

TYPES OF TABOO EXPRESSIONS AND TRANSLATION STRATEGIES IN THE PROJECT X MOVIE

I Komang Ngurah Sudiarta

Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

ngrhsudiarta71@gmail.com

I Komang Sulatra

Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

Ni Putu Verayanti Utami

Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar

ABSTRACT

The aims of this research are to analyze the taboo words in the subtitle of Project X movie. According to Wardhaugh (2010:239), Taboo is the restriction or avoidance of action in any community that is thought to be harmful to its members, generating them worry, embarrassment, or shame. The use of taboo words can be found in our conversation on a daily basis and also in the entertainment, for instance in a movie. This study aims at (1) find out the taboo expression in the Project X movie, (2) categorizing and analyzing translation strategies used by the translator in translating taboo expressions found in the subtitle of the Project X movie, This study is a descriptive qualitative study. The data comes from the film Project X. The data comes from the movie's subtitles, which contain prohibited terms. This study uses Batistella's (2005) theory to define the different sorts of taboo words, as well as Baker's (1992) theory to examine the translation strategy. According to the findings, there are four categories of taboo expressions among the eighty data points examined. They are epithet (twenty five data), profanity (eight data) Vulgarity (thirty seven data), and obscenity (ten data). For the translation strategies are used translating taboo expressions, the results show that there are eight types of translation strategies. They are translation by more general word (nineteen data), translation by more neutral word/less expressive word (eight data), translation by cultural substitution (thirteen data), translation using loan word or loan word plus explanation (five data), translation by paraphrase using a related word (twelve data), translation paraphrase using unrelated word (two data), translation by omission (nineteen data), and translation by illustration (two data).

Keywords: Taboo Expressions, Translation Strategy, Movie

INTRODUCTION

Language is a medium to communicate between someone with others. People often use language to express their feelings, ideas, and intentions. There are many languages exist in this world. People may choose one of them. Communication sometimes couldn't run well because the participants have difficulties in understanding the language use by their partners. Furthermore, along with the diversity of language itself, the occurrence of international language is needed in bridging

the communication across the nations. Therefore, English as an international language has a significant role to unite communication.

Regarding the various of languages occur in the world, the translation activity is needed to help people in engaging the communication. Therefore, translation can be described as the transfer of ideas and thinking from one language source to another. According to Catford (1965:20), translation is the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language. Regardless of whether the unknown dialect is challenging to comprehend, interpretation assists individuals with grasping the significance and sound of words and expressions.

Nowadays, many things can be translated. Translation is not only for printed/text media but also for electronic media. The data in this study are taken from electronic media. Translation in electronic media is called Audiovisual Translation or AVT. According to Chaume (2013), Audiovisual translation is a translation mode by transferring audio-visual text between two different languages (interlingual) or the same language (In Language). There are two main types of audiovisual translation such as; dubbing and subtitles.

Subtitle is a translation where the translator translates the language in the movie or video into the target language. Subtitle is put at the bottom of the screen and sometimes put at the top of the screen while the original movie is shown (Abidin, 2020:2). Subtitles are used for viewers who do not understand the language used in the film or video. According to Chaume (2013), subtitle is inserting a written text into the target language on the screen where the original version of the movie is displayed. Subtitles have several advantages such as using subtitles, therefore the audio from the movie is not affected by the subtitles, and by using subtitles people who have hearing disabilities can understand the movie without hearing the audio from the movie. Many movies use subtitles, one of them is a Project X movie that becomes the data source in this research.

The reason why the writer chose Project X as the data source is because this Project X film contains many taboo expression and they tend to use words that too insulting or offensive because it leads to racial, ethnic or sexual activity in it.

Taboo words are used by the speaker to express anger or to show emotional expression. According to Jay (1992: 4) taboo aims to oppress or impede someone's action, mind, and speech. To maintain social command in different cultures, they use taboo words to control someone in a group. Nowadays taboo words are commonly used in society, especially among teenagers. Even though they tend to use taboo words when they are getting upset to show emotional expressions, but taboo words are also used in good-humored to show friendship. According to Keith & Burrige (2006: 39), apparent terms of opprobrium are used in good-humored means displaying friendship and affection to someone close to you. But translating taboo expressions is not easy because a translator required to be able to divert messages from the source language to the target language is not only in terms of language but also must be able to adapt to the culture of the language target. If a translator makes a mistake in translating taboo terms it will have serious consequences fatal because it can offend other cultures. Therefore, translators need strategies when they want to translate.

This study is only focused on types of taboo expressions and the translation strategy found in Project X movie that was launched on March 2nd, 2012, this movie was produced by Todd Phillips.

This study concerns with two problems of study, regarding those problems of study that have been stated before, the theories that will be used in this study consists of two different theories, first of all in analyzing the taboo expressions, the theory that will be used is the theory from Battistella (2005). Furthermore, the theory from Baker (1992) is used to analyze the translation strategy of taboo expression in the Project X movie.

DATA SOURCE

The data for this study came from a dialogue in the Indonesian subtitle of a film called Project X. Thomas (Thomas Mann), Costa (Oliver Cooper), and J.B. (Jonathan Daniel Brown) are three friends who devise a plan to become famous faster, a plan that goes beyond their control. The movie is a depressing and unfunny teen scam comedy about a massive all-night party that devolves into chaos. The film's basic plot revolves around four buddies who are members of the "loser" club among their high school peers. One of them, Costa (Oliver Cooper), devises "Project X" as a means of gaining fame. They planned to throw a huge party at the home of Thomas (Thomas Mann), who was celebrating his birthday at the time and whose parents were gone for the weekend. As a result, once they left, the wild party plan got underway. The planned party will be jam-packed with liquor, hot naked girls, drugs, and, of course, an orgy in which the four of them hope to sleep with at least one girl that night. The party was intended to be attended by a maximum of 50 people, but as a result of a huge and enthusiastic announcement, the number of individuals who showed up grew to hundreds, if not thousands, causing the party to spiral out of control. Project X is a 2012 American comedy-drama film directed by Nima Nourizadeh and produced by Todd Phillips, based on a script written by Michael Bacall and Matt Drake and adapted from a story idea by Bacall. This film runs for 1 hour and 28 minutes.

METHODS

The observation method was used in this study to collect data, and the data was organized step by step based on the theory that was used. There are four techniques that were used in this study: First, watching the Project X movie. Second, looking for prohibited language in the Project X movie, both in the English version and in the Indonesian translation, which can be seen through the subtitles. Third, choosing the taboo expressions in the Project X movie. Fourth, determining the translation approach employed in the Project X movie's Indonesian subtitle to translate taboo expressions. The data was evaluated qualitatively and quantitatively to determine the percentage of each type of taboo expression as well as the translation strategies.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This study used the theory proposed by Batistella (2005) to classify the kinds of taboo expressions, there are four kinds of taboo expressions, there are; epithet, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity. Batistella (2005:72), and the theory proposed by Baker (1992) used to analyze the translation strategies. Baker (1992:26) suggests eight kinds of translation strategies, those are; translation with more general word, translation with more neutral word/less expressive word, cultural substitution, translation with loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation with paraphrase using a related word, translation with paraphrase using unrelated word, omission translation, and illustration translation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part presents the result of the analysis the type of taboo expressions found in the subtitle of Project X movie and also the translation strategies are used in translating taboo word in the subtitle of Project X movie. There were 80 data which belong to taboo expressions in this movie, it was identified that there were four types of taboo expressions such as; epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. in the subtitle of this movie, it was identified that there were eight types of translation strategies of taboo expressions such as translation with more general word, translation with more neutral word/less expressive word, cultural substitution, translation with loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation with paraphrase using a related word, translation with paraphrase using unrelated word, omission translation, and illustration translation. The percentage of every type of taboo expressions and translation strategies was counted in the following table to know the percentage for all of the type of taboo expressions and also translation strategies found in the subtitle of Project X movie.

Table 1. The Types of Taboo Expressions found in the Project X Movie

No.	Types of taboo expression	Findings	Percentage
1.	Epithet	25	31,25%
2.	Profanity	8	10%
3.	Vulgarity	37	46,25%
4.	Obscenity	10	12,5%
	Total	80	100%

According to the table above, there are four types of taboo expressions found in the *Project X* movie those are epithet, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity. All of them appeared in the subtitled of the Project X movie. It is clear from the table above that vulgarity is the most prevalent, appearing 37 times (46,25 percent). The epithet, which appears 25 times, has the second highest frequency (31,25 percent). Profanity, which appears eight times, is the third frequency (10 percent). Finally, obscenity, which appears 10 times, is the least frequent (12,5 percent).

Table 2. The Translation Strategies are used in Translating Taboo Expressions.

No.	Types of translation strategies	Findings	Percentage
1.	Translation with a more general word (superordinate).	19	23,75%
2.	Translation with a more neutral/less expressive word.	8	10%
3.	Cultural substitution.	13	16,25%
4.	Translation with loan word or loan word plus explanation	5	6,25%
5.	Translation with paraphrase using a related word.	12	18,3%
6.	Translation with paraphrase using a unrelated word.	2	2,5%
7.	Omission translation.	19	23,75%
8.	Illustration translation.	2	2,5%
	Total	80	100%

According to table above, there are eight types of translation strategies found. Translation with more general words (superordinate) and translation by omission are the most dominant in this movie, because of that, when translating taboo expressions in the subtitle of Project X, the target language translator effectively supplied the translation result utilizing these strategies.

1. The Types of Taboo Expression

This section discusses the types of taboo expressions. The researcher categorized each data based on what methods the author uses to form the types of Batistella (2005). There are several types of taboo expressions. Each types of taboo expressions can be explained by the theory of Batistella (2005), Batistella (2005) states that those are four types, there are; epithet, profanity, vulgarity, obscenity. The following is a description of the types of taboo expressions found in the *Project X* movie.

a. Epithet

Data 1

SL: No, *fuck that!* just go.

TL: *Tidak, Sialan! Pergilah.*

(*Project X* movie, Costa:18.19)

In this situation, Thomas, Costa, and J.B., being chased by T-Rick because the three of them had stolen his gnome. The expression '*fuck that*' is included to epithet category, because because the expression shit refers to feelings of irritation or curse words. Epithet is an emotional expression, epithet usually used to ask something with power and powerful expression.

b. Profanity

Data 2

SL: My parents are gonna *crucify me* if anything gets fucked up.

TL: *Orang tuaku akan menyalibkanku jika semuanya kacau.*

(*Project X* movie, Thomas:29.50)

In this situation, Thomas is annoyed that there are people in his house, because Thomas is afraid that his house will be chaotic. His father had warned him so that the house would not be messy because his father knew Thomas would invite more friends. The word '*Crucify me*' is included profanity category. profanity relates to secular religious words or expressions by slandering God's name or mentioning dirty words about God and everything about Religion.

c. Vulgarity

Data 3

SL: You're such a *dick* Costa.

TL: *Kamu seperti Penis Costa.*

(*Project X* movie, Thomas:02.00)

In this situation, Thomas was annoyed that Costa had mocked him as a loser for peeking at Thomas who was taking a shower to celebrate his 17th birthday. The word 'dick' which mean male genitalia, the word above is included vulgarity category, because the word 'dick' means a penis and refers to a part of a human's genital body that is included in sexual reproduction. Vulgarity is an expression in which the speaker uses words related to the part of the intimate body function of excretory.

d. Obscenity

Data 4

SL: Are you *fucking* with me right now?

TL: *Apa kau bercinta denganku sekarang?*

(*Project X* movie, Costa:09.15)

In this situation, Thomas and J.B peeked at Costa who was defecating in the toilet and recorded it, and then Thomas threw trash from the top of the toilet in Costa's face. The word 'fucking' means make love or have sex. This word included category of obscenity. Obscenity words refer to words that are prohibited for public use and also refer to words, images or actions that offend sexual morality.

2. The Translation Strategies are used in Translating Taboo Expressions.

This section discusses the translation strategies are used in translating taboo word. The researcher categorized each data based on what methods the author uses to the translation strategy of taboo expressions the theory from Baker (1992). according theory from Baker (1992:26) there are eight types strategies of translation such as: translation with more general word, translation with more neutral word/less expressive word, cultural substitution, translation with loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation with paraphrase using a related word, translation with paraphrase using unrelated word, omission translation, and illustration translation. The following is a description of the types of taboo expressions found in the Project X movie.

a. Translation with more general word (superordinate)

Data 5

SL: Dude, high-school *pussy* for days.

TL: *Kawan, cewe SMA seharian.*

(Project X movie, Miles:14.17)

The word 'high-school pussy' is translated into 'cewe SMA', 'pussy' refers to female genital. Contextually, the speaker said there would be high school pussy for days at the party so the translator translated 'pussy' into 'cewe' with a more general meaning, because pussy means female genitalia. In this strategy, the translator changes the SL words by looking for more common words in TL

b. Translation with neutral word/less expressive

Data 6

SL: Jesus, already *chicks* are really hot.

TL: *Yesus, semua ayamnya benar-benar seksi.*

(Project X movie, Thomas:24.24)

As can be seen, the word '*chicks*' is translated into '*ayamnya*' in TL. In this scene the speaker said that chicks are really hot, which means female prostitute or sexy college. The translator translated '*chicks*' into '*ayamnya*' because translators try to replace expressive word to change less expressive word or formal word. In conclusion, the translator analyzed using translation by more neutral/less expressive word, Translators use this method to try to substitute some expressive terms with ones with less expressive meanings.

c. Cultural substitution

Data 7

SL: Thomas, *suck my cock*.

TL: *Thomas, hisap penisku.*

(Project X movie, Costa:10.28)

As can be seen, the word '*suck my cock*' is translated into '*hisap penisku*' the translator used the word '*hisap penisku*' as the equivalent of the word '*suck my cock*' because the word has the same nuance as the SL. In conclusion, the translator analyzed using translation cultural substitution, the target language is substituted in this technique elements for culture-specific elements or phrases that do not have the same propositional meaning but are likely to have a similar impact on the target readers. The key benefit is that it provides the reader with a notion that they can identify to, something that is both familiar and intriguing.

d. Translation with loan word or loan word plus explanation

Data 8

SL: What? Mama Kub and Papa Kub? *Jesus*. Yeah those are my parents, asshole.

TL: *Apa? Mama dan Papa Kub? Yesus. Ya, mereka adalah orang tua ku, bajingan.*

(*Project X* movie, Thomas:10.34)

As can be seen, the word 'Jesus' is translated into 'Yesus', the word 'Jesus' refers to the name of God in Christians. The translator translates the word 'Jesus' by borrowing. In conclusion, here the translator analyzed the translation with a loan word or loan word plus explanation. When a word comes numerous times in a document, following loanwords with explanations is often helpful. The loanword can be used by itself once it has been described, and the reader will not be sidetracked by long explanations.

e. Translation with paraphrase using a related word

Data 9

SL: We need a post-up at the *cockbiter's* house.

TL: *Kita perlu mengungkap rumah bajingan itu.*

(*Project X* movie, Costa:32.26)

As can be seen, the word 'cockbiter' is translated into 'bajingan' this word which means biting penis, the translator translated 'cockbiter' into 'bajingan' because based on the text of situation, in conclusion, here the translator translated the word 'cockbiter' with paraphrase using a related word, where the translator changes the subtitle based on his/her opinion, therefore the strategy used by the translator is translation by paraphrase using a related word. In order for the translation to sound as natural as it was originally, The translator may have to paraphrase the word so that the message is easily understood by the intended reader.

f. Translation with paraphrase unrelated word

Data 10

SL: I'm sorry Thomas. I just wanted to get some *pussy*.

TL: *Aku minta maaf, Thomas, aku hanya ingin bersenang-senang.*

(*Project X* movie, Costa:1.11.22)

The word 'pussy' is translated into 'bersenang-senang'. 'Pussy' literally means female genitalia, the translator translated as 'bersenang-senang' because according to the context, here the speaker (Costa) apologizes to Thomas because the party has become brutal because more and more people are showing up and Thomas' whole house is destroyed and he said at first that he just wanted to have fun having sex with the women he had invited to party. Therefore, the translator needs to lexicalize the word 'pussy' into 'bersenang' so that it fits the target language and also fits the context of the situation. In conclusion, the translator used translation by paraphrase using unrelated word, Paraphrase techniques' key benefit is that they "reach a high degree of clarity in expressing the meaning of a statement."

g. Omission translation

Data 11

SL: Come on, guys, let's start making some drinks. Let's get crazy in this *bitch*.

TL: *Ayolah, kawan, ayo kita minum. Ayo mulai menggila.*

(*Project X* movie, Miles Teller:30.18)

As can be seen, the word 'let's get crazy in this bitch' is translated into 'ayo mulai menggila. Here the translator analyzed using translation by omission.' 'bitch' means prostitutes and removed in the translation above. The word 'bitch' is omitted in the translation literally; it will reduce the politeness of the translation.

h. Illustration translation

Data 12

SL: That thing that *dick* in the sweater vest was telling us about?

TL: *Konyol sekali, rompi sweater itu yang mengatakan kepada kita?*

(*Project X* movie, one of the students:11.33)

The word 'dick' is translated into 'konyol' in TL. The word 'dick' refers male genitalia. In conclusion, the translator analyzing using translation by Illustration, because contextually the speaker says that 'dick' to Costa is because the speaker feels silly/insolent because Costa is unpopular at his school which has invited them to Thomas's birthday party, so the translator illustrated the word 'dick' to 'konyol' according to the speaker's feelings. When a word in the target language has no equivalent in the target language and refers to a physical entity that may be illustrated in the context of the issue, this technique is a great option.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analyses, it can be concluded that there are four types of taboo expressions that can be found in the subtitle of *Project X* movie which consist of epithet, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. Taboo expressions found in the *Project X* movie are dominant taboo expression of vulgarity which are categorized taboo expressions used in the subtitle of *Project X* movie. And there are eight translation strategies which consist of translation with more general word, translation with more neutral word/less expressive word, cultural substitution, translation with loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation with paraphrase using a related word, translation with paraphrase using unrelated word, omission translation, and illustration translation. According to the summary above the writer concluded that from all kinds of taboo words, vulgarity is the most dominant. Furthermore, Translation with more general words (superordinate) and translation by omission are the most dominant when translating taboo expression in the subtitle of *Project X* movie.

REFERENCES

- Abidin, M. (2020). Taboo word translation in Scorsese's Casino movie subtitling. Surakarta: English Letters Department, The State Islamic Institute of Surakarta.
- Aisah, I. S. & Sari, R. P. (2022). Pergeseran Terjemahan dalam Website Ruang Guru Career. MAHADAYA: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Budaya, 2(1), 9-16.
- Allan, K. &. (2006). Forbidden Words; Taboo and the Censoring of Language. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Baker, M. (1992). In Other Words, A Course Book on Translation. London: Routledge.
- Batistella, Edwin L. (2005). Bad Languages: Are Some Words Better Than Others. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Brislin, R. (1976). Translation: Application and Research. New York: Gardner Press, Inc.
- Chaume, F. (2013). The Turn of Audiovisual Translation. Jhon Benjamin Publishing Company.
- Luthfira Isnaeni Widhi, N. S. (2019). An Analysis of the Translation of Taboo Words in Central Intelligence Movie. Stbalia.e-journal, 72-86.
- Newmark, P. (1988). A Text Book of Translation. London: Prentice Hall International.
- Nourizadeh, N. (Director). (2012). Project X.. Warner Bros. Pictures.
- Permadi, C. B. (2017). Translation of Taboo words in the SpongeBob Movie Sponge out of water and their Indonesian Subtitled. Jakarta: English letters Department, University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta.
- Trudgill, P. (2000). Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society. Advisory Editor: David Crystal.
- Wardhaugh, R. (2010). An Introduction to Sociolinguistic. Chichester, West Sussex, U.K.: Malden, MA : Wiley-Blackwell.
- Suardana, I. W., Jayantini, I. A., & Suastini, N. W. (2022, February 1). Identifying Category Shifts In The English-Indonesian. Apollo Project, 1-9.