

AN ANALYSIS OF TABOO EXPRESSIONS AND EUPHEMISMS IN NICKI MINAJ'S SONGS: A SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Language serves a variety of purposes in communication. People may use language to deliver knowledge and communicate, express their thoughts and emotions. One of the expressions of language is taboo expressions. It refers to a specific topic, and some people regard it as an offensive and embarrassing word. Sometimes it is also prohibited to be said in certain communities. The presence of taboo expressions has given rise to the word euphemism, which has been used in the culture to replace taboo expressions. Taboo phrases and euphemisms are often expressed in song lyrics as a social phenomenon. Nicki Minaj's songs are an example of how taboo phrases and euphemisms can be used in music. This research aims to determine the types of taboo expressions and euphemisms used in Nicki Minaj's songs. It is also essential to figure out how taboo expressions and euphemisms are used in those songs. The researchers choose these songs because many of her songs contain taboo expressions and euphemisms. This research is qualitative. There are three steps to determine the objectives of this research. First is the data collection. Second, the research is analyzed by using a sociolinguistic approach, and the last is the result of the data. The researchers gather the data lyrics from Nicki Minaj's songs entitled Superbass, Megatron, Barbie Tingz, and Anaconda. After collecting all of the data, the researchers use a sociolinguistic approach to analyze it. The theories of Battistella (2005) and Wardhaugh (2006) are used to determine the types and the functions of taboo expression, while the theories of Samoškaitė (2011) are used to figure out the types and the function of euphemism. After that, the result of the analysis will be displayed by using formal and informal methods. According to the findings, there is a total of 84 data of the taboo words in Nicki Minaj's songs with vulgarity as the most used types of taboo words. The functions of taboo words are stating contempt, endearing, provoking violent confrontation, and the most function used is creating attention. Moreover, there is a total of 36 data of the euphemism's expressions in Nicki Minaj's songs. The most type of euphemism in those songs is sex euphemism, and the covering function is the most common function used, as it aims to make the songs have a more polite term for the listener to hear even though the song contains a harsh and offensive meaning.

Keywords: *taboos, euphemisms, sociolinguistics, lyrics, Nicki Minaj*