

The Use of Rude Words by Indonesian Teenagers: A Sociolinguistic Case

Gunawan Tambunsaribu
 Christian University of Indonesia
 Cawang, Indonesia
 gunawanreza_tamsar@yahoo.com

Abstract—the use of vocabulary items in speaking to other people in daily intercourse reflects the culture of the speakers of that language. The usage of rude-words in a communication with other people is a bad communication. The three main topics to be focused in this study are the lists of rude words, the factors and the source of the rude words using by Indonesian's teenagers in their daily speaking. The data were collected from the records of teenagers' speaking while they were speaking to their friends in their community. Their dialogues among them were recorded by the speakers purposively. The researcher used qualitative method because the collected data will be analyzed and reported descriptively. The data are encrypted from the audio-recorders, questionnaires, and also taken from the interview session. The researcher found out that there are 65 rude words/phrases that mostly are used by Indonesian teenagers in their daily speaking. There are three (3) factors which affect the use of such rude-words which are spoken by Indonesian teenagers, they are environmental, Habitual, and Friendship Factor. There are nine sources of rude words used by Indonesian teenagers, they are 1) Disorderly Mixed-Syllable Vocabularies, 2) Genital/Sex Organ's Vocabularies, 3) Human Body's Feces/excrement Vocabularies, 4) Dirty/Filthy Animal's Name Vocabularies, 5) Human's Mental/Psychoneurotic Illness Vocabularies, 6) Human's bad behavior/behavioral defects Vocabularies, 7) Loan Words from Foreign Languages, 8) Human's Ugly Appearances/Disabled Person Vocabularies, and 9) Indonesian's Tribal Words.

Keywords—*rudewords, teenager, and communication.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The use of vocabulary items in speaking to other people in daily intercourse reflects the culture of the speakers of that language. The usage of rude-words in a communication with other people is a bad communication. Nowadays, the use of rude words by teenagers with their peers in the daily conversation is a sign of a bad culture. Using rude-words especially in formal conversation is not polite; in addition, the speakers who use the rude-words can also cause a bad image of the nation or the environment where the speakers live.

The language that people use also clearly reflects the cultural values that exist within the group. Language is a sound system which is arbitrary, used by a community to cooperate, to communicate, and to become self-identity [1]. The use or the style of good language in communicating with others will reflect a good culture and vice versa. If people are accustomed to saying rude-words, they will

reflect a bad culture within their group's community. To distinguish a good and a bad language style, there are three elements in the style of good language: honesty, courtesy, and interestedness [2].

The three main topics to be focused in this study are the lists of rude words, the factors and the source of the rude words using by Indonesian's teenagers in their daily speaking. The formulations of the problems in this study are as follows:

- a. What are the rude-words that are often spoken by adolescents when they communicate with their peers in their daily conversations?
- b. What are the factors which affect the use of such rude-words?
- c. What are the rude-words derived from/the sources of the rude words that the teenagers use commonly in their daily conversations?

By the results of this writing, it is expected that all Indonesian people nationwide can find out the list of rude-words which are often used by teenagers when they communicate with their peers in their daily conversation. By knowing all the list of rude-words spoken daily by the teenagers, the adults especially the parents are hoped to find out the ways of how to reduce and to eliminate the usage of the rude-words by the teenagers especially their children at home.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II describes proposed research method. Section III presents theoretical review. Section IV presents the obtained results and following by discussion. Finally, Section V concludes this work.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study focuses on the use of rude-words in everyday communication by teenagers in Bekasi city. The data were collected from the records of teenagers' speaking while they were speaking to their friends in their community. Their dialogues among them are recorded by the speakers purposively. The respondents are the teenagers who are living in Bekasi. The respondents were selected by researcher randomly. The researcher visited several most-well now shopping centers, schools, entertainment venues, restaurants, coffee shops located in Bekasi. Researcher also conducted depth-interviews to specific respondents. The researcher also used questionnaires to complete the data that

will be used by the researcher for his analysis based on the problems stated in the first chapter.

The researcher used qualitative method because the collected data will be analyzed and reported descriptively. The data are encrypted from the audio-recorders, questionnaires, and also taken from the interview session. The researcher will analyze the data by taking notes and grouping the list of the rude-words spoken by the respondents while talking to their friends. After taking notes and grouping the word-lists, the researcher classifies the rude-words into three categories namely *tribal/ethnic words*, *national words*, and *foreign words*. In the analysis, the researcher will try to translate those rude-words into formal words in Bahasa. In addition, the researcher also tries to translate those rude-words by finding out the close equivalent words into English.

III. THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Sociology

Social interaction is the main requirement of social activities that concern the relationship between individuals with individuals, groups with groups, or individuals with groups [3]. The branches of sociology include the study of behavior and culture (*Personality and Culture*) and collective behavior. *Collective behavior* means the behavior of individuals in a community or group and contains the use of language by individuals in their community [4]. There are 7 elements of culture that are considered as a universal culture, they are 1) The tools and equipments of human life; 2) The livelihood of life; 3) Community System; 4) Language (oral and written); 5) Art; 6) Knowledge System; and 7) Religion. In those 7 elements of culture mentioned above, there is a point of '*spoken and written language*' which the author chose as a topic of discussion in this study [5].

B. Language and Its Function

Language is an arbitrary sound symbol system used by social groups to cooperate, communicate and to identify themselves [6]. Language is not just a means of communication. Language in use is part of the message in a communication which is called 'transactional' and 'interpersonal' [7]. It means that there are customs and cultures in using language as a medium or communication tool. There are 4 classes of language functions, they are: (1) cultural function, (2) communal function, (3) individual function, and (4) educational function [8]. The function of language in culture is as a means of cultural development, the path of cultural success, and the inventory of cultural traits. Language is a part of culture and language that enables the development of the culture itself.

C. Culture

The word "*budaya - culture*" comes from the Sanskrit word '*buddhayah*' which is the plural of '*buddhi*' which means "*character*" and '*mind*'. Culture is defined as matters relating to *mind* and *character*. Culture is a complex that

includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, laws, customs, and other abilities and habits gained by human beings as members of society [9]. Culture is a transmitted and disseminated knowledge of the social, whether existential, normative or symbolic reflected in the behavior and objects of human works [10]. Culture is a symbol system consisting of symbols and meanings that are shared one to another, which can be identified, and it is for public [11].

D. Relationship between Language and Culture

Language is part of a culture which means that the position of language is subordinate to the culture itself, but they are closely related to each other [12]. Language is unique and has a very close relationship with the culture of the community who used the language [13]. Language studies have a close relation to culture [14].

The criteria used to observe the correct use of language is by the rules/structure of the language itself. They include aspects of sound (phonology), grammar (words and sentences), vocabulary (including terms), spelling, and meaning. Meanwhile, the criterion of good language use is the accuracy of choosing the language styles that suit to the communication needs [15]. A language is a product from the language user's culture [16]. Many linguistic experts have also agreed that there is a close relationship between language and culture. The way of thought and culture of a society is determined or influenced by its language structure [17].

E. Teenager

The behavioral and personal characteristics of teenager are divided two groups of early teenagers (11-15 years old) and late teenagers (14-20 years old). The two groups are distinguished by several aspects, namely: physical appearance, psychomotor, language, cognitive act, social life, morality, religious act, affective emotions and personality [18]. According to him, in terms of language, the early teenagers are fond of foreign languages. They like reading many kinds of literature works which contain erotic, fantastic and esthetic stories. While those who are at the age of advanced/late age (14-20 years old) tend to manage themselves and choose foreign languages to study and they like reading literature works that contain philosophical, ethical, and religious values.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

TABLE I. THE LIST INDONESIAN TEENAGERS' RUDE WORDS

No	Rude Words/Phrases	Equivalent Word in English
1	Geblek	Stupid
2	Sempak	Underwear
3	Kontol	Penis
4	Pukimak/pukimai	Vagina
5	Itil	Vagina
6	Pepet	Vagina
7	Jambut	Pubic hair/Grpin hair
8	Berak	Shit/feces
9	Congek	Deaf

10	Babi	Pig
11	Anjing	Dog
12	Asu	Dog
13	Monyet	Monkey
14	Kambing	Goat
15	Tokek belang	Colorful gecko (an animal)
16	Bego	Very stupid
17	Dungu/dongok	Very stupid
18	Bodoh	Stupid
19	Idiot	Idiot (loan word from English)
20	Brengsek/berengsek	Useless/no good/very bad attitude
21	Bangsat	Scoundrel/rascal/thief/bad person
22	Kampret	Small bat/bad physical appearances
23	Kaparar/keparat	Dammit/damned/accursed
24	Mampus	Die/exclamation about something unfortunate
25	Biadab	Ill-mannered/impolite/uncivilized/savage
26	Muka <i>lu* tuh ngaca</i>	“Watch your face in the mirror!” – To curse/humiliate someone who has an ugly appearance/ugly face.
27	Jelek <i>lu*</i>	“Your face is ugly/You are ugly!” – To curse/humiliate someone who has an ugly appearance/ugly face.
28	Leak	<i>Leak</i> ; a bad animal/ghost – a kind of ghost which is most well known in Bali
29	Gembel/jembel	A very poor person/poor wanderer
30	Jijik <i>gua**</i>	Disgusted – to humiliate someone who has an very bad smell/very stinky.
31	Najis <i>lu*</i>	Disgusted; defiling filth; dirty – to humiliate someone who is considered very filthy.
32	Budeg	Deaf
33	Borok	Ulcer; mangy
34	Dajal	Devil/deceiver/lier
35	Cacat <i>lu*</i>	Physical defect/handicapped person
36	Anjir	Dog
37	Najong	Disgusted; defiling filth; dirty – to humiliate someone who is considered very filthy.
38	Nyemot	Monkey
39	Azizay	Disgusted; defiling filth; dirty – to humiliate someone who is considered very filthy.
40	Bebon/bedon	Very stupid
41	Bangke	Rotten carcass/corpse/carrion
42	Memek/meki	Vagina
43	Martole	To have a sex/coitus; to fuck
44	Bujang inam	Vagina
45	Tai	Feces/shit
46	Silit	But/buttock
47	Bo’ol	Asshole
48	Berak	To have shit/feces
49	Pele	Very stupid
50	Pe’a	Very stupid
51	Mother fucker	Damn it! – exclamation of dissatisfaction; to curse someone you hate much
52	Fuck you	Hell! /Asshole! – To curse someone, you hate much; exclamation of disapproval.
53	Shit	Shit (loan word from English); feces
54	Bitch	Bitch (loan word from English)
55	Bakka	Bakka (loan word from Japan); very stupid
56	Akouka	Akouka (loan word from Japan); Damn it!
57	Muka sange	Immoral/filthy act/ usually for man who acts/speak filthy things about

		woman’s sexual body
58	Alien lu	Very ugly face
59	Sue lu	Damn it! – exclamation of dissatisfaction
60	Martole jonjong	To have a sex/standing-style sex
61	Bujang inam	Mother’s vagina
62	Bodo nanan	“I don’t even care”
63	Pepet	Vagina
64	Dancok	Hell! /fuck you! – Exclamation of disapproval.
65	Turuk koe	Vagina

A. *The factors which affect the use of such rude-words which are spoken by teenagers when they communicate with their peers in their daily conversations.*

There are three (3) factors which affect the use of such rude-words that shown in Table I, which are spoken by Indonesian teenagers, they are:

a) Environment Factor.

The teenagers know and hear those rude words spoken by the people living around them i.e from their neighbours, their parents, their siblings and from the actors/actress they are watching from television. Therefore, they try to imitate using the rude words to their friends outside which impact them to be accustomed to using such words in their daily speaking.

b) Habitual Factor.

On the second factor is from the teenagers’ habitual use of the rude words in their daily speaking. Since they have heard and known well those words from their environment, then they use them in their conversation with their friends while they are talking to each other. They do not realize that they have been accustomed to using those rude words in their daily conversation with their partners in their daily communication.

c) Friendship Factor / Faktor Pergaulan

On the third biggest influential factor in using such rude words is caused by the teenagers’ friendship. They tend to use rude words in their speaking with their friends because they are very close to each other. They feel more comfortable in using rude words because none of them get hurt feelings. They even said that the rude words are like their slang words in their community.

B. *The sources of the rude-words that the teenagers use commonly in their daily conversations.*

There are nine sources of rude words used by Indonesian teenagers (see Table I for more explanation)

a. Disorderly Mixed-Syllable Vocabularies.

- *Anjir, Najong, Nyemot, Geblek, Azizay, Bebon/bedon, Bangke*

b. Genital/sex Organ’s Vocabularies.

- *Sempak, kontol, memek/meki, pukimak, martole, itil, pepet, jembut, bujang inam*

c. Human Body’s Feces/excrement Vocabularies.

- *Eek, silit, bool, berak, congek*

d. Dirty/Filthy Animal’s Name Vocabularies.

- *Babi, Anjing, Asu, Monyet, Kambing, Toke belang*

e. Human’s Mental/Psychoneurotic Illness Vocabularies.

- *Begok, Dunggu/dongo, Bodoh, Pele, Idiot, Pea, Gila*
- f. Human's bad behavior/behavioral defects Vocabularies.
- *Brengsek, bangsat, kampret, mampus lu, biadab, keparat*
- g. Loan Words from Foreign Languages.
- *Mother fucker (English), Fuck you (English), Shit (English), Bitch (English), Bakka (Japaness), Akouka (English)*
- h. Human's Ugly Appearances/Disabled Person Vocabularies
- *Muka lu tuh ngaca, Jelek lu, Leak, Gembel, Jijik gua, Najis lu, Muka sange, Budeg/tuli, Borok, Alien lu, Dajal, Cacat lu*
- i. Indonesian's Tribal Words.
- *Sue lu (Betawiness), Martole jonjong (Batakness), Bujang inam (Batakness), Asu (Javaness), Bodo nanan (Betawiness), Pepet (Batakness), Dancok (Javaness), Turuk koe (Javaness)*

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This research is expected to be useful for all Indonesia people especially for the knowledge of parents in order to teach and suggest their children to use positive-meaning words in their communication with others. This study is also expected to be useful for foreign people who come to Indonesian for their knowledge in understanding the language culture of Indonesian people especially when they come to visit Bekasi city, a big city in the province of West Java.

The goal of this research is to awaken all of us as human beings that it is very important to keep a positive condition while communicating with other people. For educators and parents in Indonesia especially, the results of this research are very useful for them to better understand the meaning of rude words spoken by today's teenagers as they communicate to others in a society. It is better to educate the children to use polite-meaning words in order to get positive nuances in their daily communication with others so they can appreciate each other in stead of humiliating others by their rude-words use.

At last, this research is highly recommended to the future researchers for continuing this study in other provinces of Indonesia or in other countries to get a deep understanding about other rude words and the impacts of using rude words in the society.

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