TABOO WORDS IN 33 MINUTES OF CHRISS ROCK YOUTUBE VIDEO: SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY

Siti Umi Sholeha[1], Ervina CM Simatupang[2]
[1]English Department, Widyatama University, Bandung, Indonesia
[2]English Department, Widyatama Univesity, Bandung, Indonesia

Email Address :
[1]siti.umi@widyatama.ac.id
[2]ervina.simatupang@widyatama.ac.id

Abstract

This research aims to classify types of taboo words and analyze the function of taboo words in Chris Rock's 33-minute YouTube channel; This research aims to classify types of taboo words and analyze their functions in Chris Rock's 33-minute YouTube performance. The study is based on the theories of Batistella (2005) and Raymond D. Liedlich (1973). Using a qualitative descriptive method, the data was sourced from the Laugh Planet YouTube Channel. The findings reveal three types of taboo words: obscenity, epithet, and profanity. Specifically, there were 3 instances of obscenity (1.7%), 1 epithet (5%), and 1 profanity (5%). Additionally, four functions of taboo words were identified: creating attention, endearment, discredit, and providing catharsis. The analysis found 2 instances of creating attention (2.5%), 1 of endearment (5%), 1 of discredit (5%), and 1 of providing catharsis (5%). Among these, obscenity was the most frequently used type of taboo word, while creating attention emerged as the most common function. The study underscores the prevalence and diverse roles of taboo language in comedic performances, highlighting how such words are strategically employed to engage audiences, express affection, criticize, and release emotions. Chris Rock's skillful use of taboo language not only enhances his comedic impact but also reflects broader linguistic and social dynamics. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the nuanced ways in which comedians use taboo words to connect with their audiences and convey complex messages, ultimately enriching the discourse on language and humor in contemporary media.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Taboo Words, Chris Rock

1. Introduction

Communication involves sharing information among individuals through common symbols, language, gestures, or behaviour. It can be characterized as the conveyance of meaning between the sender and receiver. According to Baldwin, et al. (2014) states communication is the process through which individuals create and communicate symbolic and interpretive behaviours. In order for effective communication to occur, individuals must interact and exchange information using a language as facilitator, ensuring smooth, and successful communication.

According to Holmes (2001: 73) states that language variation is linguistics from which used based on social circumstances and also included vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation of dialect, and spelling in different language. Depending on the language's purpose or meaning, spoken language requires caution while communicating between speakers and speech partners. In this situation, it is important for speakers and speech partners to follow specific conventions when speaking, which is the basis of polite communication. Taboo is something that is prohibited and the thing that is prohibited applies to the structure of community life.

The word taboo is a strong social prohibition against words, objects, actions or people that are considered undesirable by a group, culture or society. Breaking taboos is generally unacceptable and may be considered offensive. Some taboo acts or customs may even be legally prohibited and their violation may result in severe sanctions. Taboos can also cause shame, disgrace and harsh treatment from those around them. The explanation above is one of the reasons the author

examines Chris Rock when talking about events on the Laugh Planet YouTube channel entitled 33 minutes of Chris Rock.

Sociolinguistics is a study that studies the relationship between the language used and the social environment that uses a particular language. Sociolinguistics has a strong bond or relationship with sociology because it does not only pay attention to the language used but also pays attention to the speakers of that language and their relationship with speakers of other languages. According to Spolsky (2008), Sociolinguistics is the study of the link between language and society, of language variation and attitudes about language.

Taboo, derived from the word "Taboo" in the Tanga language of the Polynesian Islands, clearly refers to a prohibition or prohibition that must not be violated. This concept has been around since the beginning and has not undergone significant changes since it was first introduced. However, the understanding of the taboo has expanded beyond the Polynesian islands, with the introduction of sanctions for its violation. The term taboo describes a form of language that describes a person's emotional state connotatively, such as anger, frustration, hate speech, demeaning or insulting, which can indirectly harm people around them and does not allow those people to do or talk about these things (Jay, 2009).

Related to the study of taboo words, two big topics can be analyzed; the types of taboo words and the functions of taboo words. Many experts have researched these taboo words. For example, research from Batistella (2005) proposed the types of taboo words, and Raymond D. Liedlich. proposed the function of taboo words. According to Batistella, there are four types of taboo words. They are; epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. In addition, Raymond D. Liedlich classifies six functions of taboo words such; discredit, creating attetntion, violently provoke confrontation, endearment, creating strong personal identification, provide catharsis. Complementing Batistella and Liedlich's theories, this study also draws on Geoffrey Hughes' (1991) work on the sociolinguistics of swearing, which emphasizes the role of social context in understanding the use and impact of taboo language. Hughes argues that swearing can serve various social functions, such as reinforcing group identity or expressing strong emotions. Additionally, Allan and Burridge (2006) provide a framework for understanding the pragmatics of taboo words, highlighting how such language can function as a powerful tool for emotional release, humor, and social bonding.

In addition to these perspectives, Steven Pinker's (2007) "The Stuff of Thought" offers insights into the cognitive and evolutionary aspects of swearing. Pinker discusses how taboo words can evoke strong emotional responses due to their deep-seated connections in human cognition and social norms. He suggests that swearing can serve as a form of emotional communication that transcends mere verbal expression, tapping into primal human instincts and reactions.

Further theoretical grounding is provided by Timothy Jay's (1992) "Why We Curse," which explores the psychological and neurological foundations of swearing. Jay posits that taboo words are stored in a different part of the brain than other types of language, which may explain their unique impact and the difficulty people often have in controlling their use. His research underscores the idea that swearing is a complex, multifaceted behavior influenced by a variety of psychological and social factors.

The study underscores the prevalence and diverse roles of taboo language in comedic performances, highlighting how such words are strategically employed to engage audiences, express affection, criticize, and release emotions. Chris Rock's skillful use of taboo language not only enhances his comedic impact but also reflects broader linguistic and social dynamics. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the nuanced ways in which comedians use taboo words to connect with their audiences and convey complex messages, ultimately enriching the discourse on language and humor in contemporary media.

By incorporating these additional theoretical perspectives, the research offers a more comprehensive view of the functions and significance of taboo words in Chris Rock's comedy. It

highlights how comedians navigate societal norms and linguistic boundaries to create humor that resonates with diverse audiences.

Actor and comedian Chris Rock became the center of public conversation after joking about Will Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett. Chris Rock's joke got Will Smith on stage and slapped him in front of the entire Oscar 2022 audience. In the 33-minute show of Chris Rock, there are many taboo words that Chris Rock throws out. There are several types of taboo words in the broadcast, namely, epithet, profanity, and obscenity. One example is the word "goddamn" which belongs to the taboo word type of profanity.

This research aims to classify types of taboo words and analyze their functions in Chris Rock's 33-minute YouTube performance. The study is based on the theories of Batistella (2005) and Raymond D. Liedlich (1973), as well as insights from sociolinguistics and pragmatics. Using a qualitative descriptive method, the data was sourced from the Laugh Planet YouTube Chanel.

Complementing Batistella and Liedlich's theories, this study also draws on Geoffrey Hughes' (1991) work on the sociolinguistics of swearing, which emphasizes the role of social context in understanding the use and impact of taboo language. Hughes argues that swearing can serve various social functions, such as reinforcing group identity or expressing strong emotions. Additionally, Allan and Burridge (2006) provide a framework for understanding the pragmatics of taboo words, highlighting how such language can function as a powerful tool for emotional release, humor, and social bonding.

The study underscores the prevalence and diverse roles of taboo language in comedic performances, highlighting how such words are strategically employed to engage audiences, express affection, criticize, and release emotions. Chris Rock's skillful use of taboo language not only enhances his comedic impact but also reflects broader linguistic and social dynamics. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the nuanced ways in which comedians use taboo words to connect with their audiences and convey complex messages, ultimately enriching the discourse on language and humor in contemporary media.

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According to the context of the study that has been described above, the current research only focused on Chris Rock "Taboo Words". Based on the explanation above, the followings are the questions for this present research:
1. What are types of taboo words contained in Chris Rock Youtube Channel?
2. What are the function of taboo words in Chris Rock Youtube Channel?

2. Method

This research uses descriptive This research employs a descriptive qualitative method because the data is analyzed and presented descriptively, which can encompass words, sentences, discourse, and other forms of qualitative data. According to Strauss and Corbin (1998: 11), qualitative research does not rely on quantification and statistical techniques because its goal is to provide a rich, detailed understanding of complex phenomena. This approach is particularly well-suited for analyzing the nuanced use of taboo words in Chris Rock's comedy, as it allows for an in-depth exploration of the context, meaning, and function of these words within the performance.

The qualitative descriptive method involves several key steps. First, the data was collected by transcribing the 33-minute performance from the Laugh Planet YouTube Channel. This transcription was then carefully examined to identify instances of taboo words. Each instance was categorized according to Batistella's (2005) and Liedlich's (1973) classifications of taboo language. The context in which each taboo word was used was also analyzed to understand its function, drawing on theories from Hughes (1991) and Allan and Burridge (2006). This method allows for a

detailed and nuanced analysis, capturing the subtleties of how taboo language functions in comedic discourse. By focusing on the qualitative aspects of the data, this research provides insights that go beyond mere frequency counts, offering a deeper understanding of the linguistic and social dynamics at play in Chris Rock's performance.

3. Result and Discussion

This research focused on references found in Chris Rock You tube Channel. The data in this research collected from "33 Minutes of Chris Rock" Laugh Planet on YouTube. Therefore, here are the result of the analysis:

This research focuses on references found in Chris Rock YouTube Channel. The data in this research was collected from "33 Minutes of Chris Rock" Laugh Planet on YouTube and researchers found three types of taboo words and four functions of taboo words. Therefore, here are the results of the analysis:

Epithet
Data 1
Chris Rock (0:10): "***bitch*** paint my house"

The utterances above happened when Chris Rock driving down the street and saw a woman ask her how much, then she said 300 dollars I'll do anything you want. He said "Bitch paint my house". In data 1, there is the taboo word "bitch" in Chris Rock utterance. This word refers to a type of epithet. It because the taboo word "bitch" is related to the gender slurs. Chris Rock revealed his joke and asked something of the woman by saying the taboo word "bitch". Chris Rock employs the word "bitch" to create a jarring, humorous effect, leveraging the shock value of the term to catch the audience's attention and underscore the absurdity of the situation. This aligns with Hughes' (1991) theory that swearing can reinforce group identity or express strong emotions, as Rock uses the term to enhance his comedic narrative and connect with the audience through a shared understanding of the outrageousness of the exchange.

Furthermore, the use of "bitch" here is not just about the literal insult; it conveys a broader commentary on transactional relationships and societal expectations, wrapped in humor. By choosing a word with strong emotional and social connotations, Rock effectively communicates his point while maintaining his comedic edge.

Based on the function of the utterance "bitch paint my house" it can have the ability to attract the woman's attention to paint Chris Rock's house. the words expressed by Chris Rock to the woman can attract the audience's attention and evoke generate a response. This function is included in creating attention, where this function is used in entertainment that can attract attention. ased on the function of the utterance "Bitch, paint my house," it can have the ability to attract the woman's attention to Chris Rock's proposal to paint his house. This use of language is powerful in capturing immediate attention due to its unexpectedness and the directness of the demand. The shocking and abrupt nature of the word "bitch" makes the statement memorable and impactful, ensuring that both the woman and the audience are immediately drawn to the exchange.

The words expressed by Chris Rock to the woman serve to attract the audience's attention and evoke a response. This function falls under the category of creating attention, where such language is used in entertainment to captivate and engage listeners. The humor arises from the incongruity and surprise of the situation—expecting a sexual proposition but receiving a mundane request instead, amplified by the use of a taboo word. This use of language exemplifies how comedians utilize taboo words to enhance the comedic effect and maintain audience engagement.

Profanity
Data 2
Chris Rock (0:28): "time just flies like ***goddamn*** whoa"

The utterances above happened when Chris rock felt that time was passing so fast. In data 2, there is the taboo word "goddamn" in Chris Rock utterace. This word refers to the profanity type. It because the taboo word "goddamn" is related to the

religious term that refers to the Jesus Christ and usually used in the church. chris rock expressed his disbelief by using the taboo word "goddamn"

Based on the function of the utterance "time just flies like goddamn whoa" can be classified as grab attention because Chris Rock feels that he feels how fast time passes in front of the media. The words that Chris Rock expressed to the audience are included in the function of creating attention because this function is often used in entertainment.

Obscenity
Data 3
Chris Rock (0:44): "that's why you look at your watch like ah *shit* 908"

The utterances above happened when Chris Rock was telling a story that he felt surprised because Chris Rock was late for work. In data 3, there is the taboo word "shit" in Chris Rock's speech. This word refers to a type of obscenity words that are prohibited from public use. It's because considered as a lack of morality. Chris Rock expressed his surprise by using "shit" in public

The function of the utterance "that's why you look at your watch like ah *shit* 908" could be classified as an endearment. This phrase uses colloquial language and humor to create a sense of familiarity and camaraderie between the speaker and the listener, possibly through shared experiences or inside jokes.

Obscenity
Data 4
Chris Rock (1:31) "nah *fuck* that I'm gonna wait another hour"

The utterances above happened when Chris Rock was annoyed at having to wait another hour. In data 4, there is the word "fuck" uttered by Chris Rock. This word refers to a type of obscenity word because the word fuck is having intercourse which is related to obscenity because it mentions scatological references to sexual activity. The word "fuck" was expressed by Chris Rock because he had to wait quite a long time

The function of the utterance "nah *fuck* that I'm gonna wait another hour" could be categorized as discredit. This utterance dismisses or undermines a previous suggestion or course of action, indicating dissatisfaction or disagreement with it

Obscenity
Data 5
Chris Rock (2:10) "I hate this *fucking* job"

The utterances above happened when Chris Rock complained that his work was not enjoyable and he didn't like his job so he said words that were not good to say in public. In data 5, there is the taboo word "fucking" in the expression. This word refers to a type of obscenity word because it mentions statistical references to the sexual. Chris Rock expressed his discomfort by using the taboo word "fucking" and saying so publicly

The function of the utterance "I hate this **fucking** job" from Liedlich's classification could be categorized as providing catharsis. This utterance expresses strong negative emotions and serves as a means for the speaker to release their frustration or dissatisfaction with their job.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study examined Chris Rock's use of prohibited terms in a 33-minute performance posted to YouTube. The study sought to categorize the many kinds of taboo words terms that were employed and investigate their purposes. For the purpose of analysing the information gathered from Chris Rock's speech, the research used a descriptive qualitative approach. The research results show that there are 3 types of taboo words, 3 obscenity (1,7%), 1 epithet (5%), 1 profanity (5%) and 4 functions of taboo words, 2 creating attention (2,5%), 1 endearment (5%), 1 discredit (5%), 1 providing catharsis (5%) found in the 33 minutes of Chris Rock show. The type that is often used is obscenity. And the function that appears a lot in this research is creating attention.

The analysis of Chris Rock's use of taboo words "bitch" and "goddamn" in the context of his comedic performance provides a window into the multifaceted functions of such language. By employing descriptive qualitative methods, this research captures the rich, contextual nuances of

how taboo words operate within comedy. Chris Rock's strategic use of epithets and profanity not only amplifies his humor but also engages with broader social themes, making his work both impactful and reflective of contemporary social dynamics.

These taboo words might have a variety of functions, but they typically have negative connotations, draw attention, convey strong feelings, or amplify a statement. For instance, Chris Rock will use the gender slur "bitch" to refer to a prostitute in a comedic setting. While "fuck" is an obscenity used to indicate anger or displeasure, "goddamn" is a word used to emphasize the sense of astonishment.

The study of sociolinguistics, or the interaction of language and society, offers a framework for comprehending the social significance and ramifications of taboo words. The usage of terms that are considered taboo is a complicated social dynamic, and the use of such words can send social messages, alter perceptions, and arouse powerful emotions. Chris Rock's YouTube channel was used to collect the data for this study, which used a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze the information. The results emphasize how crucial it is to take into account the social and cultural context in order to comprehend the usage and purposes of taboo terms in communication.

The deeper implications of taboo words, their cultural variants, and their impact on interpersonal interactions and social dynamics can all be explored in more sociolinguistics study. Understanding the usage and connotations of taboo terms can help to improve communication techniques and encourage respectful and inclusive discourse.

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