

Analyzing Taboo Language among Female Students in North Gaza Governorate

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the taboo language among female students in Al-Quds Open University in North Gaza Strip as it represents the community of North Gaza Governorate. The study investigated the data semantically and structurally. Semantically, the study divided the analysis into swearing and religious words (S.W.R), death and disease, sex, animal, and others. The latter, on the other hand, was subdivided into one word, phrase, and clause. The researchers interviewed some female students in the mentioned area and asked them about the most frequent taboo words and sometimes hear a word among females then approached them and asked about the meaning of that particular expression. After collecting the data, the researchers analyzed them in an analysis card, specially designed for this purpose, structurally and semantically.

Index terms— AL quds open university, north gaza governorate, connotative, denotative, taboo words, taboo language, girls

1 Introduction

Language is a system of conventional spoken or written symbols by means which human beings as members of social group and participant in its cultural express themselves the coherence of language includes communication, play imaginative, expressive, and emotional release. (Crystal, 2017).

Sociolinguistics is concerned with how languages use interacts, or is affected by, social factors such as gender, ethnicity, age or social class, for instance. Sociolinguists are interested in how we speak differently in various social context, and how we may use specific functions of language to convey social meaning or aspects of our identity. Sociolinguistics teaches us about real-life attitudes and social situations (Coulmas, F. ??2013).

Language has several types, taboo language is one of these types, which has its expressions and words that are used to describe sex, our body's functions, and those used to insult other people among other purposes ??Allan and Burrige, 2006).

Taboo is a "ban" or inhibition resulting from social custom or aversion (the American heritage dictionary of the English language, 2000). Taboo words are sanctioned or restricted on both institutional and individual levels under the assumption that some harm will occur if a taboo is spoken. The exact nature of injury to befall the speaker-listener or society has never been entirely clear (Heins, M. /2007): McEnery, 2006).

Surprisingly, no one has established how a child acquires taboos word. Certainly, no one is born with knowledge of taboo words. We learn about taboo through the socialization of speech practices, which creates an oral or folk knowledge of swearing etiquette new.

2 II.

3 Taboo Words Varieties a) A-Bodily Excretions

In any language, people tend to avoid using and mentioning certain expressions. In fact, except tears, all the words concerning bodily excretions are believed taboo. Although, sometimes speakers of a language seem to use

some euphemisms to replace words such "move the bowels" and "pass water," which are considered inelegant, with "answer the call of nature" and "do one's needs." We ask where the "rest room is", although we do not intend to have a rest. "Powder room" "loo," and "john" are other ways to say "toilet."

4 b) Death and Disease

The fear of death carries into fear of words having to do with death and certain diseases. Many people believe words have relations with what they symbolize, therefore "If anything should happen to me" means "when I die." Instead of saying, "die," they use substitute expressions such as "pass away," "go to his reward," "answer the call of God," "go home," "to have a better place," "depart," and "go west." Some serious diseases are also taboo topics. Cancer is said in a roundabout way as "Big C" or "terminally ill." So is the case with the disease of mental disorder and intelligence deficiency. Their euphemistic sayings may be "He is not all there." "She is a little eccentric / a little confused."

5 c) Sex

According to ??eng (1989, p.93), words having to do with anatomy and sex, and words even vaguely suggesting anatomical or sexual matters, have remarkable connotations, especially in American culture. Ladies of the nineteenth century could not bring themselves to say "breast" or "leg", not even of chicken, so they replaced such words with terms "white meat" and "dark meat". It was thought inelegant to speak of "going to bed," and "to retire" was used instead.

English-speaking countries tend to be freer and more tolerant on this in recent years. People, particularly younger ones, feel at liberty than they once did to talk about sex-related subjects. Masturbation, impotence, sexual activities of various kinds, and human sex organs are more likely to be talked or written about than they were 15 or 20 years ago.

6 d) Swear Words

Swear words, i.e., cursing and swearing, are a remarkable variety of linguistic forms. There are the complex and sophisticated expressions that occur in religious, legal, and other formal contexts. At the same time, there are many daily examples of taboo language that express such emotions as hatred, frustration, and surprise. English examples range from the mild such as heck and dash, to the harshest one, fuck.

In these social contexts, swearing can become a dominant linguistic feature, with sentences often containing taboo words. Sex, excretion, and supernatural power are some sources of swear words. In the one hand, half of the words refer to body parts and functions that societies consider taboo, such as "ball," and other four-letter words. Another half deals with the names of gods, devils, etc. like God, Dear Lord, by the holy sacrament, Heavens, Hell.

7 e) Animal Abuse

(Calling a person by the name of an animal) such as "bitch," "cow," "etc.

8 f) Discriminatory Language

In recent times, many people have a growing tendency to be sensitive to the terms sexist language and racist language.

III.

9 Taboo Words Meaning

The connotations of a language expression are pragmatic effects that arise from encyclopedic knowledge about its denotation (or reference) and from experiences, beliefs, and prejudices about the contexts in which the expression is typically used. The connotation of a language expression is distinct from its sense, denotation, and reference Keith (2007).

(Allan, 1991) claims that a word which is homonymous with a taboo term will convert into a taboo meaning only. Mainly profane language and sexually marked vocabulary cause pejoration of its homonyms.

He adds that obscure words are distinctive because they have a special location in the brain.

10 a) Taboo words reasons, motivations for their use

People tend to use or not use taboo words depend on the conversational goals of the speaker. Swearing is like using the horn on your car, which can signify some emotions (e.g., anger, frustration, joy, surprise). Our control over swearing ranges from the spontaneous forms (e.g., habitual epithets), over which we seem to have little control, to the reflective forms (e.g. new obscene joke), where we take time to think about what to say ??van Lancker, 1987).

Taboo words can achieve a variety of personal and interpersonal outcome that may be positive, negative, or inconsequential regarding their impact on others, although some might argue all uses of taboo words are harmful

to some degree. We do more than just say swear words: there are specific categories of use that fall under the rubric of swearing (see Jay, 1992, 2000; McEnery, 2006; Montagu, 1967; Sagarin, 1962). Besides literal or denotative uses (We Fucked), the primary use of swearing is for emotional connotation, which occurs in the form of epithets or as insults directed toward others. These are offensive emotional outbursts of single words or phrases used to express the speaker's frustration, anger, or surprise (Holy shit? Fuck me?). (Jay, 1992(Jay, , 2000)) links Two-thirds of our swearing data to personal and interpersonal expressions of anger and frustration, which seem to be the main reason for swearing. Insulting forms of taboo word usage include name-calling and put-downs (asshole, bitch) and cursing or wishing harm on someone (e.g., fuck off, eat shit and die). Taboo words are a defining feature of sexual harassment, blasphemy, obscene phone calls, discrimination, hate speech and verbal abuse categories.

People use taboo words in jokes and humor, social commentary, sex talk, storytelling, in-group slang and self-deprecation or ironic sarcasm in order to promote social harmony or cohesion to achieve positive social outcome(also see Clark, 1996: jay, 2000: Zoglin, 2008). A positive outcome is also achieved when a speaker replaces physical violence with speech or feels a sense of relief or catharsis after swearing, although there is scant evidence to this (Jay et al, 2006).

IV.

Methodology

This research is a descriptive and analytical as it depends on the analysis and the description of taboo words used by female students in (Q.O.U) in North Gaza Governorate. This paper concentrated only on the Palestinian taboo words and tried to investigate the differences or similarities between the structure and the meaning of the taboo words in the mentioned place. The researchers interviewed some female students in the mentioned area and asked them about the most frequent taboo words. Sometimes, when the researchers heard a word among females, they approached them and asked about the meaning of that particular expression. The researchers determined three days to collect the data.

b) Data Analysis

The researchers analyzed the collected taboo words among female students in (QOU). The researchers designed an analysis card that suits the research objectives. A group of specialists arbitrated the analysis card, which was modified accordingly. The data was analyzed structurally i.e. word, verb phrase, noun phrase and clause and semantically i.e. Swearing Words (SWR), sex, death and disease or animal. Any item, which does not fit into one of the previous fields, was categorized into others. In addition to the above semantic field classifications, the researchers classified the data according to their meaning i.e. whether the item provides connotative and/or denotative meaning.

V.

Findings and Discussions

The study collected 76 taboo items used among girls at Al Quds Open University. The following part will provide the findings and discuss each of them in details. To begin with, the researchers will discuss the structural analysis first, then present the semantic analysis.

a) The Structural Analysis

The study collected 76 items exemplifying taboo words among female student sat Al Quds Open University as presented in figure No. (1). These items are analyzed according to their structure i.e. word, verb phrase (VP), noun phrase (NP) or clause. The Study collected 21 word expressions used among female student sat Al Quds Open University.

Below are some examples that show the item, its English translation, and transliteration.

Table ??: Examples of the one-syllable word and their English translation and transliteration

c) Noun Phrases

The Study collected 33 expressions used as Noun Phrases among female student sat Al Quds Open University. Below are some examples that show the item, its English translation, and transliteration of the expressions used as Noun Phrases. The Study collected four expressions used as Verb Phrases among female student sat Al Quds Open University. Below are some examples that show the item, its English translation, and transliteration of the expressions used as Verb Phrases.

Table 3: Examples of the Verb Phrases and their English translation and transliteration e) Clause

The Study collected 22expressions used as Clause among female student sat Al Quds Open University. Below are some examples that show the item, its English translation, and transliteration of the expressions used as Clauses.

22 TABLE 9: EXAMPLES OF EXPRESSIONS CLASSIFIED AS OTHERS THEIR ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND TRANSLITERATION B) SEMANTIC MEANING

18 Table 4: Examples of the Clause and their English translation and transliteration f) The Semantic Field

The study collected 76 items exemplifying taboo words among female student sat Al Quds Open University as presented in figure No. (??). These items are analyzed according to their semantic field i.e. Swearing Words (SWR), sex, death and disease or animal. Any item, which does not fit into one of the previous fields, was categorized into others. Semantic Field (figure 2)

ii. Animal

The Study collected 12 expressions used as Animal Abuse among female studentsat Al Quds Open University. Below are some examples that show the item, its English translation, and transliteration of the expressions used as animal abuse.

19 Table 6: examples of the Animal Abuse and their English translation and transliteration iii. Sex

The Study collected 30 expressions referring to Sex among female studentsat Al Quds Open University.

Below are some examples that show the item, its English translation, and transliteration of the expressions referring to sex.

Table ??: Examples of the expressions referring to sex and their translation and transliteration VI.

20 Death and Disease

The Study collected 10 expressions used as Death and Disease among girls at Al Quds Open University. Below are some examples that show the item, its English translation, and transliteration of the expressions used as Death and Disease.

21 Table 8: Examples of the Death and Disease their English translation and transliteration a) Others

The Study collected 17 expressions classified as others. Below are some examples that shows the item, its English translation, and transliteration of the expressions classified as others.

22 Table 9: Examples of expressions classified as otherstheir English translation and transliteration b) Semantic Meaning

The study collected 76 items exemplifying taboo words among female studentsat Al Quds Open University as presented in figure No. (2). These items are analyzed according to their semantic meaning i.e. whether the item provides connotative or denotative meaning as presented in figure (3).¹

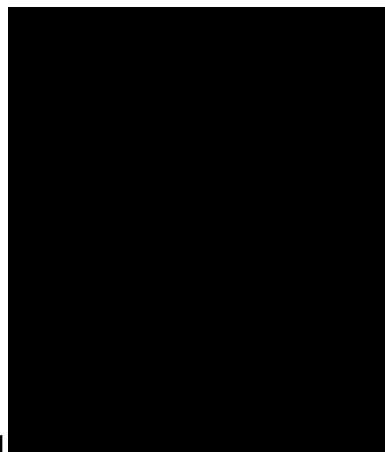


Figure 1: Figure 1 :

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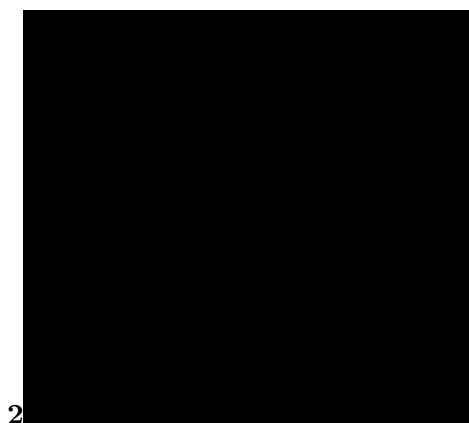


Figure 2: Figure 2 :

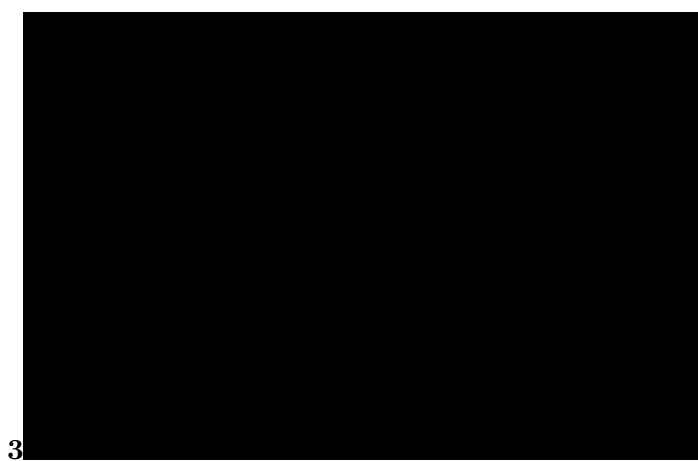


Figure 3: Figure 3 :

22 TABLE 9: EXAMPLES OF EXPRESSIONS CLASSIFIED AS OTHERS THEIR ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND TRANSLITERATION B) SEMANTIC MEANING

2

				Year 2018 Volume XVIII Issue IV Ver- sion I G) (
				0 10 20 30 40
WORD		VP	NPclause	
No.	Item	Eng. Translation	Transliteration	
1	?????i°?"?	Liar	Kadaba	
2	?????i°?"?	Thief	Hramia	
3	?????i°?"?	Swindler	Nasaba	
4	???i»?"?i°?"?	Bugger	Safla	
5	?????i°?"?	Uncivilized-barbaric	Hamajea	
No.	Item	Eng. Translation	Transliteration	
1	???????? ????i°?"?	Behaves badly	Sayeatasolok	
2	???????? ????	So ugly	Ma abshaaha	
3	?????? ????? ????	Steal glimpses	Men tahetlatahet	
4	???????? ??????	You are Early !	Badryaliky	
5	?????? ?????i°?"?	From a bad family	Adematalasel	

Figure 4: Table 2 :

5

21%	14%	(S W R) Animal
13%	15%	Sex
		Death and Disease
	37%	Others

Figure 5: Table 5 :

No.	Item
1	?????i°?"?
2	?????i°?"?
3	????? ???? ????
4	???? ???
5	????? ?????

	No.	Item
	1	??????? ???? ???
No. 1	2 3 4 5	Item ?????? ?????? ?????? ???? ????????? ?????? ????i°?"? ???? ???????? ??????

2	???????? ?i»?"???
3	No. Item ?????? ?????i°?"? ?????? ?????? ???? ????????? ?????? ?????? ?????i°?"? ?????i°?"? ???? ??????
4	1
5	2
	3
	4
	5

Figure 6:

Figure 7: Table 10 :

**22 TABLE 9: EXAMPLES OF EXPRESSIONS CLASSIFIED AS
OTHERSTHEIR ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND TRANSLITERATION B)
SEMANTIC MEANING**

11

SEMANTIC MEANING
22
D E N O A T I V E

54
C O N N O T A T I V E

Figure 8: Table 11 :

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