

# THE ANALYSIS OF SWEARING AND TABOO EXPRESSION IN “DAT STICK” SONG BY RICH BRIAN

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## ABSTRACT

Dat stick is the one of famous song by Rich Brian. In this song, there are some swearing and taboo expressions. The aim of this study is to investigate swearing and taboo expression in “Dat Stick” song by Rich Brian. In this song, the researcher found there are 11 of swearing and taboo expression. *Fuck, bitch, motherfuck* and *damn* are the expression that found in the song. Those words are used by the singer to express his feelings. Related to this song, it can be concluded that the use of the swearing and taboo expressions is used by someone who is feeling angry, threatening and emphasizing words. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this paper in order to get the best data.

**Keywords:** Swearing and taboo expression, Dat Stick song, descriptive qualitative method.

## INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, the status of English language is a foreign language. When we study of English, it means we also study grammar. The concept of grammar itself is a set of rules that explores the forms and structures of sentences that can be used in a language and then make the sentence correct (Gleason and Ratner, 2009: 231–269; Thornbury, 1999; Uibu, 2016). Written and spoken English grammar is one of the parts in grammar lessons. Written and spoken English grammar is one of the lessons that someone must understand and master if they learn a foreign

language. This lesson is one of the lessons that students' learn. They discuss and explain about the use and function of swearing and taboo expression.

This lesson focuses on the use of grammar in speaking and writing. Then, this lesson also focuses on the kind of content of grammar in detail. Written grammar is usually synonymous with formal, academic, and writing plan, then project with grammar that is easily understood by the reader, whereas oral grammar is usually associated with the conversation produced, processed, and then evaluated in the context of face-to-face exchanges and is based on interpersonal relationships that are often clearly established which means that their use is unplanned in advance (Thanh, 2015). English grammar is usually based on written English standards that focus on speaking specifically as a result of a large corporate analysis data spoken and emphasis on verbal communication, then in order to find compatibility apply writing-based standards and grammar description to say English (Hilliard, 2014).

Subsequently, in spoken and written English grammar there are swearing and taboo expressions. Taboo expressions are lexical items or larger constructs whose use in certain situations is highly recommended not to be used, sometimes these words are often considered rude, rude, vulgar, or insulting (Mirus, Fisher, & Napoli, 2012). According to Peter (2005) swearing and taboo expression are not rude words depending on the context of the discussion. What is considered a taboo language is something that is defined by the culture and perspective of people, and not by anything inherent in that language and is used to express themselves (Akmajian, Demers, Farmer, & Harnish, 2001).

In addition, the researcher used the theory of swearing and taboo expression from Jay and Kristin (2008) swearing is the use of taboo language with the purpose to express the speaker's emotional state and communication about information to listeners. Danette and Nicole (2010) argue that there are no common definitions of swearing and taboo expression is present across academic studies. In other words, the researcher uses these theories to investigate the use of swearing and taboo expression in the "Dat stick" song by Rich Brian. It means this research will focus on the spoken grammar than the written grammar.

According to research conducted by Indika L., Tony W., Brendan B. and Xuhong G. in 2015 entitled "Accommodating taboo language in Teaching English: problems suitability and authenticity "reveals the introduction of the swearing and taboo language in teaching English. In their article, they found that swearing and taboo expressions are used for someone to express

themselves in some condition. In contrast to this study, researchers used songs as research objects. While, in research that has been done by Liyanage at all (2015) they use English teaching as research subjects.

In this study, the researchers chose to use songs from Rich Brian because the song is a popular song. In addition, seeing that the current generation prefers to listen to songs rather than reading makes researchers choose songs as research objects. Using songs as research objects is much easier compared to finding literature or other objects as research material. In other words, the song is one of the deliveries of emotion from the singer. Then the video in the song will also make it easier for researchers to examine it. Because, in the video clip that is displayed, facial expressions will be adjusted to the song lyrics.

Brian Imanuel Soewarno or Rich Brian that usually people called is a rapper, singer, songwriter, and record producer from Indonesia. He was born on 3 September 1999 in Indonesia. In March 2016, on SoundCloud he released a new album. People know Brian because of his viral debut single “Dat Stick” in 2016. Rich Brian also received a gold certification in his single and this certification was given by the RIAA. Studio album “Amen” was released in February 2018 and it was debut by him. In US Billboard 200, his single that was released ranked 18th. Dat stick is a famous song by Rich Brian. In this song, there are some swearing and taboo expressions. The aim of this study is to investigate swearing and taboo expression in “Dat Stick” song by Rich Brian. Descriptive qualitative method by Miles and Huberman (1994) is used in this research in order to get the best data.

## **METHODOLOGY**

In this research, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative to find the best data. The aim of the descriptive qualitative study is a comprehensive brief summary, in daily terms, of specific events experienced by individuals or groups of individuals as objects (Lambert & Lambert, 2012). With this method, the presentation of data from a qualitative descriptive study provides a direct descriptive summary from the contents of information based on logically arranged data.

The researchers read every line or verse of the song to find many kinds of swearing and taboo expressions. After finding the swearing and taboo expressions, the researchers put the findings in a table and count how many expressions that were taken. In analyzing the data, qualitative data analysis theory from Miles and Huberman (1994) used for this research. In this

analysis there are three steps in the process to get the data, they are: data reduction, data display or data representation, and conclusion drawing and verification.

Data reduction is the process of reducing the amount of capacity needed to store data. It means that in this process the researcher will look for possible data that appears then summarize it in such a way that the data is easily understood by the reader. Data display or data representation initially, defining visual appearance as a collection of organized and compressed information that allows drawing and concluding actions represented graphically that depicts information in a way that is conducive to gaining insight, develops a complex understanding but will be easily understood after being delivered in the form of data. The final stage is the conclusion of the Figure and verification activity is the third element of qualitative analysis, this step involves stepping back to consider what the data analyzed means and assessing its implications for the problems in the study conducted.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In “Dat Stick” song by Rich Brian, the researchers made a table which contains the findings. The table consists of the types of swearing and taboo expressions, and the symbol  $\Sigma$  (Sigma) that represents the total of the data that was taken.

**Table 1:** Data of swearing and taboo expression

Type of Sentences	$\Sigma$
Ain't nobody give a <b>fuck</b> about a rule	1
<b>Fuck</b> a gang affiliated with nothing but my name	1
Man, I don't give a <b>fuck</b> about a <b>motherfucking</b> po	2
I am pull up with that stick and hit you <b>motherfucking</b> do	2
But these rich <b>motherfucks</b> they stay eating good	1

Holding' steel Glock, <b>but you been a bitch</b> , suck a thick cock	1
<b>Fuck</b> a Crip walk, hit the strip like in Bangkok	1
See me on the TV screaming, " <b>Bitch, you a damn fraud</b> "	1
And you don't wanna <b>fuck</b> with a chigga like me	1
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 13 <hr/>

Swearing and taboo expressions are an expression that is not polite if spoken depending on the context. Swearing and taboo expressions will be different if it is spoken with someone at a different time. People will think you're a rude person or an angry person if you say it in a high tone. However, this expression has a perception or a different view if someone is used in different conditions. This expression is usually used to people closest. This indicates that their relationship is very close.

Based on those dates, the researcher found there are 11 swearing and taboo expressions in the 'Dat Stick' song. In the song the words *fuck*, *motherfuck*, *bitch* and *damn* are words that often appear. The words enter some parts of the song line. Based on this context, the use of these words shows the expression to be expressed to someone who is already disturbing. These words are followed or preceded by sentences that are less wearing and seem threatening. In addition, it can be concluded that the use of harsh words in this song shows the emotions felt by the singer.

The word "fuck" is used by singers as an affix that functions as an emphasis on the word before or after the word. Then, if we see this word in the dictionary it can be interpreted that this word is a harsh word. However, at this time this word is often used by some people to express something as an oppressor. This word can be interpreted as a swear word or curse depending on the topic of the ongoing conversation.

Motherfuck, this word shows the expression of ignorance of someone against the rules that have been made. His ignorance is expressed in strong sentences by adding swearing and taboo words. On the other words, the word is inserted in order to support the sentence of threaten. Threatening sentences are shown in a serious style through the word "motherfuck".

In this song, there is a lyric chosen to use the word "bitch" as someone's pronoun. Besides this, the word also expresses anger at someone. We can see the atmosphere of this lyric like "Holding' steel Glocks, but you been a bitch, suck a thick cock" through the choice of swear words "bitch".

Lastly, the word "damn" this trick shows proof that the singer has proven that he has succeeded from someone who used to underestimate him. Swearing words used are useful to put emphasis on the sentence so that it seems strong and fierce.

## **CONCLUSION**

Profanity and general use of taboo words are increasingly heard in speech English in both private and public settings. Even so someone has to be very careful in using these. The use of words can project either a close, intimate relationship with the person or group to whom they are addressed. With the result that someone feels free to use taboo words, it could also be to show a threatening and hostile relationship. The phrase can be interpreted as a close relationship or context dependent threat.

Based on the data that has been obtained, the use of words that often appear such as *fuck*, *motherfuck*, *bitch* and *damn* show the singer's expression. Related with this song, it can be concluded that the use of the swearing and taboo expressions is used by someone who is feeling angry and threatening. Conversely, as a music lover you should be wise in listening to songs that use rough vocabulary in English. They must understand the usage and functions of those words contained in the song.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Brian Imanuel Soewarnos' song who gave the researcher an inspiration to raise the theme in this paper. Thanks to the written and spoken English grammars' lecture who has guided the researcher to completing this paper.

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## APPENDIX

Dat Stick- Rich Brian (lyric)

[Verse 1]

12 in the morning  
Pop shells for a living  
And berry gone smell blood trail every minute  
Rogue wave on you niggas, no fail when I hit them  
Every time I see a pig, I don't hesitate to kill them  
Ain't nobody give a fuck about a rule  
Either get diplomas or a tool, I am cool with my youngins  
No bool when I'm spraying this K at you fucks  
Fuck a gang affiliated with nothing but my name

[Chorus]

Man, I don't give a fuck about a motherfucking po  
I am pull up with that stick and hit you motherfucking door  
Man, I don't give a fuck about a motherfucking po  
I am pull up with that stick and hit you motherfucking door, yeah

[Verse 2]

People be starving  
And people be killing for food with that crack and that spoon  
But these rich mother fucks, they stay eating good  
Dropping wage living good  
Holding steel Glocks, but you been a bitch, suck a thick cock  
Fuck a Crip walk, hit the strip like in Bangkok  
Never ever see me have a trip 'bout a litle broad  
See me on the TV screaming, "Bitch, you a damn fraud"

And you don't wanna fuck with a chigga like me  
When I pull up in that Maserati  
Better duck 'fore you brain splatter on the concrete  
I am hit you with that .45, bullet hit you neck round the bow tie  
Looking like a thriller, film a bitch  
I am go right back with the clip and I know you be shaking  
Don't test me or I might just click at you noggin

[Chorus]

Man, I don't give a fuck about a mother fucking po  
I am pull up with that stick and hit you motherfucking door  
Man, I don't give a fuck about a motherfucking po  
I am pull up with that stick and hit you motherfucking door, yeah