 **ENGLISH TABOO WORDS**

**Dwi Pebrina Sinaga1\*), Marlina Tampubolon2), Nurul Husnah Harahap3)**

1,2,3Akademi Manajemen Informatika dan Komputer Medicom

1dwipsng@gmail.com

2marlinatampubolon080990@gmail.com

3unaharahap@yahoo.com

*ABSTRACT*

The title of this study is English Taboo Words. Taboo is something that is considered prohibited to be said or done in certain communities or cultures. As taboo is related to culture, then taboo in each country is different as the culture in each country is different too. This study found out that taboo in western countries, for example America, tends to relate with identity and sex while taboo in eastern countries tend to relate with belief / myth. This finding is apparently because America is a country that values knowledge instead of myth and is a developed and free country, so the taboos in this country are almost like swear words. They use taboo words to show which groups are superior and inferior, to degrade other people, and to humiliate them by mentioning their race or sex.

Key words: taboo, English, American culture

|  |
| --- |
| **Article Info** |
| Received on: xxMaret 2020 | Revised on: xx April 2020 | Accepted on: xx Mei 2020 |

**PENDAHULUAN**

When talking about language, it will not be separated from culture. Sometimes the two cannot be separated and even affect each other. That's because culture shapes people's frame of mind, daily activities, how they perceive the world around them, other people, and their environment. Therefore culture can add color or style to the style of language used by them.

The example of the language style mentioned above that is influenced by culture is the word taboo. Taboo words are part of the language and products of society or culture. Taboo term could be in language, actions,views, beliefs are used to state that something are considered unfavorable so that they are not accepted in society.

In other words, taboo words are one of the types of words that can be said to be marginal, usually spoken to express one's feelings towards something. This relates to the sensitivity of society to certain things. In all societies, certain actions or behaviors are frowned upon, prohibited, or considered taboo. Words or expressions that refer to these taboo actions are then also avoided or considered "dirty". Language itself must not be obscene; rejection of certain words or linguistic expressions only reflects the culture of a particular society. Thus, it is important to remember that what is considered a taboo language is something that is determined by the culture and not by anything inherent in the language itself.

The explanation above tells us that the value in the use of language is largely determined by the culture that exists in a particular society. Culture can indeed influence how a person sees the world and how he thinks about it. Indeed culture determines whether a word is taboo or not, or how taboo or forbidden a word is. In addition, obscene and insulting words that people use reflect how they think about the society around them.

**AMERICAN CULTURE**

One of the countries whose mother tongue is English is the United States of America. The culture of the United States is of Western origin and is influenced by a multicultural ethos that includes African, Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Latin American peoples and their cultures. This combination gives America its distinct social and cultural characteristics, such as dialect, music, art, social customs, cuisine, and folklore.

This is supported by the fact that America is an immigrant country with an extraordinary diversity of cultures, people, music, food, and sports. Its fifty states cover most of North America, with Alaska to the northwest and Hawaii extending the country's presence into the Pacific Ocean. From the skyline of New York City and Chicago to the majesty of the Grand Canyon. this is happening against a backdrop of global citizens who have flocked to the US for generations to pursue their dreams. Pop culture is everywhere, sports and news dominate here. this is what makes American culture and traditions so varied by ethnicity, region, and religion.

In America the household has traditionally consisted of a mother, father, and two or more children. But today, families are increasingly diverse. Some are married without children, single-parent households, same-sex married couples, and couples who live together without getting married. Furthermore, their children may be given to their grandparents for care, especially if the parents are young and unmarried. In American culture, they tend to meet at dinner instead because dinner is considered the main meal so even if they are busy they usually meet at dinner.

Furthermore, American culture is shaped by Western European culture and is influenced by the multicultural ethos of American Culture which includes African, Native American, Asian, Polynesian, and Latin American peoples and their cultures. The United States has a unique lifestyle that draws on a nationalist ethos that adheres to the principles of freedom and pursuit of happiness. American culture promotes homogeneity in its diversity.

****

**FINDING**

The following table to show some samples of taboo words in English:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NO.** | **TABOO WORDS** | **LITERAL TRANSLATION** | **MEANING IN TABOO** |
| 1. | Bastarde.g. “You won? You are lucky bastard!” | An illegitimate child | I don’t think you deserve it |
| 2. | Jugse.g. “Waw! You got big jugs” | a cylindrical container with a handle and is used for holding and pouring liquids | Breast |
| 3. | Knobe.g. “Dude, zip your pants back up, your knob is hanging up”. | A cupboard | Penis |
| 4. | Binte.g. “ I hate you bloody bint” | A woman | Referring to a woman who the speaker doesn’t like |
| 5.  | Boongse.g. “I’m not going there, too many boongs” | A native of New Guinea | Racial slurs |
| 6. | Chinkse.g. “Can you ask those chinks to sleep” | Chinese person | Racial slurs |
| 7. | Bag e.g. “Hi, silly of bag!” | A kind of soft container | Insulting word |
| 8. | Bone e.g. “I want to bone that bitch” | A rigid tissue that constitutes part of the vertebrate skeleton in animals | Sexual intercourse |
| 9.  | Biddye.g.”Get out of the way, you old biddy” | Hen  | Silly or unpleasant |
| 10 | Bange.g. “won’t you bang with me?” | A fringe of hair cut straight across the forehead. | To have sex |
| 11. | Pig “all the pigs are coming” | An omnivorous domesticated hoofed mammal with sparse bristly hair and a flat snout for rooting in the soil, kept for its meat. | Police officer |
| 12. | Pillocke.g. “You pillock, look what you’ve done!” | A stupid person | Degrading person |
| 13. | Niggere.g. “I’m very sorry to cut your line nigger!” | People of specific racial or ethnic background of a black people | Racial slurs |
| 14.  | Bitch e.g. “You are such a beautiful bicth” | Female dog | An unkind or unpleasant woman |
| 15. | Dicke.g. “Don’t be such a dick” | Informal words for the sexual organs; penis | A stupid man |

**CONCLUSION**

The forms of English taboo words found in the finding are mostly about race (identity) and sex. The purpose is to humiliate other people or to show that the individuals, certain groups, or race are superior. Taboo might be different if we see in different country. Taboo in western countries tend to relate with identity and sex while taboo in eastern countries tend to relate with belief / myth. America is a country that values knowledge instead of myth and is a developed and free country, so the taboos in this country are almost like swear words. They use taboo words to show which groups are superior and inferior, to degrade other people, and to humiliate them by mentioning their race or sex.

**REFERENCES**

Argasetya, Shirley Maya. (2009). *Common Features of English Taboo Words*. Yogyakarta: TheGraduate Program In English Language Studies Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta.

Gao, C. (2013). *A Sociolinguistic Study of English Taboo Language*. Theory and Practice in Language Studies, Vol. 3, No. 12, pp. 2310-2314.

Lubis, Cindy Eliza Ramadhani, et al. (2020). *English Taboo Words in Sex Education TV Series*. Language Literacy: Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Language Teaching, Vol. 4, No. 2.

**Mosquera, Ingrid.** *Language and Culture: Two Sides of the Same Coin* in [https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/ingrid-mosquera-gende/language-culture-two- sides-same-coin](https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/ingrid-mosquera-gende/language-culture-two-%09sides-same-coin), accessed on November 11, 2021.

# Rabiah, Sitti. (2012). *Language as A Tool for Communication and Cultural Reality Discloser*. Yoyakarta: 1st International Conference on Media, Communication and Culture

# Zidni, M. I. (2020). *A Sociolinguistic Analysis of English Taboo Words On Far Cry 5 John Seed’s Chapter Game*. UAD: Biro Kemahasiswaan dan Alumni Universitas Ahmad Dahlan.

# <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americans>. *Americans.* Accessed on November 22, 2021.