

TABOO WORDS IN STEPHEN KING'S NOVEL *THE SHINING*

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Abstract

This study investigates the use of taboo words by characters in Stephen King's novel *The Shining* through a sociolinguistic approach, focusing on their types and functions. The novel follows Jack Torrance, his wife Wendy, and their son Danny, whose stay at the Overlook Hotel leads Jack into a spiral of psychological instability and violence. This research categorizes and quantifies the types and functions of taboo words, applying a descriptive qualitative method complemented by quantitative analysis. The primary data source was the novel itself, with the researcher as the primary instrument and a data sheet as a secondary tool. Results indicate four types of taboo words: epithets, profanity, obscenities, and vulgarities, totaling 300 instances. Profanity appears most frequently (123 instances, 41%), with obscenities following at 79 instances (26.33%). Epithets account for 63 instances (21%), while vulgarities occur least often at 35 instances (11.67%). Further, analysis of the functions of taboo words reveals that characters use them in auxiliary (126 instances, 42%), expletive (101 instances, 33.67%), abusive (63 instances, 21%), and humorous (10 instances, 3.33%) capacities. The dominance of the auxiliary function suggests that characters frequently incorporate taboo language into regular speech patterns rather than using it for direct insult. The minimal presence of the humorous function aligns with the novel's intense psychological horror and supernatural atmosphere, which limits comedic expression.

Keywords: *abusive; expletive; humorous; profanity; vulgarity*

1. Introduction

Language, a vital tool for human communication, serves both positive and negative functions depending on its use. Taboo words, often considered socially inappropriate or harmful, play a role in expressing societal anxieties and social tensions. Taboo, as defined by Wardhaugh (2010), refers to the prohibition of behaviors deemed dangerous, embarrassing, or shameful, often because they pertain to sensitive topics such as sex, death, illness, and religion. Within language, certain expressions are thus avoided, while some subjects may only be broached in specific contexts or by certain speakers, often through euphemism.

Taboo language encompasses expressions and topics that hold cultural sensitivity, from racial slurs to offensive remarks on sexuality. Such language is commonly restricted across media, especially in print and broadcasting (Hughes, 2006). Sohn (2010) highlights how the forbidden nature of taboo words heightens their allure, suggesting that breaking societal norms through language serves as a boundary-pushing act that underscores the significance of what is unspeakable.

Despite its proscribed nature, taboo language has become widely normalized in society, with speakers employing it to convey strong emotions or reactions. Swear words and similar expressions often function in nuanced ways, depending on context and intention. Although culturally stigmatized, taboo language is prevalent in literary works, including Stephen King's novels, where it enriches character development and social dynamics.

Stephen King, renowned for his contributions to horror and suspense literature, offers a compelling field for studying taboo language due to his use of provocative themes and vocabulary. King's *The Shining*, in particular, provides rich examples of taboo language, as it narrates the psychological descent of Jack Torrance, whose internal struggles are marked by explicit language reflecting his instability. This novel, with its intense narrative and character conflicts, is a powerful resource for examining how taboo words serve both narrative and psychological functions.

This research aims to explore the types and functions of taboo language used in *The Shining*, using Battistella's (2005) typology for categorizing taboo words and Jay's (2008) framework for analyzing their communicative roles. By delving into the various taboo expressions within *The Shining*, this study seeks to broaden the understanding of taboo language in literature and its role in reflecting societal norms and individual psychology.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Sociolinguistics

Language is a fundamental part of society, serving as the primary tool for interaction and communication, without which society could not exist. As Chaika (1982: 2) explains, sociolinguistics is the study of how language is used within social contexts, emphasizing the role of language in sustaining societal structures. This concept aligns with Wardhaugh's (2010) definition of language as a specialized tool employed by groups for communication. Hornby (2000) further characterizes language as a system of spoken and written communication shared within particular speech communities. Sociolinguistics, therefore, investigates the relationship between language and society and how linguistic behavior reflects social dynamics.

Yule (2010: 254) describes sociolinguistics as a branch of linguistics that examines language in relation to social and cultural phenomena. This perspective suggests that sociolinguistics encompasses both linguistic and social science fields, including psychology, anthropology, and sociology. Trudgill (2000: 32) supports this view by highlighting how sociolinguistic research considers cultural influences on language use, where social contexts shape speech patterns and choices.

2.2 Taboo

Taboo generally refers to societal prohibitions related to perceived immorality or harm. Wardhaugh (2010: 239) explains that taboos comprise actions or language perceived as anxiety-inducing, embarrassing, or shameful, leading to their avoidance. Linguistically, certain terms and expressions are restricted to specific settings or

avoided entirely due to societal norms (Mbaya, 2002: 224). Akmajian (2004: 303) characterizes taboo words as morally deficient or inappropriate, avoided to prevent offense. Differences in cultural backgrounds often affect perceptions of taboo, potentially resulting in misunderstandings (Akmajian, 2004: 303).

While there may be commonalities in taboos across cultures, significant differences exist. For instance, public displays of affection, such as kissing, may be common in Western societies but are viewed as inappropriate in many Eastern cultures. This contrast illustrates the cultural specificity of taboos.

2.3 Types of Taboo Words

Numerous researchers have categorized taboo words. Battistella (2005) identifies four main types: epithets, profanity, vulgarity, and obscenity. Jay (1996) expands this classification to include nine types: obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, epithets, blasphemy, cursing, slang, insult and slur, and scatology. However, this study adopts Battistella's (2005) framework.

2.3.1 Epithets

Epithets are brief, impactful words or phrases often used to express frustration or anger. They may refer to race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disabilities, appearance, and other characteristics (Battistella, 2005). Jay (1996) defines epithets as emotionally charged outbursts prompted by sudden frustration. Examples include terms like "bitch," "midget," "retard," "faggot," and "motherfucker."

2.3.2 Profanity

Profanity, as defined by Battistella (2005: 72), includes language that misuses religious terms in a secular or disrespectful context. Jay, as cited in Doyle (2006: 2-3), describes profanity as language that treats sacred terms irreverently. This category involves the intentional use of religious references to express disregard or disrespect toward religious beliefs or symbols.

2.3.3 Obscenity

Obscenity involves expressions prohibited in public due to their offensive and immoral nature. Jay (cited in Doyle, 2009: 1) describes obscenity as expressions related to sexual or excretory functions, which are considered abhorrent or socially unacceptable. Battistella (2005: 72) describes these as coarse expressions related to sexual and bodily functions, exemplified by words such as "fuck" and "shit."

2.3.4 Vulgarity

Vulgarity, while similar to obscenity, typically refers to coarse language often associated with less formal or educated speech (Battistella, 2005: 72). Jay (cited in Mercury, 1995: 30) describes vulgarity as unrefined language used to demean or insult others. Examples of vulgar expressions include "ass," "tit," "dick," and "cunt."

2.4 Function of Taboo Words

Taboo words serve various communicative functions. According to Jay (2008: 268), these functions include auxiliary, abusive, expletive, and humorous uses.

2.4.1 Auxiliary

In some instances, taboo words function as auxiliary language, used not to target a person directly but as "lazy" or non-emphatic speech. This usage is common in phrases like "This fucking computer is broken!" or "The damn thing won't start," where the taboo term emphasizes frustration without aiming to offend.

2.4.2 Abusive

Taboo words can also be used abusively to convey contempt or insult during interpersonal conflicts. Heated arguments may provoke individuals to express raw emotions using offensive language, as in "You are a piece of shit" or "That son of a bitch ran away!" This use of taboo words underscores hostility.

2.4.3 Expletive

Expletive uses of taboo words typically express strong emotions such as anger, frustration, or shock. Characters in novels, for instance, may use expletives to convey intense feelings, as seen in phrases like "Goddamnit! I failed!" or "Oh shit! I forgot my wallet."

2.4.4 Humorous

Finally, taboo words can serve humorous functions, particularly in informal contexts where they are used to foster camaraderie. Friends may use such language playfully, as in "Man, bring your ass over here and join us for a drink!" or "This lucky bastard won a lottery!" This usage strengthens social bonds rather than offending.

3. Research Method

In this section, the research methodology is comprehensively outlined, covering essential components such as the research type, data sources, data collection methods, and data analysis techniques. Each element provides a foundation for understanding the systematic approach taken in this study.

3.1 Research Type

This study employs a qualitative research methodology, specifically a descriptive qualitative approach, focusing on the analysis of language used in Stephen King's novel *The Shining*. The data for this research consist of words, phrases, and sentences that represent instances of taboo language within the text. Qualitative research is an exploratory approach aimed at understanding the meaning that individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human phenomenon (Creswell, 2018: 2). Vanderstoep and Johnson (2009: 167) describe qualitative research as a method designed to investigate cultural, social, and individual identities, with a focus on descriptive rather than predictive analysis. Moreover, Strauss and Corbin (1998: 11) argue that qualitative research avoids quantification and statistical techniques, emphasizing depth of analysis over numerical data.

This study also utilizes a descriptive library-based approach to collect and interpret data, concentrating on categorizing types of taboo words and their respective functions within *The Shining*. Descriptive research is intended to portray the current state of phenomena as they exist, providing a detailed depiction of the research focus.

3.2 Data and Data Sources

Bousfield (2008: 15) highlights that qualitative research can incorporate both verbal and non-verbal data. Verbal data include spoken words, while non-verbal data encompass gestures, facial expressions, tone, and physical interaction between speakers. In the context of this study, the primary data consist of textual dialogues spoken by characters within *The Shining*, particularly instances involving taboo language.

The main source of data for this research is a digital PDF file of Stephen King's *The Shining*, accessed through www.libgen.is. Due to limited access to the original text, this PDF version was obtained for academic use only, strictly serving as the primary resource for identifying and analyzing instances of taboo language within the narrative.

3.3 Research Instrument

In qualitative research, the researcher is often the primary instrument of data collection, as described by Moleong (2009: 56). In this study, the researchers fulfill various roles, including planning, data collection, analysis, and reporting. In addition to the researchers' active role, a data sheet was developed to aid in recording and categorizing the data. This data sheet, formatted as a table, is structured to capture the study's two main objectives: identifying types of taboo words and analyzing their functions. An example of the data sheet structure is provided below to illustrate its function in organizing the data systematically.

No.	Dialogues	Taboo Words								Explanation
		Types of Taboo Words				Function of Taboo Words				
		EPI	PRO	OBS	VUL	EXP	ABU	HUM	AUX	
1	“What? Wendy, what the hell are you t--” “Don’t you touch him! I’ll kill you if you lay your hands on him again!” “Wendy--” “ You Bastard! ”	✓					✓			Jack Torrance who tried to lay his hands on his son Danny Torrance got scolded by his wife Wendy Torrance. She threatened him and insulted him by taboo word “ bastard ” to show contempt.

Table 1. Sample Data Sheet of Types and Functions of Taboo Words

Types of Taboo Words

EPI : Epithet
PRO : Profanity
OBS : Obscenity
VUL : Vulgarity

Functions of Taboo Words

EXP : Expletive
ABU : Abusive
HUM : Humorous
AUX : Auxiliary

3.4 Data Collection

The researchers conduct a meticulous examination of Stephen King's *The Shining*, reading the novel comprehensively to gain an in-depth understanding of its

contents. Relevant data are then identified and selected based on the study's objectives. The data collection process follows several sequential steps:

1. **Obtaining the Text:** The researchers first acquire a digital copy of *The Shining* from www.libgen.is for analysis.
2. **Reading for Comprehension:** The researchers read and analyze the text in its entirety to ensure a thorough understanding of the novel's content and themes.
3. **Plot and Character Analysis:** Next, the researchers examine key elements, including the plot, conflicts, and characters, to contextualize the use of language.
4. **Data Selection and Categorization:** Data are then selected and categorized based on their relevance to the focus on taboo language usage in the novel.
5. **Data Documentation:** Finally, the selected data are systematically recorded on a data sheet created for the analysis phase of the study.

3.5 Data Analysis

Data analysis in qualitative research involves organizing and examining materials systematically to build understanding and convey findings effectively (Bogdan, 1982: 145). This study employs descriptive methods for qualitative data analysis, structured as follows:

1. **Identifying Types of Taboo Language:** After thoroughly reading the novel, the researchers identify specific instances of taboo language, using dialogue descriptions and character interactions as primary sources.
2. **Classifying Taboo Language:** Identified instances of taboo language are categorized according to their types and the specific functions they serve within the narrative.
3. **Analyzing Character Influence:** The researchers examine how characters' use of taboo language contributes to the novel's conflict and plot progression.
4. **Formulating Conclusions:** Once all relevant data have been analyzed, conclusions are drawn based on the findings, synthesizing the influence and role of taboo language in *The Shining*.

4. Discussion

In this section, the research results are thoroughly presented, covering both the findings and the discussion. These results address the research objectives: identifying and describing the types and functions of taboo words in *The Shining*. The findings section begins with a detailed list of taboo words identified in the novel, along with their frequencies. This is followed by a breakdown of the frequency of each type and function of the taboo words. Further analysis of each research question is then elaborated upon in the discussion section.

4.1 Findings

This section presents the findings of the research on the taboo words used by characters in *The Shining*. The analysis resulted in a total of 300 data points, which are displayed in Table 2, listing the taboo words that occur in the novel. Table 3 illustrates the types and functions of these taboo words. The results are diverse and would be detailed in the following tables.

No.	List of Taboo Words	Occurrence	Percentage (%)
1.	Fuck, fucker, fuckin/fucking	50	16.67%
2.	Goddam/Goddamn	44	14.67%
3.	Hell	42	14%

4.	Damn, damned, damnable	37	12.33%
5.	Bitch, bitched, son of a bitch	29	9.67%
6.	Shit, shitty, bullshit	29	9.67%
7.	Nigger/s, niggery, nigger's, negro, niggerchaser	15	5%
8.	Ass, asshole	14	4.67%
9.	Prick	11	3.67%
10.	Bastard	8	2.67%
11.	Whore, whorehouse, whoremastering	5	1.67%
12.	Cunt	4	1.33%
13.	Balls	4	1.33%
14.	Whelp	2	0.67%
15.	Tits	2	0.67%
16.	Coon	2	0.67%
17.	Faggot	1	0.33%
18.	Cur	1	0.33%
TOTAL		300	100%

Table 2. List of Taboo Words and Frequency of Occurrence of Taboo Words in *The Shining Novel*

There are 18 taboo words which are used as research data, i.e. fuck, fucker, fuckin/fucking, goddam/goddamn, hell, damn/damned, damnable, bitch, son of a bitch, etc. All of them occurs in the novel. From the table above, it can be noticed that the most dominant type used by the characters is fuck/fucker/fuckin/fucking, which occurs 50 times (16.67%). The second highest frequency is goddam/goddamn which occurs 44 times (14.67%) then followed by hell which occurs 42 times (14%). And at the bottom, the least to occur is faggot and cur which appears only once (0.33%).

No.	Types of Taboo words	Functions of Taboo words				Total	Percentage (%)
		Expletive	Abusive	Humorous	Auxiliary		
1	Epithet	9 (3%)	44 (14.67%)	3 (1%)	7 (2.33%)	63	21%
2	Profanity	28 (9.33%)	15 (5%)	0 (0%)	80 (26.67%)	123	41%
3	Obscenity	24 (8%)	24 (8%)	1 (0.33%)	30 (10%)	79	26.33%
4	Vulgarity	2 (0.67%)	18 (6%)	6 (2%)	9 (3%)	35	11.67%
Total		63	101	10	126	300	100%
Percentage (%)		21%	33.67%	3.33%	42%	100%	

Table 3. Frequency of Occurrence of Types and Functions of Taboo Words in *The Shining Novel*

The analysis identifies four types of taboo words in *The Shining*: epithets, profanity, obscenity, and vulgarity. Each of these appears with varying frequency throughout the novel. Profanity is the most frequently used type, occurring 123 times

(41%), followed by obscenity at 79 occurrences (26.33%), epithets at 63 occurrences (21%), and vulgarity, the least frequent, with 35 instances (11.67%).

Table 3 illustrates that all four functions of taboo words, as categorized by Anderson & Trudgill (1990), are present: expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary. Among these, the auxiliary function is the most prevalent, occurring 126 times (42%), followed by the abusive function with 101 instances (33.67%), the expletive function with 63 instances (21%), and finally, the humorous function, which appears the least at 10 instances (3.33%).

When examining the combination of taboo word types with their respective functions, the most prominent pairing is **profanity with an auxiliary function**, which appears 80 times out of the 123 profanity instances (and represents 26.67% of the total 300 data points). Profanity used as an expletive follows with 28 instances, while its use in an abusive function appears 15 times. Notably, profanity with a humorous function does not occur in the novel. The second most common pairing is **epithet with an abusive function**, occurring 44 times out of the 63 epithet instances (14.67% of the total data). Epithets as expletives appear 9 times, as auxiliaries 7 times, and with a humorous function 3 times. For **obscenity**, the dominant function is auxiliary, with 30 occurrences out of 79 total obscenity instances (10% of the total data). Expletive and abusive functions for obscenities appear 24 times each, while obscenities with a humorous function are rare, occurring only once. Lastly, **vulgarity** is most commonly used in an abusive function, appearing 18 times out of the 35 total vulgarity instances (6% of the total data). Vulgarities with auxiliary functions appear 9 times, humorous functions 6 times, and the least frequent pairing, vulgarity as an expletive, appears only twice.

4.2 Discussion

The discussion section provides an in-depth analysis of the findings to address the research questions outlined in Chapter I. To illustrate key points, selected data from the appendix are included as examples. This section is organized into two main parts: the first addresses the types of taboo words in *The Shining*, directly responding to the first research question, and the second examines the functions of these taboo words, addressing the second research question. The discussion begins with an exploration of the types of taboo words identified in the novel.

4.2.1 Types of Taboo Words

The characters in *The Shining* use four types of taboo words: profanity, obscenity, epithet, and vulgarity. Each type will be explained in detail, accompanied by relevant examples.

4.2.1.1 Profanity

In *The Shining*, profanity emerges as the most prevalent type of taboo language, appearing 123 times, accounting for 41% of the total instances. Profanity involves the use of religious terms in irreverent, secular, or casual ways, as seen with words like "hell," "damn," and "Goddamn." While these terms originate in religious contexts, they are not used here to convey religious meaning. Instead, they serve as expressions of strong emotions in response to specific situations. In the novel, the most frequently used profanities include "Goddamn/Goddam" (44 occurrences), "hell" (42 occurrences), and

"damn/damned" (37 occurrences). An example of profanity in context is provided below:

(Data No. 1)

Wendy : "Jack?" The voice was timid, hesitant.
Jack : "I never touched him," Jack said thickly. "I never have since the night I broke his arm. Not even to spank him."
Wendy : "Jack, that doesn't matter now. What matters is—"
Jack : "This matters!" he shouted.
He brought one fist crashing down on the bar, hard enough to make the empty peanut dishes jump.
"It matters, *goddammit*, it matters!"
(Page. 255)

In the dialogue above, the taboo word "goddamnit" is categorized as profanity. This term combines "God" and "damn" in a context that is not religious but rather serves to express the speaker's anger. Its status as taboo arises from its use outside formal religious contexts, where such language is typically deemed inappropriate.

This dialogue occurs while Jack is drinking at the bar—a setting that is actually a manifestation of the Overlook Hotel's haunting presence, which seeks to manipulate him. Everything he experiences, including the bartender named Lloyd, the drinks, and the patrons, is an illusion orchestrated by the entity. Eventually, Jack emerges from this hallucination to confront his wife, Wendy, and his son, Danny.

Previously manipulated by the hotel, Jack has harmed Danny, yet he is unaware of his actions during the episode. This creates an internal conflict for him, as he has a history of hurting Danny—most notably when he accidentally broke his arm. Jack's desire to avoid repeating this mistake makes his recent actions all the more troubling, signaling a return to his former violent tendencies. Another example of profanity, the word "hell," illustrates this point further:

(Data No. 2)

Danny : "I'm sorry if I was bad."
Jack : "Nothing to be sorry for, doc." Jack ruffled his hair.
"What the hell happened in there?"
Danny : (Danny shook his head slowly, dazedly.)
Danny : "I . . . I don't know. Why did you tell me to stop stuttering, Daddy? I don't stutter."
Jack : "Of course not," Jack said heartily
(Page. 136)

The dialogue unfolds as Danny, who initially went to wash up and brush his teeth, locks himself in the bathroom and does not come out for a considerable time, causing his parents to worry. Jack, Danny's father, breaks through the bathroom door to find Danny in a trance-like state, unresponsive. After several attempts to shake him awake, Danny eventually regains consciousness.

Jack's phrase, "What the hell happened," expresses his intense concern and curiosity about Danny's strange state. The use of "hell" here is considered a mild profanity, as it references the term outside its religious context. Although "hell" is not among the harsher taboo words, it is still generally avoided in non-religious settings due to its connotations.

4.2.1.2 Obscenity

Obscenity ranks as the second most frequent type of taboo word in *The Shining*. It appears 78 times, making up 26.33% of the total occurrences. The most common obscenities in conversations between characters are variations of "fuck" (e.g., fuck/fucker/fucking), which occur 50 times, and "shit," which occurs 28 times. An example of obscenity is as follows:

(Data No. 3)

- Danny : "Get them off me!" Danny screamed.
 Jack : "Oh my God," Jack said. He saw.
 Wendy : "Jack, what's wrong with him? What's wrong?"
 He didn't answer her. He ran to the bed, scooped up Danny's pillow, and slapped Danny's thrashing left hand with it. Again. Again. Wendy saw lumbering, insectile forms rise into the air, droning.
 Jack : "Get a magazine!" he yelled over his shoulder. "Kill them!"
 Wendy : "Wasps?" she said
 "Wasps, oh Jesus, Jack, you said—"
 Jack : "**Shut the fuck up** and kill them!" he roared. "Will you do what I say!"
 (Page. 142)

The dialogue takes place when Danny, who was sleeping soundly, is abruptly awakened by something crawling on his hand. He realizes three wasps are stinging him, causing him to scream in pain. His scream alarms his parents, who rush in to find the wasps repeatedly stinging him. Jack attempts to kill the wasps and instructs Wendy to help, yet in frustration, he directs the phrase "shut the fuck up" at Wendy because she keeps talking instead of helping. This phrase is considered taboo due to the presence of "fuck," an obscene word with sexual connotations, classifying "shut the fuck up" as a form of obscenity. Another example of obscenity, "shit," is illustrated below:

(Data No. 4)

- Jack : "Danny? You can come out, doc. Just a little spanking, that's all. Take it like a man and it will be all over. We don't need her, doc. Just you and me, right? When we get this little . . . spanking . . . behind us, it will be just you and me."
 Danny ran. Behind him the thing's temper broke through the shambling charade of normality.
 Jack : "Come here, *you little shit!* Right now!"
 (Page. 439)

This dialogue takes place when Jack, now fully possessed by the hotel, is searching for Danny with the intent to harm him. Danny, terrified, tries to escape, which only fuels Jack's anger further. In his rage, Jack demands that Danny come to him, insulting him with the taboo phrase "little shit." The term "shit" is considered an obscene type of taboo word because it refers to excretion, a concept associated with dirt and filth.

4.2.1.3 Epithet

In *The Shining*, epithets represent the third most frequent type of taboo language, appearing 63 times and accounting for 21% of all taboo word occurrences. Epithets include slurs targeting race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, physical appearance, and

disabilities. Common examples from the novel are words like *bitch*, *faggot*, *nigger*, *midget*, *retard*, *motherfucker*, and *son of a bitch*. Such terms are often used during heightened emotions, such as frustration or anger, as characters aim to demean or provoke one another.

Specific epithets are notably recurrent, with *bitch* used 22 times, *son of a bitch* 7 times, and *nigger* 15 times. Other terms include *bastard* (8 occurrences), *whore* (5 occurrences), *whelp* (2 occurrences), *coon* (2 occurrences), *faggot* (1 occurrence), and *cur* (1 occurrence). These instances emphasize moments of intense hostility and resentment among characters. An example of an epithet from the novel is as follows:

(Data No. 5)

Jack : "Wendy?" he asked. "That you?"
Wendy : "Yes," she said. "Do you think you can make it upstairs?
If you put your arms around me? Jack, where did you—"
His hand closed brutally around her ankle.
"Jack! What are you—"
Jack : "Gotcha!" he said, and began to grin.
Wendy : "Jack, I want to help."
Jack : "Oh yeah. You and Danny only want to help." "You wanted to help us all
right out of here. But now . . . I . . . gotcha!"
Wendy : "Jack, you're hurting my ankle—"
Jack : "I'll hurt more than your ankle, you **bitch**."

(Page. 386)

In this scene, Wendy finds Jack at the bar, where he has succumbed to both intoxication and the hotel's malevolent influence, amplifying his violent tendencies. Overwhelmed by the hotel's sinister presence and the pressures he faces, Jack grabs Wendy's ankle aggressively, causing her pain and implying a threat of further harm. In his disturbed state, he refers to Wendy as a "bitch," a derogatory term that reflects his unrestrained anger and hostility. The term "bitch," often directed at women, originally denotes a female dog but has evolved into a highly pejorative term used to demean or express contempt.

In this context, "bitch" functions as an epithet, driven by Jack's intense emotions and loss of control. Epithets are frequently used in moments of anger or frustration, adding emotional weight intended to insult or belittle. Here, Jack's intoxication and aggression lead him to use "bitch" as an outlet for his rage. Similarly, he employs other epithets, such as "bastard," to further convey his hostility, as shown in the following excerpt.

(Data No. 6)

Jack : "Danny, what happened?" Jack asked.
He put out his hand to touch the puffy side of Danny's neck.
"Who did this to y—"
Wendy : "Don't you touch him!" Wendy hissed.
Jack : "What? Wendy, what the hell are you t—"
Wendy : "Don't you touch him! I'll kill you if you lay your hands on him again!"
Jack : "Wendy—"
Wendy : "You **bastard**!"

(Page. 245)

The dialogue takes place as Jack and Wendy are searching for Danny. When they find him, he is standing still, staring blankly while sucking his thumb, with a visible mark on his throat suggesting that someone has tried to harm him. Tension rises between Wendy and Jack, as Wendy suspects Jack may have hurt Danny. In her anger and frustration, Wendy uses the taboo word "bastard" to insult Jack, expressing her hostility and accusation. The term "bastard" here functions as an epithet, as it is spoken with strong emotion aimed at conveying contempt and anger.

4.2.1.4 Vulgarities

Vulgarity is the least common type of taboo language found in *The Shining*, appearing 35 times and comprising 11.67% of all instances. Unlike other categories, vulgarity specifically involves terms related to sexual anatomy and excretory functions, often conveyed in a blunt, rough manner. Common examples in the novel include words like *ass*, *asshole*, *prick*, *tit*, *cock*, *dick*, and *cunt*. Such language is typically associated with raw, colloquial expression and is often used to demean or degrade the subject being referred to.

In *The Shining*, vulgar terms appear in the following frequencies: *prick* occurs 11 times, *ass* 10 times, *asshole* 4 times, *cunt* 4 times, *balls* 4 times, and *tits* 2 times. The inclusion of these words underscores the novel's use of intense, coarse language to reflect characters' raw emotions and the heightened tension of their interactions. An example of vulgarity from the text is as follows:

(Data No. 7)

Albert : "Stu says you're planning to do a little dirty-laundry-airing yourself."

Jack : "Stu is an **asshole**!" he barked into the phone.

Jack : "I told him I had an idea of writing about the Overlook, yes. I do. I think this place forms an index of the whole post-World War II American character.

(Page. 200)

This dialogue occurs during a phone conversation between Jack and Albert. Albert has received a call from Stuart, who informed him that Jack attempted to blackmail him by invoking the dark history of the Overlook Hotel. Offended by Jack's actions, Stuart reported the incident to Albert, the hotel's owner. In light of this news, Albert, displeased, calls Jack to demand an explanation. In response, Jack, who harbors a strong disdain for Stuart, uses the taboo term "asshole" as an insult. This word qualifies as vulgarity because it crudely references an excretory function, exemplifying what is often referred to as "raw" street language.

Vulgar language typically serves to demean or degrade the target, reflecting an unfiltered expression intended to humiliate the individual or object in question. Here, Jack's use of "asshole" is aimed at belittling Stuart and underscores his contempt for him. Another instance of vulgarity can be observed in the term "prick," as illustrated in the following excerpt.

(Data No. 8)

Watson : "You'll find all the tools you need out there and some you don't, I guess. And there's the shingles. Did Ullman tell you about that?"

Jack : "Yes, he wants part of the west roof resingled."

Watson : “He’ll get all the for-free out of you that he can, *the fat little prick*, and then whine around in the spring about how you didn’t do the job half right. I told him once right to his face, I said . . .”
(Page. 34)

The dialogue takes place when Watson, the current caretaker of the Overlook Hotel, explains the details and responsibilities of the caretaker role to Jack, who will assume the position during the off-season. Watson harbors a deep-seated resentment toward Stuart Ullman, the hotel manager, frequently referring to him as a “prick,” a taboo term that denotes male genitalia. As such, “prick” is classified as a vulgarity, reflecting the coarseness of his disdain.

4.2.2 Functions of Taboo Words

This section explores the functions of taboo words in *The Shining*, addressing the second research question. The four identified functions of taboo words are expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary. Each function is demonstrated with examples provided below.

4.2.2.1 Auxiliary

The auxiliary function is the most prevalent form of taboo language used by characters in *The Shining*, occurring 126 times out of a total of 300 instances, which represents 42% of the data. This dominance can be attributed to the characters' unique speaking styles, which incorporate taboo language as a means of expression. Unlike other functions, the auxiliary use of taboo words does not target individuals; instead, it adds a "colorful" quality to their dialogue without causing harm to anyone.

(Data No. 9)

Wendy : “What are you talking about?” Wendy nearly screamed.
Jack : “I’ll tell you what,” he said. “I followed the directions on that *fucking* bug bomb. We’re going to sue them. The damn thing was defective. Had to have been. How else can you explain this?”
(Page. 144)

The dialogue takes place after Danny has been attacked and stung multiple times by wasps. Jack had previously attempted to eliminate the wasp nest using a bug bomb; however, the bomb was defective and failed to eradicate the wasps, allowing them to remain alive and subsequently attack Danny. In expressing his frustration with the faulty bug bomb, Jack uses the taboo word “fucking.” In this context, “fucking” serves as an auxiliary function, enhancing his speech without targeting anyone directly. Another example of the auxiliary function of taboo language can be seen as follows:

(Data No. 10)

Wendy : “I keep hearing voices in my head!” she cried. “What is it? What’s wrong? I feel like I’m going crazy!”
Jack : “What voices?” He looked at her with deadly blandness.
Wendy : She turned to Danny. “Did you—?”
Danny : Danny nodded slowly.
“Yes. And music. Like from a long time ago. In my head.”
The elevator car stopped again. The hotel was silent, creaking, deserted.
Outside, the wind whined around the eaves in the darkness.

Jack : "Maybe you are both crazy," Jack said conversationally.
 "I don't hear a **goddamn** thing except that elevator having a case of the electrical hiccups. If you two want to have duet hysterics, fine. But count me out."
 (Page. 315)

The dialogue occurs in an elevator where Jack, Wendy, and Danny are present. Wendy keeps hearing voices in her head, while Danny experiences strange sounds of old music. Jack, however, hears nothing and tells them that they are going crazy. In emphasizing his point, he uses the word "goddamn," which serves to stress his assertion that he isn't hearing anything. In this context, "goddamn" functions as an auxiliary, reinforcing his perspective.

4.2.2.2 Abusive

The abusive function is the second most dominant use of taboo language in *The Shining*, occurring 101 times out of a total of 300 instances, which represents 33.67% of the data. This function arises when individuals use taboo words to express disrespect toward the addressee. The speaker's intent is often to offend and insult, suggesting that the target is not deserving of respect or kindness. Consequently, the speaker devalues the target, reducing them to a status perceived as worthless or inferior. In the novel, the characters frequently employ taboo words as a means of abuse.

(Data No. 11)

Jack : "Where did it get you?" he asked her.
 Wendy : "My . . . on my wrist."
 Jack : "Let's see."
 "Are you allergic to stings?" he asked.
 "Think hard! If you are, Danny might be. **The fucking little bastards** got him five or six times."
 (Page. 143)

This dialogue occurs when Wendy gets stung by wasps while attempting to kill them. Concerned for her safety, Jack asks if she is allergic to stings, noting that if she is, their son Danny—who was also stung multiple times—could be at risk as well. Jack refers to the wasps as "fucking little bastards," expressing his frustration and anger at the situation they just endured. By using the phrase "fucking little bastards," he insults the wasps that attacked them. Another example of the abusive function of taboo language can be observed in the following excerpt:

(Data No.12)

She turned and he was coming for her. It was Jack and yet not Jack. His eyes were lit with a vacant, murderous glow; his familiar mouth now wore a quivering, joyless grin. He had the roque mallet in one hand.

Jack : "Thought you'd lock me in? Is that what you thought you'd do?"
 Wendy : "Jack—"
 Jack : "**You bitch**," he whispered. "I know what you are."
 (Page. 414)

This dialogue takes place when Jack is fully possessed by the hotel. He chases Wendy with the intent to hurt and kill her using a roque mallet. In this moment, Jack employs the term "bitch" as an abusive tool to demean her. The use of this taboo word reflects his intense dislike, anger, and hatred towards her, demonstrating how such language is often employed to insult and belittle the target.

4.2.2.3 Expletive

The expletive function ranks third among the uses of taboo language in *The Shining* novel. It appears 63 times out of a total of 300 instances, accounting for 21% of the data. Expletives typically serve as a means of expressing a person's emotions and feelings. While using taboo words may not always be the most constructive way to convey one's emotions, it often provides an honest reflection of their inner feelings. In the novel, the characters frequently utilize expletive taboo words to articulate themselves, thereby revealing their nature and characteristics.

(Data No. 13)

- George : "You s-set the timer ahead."
Jack : "George, what are you talking about?"
George : "I d-didn't get my whole five mih-minutes. You set it ahead. I was wuh-watching the clock."
Jack : "The clock and the timer may keep slightly different times, George, but I never touched the dial on the damned thing. Scout's honor."
George : "Yuh-yuh-you did!"
Jack : "I assure you I did not, George. It's your stutter. Do you have any idea what causes it? You don't stutter in class."
George : "I duh-duh-don't s-s-st-st-stutter!"
Jack : "Lower your voice."
George : "You w-want to g-get me! You duh-don't w-want me on your g-g-goddam team!"
Jack : "Lower your voice, I said. Let's discuss this rationally."
George : "**F-fuh-fuck th-that!**"
(Page. 121)

The dialogue reflects a flashback to when Jack was still teaching at a high school. He had a student named George, who was exceptionally talented in sports, performed well academically, and was the son of a wealthy man. George expressed interest in joining the debate team that Jack managed. However, during his first debate, he began to stutter—a condition he had never experienced before—struggling until the buzzer sounded. After the debate, George confronted Jack, accusing him of setting the timer ahead. Clearly dissatisfied and angry, George did not believe Jack's denial that he had tampered with the timer, suspecting instead that Jack did not want him on the debate team. In his frustration, George uttered the taboo word "fuck," emphasizing his dissatisfaction with Jack. Another example of the expletive function of taboo words can be seen as follows:

(Data No. 14)

- Wendy : "You want me to apologize for calling you a bastard? All right, I apologize. I'm sorry. You still shouldn't have hit him."

Jack : "I know," he muttered. "I know that. I don't know **what the hell** came over me."
(Page. 310)

The dialogue takes place as Jack slowly descends into madness under the hotel's sinister influence and accidentally strikes Danny. Wendy, furious at Jack for hurting their son, calls him a "bastard." After a moment, she apologizes for the harsh words, acknowledging that he shouldn't have hit Danny. Although Jack is aware of his wrongdoing, he feels increasingly overwhelmed by the hotel's influence and struggles to understand his own behavior. In response, he uses the phrase "what the hell" to express his confusion about his actions.

4.2.2.4 Humorous

The final and least common function observed in *The Shining* is the humorous function, occurring only 10 times out of 300 instances, accounting for 3% of the total. This limited use of humor is likely related to the novel's genre, which encompasses psychological horror and supernatural fiction. Such genres typically do not lend themselves to dialogues with a humorous tone.

(Data No. 15)

Jack : "Am I fired? I guess you better tell me if I am."
Albert : "Not if you'll do two things for me."
Jack : "All right."
Albert : "Hadn't you better hear the conditions before you accept them?"
Jack : "No. Give me your deal and I'll take it. There's Wendy and Danny to think about. If you want my **balls**, I'll send them airmail."
(Page. 201)

This dialogue occurs when Jack is on the phone with Albert, expressing his concern about being fired due to his issues with Stuart, the hotel manager. Albert presents him with two conditions that must be met to avoid termination. Without fully hearing the details, Jack immediately accepts the conditions, believing they are not important since he is willing to do anything to keep his job as the hotel's off-season caretaker. In a joking manner, Jack quips that he would send his "balls" to Albert via airmail if necessary, referring to his own testicles. Another example of the humorous function of taboo words can be seen as follows:

(Data No. 16)

Halloram : "Hi," he said. "Can you pull me back onto the road?"
Driver : "Oh, I guess I could," the plow driver said.
"What the hell you doing way up here, mister? Good way to kill your ass."
Halloram : "Urgent business."
Driver : "Nothin is that urgent," the plow driver said slowly and kindly,
as if speaking to a mental defective.
(Page. 404)

The dialogue takes place when Halloran, eager to reach the Overlook Hotel to help Danny, finds himself stranded in the midst of a snowstorm. Fortunately, he encounters a snowplow driver who kindly offers assistance and allows him into his vehicle. The driver jokingly asks Halloran what he is doing alone in such dangerous

conditions, suggesting that it's a good way to die, with a hint of cynicism. He refers to Halloran's predicament as "ass," using the term in a humorous manner without intending any harm.

5. Conclusion

This research aimed to identify and describe the types of taboo words present in *The Shining* novel. The analysis revealed the occurrence of all four categories of taboo words: epithet, obscenity, profanity, and vulgarity. Among these, profanity emerged as the most frequently utilized category, appearing 123 times out of a total of 300 instances, which constitutes 41% of the data. In contrast, vulgarity was the least prevalent, with only 35 occurrences, representing 11.67%. The prominence of profanity can be attributed to its function as a stylistic device that reflects the characters' speech patterns, often serving as exclamatory expressions rather than direct insults.

Vulgarity, on the other hand, appears to be less effective as an offensive term for undermining another's dignity. Instead, the characters in *The Shining* tend to employ obscenity and epithet more frequently as forms of derogatory language. The second objective of this research was to explore the functions of taboo words in the novel. Four distinct functions were identified: expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary. The auxiliary function exhibited the highest frequency, occurring 126 times and accounting for 42% of the total instances. Conversely, the humorous function was the least common, with only 10 occurrences, or 3.33%. This distribution underscores the diverse roles that taboo language plays within the narrative, reflecting both the emotional intensity and the interpersonal dynamics of the characters in the story. Ultimately, the findings highlight the significance of taboo language in shaping the characters' experiences and interactions throughout the novel.

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