

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Linguistics is a multifaceted field that encompasses the scientific study of language in all its aspects. From the sounds and structures of individual words to the broader patterns of language use in society, linguistics seeks to understand the fundamental principles underlying human communication. As Crystal (2008) eloquently states, "Linguistics is the scientific study of language, embracing its structure, its functions, and its meaning." This definition highlights the comprehensive nature of linguistics, which includes phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, among other subfields. Linguists employ various methodologies, ranging from theoretical analyses to empirical research, to uncover the underlying principles governing language. By exploring the intricate systems and mechanisms of language, linguistics provides valuable insights into the nature of human cognition, communication, and culture.

One of the most prominent branches of linguistics that highlights this intersection is sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics examines how language use and variation are shaped by social factors such as culture, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender. As (Trudgill, 2000) aptly puts it, "Language is not a separate social phenomenon; it is an integral part of human behaviour in society." This perspective underscores the importance of understanding the social contexts in which language functions, influencing both its structure and usage patterns.

Sociolinguistic research sheds light on how language reflects and reinforces social identities, power dynamics, and cultural norms within a community. By exploring the dynamic relationship between language and society, sociolinguistics offers valuable insights into the intricate mechanisms underlying human communication and interaction.

Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society, focusing on how social factors influence language variation and change. Euphemism, a linguistic phenomenon, is a key area of study, reflecting cultural norms and values. It helps social groups navigate interactions, maintain politeness, and negotiate meaning within specific contexts. Sociolinguistic research provides insights into power dynamics and social reality construction. Euphemism holds significant relevance within the field of sociolinguistics as it reflects and influences social norms, values, and attitudes. As expertly articulated by Burrige (2012), euphemisms serve as linguistic strategies employed by individuals to mitigate potential offence or discomfort associated with sensitive or taboo topics. They are intricately intertwined with social dynamics, reflecting cultural sensitivities and societal conventions. Sociolinguistic inquiry into euphemism delves into how these linguistic devices vary across different social groups, revealing insights into the diverse linguistic practices within a society. Moreover, euphemisms are not static; they evolve in response to shifting social attitudes and values. By examining euphemism through a sociolinguistic lens, researchers gain deeper insights into how language is used as a tool for social

negotiation, identity construction, and the maintenance of social harmony within diverse cultural contexts.

Some media contain linguistic phenomena. Movies are an appealing area for sociolinguistic research because they provide a wide range of linguistic phenomena and social settings for examination. Characters in films frequently express themselves in ways that reflect their social identities, power relationships, and cultural origins. These linguistic portrayals extend to the use of euphemisms, where indirect or softened language serves various social functions, such as politeness, avoidance of taboo topics, or manipulation of perceptions. As noted by sociolinguist Trudgill (2000), "Movies provide a rich tapestry of linguistic diversity, offering insights into how language is used to negotiate social relationships and navigate complex societal norms." By examining the language used in films, researchers can illuminate the intricate interplay between language, society, and culture, shedding light on the subtle nuances of human communication and interaction.

According to Holder (2002), we use euphemisms when speaking or writing about taboo or sensitive subjects. Therefore, it is the language of avoidance, duplicity, prudery, and deceit. Euphemisms are utilized in both spoken and written language. A state in which a disrespectful person, when saying or explaining some bad words, can change the utterance by explaining to the listener **"having sex" or "making love"** in certain states. Because of the rareness of slang and obscene vocabulary in written English, euphemisms for spoken

language are increasing. Obscene language appears in texts as descriptive euphemisms.

It's more euphemistic when you talk or speak English because it's more spontaneous than written. The researcher discovered examples of distinct euphemisms in interviews and videos. The first principal model is a discussion between Professor Jordan Peterson and Professor A.W. Pete on CBC News talking about the utilization of substitute pronouns nearby for the people who say words like 'he, she, him, or her' but don't address them precisely.

A.W. Pete: I'd like to give Peterson about a B+ for his critic role and F for the conscience part. (minutes 3:17 – 3:23)

The news Anchor: "...For example I'm Asian I would bristle if someone called me oriental..." (11:16 – 11:20)

The primary citation from Professor A.W. Pete differs and feels compelled to state that Professor Peterson's thinking is repugnant however he euphemizes his expression utilizing score F implies absolutely awful. The subsequent citation is from the anchorperson whether to say the Asian nation is Asian, however euphemizes it with "Oriental" and that implies Asian.

Different models are from films. From "Titanic" and "The American President". **Jack**: "See, my folks died in a fire when I was fifteen, and I've been **on the road since**. Somethin' like that teaches you to take life as it comes at you. To make each day count." (**TITANIC**)

In this specific phenomenon, Jack started his talk with Rose by using dysphemism, he euphemizes his utterance in his sentence about his "house" or

“job”. Jack said “on the road since”, means he lives as a vagabond. This phrase is choosed to attract the woman to his life. As consequently of, he used the euphemism to tell his life and creating something to indicate that his life is valued, but he wouldn't like to express about his daily.

KODAK: The country has **mood swings**.

LEWIS: Mood swings? Nineteen post-graduate degrees in mathematics and you explain going from a 63 to a 46 per cent approval rating in 5 weeks on mood swings?

(THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT)

In the film, *The American President*, this conversation takes place. Kodak is speaking with Lewish and asking him questions on how voters act. Kodak recommends "mood swings" as a psychological term since they do not want to explore why the public is turning against them. It also demonstrates how these euphemisms have been utilized to conceal the public's opposition to them.

There are some previous research that has also discussed euphemism in the movie. The first previous and relevant research is a thesis entitled “Seeing the unseen: Euphemism in Animated Films A Multimodal and Critical Discourse Study” by (Asseel, 2020b). The analysis reveals that animated films frequently use euphemisms to conceal prohibited topics and manipulate the audience's impressions of things like sexuality, gender, and race. Nomination techniques commonly include euphemisms for gender, race, and sex. The using of Metaphors and intellectual metaphors are more common with specific euphemisms such as sexual. With gendered euphemisms, female characters' visual empowerment

methods to express their sexuality are becoming increasingly common. According to Asseel (2020a), although the language aspect decreases an ideology owing to the manipulative character of euphemism, the visual aspect confirms and supports the same philosophy, ideals, or preconceptions. Through the use of euphemisms and visual discursive strategies, animated films can transmit the ideological and social legitimation or normalization of a given view of gender, sex, or race.

The second research is entitled “Euphemistic Expression In The Independent News: Semantics Approach” by (Sari, 2020). In this study, the researcher discovered 30 records for euphemism categories and 20 records for euphemism functions. Based on the findings, it was possible to conclude that overstatement data comprised the majority of euphemism categories. The underhanded and cohesive functions have the most common data in euphemism functions.

The related research by Tsabitah Sulistiyo et al. (2023) titled "The Use of Euphemisms in Ancient Storybook of Indonesia Korea 1 Hanguk Indonesia Yetiyagi", explores the application and functions of euphemisms in ancient Indonesian and Korean storybooks. This research, published in the Journal of Korean Applied Linguistics, employs a sociolinguistic approach to examine how euphemisms are used to address taboo topics, reflect cultural traits, handle social discrimination, and mitigate negative situations. The study identifies euphemisms primarily in the form of words and sentences and categorizes them based on their functions such as self-protection, purification, maintaining social order, and creating new terminology. The findings indicate that euphemisms serve various

social functions, with the highest percentage being for self-protection and purification. The analysis shows that 86% of euphemisms are in the form of words, while 14% are in sentences. The study concludes that euphemisms play a critical role in softening language to make it more socially acceptable, thereby maintaining social harmony and reflecting cultural norms. The research highlights the importance of understanding euphemisms within their cultural context to fully appreciate their role in communication and societal interactions in both Indonesian and Korean folklore.

Based on past research, the researcher determined that there were some parallels and differences in the research that researcher is doing and the some previous studies. Utilizing a qualitative descriptive approach, most previous studies were comparable to the current study. However, one study employed a distinct methodology by comparing qualitative data. In the meantime, a distinction emerged between previous research and the present study. The majority of previous studies utilized distinct data sources than the current study. Only one other study utilized the same data source as the present study. The similarities and distinctions between these studies that necessitated using Euphemisms can be found in numerous data sources, methodologies, and theories.

In the movie "A Passage to India," directed by David Lean and based on the novel by E.M. Forster, euphemisms play a significant role in navigating the complex colonial dynamics and cultural tensions prevalent in British-occupied India. One notable example is the use of euphemistic language by the British characters to maintain a facade of civility while perpetuating racial superiority and

reinforcing colonial power structures. For instance, the term "natives" is frequently employed to refer to the Indian population, masking underlying attitudes of paternalism and racial hierarchy. Similarly, euphemisms such as "going native" or "going native in India" are used to describe British individuals who become too assimilated into Indian culture, reflecting anxieties about cultural contamination and loss of colonial identity. These examples underscore how euphemistic language in the film serves as a tool for concealing and perpetuating colonial attitudes and power dynamics.

Accordingly, one of the intriguing things to be investigated is the object that the researcher intends on employing to evaluate euphemism sociolinguistically, which is a film titled "A Passage to India" that is based on one of E.M. Forster's finest novels. It becomes one of the differences between this research and another research because the movie's setting is the condition of the relationship between the colonizers and the colonies, namely the British and Indian empires. This movie uses many words containing euphemisms, so it is important to analyze how Euphemism is used. The topic was chosen because, in this paper, we can discover the type of Euphemism in the movie "A Passage to India" revealing the functions of Euphemism used in this movie with the title "AN ANALYSIS OF EUPHEMISM IN THE MOVIE "A PASSAGE TO INDIA" BY E.M. FORSTER: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

From the context of the background above, the following five problems can be identified:

1. The types of euphemisms found in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster.
2. The reference of euphemism used in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster.
3. The impact of using euphemisms found in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster.
4. The forms of expression of Euphemism used in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster.
5. The functions of Euphemism are found in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems above, the researcher limited the problems into two, they are:

1. The types of euphemisms found in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster.
2. The functions of Euphemism are found in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitations of the aforementioned problems, the researcher formulated the following research question regarding the focus of the problems;

1. What are the types and meanings of euphemisms in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster?

2. What are the functions of Euphemism in "A Passage to India" movie by E.M. Forster?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The objectives of the study are stated below:

1. To analyse the types of euphemism expressions used in the movie in "A Passage to India".
2. To analyse the functions of euphemism expressions used in "A Passage to India".

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Aspect

The researcher intends that the outcomes of this study will help readers comprehend euphemisms and their different forms and uses and also advance knowledge in the field of euphemistic language by providing readers with a nuanced understanding of euphemisms and their multifaceted forms and uses. This comprehension not only enhances academic scholarship but also has practical implications for individuals and organizations seeking to navigate the complexities of language and communication.

2. Practical Aspect

The researcher anticipates the following contributions from the analysis, there are two things. First, the study enhances readers' comprehension of euphemism usage in communication by examining real-life examples and understanding their function in everyday conversations, media discourse, and

professional settings. This knowledge equips readers with the skills to recognize, interpret, and effectively use euphemisms in their communication practices. Second, the study provides a comprehensive overview of euphemism usage, laying the groundwork for future research on cultural variations, pragmatic functions, and intergroup communication. It also contributes to the growing body of literature on euphemistic language by bridging theoretical insights with practical applications, expanding readers' understanding and serving as a valuable resource for future research.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Sociolinguistics : The study of the characteristics of language variants, their functions, and their speakers as these three continually interact, alter, and influence among themselves within a speech community. sociolinguistics as the examination of language variations, their purposes, and the individuals who use them, as they interact, change, and impact each other within a particular group of speakers.

Euphemism : A "sweet-sounding, or at least less offensive, substitutes the expressions that writers or speakers would rather not use when executing a particular intention in communication". euphemism involves using softer or less offensive substitutes for words or phrases that might be considered unpleasant or

inappropriate, serving a specific communicative purpose.

Taboo : Prohibiting behaviour at any point and in a specific way for an individual group of persons. Taboo involves prohibiting certain behaviors in a particular manner and at any given time for a specific group of individuals.