



Swear Words Used by Students in Daily Communication (A Case Study in Students at STBA JIA Bekasi)

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Arvian, E and Hadi, I. (2024). Swear Words Used by Students in Daily Communication (a Case Study in Students at STBA JIA Bekasi). *Journal of English Language and Literature*, 9(2), 269-274. doi: 10.37110/jell.v9i2.232

Received: 20-07-2024

Accepted: 27-07-2024

Published: 02-09-2024

Abstract: This research focuses on 1) the classification of swearing sources used by students of STBA JIA and 2) the classification of the use of swearing proposed by students of STBA JIA. The theory used in this research is Wardhaugh's theory (1986:230); Hughes (1991:208); Rothwell (1973:108); Trudgill (1983) to classify sources and reasons or functions of swearing. This research is qualitative with descriptive methods. The data taken came from questionnaire answers by respondents consisting of 14 male students and 43 female students. This research found that there are 12 sources of swearing used by male respondents and 12 sources of swearing used by female respondents. There are a total of 12 sources of invective, consisting of 7 sources based on experts and 5 new sources. Then, regarding the reasons for using swear words, male respondents stated 16 reasons and female respondents stated 18 reasons. The total number of reasons for using swear words in this study was 24. Furthermore, related to research findings based on the classification of swear words, there is no difference in the classification of sources and the reasons for using swearing words between the reasons for male respondents and the reasons for female respondents.

Keywords: *source; reason; swearing; sociolinguistic; college student*

INTRODUCTION

Humans interact to foster cooperation among themselves in order to form, develop, and pass on their culture in the broadest sense. However, cultural differences can cause friction between people during interactions. Besides cultural differences, disagreements can also arise due to differences of opinion or dissatisfaction.

One trigger is the confrontation with different languages, rules, and values when communicating with others. This is related to the opinion of Montagu (in Indrawati, 2005: 29) which states that situations and conditions in a person's environment can trigger emotional changes. Moreover, Kleinginna and Kleinginna (in Gorman, 2004: 4) said the moment that emotions involve some appraisal of inner

thoughts, feelings and memories, sometimes combined with an assessment of the environment and physiological changes. Sometimes, the emotions felt by a speaker are expressed verbally and excessively so that the verbal expression is spontaneous (swearing). Therefore, this friction can give birth to various emotions, causing the language used to become stiff and connotative. Sometimes, speakers express their emotions verbally and excessively, leading to spontaneous verbal expressions like swearing.

In this regard, Sudaryanto, et al. (1982:146) revealed that swear words are a type of affective word whose effectiveness is the starting point of the communication process. Swearing often arises from actions or events that cause anger,

making harsh words a means of venting emotions. Although swearing is generally considered a bad use of language, often associated with uneducated people, and is seen as inappropriate in formal situations or among high social classes, many people find it difficult to break the habit. Consequently, this results in swearing being a persistent linguistic feature (Montagu, 1967:2; Andersson, 1985:110; Andersson and Trudgill, 1990:8).

This view is in line with Crystal (2011) which states that swear words are often considered inappropriate, but in reality swear words are still used in various ways. Even though it is considered as something inappropriate and not good, most people still use swear words when they are faced with certain situations.

Therefore emotions have a powerful impact on our language choices. When feeling annoyed, angry, or disappointed, individuals may find themselves using swear words as a way to express their emotions. These words serve as a release, allowing them to vent their frustrations in a way that may be perceived as harsh or unpleasant to others. Additionally, emotional states such as happiness or surprise can also trigger the use of swear words, which can serve as an emphasis in any state of mind. This highlights the complex nature of swearing, where it serves multiple emotional and communicative purposes across different contexts.

Based on the reasons, the researchers will investigate the use of swear words among STBA JIA students, the reasons behind it and its meaning. The researchers aim to clarify the meaning of swear words in Indonesian, local and foreign languages to avoid misinterpretation. In addition, the researchers hope that students learning foreign languages will develop a better understanding of different cultures and use appropriate language for effective communication. This comprehensive approach aims to bridge cultural gaps and improve intercultural communication among students.

Language Variety

Holmes (2001:73) states that language variation is linguistics form which used based on social circumstances and also included vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation of dialect, and spelling in different language. So language variation is determined by social itself, their

background, status, education, and degree of formality of a situation where the language is used. It means there is no language without variation. All languages in this world are involved in a great deal variation. Because of the variation, the speaker of the language speaks differently.

Bad Languages

Bad language that someone uses when they want to show anger, disappointment, and frustration. This shows that it is normal for someone to express their feelings in everyday life. Everyone has their own way of using language. For example, bad language is a term that people use in their daily lives when they use inappropriate language to communicate, but in linguistic studies, especially in the field of sociolinguistics, the term bad language is known as taboo language. According to Allan and Burridge (2006: 2-3), taboo refers to a term that indicates a person, object or action that is dangerous and therefore should be avoided. In addition, taboo language is a variety of language that people use to show their feelings such as anger, disappointment and dissatisfaction. People usually use taboo words because this is the most powerful way to express their dissatisfaction. Sometimes they emphasize people's real concerns.

Taboo

The term taboo comes from Tongan which refers to sacred places reserved for gods, kings, priests and chiefs. The word was borrowed into English by Captain James Cook in his book entitled *Voyage to the Pacific Ocean* published in 1777 (Ljung, 2011: 05).

Taboos are specific to a culture and a language, but they often overlap, especially in western cultures. Words can also shed their taboos over time or acquire taboo status due to new usage. It is, for example, perfectly acceptable to call a dandelion passable and a Windover windsuckers until part of the word gained a taboo dimension (Hughes, 1991: 03). It means that a word which is uttered by people in a certain place and time can be taboo, but not taboo in other place and time.

METHOD

The research used a qualitative approach. Taylor et al (2016:7) stated that qualitative methodology refers to research that produces descriptive data, namely written or spoken

words from the community and observable behavior. This is because the aim of this research is to explain the classification of forms, categories, sources of swearing, and reasons for the use of swearing

The respondents who are students of English Literature and Japanese Literature Study Program at STBA JIA were surveyed to collect data on their usage of swear words. The collected data is then sorted using identification techniques, allowing for classification based on data type.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

This section describes the following matters:

1. classification analysis and description of sources of swear words based on data on swear words used by respondents
2. classification analysis and description of the functions and reason of using swear words put forward by respondents.

From data obtained through questionnaire answers by respondents, researchers found 379 swear words. This number is the total number of curses. Those are 129 swear words known to male respondents and namely the number of curses known by male respondents and 250 swear words known to female respondents.

Source of Swearing Proposed by Experts

In the following section, this researcher classifies the sources of swearing used by male respondents and the sources of swearing used by female respondents. In classifying sources of swearing, this researcher refers to the classification proposed by Wardhaugh (1986:230); Hughes (1991:208); Rothwell (1973:108); Trudgill (1983). Those are animal, mental retardation/stupidity, sex activity, excretion, spirits/supernatural beings, cowardly act, sex, death, and religion that are presented in the form of diagram below:

Other Sources of Swearing

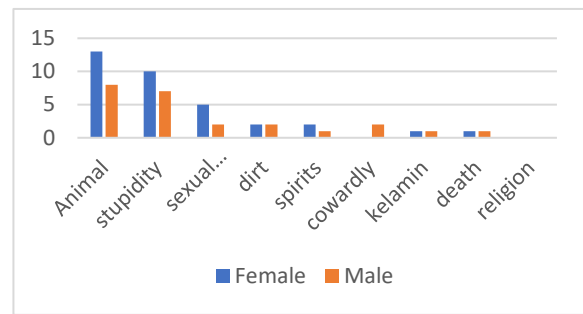


Figure 1. Comparison of male respondents' swearing and female respondents' swearing based on source classification

Apart from the existing classification of sources of swearing that are put forward by Rothwell (1973:108); Trudgill (1983); Wardhaugh (1986:230); Hughes (1991:208), a new classification of sources of swearing was discovered. Those are swearing related to profession, human nature, negative traits, negative experiences, and body parts. Below, the researcher describes the categories of new sources based on data on swear words used by male respondents and used by female respondents.

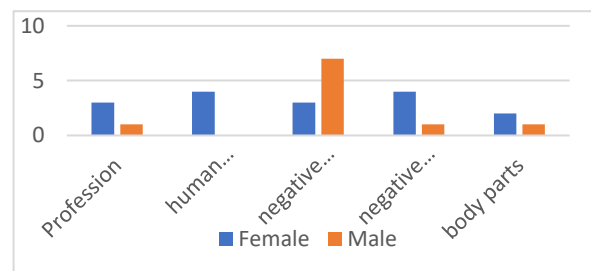


Figure 2. Diagram of sources of new swearing based on data on swearing used by male and female respondents

The Function and Reason of Swearing

In this research, swearing does not always have a negative meaning according to Hughes (1991:32) states that swearing can also be used to show familiarity, friendship or identity between a community. This is also proven by the finding that there were male respondents and female respondents who stated the reasons for using swear words with positive intentions. This can be seen from the respondents' answers, which are shown in the following diagram

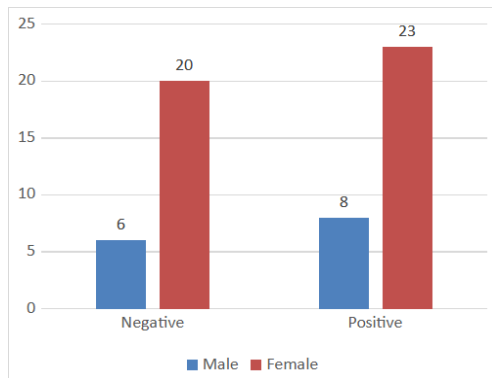


Figure 3 . Diagram of respondents' assessment of swearing

Based on the data, a considerable proportion of female participants (20) confessed to using curse words with negative connotations, whereas a lesser number of male participants (6) also admitted to using curse words negatively. It is noteworthy that a greater

number of female participants (23) disclosed using curse words with positive connotations, outnumbering those with negative connotations. Male participants also mentioned positive intentions behind their use of curse words, with 8 participants emphasizing this aspect. These results demonstrate that swearing is not solely associated with negativity. In reality, many participants, particularly females, utilize curse words to convey positive emotions or intentions.

Table 1 Swearing Based on the Sources of Curses Put Forward by Experts

No.	Reasons for Swearing	Amount Female Respondent	Amount Male Respondent
1.	Feeling angry (Marah)	36	11
2.	Disappointed (Kecewa)	30	8
3.	Disturbed (Terganggu)	23	7
4.	Regret (Penyesalan)	14	4
5.	Offended (Menghina)	14	8
6.	Friendship (Persahabatan)	15	7
7.	To identify or to confirm (Mengidentifikasi/mengokohkan)	4	4
8.	Group identity (Identitas kelompok),	2	3
9.	To discredit (Mendiskreditkan)	0	3
10.	Seeking attention (Mencari perhatian)	1	0
11.	Inciting (Menghasut)	1	0

Not all swear words used by respondents in this study can be classified as sources according to the source classification synthesized from the opinions of the experts above. Therefore, this researcher created a new classification of sources based on the swear words used by male respondents and the swear words used by female respondents.

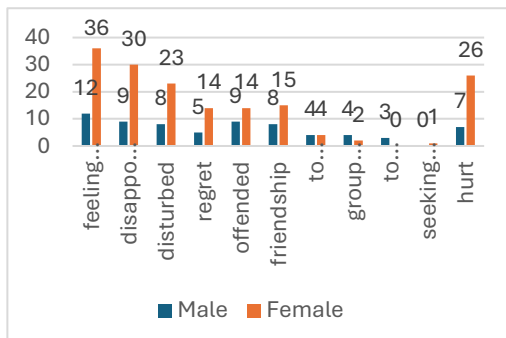
Based on the data, male and female respondents often chose to express anger. This means feeling very unhappy because of inappropriate treatment. 12 male respondents and 36 female respondents chose to use swear

words to express anger. Swearing was also chosen by 9 male respondents and 30 female respondents because they were disappointed. 7 male respondents and 26 female respondents chose to swear because they were hurt. 8 male respondents and 23 female respondents chose to swear because they were disturbed. 5 male respondents and 14 female respondents chose to swear because of regret. 9 male respondents and 14 female respondents chose to swear because they wanted to insult someone. n

Regarding the classification of reasons for swearing, in the following section, this

researcher describes the reasons for using swear words put forward by male respondents and by female respondents. Those reasons are feeling angry, disappointed, disturbed, regret, offended, friendship, to identify or to confirm, related to group identity, to discredit, to seek for attention, and feeling hurt. To make it clearer, the reasons for using swear words are shown in the diagram below

Other Function and Reason of Swearing



Based on diagram above 31 respondents, including 8 male and 23 female respondents, selected the response that swearing is not always viewed negatively, as it can also have a positive connotation. On the other hand, 26 individuals, comprising 6 male and 20 female respondents, indicated that cursing always carries a negative, rather than a positive, intention.

Table 2. Other reason of swearing that are founded based on data on swearing used by male and female respondents

Reasons for male respondents	Reasons for female respondents
Joking	Joking
Impressed	Spontaneous
Cringe radius	Environment
Habit	Embarrassed
Catharsis	Annoyed
Breaking the rules	Excited
	Giving emphasizes

This researcher presents a classification analysis of sources of swearing as well as a classification analysis of the reasons for using swearing by respondents in this study. The respondents were students of the English Literature and Japanese Literature Study

Program at the JIA Foreign Language college. Based on the subject matter and research problems, research objectives, and research scope that have been formulated in this section describes the following matters:

- classification analysis and description of sources of insults based on data on insults used by respondents;
- classification analysis and description of the use of swear words put forward by respondents.

From data obtained through questionnaire answers by respondents, researchers found as many as 379 insults. This number is the total number of curses, namely the number of curses known by male respondents and the number of curses known by female respondents. The details of the number of curses known by male respondents and the number of curses known by female respondents are as follows:

- There were 129 swear words known to male respondents;
- There were 250 swear words known to female respondents.

CONCLUSION

In the context of Indonesian culture, there are various variations of swearing expressions which are often used as a form of linguistic expression in the act of cursing. The use of these insults is generally carried out by various groups, including men and women, even those who are pursuing education as students.

The researcher found that male and female students used 2 swear words related to feces, 1 curse word related to sex, 8 animal-related swear words by male students and 13 by female students, no religious swear words by male or college students, 7 mental/stupidity-related curse words by male students and 10 by female students, 2 cowardly acts insults by male students and no cowardly acts swear words by female students, 1 spirit/supernatural being curse by male students and 2 by female students, 1 death-related curse word by both male and female students, and 2 sexual activity-related curse words by male students and 5 by female students.

The analysis of reasons for using swear words revealed that expressing anger was

cited by 12 male respondents and 36 female respondents. Feeling hurt was chosen by 7 males and 26 females, while feelings of disappointment were mentioned by 9 males and 30 females. Disturbance led to swearing for 8 males and 23 females, and regret was cited by 5 males and 14 females. Insulting others was a reason for 9 males and 14 females, while showing friendship was mentioned by 8 males and 15 females. Seeking attention was a reason for 1 female respondent, with no males reporting this. Strengthening group identity was chosen by 4 males and 2 females, incitement was reported by 9 females with no males, and discrediting others was a reason for 3 males with no female respondents. Additional reasons for swearing included joking, amazement, cringe radius, habit, catharsis, and breaking rules for males, and joking, reluctance, environment, embarrassment, annoyance, excitement, and emphasis for females. Interestingly, 31 respondents (8 males and 23 females) viewed swear words as not always negative, while 26 respondents (6 males and 20 females) believed they were always negative. Positive reasons for swearing among females included showing familiarity, praise, reminders, awareness, stress reduction, encouragement, and emphasis, while males mentioned showing familiarity, praise, reminders, encouragement, and emphasis. words by male or college students.

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