

## **ABSTRACT**

In certain case, the existence of language variations can be employed as measurement of social realities. The acquisition of language should be not only personal but also social. It means that what we speak is not only determined by our language proficiency but also by our language suitability based on social convention and norms.

Words associated with certain topics may be called taboo from time to time, because the society considers them rude. Acts or words forbidden reflect to the particular customs and views of the society. In Indonesia, words relating to sex, sex organs, and slander words make up a large part of the set of taboo words.

One thing showing differences between a man and a woman is when they use taboo words. This study is intended to answer two problems, namely: the kinds of taboo words used by the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University and the reasons of using the taboo words.

This research was carried out by using qualitative descriptive method and the scope was limited for the male students of the English Department of Airlangga University. From the collected data which were obtained through questionnaire, interview, recording, and observation, it was found out that 70% of the male students of the English Department use taboo words in their daily conversation.

They used those words spontaneously, because of the social solidarity feeling among themselves. They sometimes use those taboo words in the form of euphemism. The frequency of using those words varies according to their leisure time, meaning that when they are relaxed they tend to use them, but when they are not, they do not. The last finding shows that around 60% of the male students of the English Department do not agree with the use of taboo words at the Airlangga University, because they consider them rude. However, they can not stop saying them because of being functional in the daily conversation especially among their peers.

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