

**A GENDER ANALYSIS OF TABOO WORDS UTTERED BY  
MALE AND FEMALE CHARACTERS IN *13 REASONS WHY***

**THESIS**

Presented to

Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S)

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**UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG**

**2019**

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I state that the thesis I wrote entitled “A Gender Analysis of Taboo Words Uttered by Male and Female Characters in *13 Reasons Why*” is truly original of my work. It does not incorporate to any works as previously proposed by others researchers, except those written as quotation and reference. As a matter of fact, I am the only one who is responsible for this current study if there is any objection or claim from the others.

Malang, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019



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## APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that Bob Bimantara Leander's thesis entitled "A Gender Analysis of Taboo Words Uttered by Male and Female Characters in *13 Reasons Why*" serial movie has been approved by the Board of Examiners as partial fulfillment of requirement for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S) in English Letters Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

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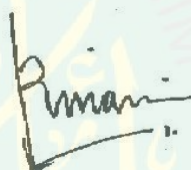
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Malang, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

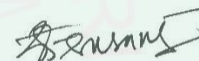
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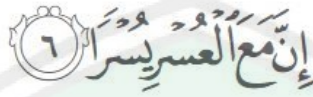
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## MOTTO



Indeed, with hardship [there will be] ease

(The Koran: Al-Insyirah: 5)

“Your future is what you have done in the past”



## DEDICATION

This thesis is especially dedicated to My beloved mother, Sulidawati, my lovely father, Reymon who always give me spirit, support, prayer, and love. In addition,

For my beloved brothers Erlangga Bagaskara Leander Gibran Dirgantara Leander who support me while I am doing this thesis. Lastly, this thesis is proudly dedicated to my best friends, Da Silva Ari, S.H. Nasru Ilahiyati Elsa Sri Endahwati who accompany me and help me to finish this thesis.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

All praises and thanks are delivered to Allah S.W.T., the holy, the most greatest, and one and only God in this universe Without His help and merciful, I would not finish this thesis as Allah S.W.T. always guided me to the right way in finishing this thesis. Then, blessing and salutation are always recited for the mesengger of God, Muhammad S.A.W., whose his guidance always insisted on all of the time.

I would never finish my thesis if there are helps of some people. I, therefore, would like to send my gratitude to them. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to all lecturers of English Letters Department who have taught me since I was in the first semester. Secondly, I would send my gratitude to my advisor, Prof. Dr. H. Mudjia Rahardjo, M.Si. who has guided, taught, and directed me during the process of finising my thesis.

Additionally, I would like to send my gratitude to all of my best friends, Da Silva Ari, S.H., Nasrul Ilahiyati, and Elsa Sri Endahwati who had accompanied me during the time I work on my thesis.

At last, I believe that in writting and finisihing this thesis, there are errors and mistakes. Therefore, I openly accept any critique, opinion and suggestion from the readers.

Malang, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Bob Bimantara Leander

## ABSTRACT

Bimantara, Bob. 2019 “*A Gender Analysis of Taboo Word Uttered by Male and Female Characters in 13 Reasons Why*”. Thesis. English Letters Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim.

Advisor : Prof. Dr. H. Mudjia Rahardjo, M.Si.

Key words: *Taboo word, Gender, 13 Reasons Why*

Taboo word is a word that should be avoided as it would give an anxiety embarrassment to the interlocutors when it is employed. Taboo words itself, according to Battistella (2005), has 4 types, i.e. obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, and epithet and according to Jay (1992), 5 functional categories, i.e. anger/frustration, descriptive-evaluative, joke, surprise, and insult or sarcastic irony. In this study, those types and functions of taboo word is used to analyze the use of taboo word by male and female characters in *13 Reasons Why*.

This present study aims to find out what type of taboo word uttered by either male and female characters in *13 Reasons Why* as well as what function of taboo word uttered by male and female characters. *13 Reasons Why* is selected as an object of this study for this serial movie depicts the depression, anxiety, and sexual abuse occurred in teenagers' life.

The descriptive qualitative is used to conduct this study. The researcher describes comprehensively the phenomenon of taboo word occurred in *13 Reasons Why* in the form of phrase, word, or sentence. In order to obtain the data, the researcher uses note-taking technique in which he listens to all episodes of *13 Reasons Why* and selects sentence contained taboo word. Then, the researcher classifies the data into four types of taboo proposed by Battistella word and functions of taboo word by Jay as well as its gender. After that, the data are analysed and discussed in order to answer two research questions. Eventually, the researcher draws a conclusion from finding and discussion part.

Based on finding and discussion part, either male and female characters use all of type of taboo word. Male characters use more frequently obscenity with 147 times more than the other types. While, in female characters, profanity becomes the most dominant type of taboo word employed with 33 times. This is because woman are opt for using less explitive word such as *god* or *jesus*. In term of its function, anger/frustration is dominantly used by male characters with 124 data found. On the other hand, surprise is the most frequent functional category in female characters with 32 data. Joke, meanwhile, is the rarest functional category used by either male and female characters since the genre of this serial movie is mystery instead of comedy.



## ABSTRAK

Bimantara, Bob. 2019 “ *Sebuah analisis gender dalam penggunaan kata tabu oleh karakter perempuan dan pria di 13 Reasons Why* ”. Thesis. English Letters Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Pembimbing : Prof. Dr. H. Mudjia Rahardjo, M.Si.

Kata Kunci : Kata Tabu, Gender, *13 Reasons Why*

Kata tabu adalah sebuah kata yang musti dihindari karena pemakaiannya dapat memberikan perasaan tidak aman bagi pendengar saat kata tabu diucapkan. Kata tabu sendiri, menurut Battistella (2005), mempunyai 4 tipe, yakni obscenity, profanity, vulgarity dan epithet dan menurut Jay (1992), taboo mempunya 5 kategori fungsi, yakni . anger/frustration, descriptive-evaluative, joke, surprise, and insult or sarcastic irony. Di thesis ini, tipe dan fungsi dari tabu digunakan untuk menganalisis kegunaan tabu pada karakter perempuan dan pria di *13 Reasons Why*

Studi ini bertujuan untuk menemukan tipe dan fungsi kata tabu yang diujarkan oleh karakter perempuan dan laki-laki di *13 Reasons Why*. *13 Reasons Why* dipilih sebagai objek dari studi ini karena serial film itu menggambarkan depresi, ketakutan dan kekerasan sexual yang dialami remaja.

Descriptive qualitative digunakan untuk membangun thesis ini. Penulis mendeskripsikan fenomena kata tabu di *13 Reasons Why* dalam bentuk frasa, kata, dan kalimat. Dalam mengambil data, penulis menggunakan teknik simak-catat dimana penulis mendengar dan menyeleksi kalimat yang mengandung kata tabu. Kemudian, penulis mengklasifikasikan data ke dalam fungsi dan tipenya. Kemudian, penulis menganalisis data dan mendiskusikan untuk menjawab dua pertanyaan studi. Akhirnya penulis membuat suatu konklusi dari penemuan dan diskusi.

Berdasarkan bagian penemuan dan diskusi, perempuan atau laki-laki menggunakan 4 tipe kata tabu. Karakter laki-laki sering menggunakan obscenity, yakni 147 kali. Sementara, perempuan lebih sering menggunakan tipe profanity, yakni 33 kali. Hal itu dikarenakan perempuan cenderung memilih kata-kata yang tidak terlalu kasar, seperti *tuhan* atau *jesus*. Di sisi lain, surpris merupakan fungsi yang sering digunakan karakter perempuan, Joke, di sisi lain, adalah fungsi yang jarang ditemui di laki-laki atau karakter perempuan karena genre dari seri film ini misteri bukan komedi.

## مستخلص البحث

بيمانتارا ، بوب. 9102 "تحليل جنساني في استخدام المحرمات من قبل شخصيات من الذكور والإناث في 01 سبب لماذا". أطروحة. قسم الحروف الإنجليزية ، كلية العلوم الإنسانية ، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الحكومية الإسلامية في مالانج.

الملشرف: مودجيا راهرادجو.

الكلمات المفتاحية: (Taboo word, Gender, 13 Reasons Why)

كلمة التابو هي كلمة ينبغي تجنبها لأنها ستعطي محادثة قلق للمحاورين عند توظيفها. تحتوي كلمات (9112) ، على 4 أنواع ، مثل الفحش والألفاظ النابية والسطحية Battistella المحرمات نفسها ، وفقاً ل والسمات وفقاً لجاي (0229) ، 2 فئات وظيفية ، مثل الغضب / الحباط ، التقييم الوصفي ، النكتة ، المفاجأة ، وإهانة أو السخرية الساخرة. في هذه الدراسة ، يتم استخدام تلك الأنواع والوظائف من كلمة المحرمات للإغاء استخدام كلمة المحرمات من قبل شخصيات من الذكور والإناث في 01 سبب.

تهدف هذه الدراسة الحالية إلى معرفة نوع كلمة المحرمات التي نطق بها أي من الذكور والإناث في 01 أسباب ، وكذلك وظيفة كلمة المحرمات التي نطق بها الذكور والإناث. 01 أسباب لماذا يتم اختيار ككائن من هذه الدراسة لهذا الفيلم المسلسل يصور الكتاب والقلق والعتداء الجنسي التي حدثت في حياة المراهقين.

يتم استخدام النوعية الوصفية إجراء هذه الدراسة. يصف الباحث بشكل شامل ظاهرة كلمة المحرمات التي حدثت في 01 سبب لماذا في شكل عبارة أو كلمة أو جملة. من أجل الحصول على البيانات ، يستخدم الباحث أسلوب تدوين الملاحظات الذي يستمع فيه إلى جميع الحلقات المكونة من 01 سبباً ، ويختار الجملة المحظورة بكلمة المحرمات. بعد ذلك ، يصنف الباحث البيانات في أربعة أنواع من المحرمات التي تقترحها كلمة باتيستيل ووظائف كلمة المحرمات التي كتبها جاي وكذلك جنسها. بعد ذلك ، يتم تحليل البيانات ومناقشتها لإجابة على سؤالين بحثيين. في النهاية ، يستخلص الباحث من جزء البحث والمناقشة.

استناداً إلى جزء البحث والمناقشة ، يستخدم كل من الذكور والإناث كل أنواع كلمات المحرمات. تستخدم الشخصيات الذكورية الفحش بشكل متكرر أكثر بـ 041 مرة من الأنواع الأخرى. بينما ، في الشخصيات الأنثوية ، فإن الألفاظ النابية تصبح أكثر أنواع كلمات المحرمات شيوعاً والتي تستخدم 11 مرة. وذلك لأن المرأة تختار استخدام كلمة أقل إثارة مثل هلا أو يسوع. من حيث وظيفتها ، يتم استخدام الغضب / الحباط بشكل كبير من قبل شخصيات ذكرية مع العثور على 094 بيانات. من ناحية أخرى ، تعتبر المفاجأة هي الفئة الوظيفية الأكثر شيوعاً في الشخصيات الأنثوية التي تحتوي على 19 بيانات. وفي الوقت نفسه ، من أكثر الفئات الوظيفية أندراً التي تستخدمها شخصيات من الذكور والإناث أن هذا الفيلم Joke تعد المسلسل هو الغموض بدلاً من الكوميديا

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>THESIS TITLE .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>APPROVAL SHEET .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>LEGITIMATION SHEET .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>MOTTO .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>DEDICATION .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>ABSTRAK .....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT .....</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>1.1 Background of the Study .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 Statements of the Problem .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1.3 Objectives of the Study .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1.4 Scope and Limitation .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1.5 Significances of the Study .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1.6 Definition of Key Terms .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1.7 Research Method .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1.7.1 Research Design .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1.7.2 Data Source .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>1.7.3 Research Instrument .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>1.7.4 Data Collection .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>1.7.5 Data Analysis .....</b>	<b>13</b>

## CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF RELATED STUDY

<b>2.1 Taboo .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2.2 Taboo Word.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2.3 The Concept of Taboo Word .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2.4 Type of Taboo Word.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2.5 Function of Taboo Word .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2.6 Gender Terminology.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>2.7 Gender Differences in Communication.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>2.8 Gender in Using Taboo Word .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>2.9 Previous Studies .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>CHAPTER III: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>3.1 Findings.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>3.2 Discussion.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION</b>	
<b>4.1 Conclusion .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>4.2 Suggestion .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b>	

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter would discuss about the background of the study, research question, the objective of the study, scope and limitation, signification of the study, the definition of key terms and eventually research method.

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

People, in their life, inevitably need others in their life, as they are social-being. They obviously must build a relationship by making social contact with the others in society. In doing so, language plays an essential part in bridging people by communicating. To succeed that communication, people use language to persuasive and share their, thought, emotion, and feel to others. Hence, by using language, two people could understand each other. As Rahardjo (2015) stated, language is symbolic sounds based on a rule which is consented and developed by its users.

Not only to succeed the communication, but language is also personally used by people to show their identity and personality to the others unconsciously (Chaika, in Anggita; 2015). Therefore, when they encounter a dull conversation, they tend to use an attractive language to maintain the conversation running well. On the other hand, when they are sad or angry, they use a strong language to release their emotions. In such case, occasionally people use a word categorized as taboo since taboo is a powerful word (Turdgill, 2000; 19).

Taboo itself is a word that should be avoided in communication. As Allan & Burrridge (2006, p.1) stated taboo arise out of social constraints on the individual's



behavior where it can cause discomfort, harm or injury since people are at metaphysical risk when dealing with sacred persons, objects and places; they are at physical risk from powerful earthly persons, dangerous creatures and disease. Furthermore, Allan and Burridge also said, taboo or tabu, which is originally from the Tongan term, as a person, object, or act that must be avoided for it is dangerous. if people, hence, are still using taboo language in making social contact, their act would, in some jurisdictions, be counted as crime, especially for blasphemy or obscenity and also it is categorized as impoliteness (Wardhaugh; 2001; p. 239).

People sometimes unavoidably have to speak taboo words on some occasions, as it has functions as a joke, catharsis, and releasing stress (Jay in Ningjue, 2013). In minimizing the negative impact, people employ euphemism to replace taboo. It is the way people to say taboo words in a soften way (Wardhaugh; 2006; 238). For example, instead of directly speaking fuck, English use f-words to avoid the taboo word, c-words for cunt, and, in blasphemy, gosh would be used to not say directly god.

Since taboo is regarded as impoliteness (Wardhaugh; 2006, 239), the study of taboo is necessary to be analyzed. It would help people to establish good communication with others in a particular society. Furthermore, due to the correlation between language and culture (Rahardjo; 2015), the categorization of taboo words is also different in every society. For example, in China, talking about zodiac is categorized as taboo (Ren in Jing-Schmidt; 2018). However, in the Arabian community, talking ability and talents are regarded as taboo (Sa'd; 2017). Therefore, it would need to scrutinize the use of taboo in a society in order to find

out taboo applied there. As given fact, the researcher is triggered to do analysis, in this study, the use of taboo words in American society.

As language is used to show the identity, in gender case, the use of language between male and female, are also different (Wardough, 2006; p. 317). For example, in a conversation, a woman tends to be polite, and collaborative, indirect. On the other hand, man is more competitive, direct, and straight. As Cheshire and Trudgill in Coates (2013) stated, man opt for style showing its power in communication, while woman tries to pursue a style of communication-based on solidarity.

In this study, the researcher would focus on the use of taboo words in gender for, in Indonesia context, the previous researchers mostly focused on only the use of taboo regardless of gender (Anggita; 2015, Indrayasa; 2018, Taufiq; 2017, Wibowo; 2008). Therefore, in order to broaden the sight of the study of taboo the researcher is motivated to conduct the research related to gender and taboo which is still new in Indonesia researcher.

In the use of taboo words, male and female have a different attitude towards taboo. On one hand, male would speak taboo words more than female do and male has more vocabularies of curse words rather than female's (Timothy in Gao; 2008). Furthermore, if it comes to mixed-gender conversation, the frequency of taboo words uttered by a male would significantly decrease. Conversely, a female would speak more taboo words in a mixed-gender situation (Coates, 2013; 13). However, some of those theories did not correspond with the findings of recent studies

(Ningjue; 2010, Gao; 2008). Hence, in this study, it would be worthy to analyze gender in using taboo words.

In this study, as has been explained above about taboo and gender, the researcher would like to link these two theories in analyzing a serial American movie titled 13 Reasons Why. Furthermore, the researcher focuses on the use and functions of taboo words uttered by male and female characters and also the purposes of male and female characters in using taboo words.

13 Reasons Why is a phenomenal serial movie produced by Netflix.inc. In the first week of its release, it has more than 3.5 million social volume impressions. Furthermore, according to Nielsen (Reporters, 2018), an American global information data and measurement company, there were more than six million US viewers saw the first episode of 13 Reasons Why after 3 days of its release. Secondly, this serial film has been nominated as a favorite TV show in People Choice Award, USA (2018). With its topic about teenagers, this serial TV tries to depict the real life of teenagers in US in struggling against depression. Furthermore, Brito (2017) stated, 13 Reasons why not only focus on the individual reasons why someone committed suicide, but it also focus on how rape, slut shaming, drug abuse, stalking, and how human error can lead someone to commit suicide.

As 13 Reasons Why contain suicide, rape, and drug abuse done by teenagers, the researcher is triggered to analyze the use of taboo words uttered by male and female characters in that serial movie. In this study the researcher used theory of Battistella (2005) to map the type of taboo words uttered by the character. According to

Batistella, there are 4 types of taboo words; 1. Epithets, taboo words which refer to race, gender, and ethnicity. This kind of taboo words is short but powerful when it is used in conversation. The examples of epithet are nigger, bitch, faggot, and slut, 2. Profanity refers to religion such as God, Goddamn it, Jesus Christ!. This kind of taboo words, however, is unlike, blasphemy as it is not intended to derogate or attack a religion, 3. Vulgarity is taboo word which reflects the crudeness of language use. This type of taboo words refers to sexual anatomy or exertion such as tits, dick, and ass, 4. Obscenity is similar with vulgarity. However, this type of taboo words is not used to downgrade the object referred to. The best examples of obscenity words are fuck and shit.

Furthermore, in analyzing the function of taboo words, the researcher uses Jay's theory (1992). Jay (1992; 63) stated that there five functional categories in using taboo words; 1. anger/frustration is used by the speakers to show his anger or/and frustration to someone or an event. The example of this function is when a boy almost makes a goal but the ball only met the wod and then he uttered the words "what the f\*\*k", 2. descriptive-evaluative is functioned to describe or evaluative denotatively or connotatively. For example, the phrase "she beats out of h\*\*l him". The word h\*\*l was used in that sentence to intensify the description that she made an extra physical energy to beat him, 3. Joke is an attempt to make a humorous statement by employing a taboo word which mostly refers to an exertion or sexual anatomy of someone else, 4. Surprise is used by speakers to show that he/she was shocked or surprised by someone or an event. This functional category is mostly

used profanity words such as Je\*\*s, oh my g\*d, or G\*dd\*\*nit, 4. Sarcastic irony/insults is used to criticize the undesirable thing of the listeners or someone referred to in front of peers. Vulgarity category is frequently employed such as scum face.

There are many researchers who studied about taboo words usage. One of those are Anggita (2015), by using a qualitative descriptive method, she analyzed the use and function of taboo words done by characters in the film “Bad Teacher”. In analyzing the function of taboo words she found in the film, she used Wardhaugh’s theory and also Batistella’s theory to differentiate the type of taboo words.

The more recent study in analyzing taboo words in the film was Indrayasa, Rajeg, Maharani (2018). They also analyzed the type based on Jay’s theory and function based on Whardhaugh’s theory occurred in the film “Dirty Grandpa”.

Not only study about the film, but there are also other researchers who study English taboo words usage amongst teenagers. Ningjue (2010), for instance, studying about the phenomenon of language usage on the internet spoken by youngsters in group chat used English. He aimed to find out the difference’s taboo words usage between male and female youngsters.

Another more recent study similar to him was conducted by Fanny (2014). He gave a questionnaire as a medium to obtain the data from 74 participants which are Chinese student. In her findings, despite the fact that taboo is categorized as impoliteness and politeness is important in Asian culture, the researcher found that



the youth considered taboo words as ‘normal’ language use whether it is a female or male one. In his

Those two studies above were studied about the usage of taboo words amongst teenagers, male and female by obtaining the data from the participants whether it was on the group chat or class. However, in this study, the researcher would take the data from a serial movie. The study which is akin to recent study was conducted by Gao (2008).

Gao studied about the use of taboo by men and women in some episodes of Sex and The City and examine the differences and similarities of using taboo language in male and female speech in terms of gender differences and conversational strategies in general. In the findings, Female and male characters used taboo, euphemism, and neutral words in a different way. Male characters used 100% verbal taboo words in male-only conversation and use both euphemism and neutral words to female. Meanwhile, female characters did not always use taboo words in the conversations. Instead, they also used a euphemism and neutral word to both the other female and male characters.

As “Sex and The City”, an object of Gao (2008) study, is a woman-oriented serial movie, the data obtained from the serial movie is not equal. Female character has more chance to speak than male one. Therefore, as given fact, the researcher would use “13 Reasons Why” as instead of a woman-oriented movie, this serial movie is about the life of teenagers in American. In another word, the data taken from this

movie would be more equal rather than the previous one and thus the result would give a new sight in the study of gender and taboo words.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulates research questions as follows:

1. What types of taboo words uttered by male and female characters in 13 Reasons Why?
2. What are the functions of a taboo word uttered by male and female characters in using it in 13 Reasons Why?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

In accordance with research questions, the aims of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To figure out and describe what types of taboo words uttered by male and female characters in 13 Reasons Why.
2. To find out and describe the functions in using taboo words by male and female characters in 13 Reasons Why.

## **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

### **1.4.1 Scope**

This study is in the field of sociolinguistics. Specifically, the researcher would focus on taboo and gender. Whereby, this study attempts to find out the differences in using taboo words between male and female uttered by characters in a serial movie 13 Reasons Why based on its type and also the functional categories.

#### **1.4.2 Limitation**

The researcher admits that this study still has weaknesses. First, this study only focuses on the use of taboo words occurred in this movie. The data of this study are in the form of utterances whether it is phrase or sentence uttered by characters in 13 Reasons Why. Moreover, the researcher use theory of Batistella (2005) in analyzing the type of taboo words used by male and female characters in 13 Reasons Why and Jay's theory (1992) to differ the functions of taboo words employed by male and female characters.

#### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

This study is expected to have a theoretical and practical contribution. Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to shed light on the study of taboo and gender, especially, what type and function of taboo words uttered by male and female characters in 13 Reasons Why. Practically, in Indonesia researchers' context, the result of this study could be used as a reference in the future studies. Furthermore, for English letters students, the result of the study is expected to provide information about the use of taboo words by gender in a serial movie.

#### **1.6 Definition of key terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the researcher provides a definition of key terms, they are:

1. Taboo words: a word that should be avoided as it would give anxiety, and an embarrassment to the others in a conversation occurred in 13 Reasons Why serial movie
2. Utterance: an oral or written statement that is uttered in 13 Reasons Why serial movie male and female's character
3. Gender: There are 2 definitions of gender, i.e. Biological, and Social Gender. However, in this study, the researcher uses biological gender as a definition. Biological (or "natural") gender is the distinction in sex between the "male" and "female" of each species.
4. 13 Reasons Why: an American serial movie produced by Netflix

## **1.7 Research Method**

This part discusses several sections in accordance with research method consisting of research design, data source, data collection, research instrument, data analysis

### **1.7.1 Research design**

This study uses descriptive qualitative. This method is employed to describe comprehensively the phenomenon of taboo words uttered by characters in 13 Reasons Why. The data of this study are in the form of a word, phrase, sentence, and utterance occurred in the serial movie. To help the researcher in mapping the

finding, he also employs quantitative analysis by making a statistical table in the findings section. Then, In the discussion part, the researcher would give an elaborating explanation of the finding's data based on theories he wrote in the theoretical framework. In addition, he would also use a previous studies statement to legitimize its description of the finding.

### **1.7.2 Data Source**

The premier data sources are utterances taken from a serial movie titled 13 Reasons Why. In obtaining the data, the researcher would download 13 episodes of 13 Reasons Why in [www.idxii.co](http://www.idxii.co) and also the subtitle in the [www.subcsene.com](http://www.subcsene.com). Furthermore, the researcher analyzed the utterances done by male and female characters in that serial movie produced in 2016.

### **1.7.3 Research Instrument**

The main instrument of this study is the researcher himself as it is a qualitative study. The researcher, in this study, would obtain, collect, analyze, and also classify the data all by himself. Furthermore, in helping to answer two research questions, the secondary instrument is the serial movie, and also the script of the utterances done by male and female characters in 13 Reasons Why. To support the analysis part, the researcher also makes a statistical table to map the utterance contained as taboo words and also to differ taboo words used by male and female characters.

### **1.7.4. Data Collection**

This researcher employed a note-taking technique to collect the data from 13 Reasons why serial movie. In this research, the researcher did the note-taking



technique by watching and listening to the movie carefully and then he noted some words which were categorized in term of the types and functions of taboo words. In addition, the researcher also differ the character who utters the taboo words based on its gender.

The process of data collection would be explained as follows:

The first step is the researcher watches all the entire episodes of 13 Reasons Why, i.e 13 episodes. It was important to do as the researcher would get the background knowledge of the story and also all the characters in that movie. In addition, watching the movie was also done to find out whether the movie has sufficient data or not.

The second step was downloading the subtitles of all episodes from [www.subscene.com](http://www.subscene.com). This step had to be done because it helped the researcher in noting the taboo words uttered by all characters in that serial-movie.

The third step was the researcher re-watches the movie and re-checked the accuracy of the script. This step was important to be done because it helped the researcher to select the dialogues containing taboo words and also it was used to ensure the researcher that the data contained taboo words were not left. Meanwhile, the dialogues which do not contain taboo words were not written in the findings.

#### **1.7.5. Data Analysis**

After collecting the data, the researcher would analyze the raw data. There are many steps would be done by the researcher. Firstly, after the data were collected, the researcher started to categorize them as taboo words. In categorizing the data, the researcher created a table to ease him. The categorization itself consists of gender, type, and function of taboo words. Secondly, the researcher also classified all categorized data based on gender, type, and also the function of taboo words. Furthermore, he also gave a brief explanation for all the data. Thirdly, after classifying the data, the researcher analyzed the data. The data in the table were analyzed to describe the gender, type, and also the function of uttering taboo words. In this research, the data analysis employed a quantitative method for it involved number to get the percentage of the phenomenon in the table. The researcher would, then, created a chart based on the percentage to support him in interpreting the data. Fourthly, the researcher discussed the findings which would be supported by the theory he wrote in a theoretical framework. Furthermore, the researcher also explained the findings to answer those two research questions. Eventually, the researcher reported some finding and gave a conclusion and suggestion to the next researcher.

## CHAPTER II

## REVIEW AND RELATED STUDY

This part discusses the review of related literature, which consists as follows; taboo, taboo words, type of taboo words, the function of taboo words, gender terminology, gender in using language, gender differences in using taboo words, and previous studies.

### 2.1 Taboo

Taboo is originally term from Polynesian in Pacific Archipelago, Tabu, which means a holy fact or object which cannot be spoken or touched. This term firstly was introduced by Captain James Cook (Allan & Burrige, 2006; p. 3). Moreover, Gu in (Gao, 2013) stated, in American and English society believe avoiding taboo as the symbol of their civilization. In a society, there are rules that should be obeyed by people. One of those rules is to avoid talking about or acting something that is categorized as taboo.

In broader context, Allan and Burrige (2006; p. 2) stated that taboo should not be acted or spoken since it arises out of social constraint which leads to discomfort, harm or injury to the other member of society. In addition, they explained that basically, people are at metaphysical risk when they deal with sacred persons, objects and places; they are at physical risk from powerful earthly persons, dangerous creatures and disease. Hence, employing taboo might contaminate others and embrace social constraints applied there.

Taboo itself consists of an act and also a word or language. As Fairman in Anggita (2015) stated taboo act refers to any activities that should be avoided, while taboo

words are words that should be uttered in a particular communication. In addition, the relationship between the taboo act and word are related to each other taboo act would also render the word related to that act regarded as a taboo word. The example of this is the act of incest which is taboo, people also avoid to use the word motherf\*\*ker since it indicates the action.

However, there are also several words said as taboo, but sometimes the act indicates it is not. For instance, the act of exertion which the word related to that act is taboo like sh\*t is not categorized as taboo act if only it is done by an appropriate person and inappropriate place. In this study, the researcher would merely focus on taboo words and therefore would be explained further beneath.

## **2.2 Taboo words**

Taboo word is a word that should be avoided as it would cause the offensive result to both the speakers and also listeners. Moreover, Wardhaugh (2001, p. 239). said that taboo is forbidden as it is believed supranaturally that it would give a harmful effect to the others.

Once, someone uttering a taboo word, they would be regarded as an impolite person. Furthermore, in some jurisdictions, employing taboo words such as blasphemy is categorized as a crime (Wardhaugh; 2006, p. 240 ). Supporting that idea, Trudgill (2000, p.18) said that when someone fails to adhere to the rules to avoid taboo words, they would get punishment or public shame.

In some occasions, people unavoidably employ taboo in communication to the others. In this case, people use the term “euphemism” to soften the impact of

employing taboo words. As Wardhaugh (2006; p. 238) stated that euphemism is employed to avoid speaking taboo directly. In addition, the negative impact of taboo words depends on the context and purpose (Wardhaugh 2006; p. 240 ). When it is used amongst, for instance, close group, it would be violated the rule. In fact, it would build a strong relationship instead.

Despite the fact taboo is prohibited as it has a negative impact on the listener, some may use it somehow in some occasions. This is because generally, it has some functions, i.e. joke, insult, showing anger, and descriptive-evaluative (Jay, 1992; p.62). In addition, employing taboo words in a particular circumstance could be medium to display the closeness of a relationship. For example, the word nigger which is categorized as taboo words could build a closeness amongst African-American people. However, it would be offensive if it is employed by white people to mention black people (Freitas 2008: p. 26). Hence, taboo words could establish good communication while, on the other hand, it would fail the communication between the speaker and the listener.

### **2.3 The concept of taboo words**

Taboo language in every society is categorized differently. As Trudgill (in Anggita 2018; p. 16) stated, those differences in categorizing taboo language are emerged for language is simply a matter of consentation where the normal employment of language is based on specific social value and belief. Furthermore, a language is categorized as taboo, instead of being described by anything attached to language



itself, because it is due to a cultural belief applied in a particular society (Akmajian et al. 2004: p. 303).

Basically, taboo words are a mere collection of sound. Alternatively, it has denotatively neutral meaning. However, that word is marked as taboo because people give them a connotative meaning which leads to the norm that people should not say that word in a certain occasion or event (Farb in Fakuade et al., 2013: p. 120). Hence, as the categorization is through connotative making-meaning processes, every society has its own way to decide whether this word taboo or not.

Knowing the fact that in every society has a different categorization of taboo, people ought to learn what it shouldn't or should be said in a society. It would help them in adjusting to its culture and it leads to the accomplishment of communication in that society. Otherwise, they may seem failed in communication as taboo would give anxiety, and shame to the interlocutors. In addition, in some jurisdictions, employing taboo words is regarded as a criminal act (Whardaugh, 2006; p. 175).

Taboo words develop in the context of time. Once, the words "gay" in English means happy or full of fun. In recent years, "gay" is used to refer to a man sexually attracted to people of the same sex". (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 2005). Furthermore, Blake and Motorhead cited in Keturi and Lehmonen (2012) stated, in England, taboo words related to sex is recently more often found than death which is the reverse of fifty years ago. Not only in time, the categorization of taboo words also varies from one place to another. For example, in China, talking about zodiac

is categorized as taboo (Ren in Jing-Schmidt; 2018). Whereas, in the Arabian community, talking ability and talents are regarded as taboo (Sa'd; 2017).

From that explanation, it could be summed up that the standard to render a word marked as taboo is not strict. As Batistella stated (2006, p. 75) taboo words do not depend on the words itself. Instead, it depends on the attitude of speaker and listener towards the words. In another word, it is a mirror of how society see the worlds as the relation between language, in this case, taboo words reflects the condition of society and specifically the attitude of the interlocutors towards taboo words.

#### **2.4 Type of Taboo Words**

According to Batistella (2005; p. 72), there are types of taboo words, i.e., epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity.

Below, those 4 types would be explained:

##### **A. Epithet**

An epithet is usually used to reduce the tension of the speakers. In other word, it is an utterance from a frustration of the speakers. As Batistella (2006, p.72) stated, epithets are various types of slurs. Usually, these refer to race, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality, but they may also refer to appearance, disabilities, or other characteristics. These are some example of epithet son of a bitch, nigger, slut, bitch, retard and faggot.

Below is the example of the use of the epithet in 13 Reasons Why:

*Hannah: Stupid Mrs. Annataly*

*Jessica: B\*\*ch is good at her job.*

From that example, Hannah and Jessica were talking about their experience which made them transferred to another school. Furthermore, they felt that the teacher who gave them advice did not really know what they have been through in their previous school. Thus, Jessica said the word b\*\*ch to insult the teacher, mrs. Annataly.

B\*\*ch itself is categorized as taboo words. In addition, according to the merriem-webster dictionary, b\*\*ch is used usually to disparage another woman and also is offensive words. Since that word refers to gender, b\*\*ch, in the type of taboo words, is an epithet.

## B. Profanity

It is essential to distinguish profanity and blasphemy. In blasphemy, it is used to attack a religion of someone or derogate the existence of a god. However, profanity is the way people to show its emotional response by using a religious term in a particular motive. The examples of profanity are Jesus Christ!, Damn, Hell and Goddamn!.

The example of profanity done by male is presented below:

*Justin: Where are you going?*

*Hannah: Forget my geometry book*

*Justin: Wait I've got mine in here if you need –*

*(Hannah get out of the bus)*

*Justin: Shit. Hey, Where the hell is this thing going?*

Justin, male characters in this serial movie, used the religious term hell to emphasize his questions why Hannah leaves him alone in the bus they take together before.

### C. Vulgarities

According to Basitella (2005, p. 72), vulgarity means something related to sexual anatomy or excretory system. This type of taboo words is socially categorized as uneducated, uncivilized, or unsophisticated language use. However, Jay in Sanjaya (2018) stated that vulgarity is not always considered as taboo. Instead, it reflects the crudeness of a street language.

Vulgarity and obscenity are important to differ as the examples of those both two types of taboo words are similar. The differences are in vulgarity, it is used to downgrade the interlocutors or someone who is referred to (Jay in Anggita; 2015). Furthermore, Battistella (2005; p. 72) stated, the distinction between vulgarity and obscenity is primarily a matter of degree and prurience. The examples of vulgarity are kiss my ass, shit, piss off, dick, asshole, dick, cock, and pussy.

Below is the example of vulgarity done in 13 Reasons Why:

Jessica: You are such a f\*\*\*\*ng as\*\*\*\*\*s!

Justin: Hey! Come on! Hey!

In that conversation, Jessica used the word as\*\*\*\*\* which is the sexual part of the human body to his boyfriend, Justin. Furthermore, at that time, Jessica was angry

at him, and she used that kind of words to mock him since Justin has been disappeared for one week.

#### D. Obscenity

Obscenity is a word which is offensive or disgusting based on accepted standard of morality and decency. Furthermore, this kind of type taboo words obviously are not allowed to be used in public communication. According to Battistella (2005; p. 72), obscenity is defined as words or phrase contained sexual-differentiating anatomy done in a rough manner. The examples of obscenity are f\*\*k, and sh\*t. Below is the example of one conversation containing Obscenity:

Bryce: You want some breakfast? Marisa the maid's here making some Mexican sh\*t. Justin: You know she's Guatemalan, right?

Bryce: Sure. Hungry?

Bryce, here, would like to offer his friend, Justin a breakfast which he described it as Mexican sh\*t. The word "sh\*t" here does not mean about an exertion or something disgusting. However, Bryce used that word to describe it about food he is about to eat.

### 2.5 Function of taboo words

Sometimes taboo words are inevitably used by people and it is disregarded in particular circumstances as they have several functions categorized as



anger/frustration, descriptive-evaluative, joke, surprise, and sarcastic/irony (Jay, 1992; p. 63). Those five categorization would be elaborated as follows:

#### A. Anger and/or Frustration

The speakers use taboo language to reduce the tension of their anger and/ or frustration. Those emotions are combined as it is difficult to distinguish them by language only. Jay (1992, p. 63) gave the example of this functional category, i.e. when a boy who is about to shot a goal in a ring is blocked and he responds by saying what the fuck. The word fuck in that phrase used to exclusively show his anger/frustration

#### B. Descriptive-evaluative

This category is used by the speakers to indicate how he/she describes or evaluates connotatively or denotatively an object or event around him/her. In evaluative case, the speakers may speak “this game sucks” to evaluate how a game run. On the other hand, a sentence such as “my sneakers are shitty” is used to describe denotatively after stepping a feces of a dog. In addition, taboo words are also used to give a deep description, for instances like “he beat the hell out of him” which indicates the amount of energy needed in a fight.

#### C. Joke

Joke is used to present a formal joke in a conversation and humor usage with taboo words. Commonly, obscenity, one type of taboo word, is employed to make a joke in a story which leads to a funny story. The taboo words used in this functional

category are referred to a body parts such as dick, tit, gay, hump, erection, and boobs.

#### D. Surprise

Surprise is used to reacting an unexpected achievement or other behavior. The usage is kind of expletive. In term of type of taboo words, this functional category usually employ a profanity like Jesus!, Oh my god!, Jesus Christ!

#### E. Sarcastic Irony or Insult

This functional category is used to humiliate or derogate in describing the others. The phrases such as you fag, or scum face are good instances. Instead of expressing an anger/frustration, sarcastic irony or insult is used to criticize or mock the others by denoting undesirable qualities of the interlocutors whether it is real or imagined description by the speakers.

### 2.6 Gender Terminology

Gender, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary, came from the Middle English era, i.e. gendre, from Anglo-French genre, gendre, and also from Latin gener-, genus birth, race, kind, gender.

There are two versions in defining gender. Firstly, according to Eckret and McConnel-Ginet (2005), gender is categorization which refers to a bodily concept which refers to reproductive potential. Secondly, on contrary, some scholars such as Alnes in (Chasanah 2015) stated that gender is something constructed through society and also influenced by language as a medium to make people understand

with his or her idea. Hence, Holmes in Imaniyah (2016) said that gender is more suitable to distinguish people based on social-cultural category. Meanwhile, the term “sex”, instead of gender, does correspond with biological definition.

To sum up, sex is a categorization of people which he/she brings from the day he/she was born. Meanwhile, gender is constructed by social condition around his or her during the time growing up and also the use of language. In this study, the researcher uses the definition constructed through society as it would give impact on how male and female using taboo words.

## **2.7 Gender Differences in Communication**

From the explanation about gender above, there indeed is the differences of gender could be taken from the way person use language and also behave. It makes sense that language could be a representation of someone’s gender whether it is male or female. According to Yule (2005; p. 222) in term of socialization, women are opting, in using language, for being more careful, to be aware of social status, and to be more sensitive to how others may judge them. On the other hand, men use language to show their strength, freedom and be tough. Therefore, Yule added that forms of language which is categorized as non-standard are mostly used by working-class tend to be used by man in a conversation.

In term of communication, women tend to facilitate the exchange of the turn to the interlocutors, allow the other to speak first. Meanwhile, man always competes to get the ‘floor’ taken by them. Furthermore, Yule (2005; p.225) explained that men probably take longer turns at speaking and on some occasions, like a religious one,

are the only one allowed to talk. In line with Yule, Coates in Gao (2008) said that the aim of men interaction is to show their power. Meanwhile, the woman pursues a style of communication-based on solidarity and support each other.

In brief from that explanation above, it could be concluded that woman and man use language in communication differently and it is worth analyzing both further in using language. Below, the researcher would go further in explaining the difference in term of using taboo language

## **2.8 Gender in using taboo language**

Women are expected to act and speak like a lady. This was the standard systemical features of woman language formulated by Lakoff. According to Lakoff in Gao (2008), women, in relation with the use of taboo, tend to use a polite form, e.g. indirect request, euphemism, avoidance of strong swear words, lack of sense of humor. Ningjue (2010) stated that men use more racist and aggressive sexual words rather than women, and they easily opt for fighting when they are insulted. Hence, a man in term of the frequency uses more taboo words rather than a woman. In term of the word, according to Lakoff in Coates (2013, p. 78), man use stronger expelative words (*fuck, shit*), but woman tend to use less stronger ones (*oh my god, jesus*)

Speaking in detail, in same-sex conversation, woman and man employ more taboo words rather than in mixed-sex talk. As Gomm (in Gao; 2008) stated, man and woman more do a swearing when it comes in the same-sex conversation. However, the frequency would be significantly different when it happens in the mixed-gender

talk. On one hand, woman's frequency of taboo words usage stays still in mixed gender talk. On the other hand, the usage of swear words by man would decrease drastically (Coates, 2004; p. 97). Furthermore, Coates also explained that this is because both sexes apply a norm in a mixed-gender situation which it leads to the less taboo words employed by a man drastically and conversely by a woman which stay still.

Besides the frequency, those genders, male and female, employ kind of taboo words differently. According to Kremin (2017), woman uses words such as bastard or prick to a man. and bitch or slut to the same gender. However, man would employ taboo words such as cunt or slut to a woman and faggot or gay to another man. In term of the use of swearing, Furthermore, Kremin stated, the taboo words such as faggot, and gay are used to men since men are most offended when they recipient of that words which implies, they are a homosexuality or feminine. Faggot, for the example, is used to describe that the man is too feminine. On the other hand, the words such as slut and bitch are often used to women since they feel offensive when they describe as sexual promiscuity. However, some of them start to use slut and bitch to another women as terms of endearment. Therefore, as the researcher explained above, it is clear that between those gender has differences in the use of taboo words whether it is the frequency or type of taboo words.

## **2.9 Previous Studies**

There were several researchers conducting a study related to taboo words. Firstly, it deals with the use of taboo words in a film. Anggita (2015), By using a qualitative



descriptive method, she analyzed the use of taboo words film called Bad Teacher. Furthermore, to support her interpretation, she also used a quantitative method in the form of statistic to know the frequency of the emergence of taboo words uttered by characters in that movie.

The newest one from the study of taboo words in a film was conducted by Sanjaya (2018). He analyzed English taboo words in a film Get Hard. In his study, determine the forms, functions, and motives of English taboo words which are contained in the movie Get Hard.

Secondly, not only in a film, but there were also researchers conducting studies related to taboo words and education, such as (Habibovic; 2011). He, in his study, analyze Swedish-speaking students of English in Swedish high school and their understanding of and attitudes to taboo language in English. it could be seen that female students have more understanding of taboo words than male ones. Furthermore, females students also show more attitude toward taboo than male and interestingly females students used taboo words more frequently than males one.

Thirdly, there were researchers done a study related to gender analysis in using taboo words inspiring the researcher conducting this research. Gao (2008) studied about the use of taboo by men and women in some episodes of Sex and The City and examine the differences and similarities of using taboo language in male and female speech in terms of gender differences and conversational strategies in general. In the findings, Female and male characters used a taboo, euphemism, and neutral words in a different way. Male characters used 100% verbal taboo words in

male-only conversation and use both euphemism and neutral words to female. Meanwhile, female characters did not always use taboo words in the conversations. Instead, they also used a euphemism and neutral word to both the other female and male characters.

The closest study with the researcher one, Gao's study was conducted by using a woman-oriented study and hence the conversations are dominated by woman's talk. In other word, the data is not equal as a man are less in frame in that serial movie. However, in this serial movie, 13 Reasons Why, the conversation done by male and female characters are equally as it is not a women-oriented movie. Therefore, the findings are expected to be more objective.

## CHAPTER III

### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this session, the researcher presents the data contained taboo words uttered by male and female characters in 13 Reasons Why. It is divided into two parts, i.e. findings and discussion.

#### 3.1 Findings

In this part, the researcher provides findings of the data analysis based on the utterance of female and male characters contained taboo words. This part aims to map the amount of taboo words uttered by both gender. It would ease the reader to understand the differences male and female characters in uttering taboo words depicted in that movie.

As it is qualitative study, the researcher is involved in interpreting the findings from his own understanding and also supporting by the theoretical framework written in chapter 2.

These findings, then, are presented in the form of table and chart. The table and chart themselves would firstly differ the total of taboo words uttered by male and female characters. Then, the researcher would present type of taboo words and also the function of taboo words uttered by male and female according to Batistella's theory (2005) and Jay's (1992) respectively. Needless to say, the researcher also present some of the data to be elaborated.

*Table 1. the result of taboo words uttered by both gender per episode*

Episode	Gender	
	Male	Female
1	12	5
2	8	19
3	24	3
4	13	3
5	17	15
6	17	12
7	15	2
8	22	3
9	14	9
10	14	6
11	26	3
12	26	6
13	10	-
Total	236	86
Percentage	72%	28%

From the table, it is found that taboo words spoken by male characters is significantly frequent than female one. For male characters, there are 236 of 321 total taboo words found in that serial movie or 72% in term of its percentage.

Meanwhile, female one only uttered taboo words 86 times in entire episodes or 28% of the total. This is because in several episodes female character seldom and one of episodes never use taboo words in all conversation such as episode 1 (5), episode 3 (3), episode 4 (3), episode 7 (3), episode 8 (4), and episode 13 which is not found taboo words uttered by female characters compared to male's ones which dominate all the episodes. However, there is only one episode found that female one speak taboo words more than male characters, i.e. episode 2. From that episode, 19 words marked as taboo words uttered by female, meanwhile, only 8 words for male characters. Eventually, this findings corroborate Ningjue (2010) which stated that man used more taboo words rather than woman.

In the next session, the researcher would present a tabel which differ the total of type of taboo words spoken by male and female characters. Moreover, the researcher also give some examples to be elaborated. The researcher decides to not write the entire data, to make an effective explanation. Instead, he give 4 examples in every point of type of taboo words and also function of taboo word.

*Table 2. the result of type of taboo words uttered by male and female characters*

Gender	Type of taboo word			
	Obscenity	Profanity	Vulgarity	Epithet
Male	147	47	28	14
Female	30	33	20	3



From the chart 3.1 above, there are four of type taboo words uttered by both male and female characters. This finding is in accordance with the theory of Batistella which stated 4 types of taboo word, i.e. epithet, obscenity, vulgarity, and profanity. Both male and female characters rarely use epithet, i.e. 16 and 2 respectively. The example of the epithet occurred in this movie are *slut*, *bitch*, and *skank*. On the other hand, the most type of taboo words uttered by both gender are different. In male characters, obscenity word or interjection such as *fuck*, *crap* and *shit* is the most frequent taboo words spoken compared to the other type of taboo words. Meanwhile, female ones often speak profanity word like *Jesus*, *oh my god*, *hell*, and *Jesus Christ*. The last category, vulgarity like *pusyy*, *ass*, and *asshole*, in both male and female, is in the third position with 28 and 20 respectively.

In the next section, the researcher would give some examples of the utterance of male and female characters based on Batistella's theory (2005), i.e. Obscenity, Profanity, Epithet, and Vulgarity, as follows:

#### .1. Obscenity

In the findings, both male and female characters are uttered this type of taboo words. On one hand, male characters employ obscenity frequently, 147 times and this type of taboo words become the most frequent taboo words in male characters. On the other hand, female characters only utter obscenity 30 times and this type of taboo words is the second highest taboo words compared to the others.

Obscenity is a word which refers to sexual differentiating anatomy and excretory system. The examples of obscenity found in *13 Reasons Why* are the interjection or

word *fuck*, *crap*, *piss* and *shit*. Two of those examples are uttered by male and female characters, i.e. *fuck* and *shit*. However, the taboo word *crap* only is uttered by female characters.

In 13 Reasons Why, the total of obscenity are 177. 4 of them would be presented below, two are for male characters and the other two data are uttered by female characters. The presented data would start for male first and then female characters.

*Mr. Foley: Guys, second bell.*

*Justin: Your not the innocent one, Jensen. I don't give a shit what she says.*

(Datum no. 2 episode 1)

Obscenity was found in that conversation since Justin said the word *shit* which describe an excretory function in literal meaning. According to [en.oxforddictionaries.com](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com), the phrase *not give shit* means that one does not care at all about something. Furthermore, such word are highly prohibited to use in public conversation.

The conversation happened when Justin saw Clay in front of Hannah Baker's locker which the girl did a suicide and left 13 recorded tapes. Justin were afraid if Clay tried to search and evidence about the Hannah's death since in the tapes Justin and the other friends were mentioned as the reasons why Hannah killed herself. In addition, in episode 1, Clay had not yet listened to the tapes and the rest of

mentioned characters had done that. Furthermore, the 12 other mentioned characters decided to keep the recorded tapes as secret within them. They would not reveal them in public because it would make them alleged in doing crime. However, Clay was a unique character. Beside the fact that he was a close friend of Hannah, he never bullied Hannah whether in verbal or non-verbal way. During the conversation Mr. Foley, one of the teachers in Liberty High School, suddenly came to them. Mr. Foley reminded them that they should go to the class as it was the second bell. Then, Justin convinced Clay that Clay was also involved in making Hannah killed herself and he also said that he did not care about what Hannah said on the tapes.

Another example is shown, below:

*Bryce: Uh hold on. What the f\*\*k are you doing?*

*Tyler: Nothing just yearbook stuff.*

(Data no. 3 episode 1)

Obscenity are also found in the dialogue between Bryce and Tyler. The interjectional word *fuck* was uttered by Bryce Walker to Tyler. *Fuck*, according to, [en.oxforddictionaries.com](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com), is an act of sexual intercourse which is categorized as obscenity.

The conversation happened when Bryce was in the phone talking to his parent. He went to the toilet. During his calling, Bryce saw Tyler on the corner of the toilet,

using a wastafel to take a picture through a window of the toilet. Knowing that, Bryce felt annoyed. He, then, asked Tyler why he was in the toilet to take a picture as it was not normal to find someone take a picture in a toilet. In addition, Bryce was not like to be heard when he was on the phone with his parent. He thought that toilet was a private area and safety area to talk. Then, Tyler answered Bryce by saying that he was in a work to make a yearbook album which he should pict students in a natural action. However, Bryce insisted Tyler to get out of toilet regardless the reason Tyler said by his face depicting an anger.

Below, the examples of female characters uttered obscenity was presented:

*Rose: I was in gym with her. She only wear sport bras.*

*Laura: Maybe I save my nice s\*\*t for after hours.*

(Datum no. 10 episode 5)

The word *shit* which is categorized as obscenity is found in the conversation between Rose and Laura in the class. According to [en.oxforddictionaries.com](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com), *shit* refers to a feces or excretory function in literal meaning. However, the word *shit* in that dialogues uttered by Laura refers to her personal belongings, her bra.

The conversation happened in the class, when all of students talked about the photo of two girls who kissed each other and only worn a bra. Actually, the persons in the photo were Courtney and Hannah baker. However, the students guessed that one of them were Laura which was well-known as lesbian judging from the way she dressed and did hair-do. Then, Rose, one of the girl in the class, said that she did not believe that she was Laura as she was in the same gym with Laura. She,

furthermore, also said that the bra in the photo and the Laura's daily bra was different. Although, Laura knew that she was not in the photo. She tried to defend her friend Courtney which actually was lesbian but she was afraid if that fact was revealed by saying that probably Rose did not know what she wore after doing gym.

*Jessica: and that's not your name?*

*Hannah: no. Hannah.*

*Jessica: well **crap!** I already got your best friend necklace engraved with "Hillary".*

(Data no. 4 episode 2)

In that conversation between Hannah and Jessica, there is a taboo word marked as obscenity, i.e. *crap*. According to [en.oxforddictionaries.com](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com), *crap* refers to defecate which is usually spoken in UK. This word is similiar with the word *shit* in term of its meaning.

That dialouge occured when Jessica and Hannah was asked to come to Mrs. Antily's room. Jessica and Hannah were new students in Liberty High School. Mrs. Antily ,therefore, would like to give them an advice in facing the new school, and obviously a new friend. As both of them new, Mrs. Antily asked them to introduced their name each other. Although, Hannah and Jessica had introduced their name, Jessica acted that she really did not listened to Hannah when she introduced her name. Thus, she supposed that Hannah's name was Hillary. Hannah, then, said to Jessica that her real name was Hannah not Hillary. Jessica acted, then, as if she was surprised that Hannah is the real name, not Hillary, the name she believed. Then,



Jessica sarcastically said that she had made a best friend necklace with an engraved name “Hillary”, in fact.

Another examples of Female characters uttered obscenity was presented, below:

#### B. Profanity

Profanity, according to Batistella (2006), is categorized as type of taboo word. This type of taboo word needs to be differed with Blasphemy since Profanity is not used to attack or downgrade the existance of god or a religion. Instead, profanity is the way people to show its emotional response by using a religious term in a particular motive. The example of this taboo words found in *13 Reasons Why* are *Jesus*, *oh my god*, *Jesus Christ*, *Goddamnit*, *Holyshit*, and *Holy Crap*.

In *13 Reasons Why*, male characters utter prfanity 47 times and female characters are 33 times. However, if it is compared to the other type in female characters, profanity becomes the most dominant taboo word uttered by them. Meanwhile, in male characters, despite the fact that profanity is more uttered by male ones rather than female characters, profanity places in second highest taboo word.

To make an effective explanation, the researcher decide to use 4 examples to elaborate, as follows:

*Clay: Jesus!*

*Clay's mother: Sorry.*

(Data no. 4 episode 1)

The word *Jesus* is uttered by Clay in that dialogue. *Jesus* itself is categorized as profanity since it is used not to attack a religion or derogate an existence of god. Instead, Clay said the word *Jesus* to show his emotional response by using religious term, in this case, *Jesus*.

The conversation happened when Clay was trying to listen to the tapes given by Tony. He wondered as the girl who spoke in that tapes was Hannah, his close friend and also the death's girl. Therefore, he was serious in trying to put the tapes in the radio since it was rare, nowadays, teenager like Clay still used a radio to listen to a recorded sound. Suddenly, his mother came to his room and surprised him by her appearance. Clay, then, was surprised as he was serious in trying to put the radio in. In addition, he did not want his mother know about the tapes he was trying to listen to since Tony warned him to keep the tapes as secret, not to share with the other people, including his parents.

*The other example of profanity uttered by male characters are presented, below:*

*Clay: What the hell, Tony?*

*Tony: hey clay.*

(Data no. 16 episode 1)

In that dialogue, the word *hell* marked as profanity was uttered by Clay. According to, oxford online dictionary, *hell* refers to A place regarded in various religions as a spiritual realm of evil and suffering or A situation, experience, or place of great suffering.

The conversation between Clay and Tonny happened when Clay came to Tony's table in the canteen in rush. He directly asked Tony with the word *hell* in his question instead of saying hi to Tony. The reasons why Clay did that is Clay wondered why Tony still shut his mouth up, not telling the truth to anyone after he listened to the recorded tapes about Hannah. Clay, in that episode, listened only to 1 tapes, i.e. about the involvement of Justin in her death. Clay thought it should be revealed as soon as it could since Justin, according to the tapes, did take a part in Hannah's death by sharing her private photo in a public after she and Justin kissed. That shared photo made Hannah felt ashamed and also did not want to go school because all of students in the school talked about her private photo. However, despite that, Tony tried to make Clay clam by saying "hey Clay".

Below, there are two examples presented profanity uttered by female characters:

*Katty: Clay what you drink?*

*Clay: eh, sprite.*

*Katty: **oh my god!** You are priceless.*

*Oh my god* is uttered by Katty in that dialogue. That phrase is categorized as profanity since it contains the word *god*. This phrase categorized as profanity for it is not used to downgrade a religion. Instead, Katty uttered that phrase to express a surprise.

That dialogue happened when Katty and Clay at a party. Katty as the one who had a party offered what Clay would like to drink. As matter of fact, most of students who were invited in that party drank a beer or vodka. However, Clay wanted to

drink a sprite, a carbonate drink instead of vodka or beer. Indeed, in that serial movie, Clay was depicted as a good boy. Then, Clay's decision made Katty surprised and hence she went to the table to take the sprite to Clay.

Clay: tell me why?

Jessica: we need to move on.

Clay: No!

Jessica: *my god!* Okay, fine. Come here.

(Data no. 8 episode 9)

In that dialogue, profanity is found. The words *my god* is uttered by Jessica. The word *god* refers to the creator and ruler of the universe and source of all moral authority; the supreme being. This word categorized as profanity for Jessica does not use it to derogate the existence of god. Instead, she uses it to show her frustration.

The dialogue happened when Clay insisted Jessica to say the reasons why she still kept the truth according to Hannah's recorded tape that she was raped by Bryce at party held in her house. Jessica still supposed that she was not raped by Bryce but at that party, she and her boyfriend, Justin had a sex that night. Furthermore, she said that she wanted to move on from that issue. She had a new life with Justin and left the recorded tapes as it was. She would not want the tapes ruined her life. However, Clay did not give up to pursue Jessica's statement about that issue. Hence, at last, Jessica was frustrated and gave up. Jessica allowed Clay to discuss that issue in the class, to avoid the other student overheard.

### C. Vulgarly

Vulgarly is type of taboo words that refers to sexual differentiating anatomy or excretory function. This type of taboo words is similar with obscenity. However, there is a difference between vulgarly and obscenity. In vulgarly, the speakers use it to derogate or humiliate the interlocutors in front of peers since vulgarly is used to demonstrate the raw expression of street language. The examples of this type of taboo words are *ass*, *asshole*, *pussy*, and *dick*.

In the findings, all the characters utter vulgarly in that serial movie, 48 times. For male characters, there are 28 vulgarly found in *13 Reasons Why*. Meanwhile, female characters is not far from the result of male ones, i.e. 20 times.

Below, the researcher would give 4 examples taboo words uttered by male and female characters. To start with, the examples of male character would be elaborated, as follows:

*Clay: I'm in your fifth-period history class.*

*Basketball's coach: oh quite kid.*

*Clay: So uh is he here?*

*Basketball's coach: He's not and he wasn't yesterday. He'd better be here for this pep rally today. So if you see him, tell him his ass gonna be running suicides until the lights go out.*

(Data no. 1 episode 2)



In that dialogues, there is a vulgarity spoken by basketball's coach, i.e. *ass*. *Ass* refers to a excretory function, anus in literal meaning. Therefore, it is marked as vulgarity. In that dialogues, however, Basketball's coach usde the word *ass* to briwng down the behaviour of Justin who skipped the training session twice. In addition, The word *ass* is very popular among black American which is considered as a lower-class community.

The conversation happened when Clay who was willing to meet Justin asked his basketball's coach about Justn's whereabouts. At first, the basketball's coach did not recognize who Clay was. He ordered Clay to get out of the court. But, Clay explained that he was his student in histroy class. After that, nevertheless, Clay did not get answer he wanted. Instead, Basketball's coach said that Justin who was important player in Liberty High Basketball club did not come to the training and also the rally pap today. Whereby, he asked back Clay if Clay found out Justin, Clay should tell him where Justin was as the competition was about to come.

The last example for male characters would be described, as follows:

*Justin: Who get drunk off of one beer?*

*Zach: Maybe, if it's 40.*

*Justin: And if you're a fucking pussy.*

(Data no. 25 episode 3)

There are two taboo words uttered in that dialogue, i.e *fucking* and *pussy* uttered by Justin. However, in this case, the word *pussy* is categorized as vulgarity as it is used

to derogate Zach's ability in drinking beer. Meanwhile, the interjection *fucking* is used to only intensify Justin's description about Zach. *Pussy* refers to, a woman genital. Furthermore, Justin uttered the word *pussy* to Zach in order to indicate that Zach is too feminine.

The dialogues happened when Zach and Justin was playing a playstation in Bryce's home. He talked about the past day when Clay had succeeded to finish drinking one bottle beer in his first try. Justin, then, compared that to Zach's experience which got drunk off due to only one beer. In fact, Zach is well-known as his masculinity. Zach, therefore, gave reasons to defend his reputation by saying that the beer was 40-year-old. However, Justin also said that Zach could not get off od drunk only one beer if Zach was not that too feminine.

Below, the examples of females character would presented:

*Jessica: When did you become such a pussy?*

(Data no. 11 episode 10)

The word *pussy* is uttered by Jessica. This word is marked as taboo words since *pussy* refers to a genital woman body. Jessica said the word *pussy* to her boyfriend Justin who was not brave enough to tell her the truth that she was raped by Bryce. Thia also means that the word *pussy* is used to insult him that Justin is not masculine enough.

The dialogue happened in Justin's house. Jessica asked him whether what was on the tape Hannah said was true or not. On the tapes, Hannah said that the party held at Jessica's house, Bryce came to the room after Justin and Jessica had a sex.

Hannah saw Bryce raped Jessica. Justin also knew. However, Justin tried to keep that as secret all the time. He even changed the story that Jessica only had a sex with him to Jessica. Meanwhile, Clay tried to find out the truth by investigating every piece of the truth on the record and he tried to reveal the truth to other student to Jessica. Thus, it made Jessica feeling insecure and she insisted Justin to admit that she got raped by Bryce. Justin with his doubtful face insisted Jessica did not get raped by Bryce. Hence, knowing that, Jessica uttered the word *pussy* to indicate that Justin was not brave enough as a man.

Below, the last example of female characters would be presented:

*Ryan: I did your favor Hannah. You are beautiful poet. You deserved to be heard.*

*Hannah: You're a self-serving, egoistical **fuckwad**.*

(Data no. 24 episode 8)

In that dialogue, Hannah uttered the word *fuckwad* marked as vulgarity as this word refers to A derogatory slur or insult to denote someone of sub-standard intelligence. In its usage, *fuckwad* is similar with the word *dipshit*.

The conversation happened when Hannah came to Ryan after the impact of the poet she made. Ryan, at first, suggested her to write a vulgar poem that depicted her very personal belongings such as the bra she wore or the panties she did. Ryan thought that it would trigger the readers to read his poem. All of the student in Liberty High School did read the poem, indeed. However, they humiliated the writer as she used the taboo and vulgar term in her poem which was unusual. Therefore, Hannah told

Ryan that he was stupid to suggest her to write a vulgar poem by saying the word *fuckwad* to Ryan.

#### D. Epithet

The last type of taboo words discussed in this section is epithet. Epithet refers to a variety of slurs related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, one's appearance, and disabilities. An epithet is usually used to reduce the tension of the speakers. In another word, it is an utterance from a frustration of the speakers. The examples of this type are *retarded*, *bitch*, *son of a bitch*, *skank*, *motherfucker* and *slut*.

In the findings, both male and female characters utter epithet 17 times in total 13 episodes. When it is differed, male characters uttered 14 times, while epithet uttered by female characters are three times.

Some examples of the data would be presented below, and the rest would be displayed on the appendix. To start with, male characters' data would be described first, as follows:

Bryce: Justin, brother.

Justin: I'm not your fucking brother.

Justin: I should kill you, you son of a bitch!

(Data no. 26 episode 11)

In that dialogue, Justin utters the phrase *son of a bitch*. Such phrase is remarked as epithet as it is connected to disparagement of woman. *Son of a bitch*, furthermore, is used to interjectionally express surprise or disappointment.

The dialogues happened when Justin came to Bryce's house to get Jessica out of there. He was afraid that the past experience when Bryce raped Jessica happened again. However, Jessica was not willing to accept Justin's suggestion. Instead, she stayed still there. It made Justin frustration and hence he revealed that Jessica indeed got raped by Bryce in front of him. The statements shocked Bryce since Bryce and Justin made a promise to have each other back in this case. Bryce tried to calm Justin by saying that Justin was still his brother. Nevertheless, Justin was sick of Bryce's behaviour. Furthermore, he said that he should have killed Bryce before the problem was getting bigger and added the exclamation *son of a bitch* to Bryce.

Another example of male character utters epithet would be presented, below:

*Marcus: I wonder who's the skank who write this!*

(Data no. 24 episode 2)

In that dialogues, the word *skank* is uttered by Marcus. The word *skank* refers to a person and especially a woman of low or sleazy character. This word marked as epithet as it is related to a gender identity, i.e. woman.

The dialogue happened when Marcus and Justin read a poem written by an anonymous which they did not yet know that the writer was actually Hannah. They laughed at this since the word used in that poem was too vulgar to be published in a school. The poem told about the usual color of bra the writer wore and also the pantie she did. Indeed, it consumed their attention, but it was too strange to see the writer which obviously was as the same as their age to write the term in vulgar way.



Therefore, Marcus wonder who wrote this poem by saying the term *skank* to disparage the writer.

Below, the examples of female character's data would be described below:

*Clay: Yeah Jessica's pretty and all. But you're special.*

*Hannah: Yeah special. Like **retarded**.*

(Data no. 16 episode 2)

The word *retarded* is uttered by Hannah in that dialogue. The word retarded marked as epithet since it refers to slow or limited in intellectual or emotional development of someone and informally it refers to someone who is foolish or very stupid.

The conversation between Clay and Hannah happened when Hannah felt insecure since she looked at how popular Jessica was. Most of the boys in the school was into Jessica. So that, she asked Clay about his opinion about her whether she was interesting enough or not as a woman. Clay, at first, was afraid to answer that question for if he told the truth Jessica, indeed, was beautiful and pretty woman, it would hurt Hannah. Then, Clay added the word special to make Hannah's mood up. However, it failed, Hannah got the truth that Clay actually said that Hannah was not better than Jessica.

Below, another example of female character's data would be presented:

*Hannah: No how could you even – of course not. He like yoy you like him. I'm the one who's out.*

*Jessica: yeah, and that pissed you off, didn't it? I'll just say this: enjoy it. Cause you will won't you? Cause that's what **sluts** do.*

(Data no. 18 episode 2)

In that dialogue, Jessica utters the word *slut* categorized as taboo word. Furthermore, in term of the type, the word *slut* is marked as epithet since it refers to disparage a woman, i.e. a woman who has many sexual partner. The word *slut*, indeed, is used by woman to another woman as swering for this word is very offensive to another woman.

The dialogue between Jessica and Hannah at Monet's cafe happened when Jessica was angered by the rumour that Hannah was the trouble maker in her relationship with Alex. Furthermore, the fact that Alex wrote a list that voted Hannah as the best *ass* in the school convinced her that Hannah intentionally seduced Alex by her body. This hurt Jessica so much for Hannah was her bestfriend and Alex's. However, Hannah denied all the accusation Jessica said to her. She said that both Jessica and Alex liked each other. Then, Jessica said that it made Hannah get rid of the friendships which led to break Jessica's romantic relationship with Alex. Furthermore, she added the word *slut* to indicate what Hannah did to her.

The next section, the function of taboo word would be presented. Firstly, the researcher would serve a table which shows the classified data in term of the functions based on Jay's theory (1992). Secondly, the researcher would give for every ponit of functional taboo words, four examples, i.e. two for male characters and the rest for female characters.

Table 3. The result of function of taboo words uttered by male and female characters

Gender	Function of taboo word				
	Anger/frustration	sarcastic irony or insult	Surprise	joke	descriptive-evaluative
Male	124	25	17	3	57
Female	22	10	32	4	17

In table 3, it can be seen that both male and female characters use taboo words in accordance with five functional categorization of taboo words by Jay (1992). From five functional categories, male characters frequently function taboo words to show their anger/frustration, i.e. 124 times. Meanwhile, Sarcastic irony or insult is mostly functional category found in female ones' utterances. Sarcastic irony or insult is used to mock or derogate someone or object referred to by mentioning its undesirable belonging. The other category like *Joke* turns out it becomes the least functional category functioned by either female or male characters, i.e. 4 and 3 times respectively. This category becomes the lowest functional category since *13 Reasons Why* is not comedy genre serial-movie. Instead, it is mystery drama in terms of its genre which is filled with a free-sex scene, drug abuse, and bullying scene. Meanwhile, male characters use taboo words to express surprise only 17 times. If it

is compared to the other functional categories, surprise stay at the fourth highest score in term of its frequency. Nevertheless, surprise, in female characters, is only found eight (8) times and this result render surprise posit in the same as the position of male's. This category is used by characters when he or she show his/her surprise. The last category, i.e. descriptive-evaluative is used by male characters 57 times and it is the second highest functional catgory. However, in female characters, descriptive-evaluative category only is functioned 17 times or it is below sarcastic irony or insult, and anger/frustration category in term of the frequently functioned.

In the next section, the researcher would elabourate some of the the data based on five functional categories. However, to make the explanation effective, the researcher decide not to include all data explained. Instead, he would use 4 data explained per point and the rest would be in appendix.

#### A. Anger/frustration

The first category discussed is anger/frustration. According to Jay (1992, p. 63), this functional category is used to reduce the tension of the speaker's anger and/ or frustration towards somebody or an event by employing taboo word. Those emotions are comibined since it is difficult to distinguish them merely by language.

In the findings, there are total 146 data marked as anger/frustration. 22 of 146 are functioned by female characters and the rest, 124 data, are found in male characters. Below, some of the data would be described and it would start with male characters' data:

*Tyler: This isn't fair. I was involved too.*

*Zach: Dude, get the **hell** out. Seriously or i will break your bone.*

(Data no. 13 episode 5)

From that dialogue, the word *hell* marked as taboo words uttered by Zach. It happens when Tyler which was supposed to be in a discussion suddenly appeared. At that time, Zach, Courtney, Alex, and Marcus set up a strategy to stop Clay's curiosity about the death of Hannah Baker since they think that what is on the tape that talk about their involvement in Hannah's death is not true. They talk calmly in order to make the discussion overheard by other students. However, Tyler came and insisted to be in discussion. Zach who did not like Tyler asked him to get out of his sight. Despite that, Tyler remained still and even he took a seat. Therefore, Zach was angered and he uttered the taboo word *hell*.

Another example is explained, as follows:

*Alex: The **fuck** is your problem?*

*Montgomery: Dude, Alex, chill. It's all good.*

(Data no.2 episode 6)

The dialogues happened when Montgomery who drove a car almost hit Alex on the school. The fact It was forbidden to drive a car fast in school surrounding angered Alex since Montgomery was so fast and seemed not aware that on the street a lot of student walking. Therefore, Alex shown his rage by stating the word *fuck* marked as taboo words to Montgomery.



Below, the example of female characters function taboo words as anger/frustration are explained:

*Zach: Hannah, you know, you can't be in here.*

*Hannah: Why not? You've all been staring at my **ass** all day.*

(Data no. 14 episode 3)

The dialogue happened when Hannah came to the boy's locker and shower room to show her rage to Alex since Alex made a list that humiliated her. However, Zach reminded Hannah to not come to that place. Then, Hannah did not care what Zach said, she, instead, said that all of the boys always stared at her *ass*. The word *ass* there marked as taboo word, vulgarity. In addition, the word *ass* uttered by Hannah to show her anger/frustration to all the boys in the locker or shower room.

The last example of anger/frustration category would be presented, below:

*Hannah: I want to be your friend, Courtney, I have been a friend to you, and this thing you're scared for people to know about you, doesn't matter to me. Okay, it doesn't **fucking** matter.*

(Data no. 5 episode 5)

The dialogue happened at the hall of Liberty High School when dance party held. Courtney said to the other students that Hannah forced her to do a kiss based on the viral photo depicted two girls kissing. In fact, Courtney was the one who asked Hannah to kiss her. However, Courtney was afraid to tell the truth to the other students since she was a lesbian and she decided to keep that as secret. As consequence of that, Hannah was

accused to be a lesbian instead of Courtney. Hannah actually was fine with the fact that Courtney was lesbian and she still be Courtney's friend. Nevertheless, Courtney made other students think that Hannah was, instead of her, lesbian. Therefore, the word *fucking* was uttered by Hannah to show her frustration/anger to Courtney.

#### B. Sarcastic irony or insult

The next functional category is sarcastic irony or insult. According to Jay (1992, p. 63) it is used to, instead of showing an rage or frustration, mock the object or person reffered to by stating its undesirable belongings in front of peers. In addition, the speakers function taboo words by denoting undesirable qualities of the interlocutors whether it is real or imagined description by themselves.

In the findings, there are total 57 taboo word functioned as sarcastic irony or insult. 35 of the total are found functioned by female characters and the rest, 24 data are found in male characters' utterances.

Some of the data would be presented whether uttered by male or female characters, as follows:

*Clay: I want my bike.*

*Justin: Your bike? Seriously?*

*Clay: yes, you **asshole**, I want my bike.*

(Data no. 35 episode 8)

The dialogue happened between Clay and Justin when Clay asked Justin about his bike which was stolen by Justin. Clay went to Justin house. However, Justin did not give a serious answer to Clay. Instead, he asked Clay back as the bike, he

thought, was not that important due to Clay's new car. Then, Clay uttered the taboo word *asshole* as an insult to Justin because he would like to really get his bike back.

Another example is presented, below:

*Justin: hey, I said hang back.*

*Alex: Just leave me alone, okay?*

*Justin: Hey you're a part of this. You're in it, even if you are a **pussy** Hannah said.*

(Data no. 12 Episode 9)

The dialogue happened when Justin tried to talk to Alex who had a problem with him. Justin, at first, asked politely to Alex. Nevertheless, Alex ignored Justin since he would really like to be alone after the accident occurred to him.

Knowing that, then, Justin try to get Alex' attention by stating *pussy*, a taboo word, as an insult to Alex.

The next section, the data would be presented based on female characters' utterances, below:

*Hannah: Maybe, Alex. you were just being a **dick**.*

Hannah uttered the word *dick* as sarcastic irony or insult to Alex since Alex humiliated her by making a vulgar list involved her in it without her permission. Therefore, she denoted a *dick*, i.e. undesirable qualities of Alex. In addition, the word *dick* is an insult that is imagined by Hannah.

Next, another example is described, below:

*Hannah: Boys are **assholes**, some are assholes some of the time. All are assholes some of the time.*

(Data no. 1 Episode 5)

The utterances occurred in episode 5. It happened after Hannah was treated so bad by some of boys in Liberty High School. Marcus and Alex were two boys who humiliated her. First, Marcus, he tried to touch Hannah's hip and kissed her in front of the other boys in cafe. It made Hannah ashamed at that time. Second, Alex made a vulgar list posited Hannah as the best-*ass* in the school. Everyone laughed at her due to that list. Therefore, she tried to denote some of the boys as an *asshole*.

### C. Surprise

Surprise is functional category used to reacting an unexpected achievement or other behavior. The usage is kind of expletive. In term of type of taboo words, this functional category usually employs a profanity like Jesus!, Oh my god!, Jesus Christ!. However, in the finding, the researcher find that there is also obscenity such as *fuck* and *shit* and also epithet like *son of a bitch* used as surprise.

Based on the tabel 3, male characters functioned taboo words as surprise are 17 times. Meanwhile, in female characters, there are 32 data marked as surprise. Furthermore, surprise is the highest functional category functioned by female characters.

Below, some of the data would be presented whether it is functioned by male or female:

*Justin: What the **fuck**?!*

*Bryce: Dude, it's time to wakey.*

This dialogue happened when Justin slept on the sofa. All of sudden, Bryce came to that sofa and splashed a water to Justin's face since it was time for school. It woke Justin up and also shocked him. Therefore, Justin uttered the taboo word *fuck* marked as obscenity to show his surprise.

Next, another example of male functioning taboo word as surprise is presented, as follows:

*Tonny: Head up!*

*Clay: **Son of a bitch**!*

(Data no. 12 Episode 3)

The conversation happened when Tony and Clay was in serious conversation. However, they did it while they were playing a volleyball. As consequence of that, Clay did not really focus on the ball. Instead, his focus was consumed by Tony's information about Hannah's death. Then, when the ball seemed going towards Clay, Tony warned him to watch the ball. Nevertheless, Clay was hit by the ball and she uttered *son of a bitch* as surprise.

Another two examples are uttered by female characters presented, as follows:

*Clay: did she tell anything about me? Anything bad?*

*Sherri: God! No. Clay, she like you so much.*



(Data no.3 Episode 2)

The dialogue happened when Clay wondered about what Hannah thought about when she was alive. It was done by Clay as he felt so bad when he listened to the tapes Hannah recorded told about the reason why she committed suicide. Then, he asked the close friend of Hannah, i.e. Sherri about that. Sherri who knew Clay and Hannah was good friend to each other, felt surprised by Clay's question. The word *god* was uttered to indicate her surprise.

The last example in this functional category is presented, below:

*Hannah: Uh-oh. We've got a stalker.*

*Jessica: Where?*

*Hannah: 3 o'clock.*

*Jessica: It's 3 after*

*Hannah:: Oh my god! your dad is a fighter pilot.*

(Data no. 6 Episode 2)

The dialogue happened at Monet's cafe. Hannah, at first, looked the surrounding. Then, she got a boy who stalk she and Jessica. Hannah told Jessica about that boy calmly. She used the clock position to show the position of the boy. However, Jessica did not realize that it was clock position. In fact, she was the daughter of an pilot. Jessica, instead, said that the clock was three after something. Therefore, the fact that Jessica did not understand clock position surprised Hannah. The expletive *oh my god*, then, was uttered to mark her surprise.

#### D. Joke

Joke is the least functional category in term of the data found. There are total only 7 data which consists of 3 functioned by male characters and the rest is done by female characters.

Joke is used by speakers of taboo word to make a humorous statement in a conversation. In another words, by using taboo word such as obscenity or vulgarity as a joke, the speaker would like to make the interlocutor laugh.

Below, some of data are presented. To start with, male characters' data is described, as follows:

*Bryce: Tyler! Hi Ty Ty, nice **ass** buddy*

(Data no. 6 Episode 5)

Bryce uttered the word *ass* marked as taboo word, specifically, vulgairty to make a humourous statement since there was a shared photo depicted a naked back body of Tyler. Not only saying the word *ass*, Bryce also put off his pants to show Tyler his *ass* to humiliate Tyler in front of the other students.

*Ryan: How does Amber Holloway have **boobs** already?*

*Hannah: You're an asshole.*

*Ryan: Yes! Yes!*

(Data no. 11 Episode 8)

The dialogue happened when Ryan and Hannah saw artist in a magazine. Ryan, then, wonder about the artist. Ryan said that it was strange to see the artist, Amber Holloway as there was a different in her body. To describe the strangeness, the word *boobs* marked as vulgarity is used by Ryan. In addition, the word *boobs* also make Ryan's statement humorous.

The other two data functioned by female characters are presented, below:

*Courtney's friend: Besides, can't be the best ass in the sophomore class find a date*

(Data no. 9 Episode 5)

Hannah would sign for the participant of dance event to Courtney who was the committee for that event. Since Hannah was well-known as her ass due to Alex' vulgar list, Courtney's friend uttered the word *ass* in front of the others committees as a joke.

The last example of joke is presented, below:

*Jessica: No, so now she's trying to punish me by giving all of my stunts to this 80-pound Go ahead. You really think that she can lift Melanie Opstad's fat ass Into pyramid formation?*

Jessica who took an important role in cheerleader was not allowed to train since the coach punished her by making her off in the training court. Jessica thought that it was a problem since her part was taken by a 80-pound girl which was impossible to be a stuntman of Jessica in cheerleader. Then, she also made a joke by uttering the word *ass* to describe Melanie Opstad, her substitute. Therefore, Sherri, Zach, and Bryce laughed at her joke.

### E. Descriptive-Evaluative

The last functional category is descriptive-evaluative. According to Jay (1992, p. 63) descriptive-evaluative category is used by speakers to indicate how he/she describes or evaluates connotatively or denotatively an object or event around him/her. In evaluative case, the speakers may speak “the school sucks!” to evaluate how the condition of the school is. In addition, the taboo words is used in this category to intensify the description.

In the table 3, there are 57 times descriptive-evaluative category used by male characters and 17 times for female characters.

Below, some of the data are presented:

*Bryce: Tattaboy!*

*Justin: This tastes like **shit***

*(Data no. 6 Episode 9)*

The dialogue happened when Justin accepted the Bryce’s offer to drink a vodka he brought from home. It relieved Bryce since at first Justin rejected his offer to drink that vodka due to the strong taste. When Justin drank the vodka, he squinted and uttered the word *shit* to describe the taste of the vodka.

*Justin: You know, he’s **fucking** liar, right?*

*Jessica: no he’s not liar.*

*(Data no. 10 Episode 8)*

The dialogue happened at Justin's home. Jessica and Justin talked about Clay who did not stop to find whether what was on the tape was true or not. It scared Justin since if it was the truth, it meant that he lied to Jessica that she actually got raped by Bryce based on the tapes recorded by Hannah Baker, the death students. Justin tried to convince Jessica, her girlfriend, that Clay was a liar. To intensify his description about Clay that he was really liar, he uttered the word *fucking*.

*Sherri: That damn book is hard like, the sentences are so long*

(Data no. 14 Episode 6)

Clay would like to help Sherri to finish the homework. The fact that Clay offered a help to Sherri rarely happened since Clay was busy and individual person. In addition, the book used as reference was so hard. Nevertheless, Clay gave Sherri his back in doing the homework which the due date was tomorrow. Therefore The word *damn* uttered by Sherri was used to intensify her description about the book which was really hard to read.

*. Lisa: Oh my god, did your parents buy you a new car for this dance?*

*Stephanie: holy crap! I didn't know you were rich!*

*Lisa: Oh my god, Stephanie. you can think that **shit**, but you can't say it.*

(Data no. 17 Episode 5)

The dialogue happened when Hannah invited Courtney, Lisa, and Stephanie to be in her new car to go to the dance party. Lisa, at first, asked Hannah if the new car was bought by her parents for her only for the dance party. Hannah did not answer



that question. However, Stephanie showed that she felt surprised also and she thought that Hannah's parents was not rich economically. Knowing that, Lisa reminded Stephanie that she should not say an economical affair of someone directly. To describe that, she uttered the word *shit*.

### 3.2 Discussion

After the researcher finish the finding part, he, then, steps forward to discussion part. In this section, the findings would be discussed and also be a part to answer the research two questions in chapter I. Furthermore, in doing the discussion, the researcher would be helped in answering by the theoretical framework written in chapter II, i.e. type of taboo word proposed by (Batistella, 2005), functional category of taboo word proposed by (Jay, 1992) and also gender differences in using taboo words proposed by some schoolars.

According to Batistella (2005), there are four type of taboo words, i.e. epithet, obscenity, profanity, and the last one, vulgarity. Furthermore, in term of its function, Jay (1992, p. 63) stated, that there are five reasons of people employing taboo word, they are; descriptive-evaluative, anger/frustration, sarcastic irony or insult, surprise, and joke.

In gender case, male and female use the taboo word differently. According to Lakoff in Gao (2008), women, in relation with the use of taboo, tend to use a polite form, e.g. indirect request, euphemism, avoidance of strong swear words, lack of sense of humor. Ningjue (2010) stated that men use more racist and aggressive

sexual words rather than women, and they easily opt for fighting when they are insulted. Hence, a man in term of the frequency uses more taboo words rather than a woman.

In term of the type, there are taboo words that would be only offensive if it is used towards one gender but not slightly to another gender and conversely. According to Kremin (2017), woman uses words such as *bastard* or *prick* to a man and *bitch* or *slut* to the same gender. However, man would employ taboo words such as cunt or slut to a woman and faggot or gay to another man. In term of the use of swearing, Furthermore, Kremin stated, the taboo words such as faggot, and gay are used to men since men are most offended when they recipient of that words which implies, they are a homosexuality or feminine. *Faggot*, for instance, is used to describe that the man is too feminine. On the other hand, the words such as *slut* and *bitch* are often used to women since they feel offensive when they describe as sexual promiscuity. However, some of them start to use slut and *bitch* to another women as terms of endearment and also the finding of this research that male characters more than female ones.

Therefore, by using the utterances of characters in *13 Reasons Why* serial movie as an source of the data, the researcher would proof whether the previous findings is agreed with the current finding or not.

### 3.2.1 Gender Using Taboo Words in Term of Its Type

In the use of language, both male and female, indeed, have different style. This different also lead to different in employing taboo word in a conversation. As the

use of language, the use of taboo word also is used to construct a identity of a gender. Coates said that taboo word is used as the construction of masculinity especially in western communities. That statement also corroborates some of scholars' finding which showed that man use taboo word or swear or taboo word more than woman.

In this study, the researcher analyzes all the characters in *13 Reasons Why* in using taboo words. He, furthermore, differ the use of taboo word based on type of taboo word. All of types of taboo word, i.e. epithet, obscenity, vulgarity, and profanity are uttered by both male and female characters which are mostly teenager in this serial movie. However, in term of the frequency, male and female have different result based on the finding. Male characters mostly use obscenity as taboo word in a conversation compared to the other types. Meanwhile, profanity which appears 33 times become the most dominant type of taboo word uttered by female characters.

The findings written above corresponds with Lakoff's claim. According to Lakoff, male tends to use expletive word such as *fuck* and *shit*. The words *fuck* and *shit* are categorized as obscenity. Nevertheless, female tends to employ taboo word such as *god*, *jesus*, and *damn* categorized as profanity. Profanity, in this study, based on Batistella's explanation, is used to show a emotional response by employing religious term. This type is not used to attack a religion or degenerate the existance of god.

The fact that male characters use dominantly obscenity, in this study, is because, in this serial movie, they often deal with a problem or they frequently are easy to mock the other male's characters. For example, Justin, a character in *13 Reasons Why*, has a number of problem in the story, i.e. his involvement in Hannah's death, and also his hatred to the other character like Clay, Bryce and Alex. Meanwhile, profanity most dominantly is used by female characters as they tend to use less expletive word such as *god*, *jesus*, and *oh my god* in a conversation. In addition, woman are stigmatized to be polite and also pursue a collaborative communication. Therefore, profanity is prevalent found in female characters rather than male characters.

Another interesting findings is both male and female characters employ epithet rarely. In the finding, it shows that only 14 times, epithet is found uttered by male characters and female characters utter epithet less than male ones', i.e. three times. Epithet itself is type of taboo word related to a gender, ethnicity but they may also refer to appearance, disabilities, or other characteristics. In this study, some of the findings does corresponds with Kremin's claim, the word *bitch*, for instance, is uttered by male characters, Justin to derogate or indicate the other male character, Zach as coward person. The other data that match with Kremin's claim is the word *slut* and *bitch* uttered by female characters towards the other female ones to downgrade them. However, the word *bitch* itself is also used to build an endearment amongst female characters.

Further discussion about type of taboo word in *13 Reasons Why* is about the use of vulgarity uttered by either male or female characters. Both in male or female

characters, vulgarity is on third position in term of its frequency found in this serial movie, i.e. 28 times for male characters and 20 for female characters. Vulgarity and obscenity need to be differed as the example of this types of taboo word are similiar. However, according to Jay, the difference is about the level of prunience. In addition, vulgarity is used to downgrade or derogate someone reffered to.

In conclusion of this first discussion part, the researcher concludes that male characters use taboo word more than female characters. Furthermore, in the type of taboo word, the findings corresponds with Lakof's theory. According to Lakof, man use stronger explitive word such as *fuck* and *shit* marked as obscenity than woman. Meanwhile woman use more less offensive taboo word as *god*, *oh my god*, and *jesus* categorized as profanity rather than man.

### **3.2.2 The Function of Taboo Word Used by Male and Female Characters**

Next discussion is about the function of taboo word when it is uttered by either male or female characters. As Jay stated, there are five functional categories in using taboo word, they are: descriptive-evaluative, anger/frustration, sarcastic irony or insult, joke, and surprise. As type of taboo word is different, in term of function, there is also differnce betwen male and character when they employ taboo word in a conversation.

Based on the findings, male characters mostly employ taboo word to indicate his anger/frustration. There are 124 of 226 data shown that taboo word used as anger/frustration. In this category, they often use obscene words such as *fuck*, *fucking*, and *shit*. Meanwhile, in female characters, the most frequent functional



category is surprise with 32 data classified into this category compared to the other categories. In the use of surprise, mostly female characters use taboo word marked as profanity, e.g. *jesus!*, *oh my god*, and *god*.

The use of anger/frustration through taboo words construct the identity of masculinity since, according to Yule, male, in conversation, tend to dominate and show its power to the other interlocutors. It is, therefore, no surprise that male characters use anger/frustration most frequently. For example, one of male character, Justin who often add an interjection *fuck* when he was angered by a person or situation. In addition, according to Ningjie (2010), men use more aggressive sexual words rather than women, and they easily opt for fighting when they are insulted. On the other hand, female characters mostly function taboo word as surprise because they avoid to be angry to the other person. According to Gao, instead of showing its power, women use a style of communication-based on solidarity and help the other to pursue communication-based on solidarity.

The least functional category found uttered by both gender is joke. Joke is only functioned seven times, i.e three for male characters, and four for female ones. Joke is the functional category used to make a humorous statement by employing taboo word. This category is rarely found for the genre of this serial movie is mystery. In addition, all the characters are depicted as teenagers who is in depression and also get anxiety due to the death of Hannah Baker.

The next category is sarcastic irony or insult. Sarcastic irony or insult category is used, instead of showing an anger/frustration, to mock the other person or object by

denoting its undesirable belongings. In male characters, they employ taboo word as an sarcastic irony or insult 25 times and makes it in third position. Nonetheless, there are 10 times, female characters employ taboo word.

The last category is descriptive-evaluative. In male characters, this functional category is quite prevalent but it is less than anger/frustration. Descriptive-evaluative occurs 57 times in male characters and 17 times in female characters. In this category, both gender employ taboo word to intensify their description of someone or object or evaluate an occasion like *“this taste like a shit”*.

To sum up this last discussion, the researcher concludes that male characters dominantly employ taboo to indicate his anger/frustration towards someone or condition. On the other hand, surprise is dominantly used by female characters when they employ taboo word. Joke is the least category functioned by either male or female characters as the genre of this movie is mystrey who talk about suicide, depression, and anxiety occured in teenagers.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter would present some conclusions based on the research findings and analysis part. Moreover, the researcher also give suggestions for next researchers who have interest in study related to taboo word and gender.

#### 4.1 Conclusion

According to the findings and analysis, the researcher concludes that the result of the current study in *13 Reasons Why* as taboo word uttered by either male or female characters in *13 Reasons Why*, both male and female characters uttered all of types of taboo word proposed by Batistella and also all functions of taboo word by Jay. Moreover, male characters, in term of number, unsurprisingly, employ taboo words more than than female characters. This finding corroborates with the previous studies.

In term of type of taboo o f word, , male characters dominantly utter taboo words classified as obscenity, i.e. 147 times compared to the other types. Meanwhile, profanity becomes the most dominant type of taboo word uttered with 33 data found. This corroborate with Lakof's claim in Coates (2013, p. 97). She stated that woman tend to use less offensive taboo word such as *jesus, oh my god, or, god*.

Another conclusion is based on function of taboo word. The use of taboo word by male characters is done to show their anger/frustration since men easily opt for fighting when they are insulted and also they use more aggressive sexual word in communication (Ningjue; 2010). Meanwhile, surprise is the most dominant function of taboo word found in female characters with 33 data. This is because , according to Jay (1992, p. 63), surprise often goes hand-in-hand with the taboo words classified as profanity which also becomes the highest data found in female characters. Both of gender rarely employ taboo word as joke since the genre of *13 Reasons Why* is mystery which depicts the life of tenaagers who deal with sexual abuse, drug, bully and suicide.

#### 4.2 Suggestion

In this part, the researcher would give some suggestions for he is aware that this recent study still has weaknesses. Firstly, for the future resarcher, he/she could add the theory of euphemism to analyze gender in avoidung taboo word. Secondly, as the data source is taken from serial movie, for the next researcher, he/she might uses the utterance of L2 speaker or English native speaker in using taboo word as data source.

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