# Taboo in Stand Up Comedy: A Case Study of Jimmy Carr's Laughing and Joking 2013

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## **KEYWORDS**

Jimmy Carr; Laughing and Joking 2013; sociolinguistics; stand up Comedy; taboo words

#### **ABSTRACT**

This research is entitled Taboo in Stand Up Comedy: A Case Study of Jimmy Carr's Laughing and Joking 2013. The data of this research were taken from all utterances containing taboo words found in the stand-up performance. The researchers used descriptive-qualitative method since the aim of this research is to analyze the taboo elements and describe the functions of taboo elements in Jimmy Carr's stand up Laughing and Joking 2013. The framework used to analyze is Batistella (2005: 72). The steps to analyze the data in this study are classifying words and topics that contain taboo based on the framework, analyzing the types and functions of words that contain taboo, interpreting the data, and drawing conclusions according to the result. Based on the analysis, the researchers found 158 utterances containing taboo words. The most dominant taboo word is obscenity with 79 occurrences (49.07%) as a lot of utterances in the data contain sexual and excretory reference. Meanwhile, to draw attention to him is the most dominant function with 100 times appearance (89.29%) as it is a strategy to gain attention from audience. As a comedian or comic, Jimmy Carr makes some jokes in his show, which intended to entertain and to gain attention from the audiences easily. Therefore, using taboo words in his performance is necessary.

## KATA KUNCI

Jimmy Carr; Laughing and Joking 2013; sosiolinguistik; stand up comedy; taboo words

## **ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini berjudul "Taboo in Stand Up Comedy: A Case Study of Jimmy Carr's Laughing and Joking 2013". Data diperoleh dari sebuah video stand up milik Jimmy Carr dengan judul Laughing and Joking tahun 2013, berupa semua ujaran yang mengandung kata tabu. Peneliti menggunakan kualitatif deskriptif karena tujuan dari skripsi ini adalah untuk menganalisis kata-kata yang bermakna tabu beserta fungsinya. Peneliti menggunakan teori Batistella (2005: 72) mengenai 4 kategori kata dan fungsi tabu. Langkah-langkah penelitian mencakup mengklasifikasi kata dan topik yang bermakna tabu, menganalisis fungsi dari kata-kata tabu tersebut, menjabarkan hasil analisis, dan menarik kesimpulan. Dari analisis yang dilakukan, peneliti menemukan 158 ujaran yang mengandung tabu. Persentase paling tinggi 49.07% dimiliki oleh Obscenity dengan frekuensi kemunculan sebanyak 79 kali. Termasuk dalam kategori ini adalah kata-kata yang berhubungan dengan fungsi seksusal dan pembuangan. Sementara itu, persentase paling tinggi 89.29% dimiliki oleh To draw anttention to himself dengan frekuensi kemunculan sebanyak 100 kali. Salah satu dari 4 fungsi ini adalah salah satu teknik yang paling sering digunakan oleh Jimmy Carr untuk menarik perhatian penontonnya. Sebagai seorang komedian, Jimmy Carr menggunakan tabu sebagai strategi dengan tujuan untuk menghibur penontonnya. Maka dari itu, penggunaan kata tabu penting dalam stand up-nya.

#### INTRODUCTION

Language has a lot of functions that can bring ease for those who use it. For example, when society uses language, it means that they want to communicate something. It can be exchanging information, telling stories, or else sharing ideas. Holmes (2013: 1) states that sociolinguistics deals with the investigation of language usage to convey messages. As it is mentioned that language conveys messages, there happens social interaction among society who uses it. Chaika (1982: 2) asserts that sociolinguistics is a study in which people use language in social interactions. Thus, sociolinguistics can help understand the interaction that happens among its members. As an example, Meyerhoff (2006: 1) explains:

"... take the case of Jennifer, who grew up in a small traditionally fishing village in the north-east of Scotland, but spent many years teaching English in Greece. Jennifer can draw on a number of different styles or ways of speaking, depending on who she is talking to. If her interlocutor is a member of her family, she still uses a variety of Scots which is virtually incomprehensible to other native speakers of English. She says 'fit' instead of 'what'; 'na' instead of 'don't'; 'doon' instead of 'down'; 'be'er' instead of 'better', and so forth. But in Greece she quickly learnt that she needed to adopt a less regionally marked way of speaking if her students were going to understand her, and when she later began attending professional conferences with an international audience, she had the same experience".

In doing interaction, people may have different ways of speaking depending on the circumstances. Besides, they are affected by their background as well. Trudgill (2000: 32) says that the study of sociolinguistics is related to cultural phenomena so that it can affect the way people speak or talk since it is determined by the social context. It includes class, gender, age, etc. Furthermore, these variables also affect personality, attitudes, and emotions of the speaker from one society. Thus, sociolinguistics does not only study about the language used, but also the society that uses the language.

Societies have different value of certain things and do them in distinctive way as well. However, they likely agree on what is called good and bad things. The good one is when the norm of one society is being obeyed, while the bad one is being disobeyed. The good and bad views of things also work for language. There are bad and good language. Good language is commonly said as proper and polite speech. On the other hand, bad language is viewed as the non-standard one that can result in annoyance to the person he talks to.

People have different ways in performing a language. Some of them prefer to use it in the most appropriate and polite way possible so that they do not hurt their interlocutor's feelings. However, the rest of them would rather use it in a very strong way so that it may sound hurtful. Both of them depend on the circumstance a person is in. For example, they occasionally use certain words which are considered rude and inappropriate to express certain emotion. One of the many ways to express it is by applying taboo words. Timothy Jay in Fakuade et al (2013: 121) categorizes bad language into blasphemy, expletive, slang, and taboo.

"Taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behavior which believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame" (Wardaugh, 2010: 249). The term taboo is a group of words that commonly considered inappropriate for they are offensive. They as well carry sensitive meaning in which someone may feel offended even if it occurs in informal situation. Allan and Burridge (2006: 1) further add that "taboo words originate from social restriction on one's behavior which can bring about uneasiness, harm, and injury. Thus, taboo words are inappropriate to be used in public.

Talking about taboo specifically in Indonesia, there are a lot of things that can be taken as examples. For instance, in Indonesian culture, calling parents by name is considered taboo because it is impolite and disrespectful. They usually call them by "Bapak" or "Ibu" to show respect. However, in other culture, the rule

may differ. What considered taboo in one culture, may be a norm in another since taboo is actually based on the cultural values and beliefs of one linguistic community towards certain topic (Le and Le as cited in Fakuade et al, 2013: 120).

Taboo words can express emotions or feelings, both positive and negative ones. Moreover, it allows the speakers to achieve variety of personal and social goals (Jay, 2009: 153). It also means that when people use taboo, it is not merely to insult or curse on someone. There are many reasons why people say taboo words. One example that results in positive outcome is using taboo words in humor.

Humor has been a part of people's lives. It is considered important for human's interaction. For example, people tell humor in order to dilute the atmosphere of awkwardness. Humor can be found both in spoken and written forms such in puns and jokes. It is also used as a way to express one's ideas and attitudes towards certain topic.

Humor has roles that can function together to reach particular goal. One of them is for entertaining. People love entertainment specifically to one which elicits laughter. The realization of laughter can be found in a form of stand-up comedy where comedians usually present a set of monologue including some techniques and strategies in order to achieve their goals in amusing their audience.

The researchers believe that every comic has certain character that makes him /her unique. Jimmy Carr has it. His uniqueness is seen from the topic that he chose. He prefers taboo phenomena as his topic for the tour. During his performance in "Laughing and Joking" tour, he talks and jokes a lot about things that are considered sensitive for some people, but yet his audience still find them funny. From this reason, using Batistella (2005: 72) the researchers will reveal taboo words that are found on Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour and the functions of those taboo words.

#### **RESEARCH METHOD**

## **Data and Subject**

The data of this study is a video of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour entitled Laughing and Joking released in 2013. The video was downloaded from Jimmy Carr's official website www.jimmycarr.com. The length of the video is an hour and a half forty three seconds. Since the researchers used utterance as her unit of analysis, she downloaded the subtitle and the transcript from www.subscene.com on April 12, 2016.

## **Unit of Analysis**

The unit of analysis of this research is the utterances that contain taboo used in Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour. The research eliminated the performance of gesture, tone, assist animation, and etc.

# **Techniques of Data Collection**

Technique of data collection is the way researchers collect and get data. The techniques are:

- Watching the video several times to understand the whole content to get to know the context.
- 2. Downloading the subtitle of the video.
- 3. Transcribing the video from the downloaded subtitle
- 4. Checking the transcript to see if it matches with the video.
- 5. Identifying the transcript that contains taboo.
- 6. Sorting out the topic that contains taboo.

## **Techniques of Data Analysis**

After the data had been collected, they were analyzed through some steps. The data analysis was conducted as follows:

- 1. Classifying words and topics that contain taboo based on the framework by Batistella (2005: 72).
- 2. Analyzing the types and functions of words that contain taboo.
- 3. Interpreting the data.
- 4. Drawing conclusions according to the result.

### **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

## **Finding**

To analyze the data, the researchers would like to make a list of types of taboo words that exist in the script of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013*. They are listed in table 1.

Types of Taboo Words No. **Number of Occurrence** Percentage **Epithets** 1. 47 29.19% 79 2. Obscenity 49.07% 3 3. Profanity 1.86% 4. Vulgarity 32 19.88% TOTAL 158 100%

**Table 1** Types of Taboo Words

Based on Table 1, there are total 158 taboo words that showed up for 405 times. The percentages of the type of taboo words are 29.19% of epithets, 49.07% of obscenity, 1.86% of profanity and 18.88% of vulgarity. Here are the explanations of the complete table above:

- 1. Epithets: It consists of 47 taboo words that showed up for total 69 times. The most showed up word is lesbian/s. They happened 7 times.
- 2. Obscenity: It consists of 79 taboo words that showed up for total 266 times. Three of the most frequent showed up words are sex, fucking and flash/ed/ing. The word sex showed up for 44 times, the word fucking showed up for 34 times, the word flash/ed/ing showed up for 16 times.
- 3. Profanity: It consists of 3 words that showed up for total 5 times. It has the least taboo words and frequently showed up.
- 4. Vulgarity: It consists of 32 taboo words that showed up for total 68 times. Two of the most frequent showed up are piss/ing and vajazzle/r. The word piss/ing showed up for 11 times and the word vajazzle/r showed up for 8 times.

Therefore, taboo word which mostly frequent showed up in the script of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013* is sex and it is in the obscenity type.

When talking about taboo words, it is inseparable with their functions. In order to find out the functions of taboo words, the researcher draws the table as follows:

 Table 2
 Functions of Taboo Words

No.	Functions of Taboo Words	Number of Occurrence	Percentage
1.	To be provocative	1	0.89%
2.	To draw attention to himself	100	89.29%

3.	To mock authority	4	3.57%
4.	To show contempt	7	6.25%
	TOTAL	112	100%

Based on Table 2, there are 4 functions of taboo words. The percentages of functions of to be provocative is 0.89%, 89.29% of to draw attention to himself, 3.57% of to mock authority, and 6.25% of to show contempt. There are total 112 topics in the script of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013*.

#### **DISCUSSION**

After finding types and functions of taboo words found in Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013*, the researchers discuss the taboo elements used in his stand-up tour *Laughing and Joking 2013* which will answer each of research questions.

## **Types of Taboo Words**

## 1. Obscenity

Obscenity refers to expressions that are prohibited from public use since they involve repulsion to the sense, abhorrent, impolite, and detestable to morality. Moreover, according to Batistella, obscenity is defined as words or expressions which involve sex differentiating anatomy or sexual and excretory functions that usually uttered in a rough manner. The words that belong to this type are fuck and shit. In the simplest way, obscenity is an offensive expression to emphasize or to condemn someone or something.

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Excerpt 1 (Line 19-30):
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The hardest-working man in comedy. That's like being the best-looking guy in the burns unit. (LAUGHTER). No offence to any burns victims. We've got in. Are there any in'?. If there's one, there'll be fucking loads. They tend to stick together. (LAUGHTER). And We're off! (LAUGHTER).

Jimmy Carr uses the terms of burns unit and burns victims to send a sensitive message that he is the better one than the other persons in the show. He uses the terms to send message to the audiences that burns victims are usually on the bad condition of the human flesh or skin due to the burns.

Jimmy uses the obscenity type of word fucking means damnable; lousy; cursed. The word fucking is used by him to emphasize the word loads (vulgarity word). While the vulgarity word loads means n. the total amount of sperm ejaculated in one orgasm. The characteristic of sperm is sticky, so Jimmy Carr resembles it with the bad condition of the flesh or skin of the burn victims.

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Excerpt 2 (Line 506-555):
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I'll test the heterosexuality ... Ladies, have you read Fifty Shades of Grey?. - WOMEN: Yes!. ... It was the best selling book last year. I can prove it - last year, wettest on record. (LAUGHTER). I think it's a very interesting book because, although it's not a great piece of literature, it's more gusset typing... (LAUGHTER). ...it's interesting because it's pornography for ladies. ... We're very happy with the service broadband is providing. (LAUGHTER). ... Women watch porn films... to the end. (LAUGHTER). You know why'?. To see if they get married. (LAUGHTER).

Jimmy uses pornography in his lines. Most people watch pornographic materials, especially men. But in some cases, women like to watch porn. In this case, Jimmy tells about a pornographic book, *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

He also tells about the differences between men and women who love pornography. Men usually love the easy way to enjoy porn and women tend to enjoy the whole story of the pornographic materials. Most of women read the book due to the porn story.

Not only pornographic book, but they loved to watch porn films. He assumes that most women love the stories and the movie scenes. Most of men like pornography. Jimmy tells that men enjoy the pornographic materials using the internet. It is much easier to get the pornographic materials.

Jimmy mentions the obscenity term of the porn materials entitled Fifty Shades of Grey to get some responds from the women audiences. An obscenity type of word gusset typing is used to get respond from the audiences. The taboo words of gusset typing means female masturbations.

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Excerpt 3 (Line 779-805):
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... Coleen Rooney's just had some work done on her arsehole. He's had a hair transplant. ... But he's a lying Gooner twat, so he can suck my fucking cock. All that groaning and grunting in woman's tennis - it reminds me of sex. In that I'm watching it happen on screen whilst masturbating. To explain spot fixing in cricket, it's what happens when something I don't understand is done by someone I've never heard of in the middle of something I couldn't give a fuck about.

Jimmy Carr talks about sports. He mentions Wayne Rooney, a Manchester United football player at the present time. Most football fans know that Rooney has a hair problem. Rooney also has a wife, her name is Coleen Rooney. Jimmy makes a joke about Rooney's wife, which she had a plastic surgery. He substitutes the term of Coleen's body with the vulgarity term arsehole.

Jimmy also uses the term twat from Gooner twat. The term vulgarity of twat means vagina. Meanwhile, the word Gooner is the sarcastic term the Gunners of the Arsenal football club. The researcher assumes that Jimmy Carr is a fan of a certain football club and he hates Arsenal football club. Moreover, he adds a taboo statement of *suck my fucking cock*. He uses that statement because he hates the rival fans. The obscene words of *fucking cock* mean to emphasize his hate against the rival fans.

Other sports that Jimmy uses as materials of his jokes are tennis and cricket. Football, tennis and cricket are famous in Britain. So, it is possible that he uses them in his jokes. In women's tennis, Jimmy talks about the sex. He makes a story of himself masturbating while he watches the women's tennis match due to the sexy body of the woman tennis player. The obscenity word of *masturbating* means to sexually pleasure oneself to orgasm. Meanwhile, he does not understand the game of cricket. So, he tells about the obscenity word *fuck* to emphasize his dislike of cricket.

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Excerpt 4 (Line 2194-2215):
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Any others?. Any advance on this?. (MAN SHOUTS INDISTINCTLY) Egging?. What, sorry? MAN: Pegging!. (LAUGHTER) I'm not sure if I'm mishearing or you can't talk. It's tough. Go on, what are you saying?. - MAN: Pegging - Pegging?. Pegging What the fuck is pegging?. Isn't that just running?. What's pegging? MAN: It's Where she gets a dildo on and does you up the arse. Do you mean foreplay? ...

This is another sex line from Jimmy Carr's script. The obscenity words are *pegging*, *fuck*, and *foreplay*. These 3 obscenity words are simply related with sex. Pegging means a woman using a strap-on dildo having sex in reverse way with her male partner. Pegging occurs 6 times in those lines. Jimmy knew the term, but he pretends that he does not know it. It is a quite harsh term due to the reverse way of having sexual intercourse.

Another obscenity word in those lines is dildo, an imitation form of male genital parts made from rubber or similar material for sexual acts. Yet, the last obscenity word in those lines is foreplay. Foreplay means an act of sexual warming up. Those words are related to sex or parts of sexual terms. Jimmy uses them to emphasize his stage act of stand-up comedy.

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Excerpt 5 (Line 2176-2183):
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Any other weirder things?. WOMAN: Threesomes!. A threesome?. What kind of threesome was it, madam?. Was it two guys and you, or a proper one?. Go on, what kind of threesome was it?. WOMAN: Two women. ...

Threesome means a sexual intercourse between 3 people at a time. Nowadays, is not a strange thing that some people have an unusual sexual relationship. Only a minority of people do such thing. Usually they are hypersexual people or they are porn stars. Whether it is straight sexual intercourse (1 man and 2 women or 2 men and 1 woman) or sometimes the same sex (lesbians or gays).

In Jimmy's script, he has a conversation with an audience. They talk about a strange sexual intercourse called threesome. Jimmy uses the term to emphasize his jokes about sex.

## 2. Epithets

Epithets is characterized by the existence of several types of slurs, such as bitch and fag. Other references that belong to epithet are connected to race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, one's appearance, and disabilities, such as nigger, retard, and motherfucker. Jay in chapter 2 defines epithets as a short but strong blast of passionate language which is triggered by frustration or anger such as son of a bitch. In the simplest way, epithets is a phrase or adjective used in a bad way to personify a person or a group of people.

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Excerpt 6 (Line 833-840):

Dwarves.....often get overlooked. (LAUGHTER). I can say that - they look up to me. Can we treat ourselves to another dwarf jokes'?. I tell you what I know about
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Jimmy tells a joke which has a taboo term of dwarf in his show. He uses the epithets word of dwarf or the short-statured people due to abnormally orthopedic condition. Jokes about the comparison between normal heights people and short-statured people are always sensitive.

Dwarves are the minority group of people who often been mocked due to their physical condition by some people. They have feelings, so some of them felt angry, sad, lack of confidence and many more. Jimmy often uses the term dwarves to make the audience laugh.

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Excerpt 7 (Line 298-307):
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dwarves - very little.

Islamic fundamentalist sex dolls - do they blow themselves up?. (LAUGHTER). In Palestinian passports, under "Occupation," do they just put, "Israel"?. (LAUGHTER AND GROANS). That joke is only there to test where the Guardian readers are sitting. (LAUGHTER). (298-307).

Jimmy makes a joke about international issues. The territorial conflict is between two nations, Palestine and Israel. It also has a different religious background which the Palestinian people are Moslem people and Israeli people are Jewish. In his lines, Jimmy tells that the Israeli government has the power to rule in the problematic territory over the Palestinians. The Palestinian people will do everything to defend their territory.

Jimmy Carr uses the epithets taboo term of sex dolls to substitute in a bad way for the term of suicide bombers. It is very sensitive words. Sex doll is a means of strange sexual activity based mostly on someone's loneliness. He uses it in relation to the religion of Islam. In several European and western countries, some people always mock or often make jokes about Islam. It's a harsh act of blasphemous.

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Excerpt 8 (Line 447-502):
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Of course, not all gay people are happy, camp and fun. Some of them are lesbians. (LAUGHTER). ... Are there any lesbians in?. No, my gaydar is pretty much honed in on this ... I love my job. I tell you What, I'm going to do a test and see whether We've got any other sisters in the room, see if there's any other lesbians. "Sisters." Like I'm a lesbian - I've got the haircut, come on!. (LAUGHTER).

Jimmy Carr tells about human rights joke, which is same sex relationship. Nowadays, same sex relationship is legal in some countries. Moreover, they can marry their same sex lovers. The human rights movement is fought by the gay-lesbian people and the human rights activist. Jimmy had a conversation with the lesbian couple. In their dialogues, Jimmy supports the lesbian couple relationship, but also makes a joke about the couple.

Jimmy uses the epithets words of gay (same man's relationship), lesbians (same woman's relationship) and gaydar (the person's ability to recognize that gay or lesbian are around the person). In most of eastern countries, most people still respect common and healthy relationship. So, they often mock the minority to the officials or the police.

## 3. Vulgarity

Vulgarity and obscenity have the same reference especially to words or expressions that contain sexual anatomy and excretory functions in a rough manner. The difference between vulgarity and obscenity is usually related to the level of prurience. In other words, vulgarity demonstrates the raw expression of street language (Jay in Doyle, 2006:1). Furthermore, Jay in Mercury (1995: 30) asserts that vulgarity is used to humiliate or bring down the thing or individual referred or described. The words that belong to this type are ass, tits, cock, dick, and cunt. In the simplest way, vulgarity is an act of substituting a person with a word related to his or her parts of sexual anatomy.

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Excerpt 9 (Line 310-358):
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I do talk about sex a lot in my show. ... So, to try and mitigate that, to try and alleviate that, this evening, if I refer to a vagina at any point, I'll be calling it a twinkle cave. ... while she deep-throated my tummy banana. ... "Have you thought about lubricants or HRT?". (LAUGHTER). "Maybe a little bit of Aussie charm?". Are you familiar with the term "Aussie charm"? It just means... (SPITS). ...one of those. (LAUGHTER).

Jimmy Carr talks about sex, so it belongs to topic of sex. He tries to negotiate replacing terms which relate directly to sexual activity in order to soften the word-not to be explicitly rude. He offers some changes to certain words that still have similar meanings. He can be said choosing euphemism to express them.

Euphemism in Oxford Dictionary is a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. So, in order to avoid rudeness, he uses indirect expression such a twinkle cave and my tummy banana to tell his experience when he does sexual activity. The chosen phrases have something to do with the shape of the actual objects, also the use of the verbs describe the possible activities that can be done when someone wants to do sexual activity.

The chosen phrases such as a twinkle cave and my tummy banana both belong to taboo words. Both of them belong to vulgarity because they refer to sex differentiating anatomy. The first taboo word a twinkle cave denotes directly to a vagina or cunt. The other taboo word my tummy banana denotes to a dick or a penis. In uttering taboo words, one must have reasons why he or she says them.

Jimmy Carr succeeds in making his audience laugh at his jokes about sex. He says himself that sex is a great universal topic for comedy. Thus, he challenges himself joking about taboo topics. There he includes sex as one of taboo elements in his stand-up tour. When Jimmy Carr talks about sexual activity that men and women may do in the lines, the audience seems enjoying his jokes. Moreover, when he euphemizes sex terms, they laugh even harder.

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Excerpt 10 (Line 379-404):
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... I fucking wouldn't. (LAUGHTER). Let's talk about something a little bit more serious. ... My first Wife was from Thailand. (MAN CHEERS). Well, don't, cos you'll feel bad. It's actually quite a sad story. My first Wife was from Thailand and she died... of testicular cancer. (LAUGHTER). Probably the best way I could describe it is her twinkle cave was an outie. (LAUGHTER). I saw a transvestite in a miniskirt. I thought, "That shows a lot of balls." (LAUGHTER).

Jimmy Carr tells some jokes about his relationship with his lover. He prefers to make unattached relationship, with his line of jokes that he will pay for the abortion. But he immediately adds a joke. The additional joke contains the obscenity word of fucking. It means that he emphasized his statement if he will not do the abortion. Abortion is still a controversy, but some countries legalized it.

Furthermore, Jimmy tells a story about his late wife from Thailand, a transgender, which he tells a joke about his late wife's vagina. Jimmy named it twinkle cave. He mentions about the vagina is an outie or outside, it can be expected as a penis. He also makes a joke about his late transgender or transvestite (epithets) who used to wear a miniskirt that make his transvestite wife shows the balls or the vulgarity word means testicles. It is common in Thailand that there is a lot of transgender. Even at Wat Kreung Tai Wittaya temple in Chiang Khong, Thailand has transgender monks. Indirectly, the audiences assume that Jimmy Carr is bisexual.

## 4. Profanity

Profanity can be categorized as religious cursing because it usually includes the foul-mouthed use of what is considered to be sacred. Being more detail, Jay in Doyle (2006: 2-3) describes profanity as the expression involving the use of religious terms in a profane, secular, or uncaring manner. The aim of the speaker is not to vilify God or anything connected with religion but it may be used to express emotional response to certain motives. The words that belong to this type are Jesus Christ, hell, damn, goddamn. In the simplest way, profanity is an offensive expression towards religions, religious beliefs or the members of the religious group.

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Excerpt 11 (Line 922-1001):
"... He said, Are you an Al-Qaeda? I Went, No. As you were. ... I'm also in Al-Qaeda.
No, I'm not. Or am I? No...".
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Jimmy Carr uses the profanity word of Al-Qaeda. The words Al-Qaeda is from Arabic language which literally means the base, the foundation or the fundament. Al-Qaeda is known as an extreme religious Moslem group devoted to the elimination of a Western countries presence in Arab countries and aggressively opposed the Western countries' foreign policies. It was founded by Osama bin Laden, a former secret agent who was trained by America's Central Intelligence Agency in the past.

Most people are very scared to the existence of Al-Qaeda. The life threatening group, who had killed thousand lives, is very loyal. We do remember the 9/11 tragedy in America in 2001. The members of Al-Qaeda are willing to sacrifice their life to conduct terrorism action.

By using the words Al-Qaeda, Jimmy makes a joke about international issues. He intended to mock the authority due to the high security level on the British Queen's protection to the threat, especially from Al-Qaeda. The audiences respond by laughing.

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Excerpt 12 (Line 1603-1604):
"... Like Calum Best and Peaches Geldof and Jesus!".
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Jimmy Carr uses profanity word of Jesus, the God of Christians and Catholics. Jimmy directly resembles Jesus as human famous figures, just like Calum Best and Peaches Geldof. It is inappropriate to resemble the God to his creations.

#### **Functions of Taboo Words**

#### 1. To Draw Attention to Himself

It is usually done to get attention in public by using taboo words. It is also done to make someone else attract to what they say. So, people use taboo words to gain attention for they have strong connotation.

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Excerpt 13 (Line 1761-1773):
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My granddad always used to insist on standing up whenever a woman entered the room, which is ultimately what led to him losing his Disability Living Allowance. I was up in north London, I saw a guy in the high street with a guide dog and a white stick and I went up to him, I Went, "You must be blind." He said, "Tell me something I don't know." I said, "There's a tree over there." "Don't be a dick about it."

From Excerpt 13, Jimmy tells the function of taboo words is to draw attention to himself. The audiences laugh due to his jokes about his grandfather who always respecting women by standing. It is respectful as a gentleman, specifically Englishman, that man who sits in a place or a room has to stand to honor a woman. But in this case, his grandfather is covered by disability living allowance due to his weak condition or disability. Ironically, his grandfather has the strength to get up and stand. Maybe the local authority accidentally knows his grandfather better condition, so they withdraw his grandfather disability living allowance.

Furthermore, Jimmy tells an additional story. It is about his experience in North London. He saw a person who, accompanied by a dog and uses a white stick to walk. So, he immediately knows that the person is blind. Jimmy met him and had a small conversation. Jimmy makes a rude joke that there is a tree to pee. Jimmy also tells the poor guy that he is a dick. A vulgarity words that means a jerk or a man who does stupid things.

Those jokes contain stereotypes topics which specifically make of jokes about someone. The intention of the story is to get the attention of the audiences and make them react by laughing.

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Excerpt 14 (Line 506-555):
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I'll test the heterosexuality ... Ladies, have you read Fifty Shades of Grey?. - WOMEN: Yes!. ... It was the best selling book last year. I can prove it - last year, wettest on record. (LAUGHTER). I think it's a very interesting book because, although it's not a great piece of literature, it's more gusset typing... (LAUGHTER). ...it's interesting because it's pornography for ladies. ... We're very

happy with the service broadband is providing. (LAUGHTER). ... Women watch porn films... to the end. (LAUGHTER). You know why'?. To see if they get married. (LAUGHTER).

In Excerpt 14, the function of taboo words is to draw attention to himself. Jimmy uses pornography in his lines. Some people enjoy pornographic materials. In this case, Jimmy tells about a pornographic book, *Fifty Shades of Grey*. He tells that the book is one of the best-selling book last year. Jimmy mentions some the obscenity terms in relation to the porn materials in *Fifty Shades of Grey* to get some laugh responses from the audiences, especially women.

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Excerpt 15 (Line 1002-1063):
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A friend of mine quite recently - a couple of months ago - got proper, old-school, flashed. ... hoo yay WV'-!. Anyway, she got proper old-school flashed and she shouted, "Rape!". I thought, "Don't give him ideas. "Don't Workshop it, you fucking lunatic." Has anyone in here been flashed?. WOMAN: Yeah. Go on, what happened, madam?. Is it a funny story, or is it distressing?. I was in a club and this guy flashed me. - In a club?. - Yeah. In a club and someone flashed you in the club?. Yes. Are you sure you didn't get off with a man in a club?. No. "I was kissing him and I undid his zip and then he flashed me ... You could have just told him to fuck off. You're incredibly polite. "I'll make up an excuse so he doesn't feel bad. ... "I don't want the flasher to feel rejected." How nice are you'?.

Excerpt 15 conveys a women's matters topic. Jimmy uses the obscenity word flash to emphasize that women are always being victims of some men's abnormal behavior. In those lines, the women were flashed by a man. They pretend that they are lesbians and do not like the man. Spontaneously, the audiences respond by laughing.

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Excerpt 16 (Line 2527-2548):
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... Like, in this country when you say, "I'm not racist," what you tend to mean is, "I'm not a racist." In South Africa... when someone says, (SOUTH AFRICAN ACCENT) "I am not a racist," it means, they're about to say something fucking racist! Is this racist? Do Chinese people have Guess Who? (LAUGHTER) I tried that joke for the first time in a tiny little 50-seater theatre above a pub and there was a Chinese lady, front and center, and she laughed enough that she sort of bent forward and it looked like I'd gone, "No." ...

Excerpt 16 is about race. Jimmy uses the racial issues in this joke. The term racist is mentioned several times in these lines. Jimmy racial jokes in relation to the African and Asian people. The racial issues begin when the western countries use African slaves and the employment of the Asian cheap labors, especially from China, in the past.

Until now, some of western people assume that their race is superior to the other races. Jimmy seldom uses racial issues to draw attention of the audience and make them laugh with his racial jokes.

# 2. To Be Provocative

When using this function of taboo words, people may have intended to provoke a certain response such as anger from others.

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Excerpt 17 (Line 298-307):
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Islamic fundamentalist sex dolls - do they blow themselves up?. (LAUGHTER). In Palestinian passports, under "Occupation," do they just put, "Israel"?. (LAUGHTER

AND GROANS). That joke is only there to test where the Guardian readers are sitting.

Jimmy makes a joke about terrorism. The media always show that suicide bombing are destroying not only life and things, but also peace between countries. It's always covered by religious beliefs, but it is wrong. All religions in the world teach to be peaceful. The opinions of conspiracy theory emerge in parts of people. The aim of war and terrorism is to get power and natural resources like in some Middle East countries.

Jimmy Carr uses the epithets taboo term of sex dolls to substitute in a bad way for the term of suicide bombers. He uses the taboo words to be provocative due to the term of "Islam". It is so sensitive that can make Moslem community angry if they know that.

# 3. To Mock Authority

It is done if someone is not satisfied with the public image about certain person, government, institutions, and etc. Thus, it can be used to attack mental construction of their target and to express disbelief about many things in which they assume are not suitable with the public's standard.

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Excerpt 18 (Line 922-1001):
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... So I walked up to this armed police officer outside Buckingham Place. I said, "Security?" He Went, "Yeah." Here's his question. He said, "Are you an Al-Qaeda?" ... She was opening a drop-in centre for homeless alcoholics - of course in Glasgow, Where else would you fucking put it?!. It's very much ground zero for homeless alcoholics. ... She doesn't point like that - that would be mental. ... Apparently she was fucking terrified.

Jimmy talks about the Queen of Britain, Queen Elizabeth II. As most people know, the Queen is well protected from all possible threats. One of the threats is Al Qaeda, a terrorist group. Not also protected, the Queen is also surrounded by wealth. Most of the wealth is from peoples' taxes. The high life of the Queen and the royal family makes some people criticize the life of the royal family. Such an irony when some people are in poor condition. On the contrary, the Queen and her royal family are happy with their prosperous life.

The context of the jokes is the Queen's ridiculous social works. Jimmy makes some jokes due to the Queen's social activities. Several taboo words such as obscenity word of fucking and mental are mentioned by Jimmy to emphasize some jokes on the Queen's social activities. The jokes are made to mock the authority, in this case the Queen of Britain.

# 4. To Show Contempt

It is usually done to insult someone by saying words that can offend his/her pride.

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Excerpt 19 (1158-1182):
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My girlfriend wants a diamond ring. And the only reason I know that is it's pretty much all she fucking talks about. Let's face facts. The only Way my girlfriend's getting a diamond ring is if the vajazzler slips. I don't really understand the vajazzle. I mean, I know what a vajazzle is. I know what it is. They whip away all the hair from your fou-fou and then they diamant it. I say "they" I imagine you can get some Pritt Stick and glitter and have a crack yourself. Have a sparkly crack yourself, you're welcome. Um... I just don't know who that's for. I've never met a man who said to me, "Oh, I love vagina... "...but I wish they were a bit more zhooshie. "A bit more sparkles wouldn't go amiss. I want a glamour puss. "A showbiz entrance."

Jimmy Carr uses several obscenity words like, fucking, crack (2) and zhooshie. He also uses the vulgarity words like, vajazzler, vajazzle (2), fou-fou, vagina and puss. His girlfriend wants to have a diamond ring. He does not want to buy it for her. He tells that if his girlfriend wants the diamond ring, she has to sell her body as a prostitute to earn money and buy the diamond ring. Those words are part of Jimmy's joke that directly contempt his girlfriend.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis, the taboo elements in the script of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013* consist of 158 taboo words. The occurrences percentages of the type of taboo words are: 47 times - 29.19% of epithets, 79 times - 49.07% of obscenity, 3 times - 1.86% of profanity and 32 times - 18.88% of vulgarity. The functions of taboo elements in the script of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013* consist of four functions: to be provocative, to draw attention to himself, to mock authority and to show contempt. There are total 112 topics in the script of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013*. The occurrences and percentages of the taboo elements are: once - 0.89% of to be provocative, 100 times - 89.29% of to draw attention to himself, once - 3.57% of to mock authority and 7 times - 6.25% of to show contempt. The taboo element that mostly showed up in the script of Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy tour *Laughing and Joking 2013* is to draw attention to himself and mostly have the topic about sex.

Jimmy Carr uses the topic of sex more than the other topics. It is easier to talk about sex than the other topics due to the audiences' appreciations. The adult audiences prefer light and dirty topic about sex. Jimmy always uses taboo words in his jokes. In his movie, the researcher watches that the audiences are mostly adults. So, it is suitable to speak mature content on his show. As a comedian or comic, Jimmy Carr makes some jokes in his show, which intended to entertain and to gain attention from the audiences easily. Therefore, it seems proper using taboo words. It also can be used as a way to criticize another person or the authority using several jokes which have taboo words in it. Moreover, he could also show contempt and be provocative if it is necessary using his jokes.

Power and solidarity building is essential to the Jimmy Carr's stand-up comedy due to the interaction between Jimmy Carr and the audiences. He resembles power as an interaction between himself and the audiences. The comic has the power to show and convey the messages of something in a humorous way. So, the audiences would know the context of his jokes. Furthermore, solidarity building in Jimmy Carr's jokes is the way he resembles himself in his jokes as a subject of daily life like the average person, such as a lover, worker, etc. So, the audiences would know the feelings that he feels.

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