



An Analysis of Taboo Words in Blink 182's Song Lyrics of "Enema of the State" Album

Suci Refika Wulan Sari

SMAN 1 Sungai Penuh, Provinsi Jambi

Abstract

This paper describes the findings of the study about taboo Words used in the Blink 182's song lyrics. The rationale was that taboo words are forbidden to be used in speaking and writing, but have recently become the subject of a specialized publication as they frequently appear in some contexts of speech, writing, speaking, and even in song. The objectives of the study were to find out what kinds of taboo words used in the Blink 182's song lyrics and how often taboo words appear in the Blink 182's song lyrics of *Enema of the State* album. descriptive qualitative method was used. All of the song lyrics in *Enema of the State* album (12 songs) were taken as the sample of the study. The data were then analyzed by using the procedures of data analysis by on Maleong: transcription, election, classification, interpretation, and conclusion. The findings indicated that the total words in all the song lyrics in *Enema of the State* album were 2.520 words. It consisted of 33 taboo words and 2.487 non-taboo words. Of 12 songs, 3 songs used non-taboo words. There are Aliens Exist, Adam's song, and Wendy Clear. These findings implied that taboo words starts gaining their popularity in songs.

Keywords: Taboo Words; Blink 182 Song Lyrics.

I. Introduction

Language as a tool of communication is essential among living creatures, particularly for human beings. The use of good language or standard language results in good relationship and helps the speaker to convey his feeling or his thought. On the other hand, the use of bad language may give bad impressions or even disgust in the society.

Bad impressions may derive from words called taboo words. Uttering of taboo words is still forbidden because many people think that they are deemed to be especially sacred, vulgar, and un culturally defined. In addition, most people think that taboo words may not be uttered at all because they are impolite, vulgar, and violate a moral code. As the results, a person who uses taboo words may be considered uneducated, immature, or immoral.

However, taboo words are favored. It is due to the fact that some taboo words are connected to the belief in the magical nature of the language and have power in themselves.

some musicians like to use taboo words in song lyrics to make the songs more interesting and different from others. Such facts make some taboo words widely used.

In this study, the researcher chooses Blink 182 band because it is one of the famous American Group bands which uses some of taboo words. Its music is mixture among rock, rap, and hip hop in one composition. This group band comes from San Diego, California, 1990. All of the personals of Blink 182 are white American. They are Mark Hoppus (bass/ vocals), Tom De Longe (guitar/ vocals), and Scott Raynor (drummer). Nevertheless in 1998, the original drummer Scott Raynor left the band and was replaced by Travis Barker (drummer).

Blink 182 had released many albums. Its first full-length album was *Cheshire Cat, on Grilled Cheese* in 1995. Later in 1996, it released *Map of the Universe* on Lime/ Parloplan. With 1997's *Dute Ranch*, a new dose of hard core thrash music, Blink 182 set out to conquer the heart and soul of America. The new line up appeared on *Enema of the State*, which hit record store shelves in the summer 1999. A live album was released in late fall 2000 followed by *Take Off Your Pants and Jacket* in June 2001. Among those albums, *Enema of the State* is the most famous album, and the cassettes have been sold thousand copies. With such big release and fame, this study wanted to find out the kinds of taboo words found in Blink 182's song lyrics and its types.

II. Review of the Related Literature

2.1 Definitions of Taboo Words

Oxford (1995: 1213) defines taboos as laws, norms, or personal beliefs specifying situations in which behaviors or topics should not be performed or communicated about. In addition, Oxford defines "Taboo words are words that are often considered offensive, shocking, or rude because they refer to sex, the body or race." Furthermore, Matthews (1997:371) defines "Taboo words are words known to speakers but avoided in some, most, or all forms or context of speech, for reasons of religion, decorum, politeness." Moreover, Fronkim (1993: 303) states "Certain words in all societies are considered taboo. They are not to be used, or at least, not in "polite company". The word "taboo" was borrowed from Tongan, a Polynesian language, in which it refers to acts that are forbidden or to be avoided." Eschholz (1978: 230) explains "In every language, there seems to be certain 'unmentionable-words' of such strong connotation that they cannot be used in a impolite discourse. The taboo words are words which are not to be used and forbidden talking about"

In short, taboo words are words that cannot be uttered at all whether it is in formal or informal situation because they against the norms. It also can give bad impacts to the users. It can be concluded that taboo words are forbidden to use in songs and conversations. In other words, it is forbidden to use or talk taboo words because they can violate a moral code. The people using them are considered uneducated or immature.

2.2 Kinds of Taboo Words

Fromkin (1990:269) says "Words relating to sex, sex organs, and natural bodily functions can be categorized as taboo words in many cultures". He further states three kinds of taboo words namely:

1. Words having to do with parts of the body.

The words having to do with anatomy or parts of the body usually have bad connotation and sound rough or dirty . Dealing with this, the use of such kinds of taboo words is prohibited in most society, especially among polite people. The examples of these words are breast, titties and motherfuckers.

2. Words having to do with sexual matters.

Sex or talking about sexual matters is also categorized as taboo, such as horny, pussy, mound. These kinds of words will create taboo meanings if they are used in sexual matters. As the consequence, in most communities this type of words cannot be spoken openly.

3. Swearing words

Someone tends to utter a particular term to express his anger or unpleasantness to someone else. Commonly, people will utter the word fuck. This word is a popular word of expressing anger. Other words of expressing the unpleasant feeling or anger can be bitch, ass, shit, and many others. These kinds of words are commonly called swearing.

Eschholz (1978) classifies taboo words into five categories. They are:

1. Sex and anatomy word

e.g.: ass, fuck.

2. Excretion and bodily function word

e.g.: shit, piss, a lot of crap

3. Religion word

e.g.: hell, damn.

4. Name word

e.g.: animal, dog.

5. Interesting word

e.g.: be hot, miss, love, making love, kiss.

Based on the explanation above, taboo word classifications used in this study were based on Eschholz's theory because the explanation of Fromkin about kinds of taboo words has been included in Eschholz theory.

III. Review of the Related Findings

There were previous researchers who have analyzed it. First, it was conducted by Rihana (1997) from Prayoga School of Foreign Languages in her thesis "Taboo-Words in a Modern Novel : A Preliminary Investigation". She analyzed the common taboo words which were available in the novel. Second, Panjaitan, Lidik and Eric, Syahrial and Kasmaini (2013) from Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Universitas Bengkulu in their journal, entitled "A Sociolinguistics Analysis of Taboo Words In " Kreayshaw'n" Song Lyrics". They analyzed each taboo word based on its categories and relation with sociolinguistics. Next, Yasa Febrianuswantoro and Emalia Iragiliati (2013) from State University of Malang on their article about "The Use of Taboo Words Between Main Characters seen In Conviction Movie". This article was aimed at identifying taboo words and linguistic forms of taboo words which were related to sexual organs, the supernatural, excretion, religious matters, and death. The data of this study were taken from Conviction movie and analyzed based on theory of impoliteness (Culpeper, 1996), taboo words and face work (Brown and Levinson, 1987). The result showed that not all taboo words indicated positive impoliteness superstrategy. These previous studies were as the guidance in this research in order to ease the witer in doing her analysis

IV. Methods of the Research

This research was conducted through descriptive qualitative research. Bobby (2004: 01) defines that "A descriptive study reports the way things are. It is also used to summarize, organize and simplify data". Gay (2005:208) also states: "Descriptive research involves collecting numerical data to test hypotheses or answer question concerning current status conducted either through self-reports collected through questionnaires or interviews... or through observation". The statement above means that descriptive method is a research method in collecting data through interviews, questionnaires, or observation.

Then, Patton (1990: 372) defines: "... qualitative analysis is a new stage of fieldwork in which analysis must observe their own processes even as they are doing the analysis. The final obligations of analysis are to analyze and report of actual findings. The extent of such reporting will depend on the purpose of the study. Equally, Picciano (2005: 01) defines that: Qualitative research is empirical research, in which the research explores the relationship using textual, rather than quantitative data, case study, observation, and ethnography. Results are not usually considered generalizable, but are often transferable. Gay (2005: 208) defines "Qualitative research is the collection and analysis of extensive narrative data to gain insights into a situation of interest not possible using other types of data."

It can be concluded that descriptive qualitative research uses observation as one of the ways to collect data. Nonparticipant observation was used in the process of collecting data.

Population of this research was taboo words in Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the States" album. The sample was Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the States" album published in 1999. It was total sampling. It means that all of the songs were as the sample (12 songs). The data were collected by using the observation instrument. This technique was used to make easy in getting data directly. Therefore, the data gained were valid and objective..

In collecting the data, the researcher used *simak* technique. According to Mahsun (2005: 90),

"Teknik sadap yaitu menyadap penggunaan bahasa secara lisan maupun tulisan, teknik simak bebas libat cakap yaitu si peneliti hanya berperan sebagai pengamat penggunaan bahasa oleh para informannya and teknik catat yaitu mencatat beberapa bentuk yang relevan bagi penelitiannya bagi penggunaan bahasa secara tertulis".

In addition, Mahsun (2005: 92) states

"Apabila peneliti berhadapan dengan penggunaan bahasa secara tertulis, dalam penyadapan itu peneliti hanya dapat menggunakan teknik catat sebagai gandingan teknik simak bebas libat cakap".

Therefore, based on the explanation above, the researcher listened and read the text of the Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album in the tape recorder. The researcher then gave a sign the taboo words of the Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album in each category.

The data were analyzed based on Maleong's theory. There were five steps: transcribing, verifying, classifying, interpreting, and concluding as in the following:

1. Writing the transcription of the Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album.
2. Verifying the Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album.
3. Classifying the Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album into five categories, sex and anatomy words, excretion and bodily function words, religion words, name words, and interesting words by using tally to know the frequency of each type appearance.
4. Interpreting the Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album of each class.
5. Making the conclusion.

V. Findings

The data were picked up from Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album. In analysing them, the researcher used Eschholz's theory which classifies taboo words into five types namely sex and anatomy word, excretion and bodily function word, religion word, name word, and interesting word.

The following table exhibited the total of taboo words and non-taboo words in Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album.

Table 1. Total of Taboo Words and Non-Taboo Words

NO.	Title of the Songs	Taboo Words	Non-taboo Words	Total Words
1	Dumpweed	2	209	211
2	Don't leave me	1	106	107
3	Aliens exist	0	208	208
4	Going away to college	5	165	170
5	What's my age again ?	5	251	256
6	Dysentery Gary	7	229	236
7	Adam's song	0	222	222
8	All the small thing	1	149	150
9	The party song	6	389	395
10	Mutt	2	162	164
11	Wendy clear	0	137	137
12	Anthem	4	260	264
	Total	33	2487	2520

There were 12 songs of Blink 182 album entitled "Enema of the State" published in 1999, in 70:14 minutes duration of all songs. The total words were 2520; they are 33 taboo words and 2487 non-taboo words. From 12 songs, the writer found 3 songs lyrics without taboo words. They were Aliens Exist, Adam's song, and Wendy clear.

The frequency of the kinds of taboo words in Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album can be seen as follow:

Table 2. Frequency of Taboo Words Appeared in Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album

NO.	Kinds of Taboo Words	Taboo Words	Frequency	
			Tally	Number
1	Sex and Anatomy words	Fuck/Fucken, Ass, Sex,/ sexual, Sodomy, tit, and Porn		13
2	Excretion and Bodily Function words	Bitch, Suck, and Underwear		5
3	Religion Words	Hell and Swear		7
4	Name Words	Dog and Mutt		3
5	Interesting Words	Love and Kiss		5
	Total			33

The detail classification from the kinds of taboo words found in blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album can be seen as follow:

Table 3. Classification of Taboo in Words Blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album

No	Kinds of Taboo Words	Taboo Words	Frequency	
			Tally	Number

1.	Sex and anatomy words	Fuck/ Fucken	6
		Ass	2
		Sex/ Sexual	2
		Sodomy	1
		Tit	1
		Porn	1
2.	Excretion and bodily function words	Bitch	1
		Suck	2
		Underwear	2
3.	Religion words	Hell	4
		Swear	3
4.	Name words	Dog	2
		Mutt	3
5.	Interesting words	Love	4
		Kiss	1
Total			33

Based on the result above, the most dominant taboo words were sex and anatomy words (fucket/ fuck, ass,sex/sexual, sodomy, tit, and porn) followed by rigion words (hell and swer), excretion and bodily function words (bitch,suck and underwear), interesting words (love and kiss) and last name words (dog and mutt) Almost all kids of taboo words were used and become the dominantin blank 182's song lyrics of " Enema of the State" album. The data were interpreted more detail starting from the dominant one.

4.1 Sex and Anatomy Word

Data 1:

Dumpeed : She's a dove, she's a fucken nightmare

Dissentery Gary : He's a fucken wesel.

Fuck the guy who took and run way

Fuck this place,I lost the war,I hate you all, your mom's a whore.

The amount of the word fuck/ fucken in the song lyricks were six. Actually,there were some definitions of the word fuck/fucken. In dictionary (webster:2000) the researcher found the meaning of fuck/fucken. They are a person with whom one engages in sexual intercourse or used to express anger, disappointment, and frustration.

Based one the data above, the word fuck/fucken means expressing of anger, disappointment, and frustration. It cn be seen from the context that they show anger to a person to a place. This taboo word is often used people to show their anger.

Data 2:

Don't leave Me : She said "don't let my door hiy your ass".

Going Away to College : I acted like an ass.

The word ass means the buttocks or anus and a stupid or silly person. The taboo word ass in the song lyrics "Don't Leave Me" shows the part of our body that cannot be said in the context of speaking or songs except in certain situation like in medical context.

The taboo word ass in the song lyrics "Going Away to Collage" means a stupid or silly person. Using this word is not polite. It is not the problem for people who do not know English very well. They sing the songs whether they know meaning or not. Perhaps they use the word in daily life.

Data 3:

The Party Song : where I put on some porn or have a sex on the phone
Mutt : He's not that old, I've been told strong sexual goal.

When the first time we hear the word sex/ sexual, the thing that comes to our mind is always negative perception even though sex has another meaning, that is, gender or state of being male or female. However, based on the data 3 above, sex/ sexual means anything connected with sexual gratification or reproduction or the urge for these especially the attraction of those of one sex for those of the other.

In this song lyrics, it is clear that this word is described as taboo because it is connected with sexual gratification or reproduction. The use of this word in song lyrics makes someone imagine what they should not imagine.

Data 4:

What's My Age Again? : This state looks down on sodomy.

Sodomy means any sexual intercourse held to be abnormal (anal intercourse especially between two male). This taboo word used in the song lyrics brings teenagers in abnormal sexual intercourse. It can be homosexual or lesbian. Some people who do not know about this will try or practice to someone else that makes the number of criminals increase.

This crime often happens to children who are still studying in elementary school and junior high school. They do this crime by watching and listening the taboo things without knowing and understanding the meaning of what they do.

Data 5:

The Party Song : Her volume of make up her fake tits were tasteless.

Another word for tit is women's breast; this sense of vulgar. Using the word tit shows one of the woman's individual anatomy which cannot be said in this condition as the word has the vulgar meaning. It can be seen from the word tasteless that makes the meaning of tit become more and more vulgar.

Data 6:

The Party Song : Where I'd put on some porn or have sex on the phone.

Porn is a short form of pornography or Pornographic which means writings and pictures intended primarily to arouse sexual desire. It is quite dangerous for children and teenagers since it is the first step for them to know something taboo, vulgar and dirty things. They will start to write, see, and act for young generation and then gives influence to the country that will make the country destory.

Religion Word

Data 7:

Going Away to College : But I'd go thought hell for you.

What's My Age Again? : what the hell is ADD

What the hell is call ID

What the hell is wrong is wrong with me?

The word hell, related to religion, has something to do with a place. It is believed in some religions to be the home of devils and wicked people after death. The word, hell, becomes taboo because it uses in wrong event. In these song lyrics, it is used to express annoyance. Only uneducated person uses this word.

Data 8:

Antheme: I'll pack my bags I swear I'll run-wish my friends were 21.

In dictionary, the meaning of the word swear is to say or promise something very seriously or to use offensive words, especially when being angry. In the text above, we can use both of the meaning of the word. Besides, the word swear also shows the feeling of a person's anger.

Interesting Word

Data 9:

Going Away to Collage : To fall in love or break it off.
And if young love is just a game.

Dysentery Gary : Cause I love your little motions.

The Party Songs : I wasn't out looking for love or affection.

Love means a strong feeling of deep affection for something. There are many kinds of love namely love to ourselves, love to parents, love to friends, love to special friends and love to many others. In this case, the song lyrics talk about love to special friend. It can be a boy who loves a girl or a girl who loves a boy. It means that they have strong feeling to each other and the feeling is meaningful.

Data 10:

Going Away to Collage : She kissed me after class.

The word kiss is categorized into taboo word classified into interesting words. Looking at the meaning of the word, kiss, directly means to touch something with the lips to show love, affection, or respect, or as greeting. From the sentence, they are not spouse, but they kiss one another. When a woman kisses a man, it is forbidden to do this in some cultures. Kissing can be done o to parents, to children, or to someone else. In this sense kissing is not taboo because the meaning is just to say greeting or to respect.

Excretion and Bodily Function Word

Data 11:

What's My Age Again? : And that's about the time that bitch hung up on me.

Lexically, bitch is a woman, especially a cruel and unpleasant one. It means that a woman who has bad attitude and behavior that make people look down to her. The word bitch is used to insult someone especially woman, to complain something unkind and unpleasant.

Data 12:

Dysentery Gary : Life just sucks, I lost the one, I'm giving up she found someone.

All the Small Thing : Work sucks, I know.

The word suck is often used when someone gets angry to someone or something. In the dictionary (Oxford: 2004: 1211) suck means an act of sucking (at something) or to squeeze or roll something with the tongue while holding it in the mouth.

In the phrase above, life just sucks has the taboo meaning of as the word gives negative meaning. This word influences their identity (good becomes bad), arranges their life (educated becomes uneducated), and influences their attitude (moral becomes immoral).

Data 13:

The Party Song : she wasn't wearing underwear at least I prayed. She wasn't wearing underwear and you'll discover.

Clothes worn under other clothes and next to the skin are called underwear. They can be bra, pants, and tights. The word underwear become taboo affected the word before, she wasn't wearing underwear, the word can make people imagine something that should not

imagined. It can cause many people to be an immoral and make the number of criminals and free sex increase fast.

Name words

Data 14:

Dysentery Gary : where is my dog? Girls are you such a drug.

Anthem : I think he humped the dog.

Dogs, a common animal with four legs, are often kept by human beings as pets, hunters, and guards. they may also be wild. In the sentence above, the word dog means implicitly as male of female person, especially one who has done something unpleasant or wicked comparing bitch.

Using the word dog in the sentence above is very terrible because it has negative meaning to describe someone in wrong position. This influences the teenagers in choosing the right word to speak.

Data 15:

Mutt (title of the song)

Mutt means a breed dog. Using one of the names of the animals as the title of the song makes the song become unvalued for some people. They can look down to the song, to the singer, and to the creator of the song. Many people who have relation in making this song can also get bad influence since the quality of the song can be judge from the title.

VI. Conclusion

After analyzing the taboo words in Blink 182's song lyrics "Enema of the State" album, two conclusions can be drawn. Firstly, the total words in blink 182's song lyrics of "Enema of the State" album are 2520; they are 33 taboo words and 2488 non-taboo words. From 12 songs only three songs do not use taboo words. Secondly, the kinds of taboo words are sex and anatomy word, excretion and bodily function word, religion word, name word and interesting word. And the most dominant taboo words are sex and anatomy word then followed by religion word, excretion word and bodily function word, interesting word and last name words.

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