

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter aims to review what experts say about related topics of present study. This chapter contains theory of dysphemism, types of dysphemism, functions of dysphemism, *Deadpool* movie, and theoretical framework.

2.1. Dysphemism

As figure of speech, dysphemism is also part of figurative language which convey an impolite expression with more offensive word. In contrast, euphemism is a polite expression used in a place of words or phrases in order to make a blunt or unpleasant truth seem less harsh and dysphemism are generally used to shock or offend.

The term dysphemism derived from the Greek “*dys*” means ‘bad’ and “*pheme*” μ means ‘speak’, or “*dys*” means ‘mis-’ and “*pheme*” μ means ‘reputation’ (www.merriam-webster.com). A dysphemism is an expression with connotations that are offensive either about the denotatum (the object referred to by linguistic expression) or to audience, or both (Allan & Burridge, 2006, p.31). Dysphemism is the opposite of euphemism, which euphemism used to soften the words to avoid any taboo topics. Euphemism and dysphemism have contrary purposes. As politeness strategies, euphemism minimizes social

embarrassment or offence to the addressee. Dysphemism increases these, sometimes for humorous effect.

Richard Nordquist (2001) said dysphemism is substitution of a more disparaging word or phrase for one considered less offensive. While Encarta World English Dictionary (1999) defines that dysphemism is 1. a substitution of a coarser word; the deliberate substitution of an offensive expression for a neutral one, 2 offensive substitute for neutral word; an offensive expression deliberately substituted for a neutral one. Allan and Burridge also stated (1991, 2) dysphemism is an offensive language used as weapons against others, or as release valves from anger and frustration.

2.2. Types of Dysphemism

According to Allan & Burridge (2006) there are seven types of dysphemism. The first is **taboo terms** used as insults, epithets, and expletives. Taboo parts are bodily organ, activities including the SMD (sex, micturition, defecation), and bodily effluvia or bodily secretion issuing from the SMD above. This kind of dysphemism usually used to express something either in literal meaning or just the connotation meaning which depend on the context to insult somebody.

Second is **profane swearing and profane oaths**. This kind of dysphemism taken from dirty wordslike blasphemous and profane language. To swear and cursing at someone or something is to insult or disrespect which invoke

slurs on target's character. Furthermore, Ljung (2006, 62) has decided swearwords into the following main categories:

Swearwords motives	Examples
Religious	<i>"Christ", "Hell", "Damn", "Go to hell!"</i>
Scatological	<i>"Shit", "Crap", "Ass", "Asshole", "Kiss my ass!"</i>
Genitals	<i>"Cock", "Dick", "Cunt", "You stupid prick!"</i>
Sexual	<i>"Fuck", "Fucker", "Fucking", "I don't give a fuck!" "Screw you!"</i>
Sodomy	<i>"Up yours!", "Up your ass!"</i>
Mother	<i>"Motherfucker", "Son of a Bitch", "Bastard"</i>
Prostitution	<i>"Whore", "Pimp"</i>
Masturbation	<i>"Wanker", "Jerk"</i>
Animals	<i>"Dirty pig", "Stupid cow"</i>
Death	<i>"Eat shit and die!"</i>

In this explanation, swearwords and curses also included in this type of dysphemism because it is insulting the addressee.

Third is **comparisons of people with animals** that are conventionally ascribed certain behavior. Example of this kind is; calling someone a 'pig' because she/he is scruffy.

Fourth is **dysphemistic epithets** that pick on a real physical characteristics that are treated as though they are abnormalities. It is picked on the real physical characteristics that are treated as though they are abnormalities. For examples, *Fatty!*, *Baldy!*, and *Four-Eyes!*

Fifth is **imprecations and epithets**. It is invoking mental subnormality or derangement. For examples, *Idiot! Stupid! Nincompoop! Shithead! Dickhead!* etc.

Sixth is sexist, racist, speciesist, classist, ageist, and other **-IST dysphemism**. It is used as additional suffix in every single word. For examples *racist*, it refers to or implicates the hearer's race, ethnicity, or nationality in such terms as to cause a face affront to them or perhaps the hearer's on behalf of (the person) named. *Sexist* or *ageist*, it refers to or implicates the hearer gender or age in such terms as to cause a face affront.

Seventh is **terms of insult** (flyting and its successor, playing the dozens). It invoked slurs or disrespect on the target's character. For examples *bastard, dick, galoot, twat, cunt, faggot, and bitch*.

From explanation above, many types of dysphemistic expression mainly applied in social life in order to tell the truth or underestimate other. Swear words also belongs to the types of dysphemism instead of slang words. Slang is a very informal word or expression that is more common in spoken language, especially used by a particular group or people and is not thought suitable for formal situation based on The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang. People use slang language in their own community so that they can keep the secret of what they are talking about.

2.3. Functions of Dysphemism

Functions of language are varying according to the people who used because it has individual functions. It can be used as shield or weapon to conquer the enemies because language is not only used for maintaining human communication, but also used for downgrading, belittling, humiliating or even killing the enemies. (Allan & Burridge 1991, 26),

Specifically, the functions of dysphemism based on its main goals are divided into ten functions. First, insulting or teasing the addressee. Second, accusing or blaming the addressee. Third, refusing or denying the addressee. Fourth, promising to the addressee. Fifth, criticizing to the addressee. Sixth, questioning to the addressee. Seventh, cursing to the addressee. Eighth, convincing the addressee. Nine, expressing unconcern. Tenth, expressing defiance.

From the explanation above, dysphemistic expression broadly function as a negative intention. Whether it is to insult the hearer or to emphasize something bad or disturbance.

2.4. Deadpool

Deadpool is a fictional antihero character who appeared in American comic books published by Marvel Comics in 1997. The character was created by artist Rob Liefeld and writer Fabian Nicieza. Its comic turned into a movie in association with 20th Century Fox Film Corporation which was released on February 10th 2016. The movie is directed by Tim Miller whose movie became the best of his work. Adapted from the original comic book, the script of the movie was written by Rhett Reese & Paul Wernick, and the character Deadpool was played by Ryan Reynolds (marvel.com).

The movie gained some awards there are nominated as best motion picture and best performance in Golden Globes (2017), nominated as best comic-to-film motion picture and best writing in Academic of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films in (2017), and won the best movie script in Empire Awards (2017), won favorite movie and best screenplay of the year in Golden Schmoes Awards (2016), won best comedic performance in MTV Movie + TV Awards (2016), won favorite action movie in People's Choice Awards USA (2017) (Imdb.com). Those achievements prove that Deadpool is such a good movie for people to watch.

Deadpool is a movie about Wade Wilson, who was a soldier and turned a mercenary who falls in love with a prostitute named Vanessa Carlyle. They met at his friend Weasel's bar. After having a year of relationship, Vanessa accepted his marriage proposal. Wade is genuinely happy just after she accepted his proposal.

until he diagnosed with cancer in his liver, lungs, prostate, and brain. He fears more for what happen to Vanessa than to him.

Soon, a stranger (The Recruiter) meets Wade at the bar and offers him a facility that will not only cure him of his cancer but also give him incredible powers. At first, Wade refuses The Recruiter but then he changes his mind and he takes the chances to be cured for Vanessa. Afterward, Wade has healed from his cancer and has superhuman strength, stamina, agility, and reflexes. Due to experimentation he was given abilities of other mutants and was called Deadpool.

Deadpool is known for his fourth wall breaking antics in both the movie and comic worlds. In the movie, Wade breaks the fourth wall by directly addressing “you” the audience, as well as by referencing the medium that he is speaking to the audience through. The fourth wall is the imaginary barrier between a narrative with its own characters and moving along its own narrative timeline and the audience. Wade explicitly expresses his utterances using direct words with an offensive aim to his addressee such as "fuck", "motherfucker", "asshole", and so on and so forth.

Taken as a whole synopsis, *Deadpool* is a comedy both in comic book and movie which frequently use offensive words which can be categorized as dysphemistic expressions. This language phenomenon in *Deadpool* is relevant to be chosen for detailed analysis. Also, it becomes the main interest of the writer to analyze dysphemism in movie script.

2.5. Theoretical Framework

This study conducted using theory proposed by Allan & Burrige (2006) about types and functions of dysphemism because their explanation of this topic is more detailed and comprehensive in their book *Forbidden Words: Taboo and Censoring of Language*. They categorize dysphemism as one of contravention of politeness phenomena and dysphemism as the only impoliteness category and also examine the way how and why offensive language used in social life. The theory will be used in answering the research question of this study.