasize something or to cause someone to focus on something. In addition, taboo words that occur in everyday life or the movie can be interpreted depending on the situation, context, and way of conveying taboo words, as well as the response from the interlocutor when receiving words that are considered taboo.

For other researchers who want to analyze taboo words as the object can focus on other problems, such as social status issues or even gender issues which are analyzed based on the factor of the difference between male and female characters and the social class in the United States which are not conducted in this study.

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