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The Usage of Swear Word in Hollywood Films

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ABSTRACT

Language is used as a means of communication in social intercourse. It can be used to propose one's ideas, deliver particular messages, and to express emotions. One of many ways of using language is by producing swear word. Swear word is an offensive word which often used to express humiliation, anger and any other tense emotions. This study concerns with the descriptive analysis and function of swear word found in some Hollywood films like Fast and Furious 6, Suicide Squad, Bad Boys II, and Deadpool. This study was aimed at examining the use of swear word in the movies with different topics and characters. The objectives if this study were to find out the how many using swear word in the movies. This study was conducted by descriptive qualitative method. The source of data was transcript the movies.



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INTRODUCTION

One of many ways of using language is by producing swear word. Swear word is a form of linguistics expression which is often referred to bad language because all swear words are taboo, although not all taboo words is swear words (Karjalainen, 2002:18). Besides, swear words are widely known by society as informal style in their daily conversation to express emotion, especially when they are angry or frustrated. These words become a habitual utterance which is very easy to say. Our society often uses them to communicate with one another. Some think positively about swear words usage. In a positive way, it is used as a solidarity orientation. For example, a group of boys often call their neighbors not with their proper names. Instead, they call the neighbors with other names, such as asshole, bastard, and so on. They receive it as a habit and a sign that they are close enough in relationship.

Jay observes that some studies show men are less to use euphemisms publicly or privately (damn for damn, frig for fuck) and will use obscenities to signal group membership and to discourage outsiders from joining the groups (as cited in Mercury, 1995, p. 35). Therefore, swear words they usually use make them closer as friends. Swear words no longer become something taboo in their communication. According to Jay (1992), swear words are the words that invoke harm to others

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through the use of certain words or phrases. Swear words can be a social marker, such as showing a solidarity relationship with a group who has the same habit. However, in some cultures, the use of swear words is often used to express praise, wonder, and create an atmosphere of intimate conversation (Allan, 1986). In other words, other than to express an anger, revenge, disappointment, regret, astonishment, and humiliation, swear words can also be a sign of intimacy and expressions of taste like this can be conveyed in written or spoken language such as in movie.

Swear words also used in movie by the characters. The writer is interested to analyze swear words in the movie because swear words are a part of English language that is popularly used in the world of media such as movies and music. Swear words in English often used by people in their daily life such as "fuck" and "shit" to convey their emotion of anger. The writer chose *Fast and Furious 6*, *Suicide Squad*, *Bad Boys II*, and *Dead pool* movie, because it has an out of the box idea in super hero's story and different perspective concept of super hero.

There are some previous studies related to swearing words in various contexts. Evadewi and Jufrizal (2018) and Rohayani (2018). Those earlier studies identify the properties and characteristics of swear words used in the songs. This study uses the theory of Abadi (2009) about characteristics swear words.

This study uses qualitative descriptive methods. The other researchers are Gishella (2017) and Fitrawati (2018), who investigated the emergence of swear words in the movie, and the use of swear words expresses human thoughts and feelings. On the other hand, Aji (2014) conducted the research about the use of swear word in *Four Brother* movie. This study shows that there are seven kinds of swear word, those are sex term, excretion term, body function, death term, mother in law term, animal term, and the last is religious matter. Also six reason of swearing those are pain relief, power and control, humour, non-violent retribution, self-expression, and peer and social bonding. The similarity with this study is on analysing swear words in the movie. This study intended to extend previous work and focused in terms of grouping the use of swear words in several Hollywood films, and we can understand more about the use and meaning of the swear words used. Therefore, research entitles "*The Usage of Swear Word in Hollywood Films*" interesting to be perceived and studied with the example *Fast and Furious 6*, *Suicide Squad*, *Bad Boys II*, and *Deadpool* films.

Swear words can be categorized based on their usage. In this context, some experts expressed their opinions about the function of using swear words. Based on Bolton and Hutton (1997) distinguish the swear words into four properties such as a habit or group rule, to be used intentionally to insult, revile, threaten, surprise, and hurt/disturb, indecent language used as a joke or aiming at jokes and swear words used to express strong emotions, such as surprise. The swear words can be understood as a means of expressing feelings that have various functions, both personal and social. Rosidin (2010) states that the purpose of using swear words such as expresses resentment, to express strong, severe, or extreme emotions, as a joke, to insult, to express frustration and annoyance, voicing astonishment. Feldmen (1985) adds some statements that there are six kinds of human emotions, which are happy, surprised, sad, angry, afraid, and hateful. In its development, the word swear words, besides spoken to express feelings of anger, is also used as other expressions, such as when amazed, surprised. Usually, the swear words were used as greeting and jokes to people who have close relationships.

It is usually considered to be very ordinary or expressed as an insult or a rough by people who are equally living in such a cultural and trusting environment. Various properties of swear words are strictly prohibited in every conversation, both formal and informal. However, the terms of the swear words are not only used when someone is angry but also when someone likes a thing to use the words in his conversation.

METHODOLOGY

Some people always think that swear words are bad things, but if we know for sure the meaning and grouping of these languages, it will at least give us a better understanding of how to use them. If swear words are something that is bad and prohibited, but why the film industry still uses them even in our daily lives, it doesn't mean that films teach us to say rude words, that's where we learn these swear words. If we understand the type and function it will make us avoid mis understanding.

This study uses descriptive qualitative research method to analyse the properties reference, and the function of swear words in the Fast & Furious 6 Suicide Squad, Bad Boys II, and Deadpool films. This research is categorized as qualitative descriptive design because of the data is in the form of swear words rather than numbers. According to Strauss and Corbin (2003), descriptive qualitative research is referred to as properties of research whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures or other forms of calculation. Furthermore, qualitative research was chosen because qualitative can provide more intricate details about phenomena that are difficult to express by quantitative methods.

The example of swear words in Hollywood Films that is:

Common American swear words	Swear words British	Swear words Australia
Shit	Bolloks	Bloody oath
Fuck	Bugger	Get stuffed
Fuck you	Twat	Root
Fuck off	Bloody hell	Bugger me
Damn	Choad	Fair suck of the sav
Damn it	Crikey	
Piss off	Crikey	
Dick head	Rubbish	
Kiss my ass	Shag	
Ass hole	Taking the piss	
Bitch	Wanker	
Son of a bitch		
Bastard		
Cunt		

Sample for general we use Fast and Furious 6 (2013), Suicide Squad (2016), Bad Boys II (2003), and Deadpool (2016) films.

There were several steps the researcher followed in conducting the research such as deciding the research problems, reviewing the literature of the problem, determining the research approach and method, selecting data collection, analysing the data, interpreting the result and composing the research. The first step was deciding the research problems. In this step, the researcher tried to formulate meth questions coming from the researcher's curiosity and interest related to language. The researcher mostly searched the data from the internet and the information even re-watch from Fast & Furious 6 Suicide Squad, Bad Boys II, and Deadpool films.

In the next step, the researcher reviewed the literature of the problem. It was conducted to gain more knowledge about the topic. The researcher read several journals and modules to be more confident in mastering the theories related to the research. Afterwards, the researcher chose the theories which were appropriate to be used in the research. After reviewing the literature of the problem, the researcher decided the research approach: pragmatic. The research used the qualitative method to get the detailed and deeper information about the topic.

The next step was the most challenging process and collecting data. Researcher must be able to understand the language grouping system carefully. From some of the literature that has been read, the researcher must be able to determine where to focus in this research, namely the type and function.

Descriptive Technique which is used in this research yield two kinds of data analysis that is analysing usage swear words of Hollywood films. Usage swear words such as:

- a) What words are used
- b) Function

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

If we relate it to everyday life, swear words can be an example of non-formal words. So, that its use can also be done outside the formal environment, such as at home, in the park or at the mall, and with focus on the purpose of the interlocutor such as our friends or partner. But, in the film also sometimes the use of swear words occurs in a formal place but with the different situations an emotions, usually used when mad, upset and disappointed. And that happens not only in movies, in real life we often encounter the use of swear words.

Fast and Furious 6 (2013)

The finding shows that there are six out of eight types of swear words performed by the characters of Fast and Furious 6 movie. Firstly, the characters performed several swear words that related to sex such as ass, asshole, asskicking, pussy, big-ass and bad-ass. Asshole literally means a person's anus and is commonly known as a slang form. It is often used to swear, especially referring to a stupid, irritating or contemptible person. Then, the phrase ass-kicking, as a noun, means a beating or a brutal and decisive defeat of a person or individual by another who had thoroughly dominated them in doing so, such as in sports. It belongs to swear words related to sex since the word ass exists in the phrase.

When it used as a swear word, the word ass may refer to a foolish or stupid person or a person's buttocks. After that, in North American, the word pussy is a swear word that refers to a weak, cowardly or effeminate man. The word big-ass is familiarly used in the United States, especially when the speaker expresses his shock or admiration towards someone or something. Sometimes, the word big-ass is not only used as an expression but also is used as an insult and cathartic swearing. Bad-ass can be defined as a noun and an adjective. It means a tough, uncompromising and intimidating person. It can be defined as impressive or excellent as well. The definition depends on the sentence form and its context. In here, the word bad-ass is categorized as a swear word related to sex since it is a combination of words bad + ass.

Secondly, the characters of Fast and Furious 6 movie performed two swear words related to excrement such as shit and bullshit. Excrement is generally related to things which are assumed to be dirty, disgusting, and rude if it is said in public. The word shit is one of the most popular profanities, but the meaning of the word depends on the situation context and the intention of the speaker. Bullshit is literally the combination of the word bull and shit. The function of swear word bullshit is mostly used as a cathartic swearing and emphatic swearing. Most of the time, the significance of someone swears the word bullshit is to release their stress and to express emotions.

Thirdly, when somebody is under a negative emotion, sometimes he or she swears using animal terms. In Fast and Furious 6 movie, the animal term that used as a swear word is fox, which refers

to a cunning or sly person. Then, there are three swear words of personal background which are spoken by the speaker to a person who is considered to have a low status or profession. It means to insult, to degrade or to put down someone. Swear words of personal background are bastard, bitch, and son of a bitch.

Next, swearing using terms of sexual activities is vulgar according to the society. One swears word of sexual activity that performed by the movie character of Fast and Furious 6 is fuck. Finally, the other kind of swear word found in the movie is swear words that related to taboo or religion or oath, that includes hell, damn, and goddamn. In the movie, the swear words may be used repeatedly, depending on the context of conversation and situation which makes its meaning be varied. One may not understand the meaning of swear words that exist in the Fast and Furious 6 movie or why are the movie characters swearing. Therefore, understanding about the function of the swear words is considered important because it helps people, especially the movie viewers, to understand the meaning of the swear words.

In this study, the function of swear words involved abusive swearing (to abuse, intimidate and insult others), cathartic swearing (to show that someone is undergoing negative emotions), idiomatic swearing (to arouse interest or to show off), and emphatic swearing (to emphasize particular things informally).

Suicide Squad (2016)

The properties of swear words by Jay (1992) consist of 7 properties such as cursing, profanity, obscenity, vulgarity, epithet, insult and slur and also scatology. Detailed explanation is as follows:

- a. Cursing
Deadshot: You don't stand for shit. You ain't about shit!
Chato: Don't touch me man!
- b. Profanity
Kennedy: Oh, Jesus. What the hell is that?
Amanda: His name is Waylen Jones
- c. Obscenity
Flag: They warned me about you. My Dumbass didn't believe the stories.
Amanda: Nobody does
- d. Vulgarity
Flag: Why you don't kiss her ass? She's in charge.
Griggs: Welcome ma'am. How are you?
- e. Epithet
Deadshot: What the hell are they?
Harley: You want to tell me what the hell is going on then? Because, I smell rat
- f. Insult and Slur
The driver: Hey, dickface! Mind screaming at your bitch somewhere else
- g. Scatology
Joker: You, you, you are a pain in the ass.

In the sixty-four data above, according to Jay (1992), the nature of swearing is divided into seven parts, such as swearing, cursing, obscenity, vulgarity, nicknames, insults and insults, and distribution. Then, Jay (2009) mentions and distinguishes swear words reference into nine categories, such as sexual reference, profane or blasphemous, scatological and disgusting objects, animal names, ethnic-racial-gender slurs, psychological-physical-social deviations, ancestral allusions, substandard vulgar terms, and offensive swear words. And the last, the researcher describes the function of swear words using theories from Andersson and Hirsch (1985) such as expletive, abusive, humoristic, euphemistic, habitual. The researcher classifies all the data based on each property of swear words. This study found that the characters in the Suicide Squad movie.

In rarely used the properties of profanity mostly use the kind of epithet, epithet itself is a new word or attribute in swear words, and the word that often appears is "shit."

According to Jay (1992) become a habit, for example, always saying the same word or phrase when someone hurts himself. He also added that the epithet arises because of frustration or hostility so that it can replace physical aggression. Besides, not often found the properties of profanity. Because, the culture of the Suicide Squad movie seems not accustomed to using profanity that refers to a term that is sacred, which implies something worthy of respect, but is used to eliminate the purity of the speech. This research was obtained from the Suicide Squad movie script. The storyline, circumstances, and environment that make the characters in the film bring up many swear words for various purposes especially when the characters are experiencing pressure, really admire others, or even just because they are accustomed to using these properties of swear words.

Bad Boys II (2003)

In finding the kinds of swear words found in Bad Boys II movie, the researcher used the theory of Jay (1992). Referring to Jay (1992), there are several kinds of swear words such as cursing, profanity, blasphemy, taboo or obscenity, vulgarity, epithets, insult and slurs, and scatology. Detailed explanation is as follows:

- a. Cursing
Mike: "Blue power, motherfuckers. Miami PD."
Marcus: "Aw, damn. It's the Negroes."
Mike: "Casper, drop the bag. Alpha leader, bring them in."
- b. Profanity or Blasphemy
Marcus: "Get the fuck off me, Mike!"
Mike: "What the hell is your problem, man? Why you acting so stupid?"
- c. Obscenity
Mike: "See, that's my partner's new spiritual bullshit. Me? I actually prefer shooting motherfuckers."
Marcus: "Man, the man has a gun to my head."
Mike: "He'll put it down if a hollow point's in his eyes."
Culprit 1: "Your partner is a cocky nigger."
Marcus: "Damn. Now was that necessary, Sir?"
Mike: "See?"
Marcus: "He can't just be a cop? He got to be a nigga too?"
- d. Vulgarity
Mike: "That one puckered up my asshole."
Marcus: "Almost fucking crushed my head."
- e. Epithet
Marcus: "Mason, go fetch!"
Mike: "Oh, shit! Now, that shit is funny. That's some funny shit."
- f. Insult and Slur
Mike: "Hey, nigga. Who that is at the door?"
Marcus: "It's Reggie."
- g. Scatology
Vargas: "Yo, now you crossed the line, man. Okay, no, that's not funny."
Mike: "We're fucking with you. We planted wires; we need some help. No bullshit."

The frequent utterances of taboo words and swear words in this utterance might risk Mike into an accusation of delivering his mind. However, the utterance is actually considered lack of pragmatic. Mike indeed describes sexual conduct but not in an offensive way. The offensiveness of a swear word might occur if a swear word is used in sarcastic way or abusively. However, there are some

swear words which are uttered as abusive in particular condition to perfume his expression to offend.

CONCLUSION

If we relate it to everyday life, swear words can be an example of non-formal words. So, that its use can also be done outside the formal environment, such as at home, in the park or at the mall, and with focus on the purpose of the interlocutor such as our friends or partner. But, in the film also sometimes the use of swear words occurs in a formal place but with the different situations an emotion, usually used when mad, upset and disappointed. Based on the discussion on swear words found in *Fast and Furious 6* (2013), *Suicide Squad* (2016), and *Bad Boys II* (2003) films we can know the different between the sample. But for the general we can see the same about swear word like shit, fuck, fuck you, damn, ass hole, bitch, hell, fucking, etc. Furthermore, the function of swear words performed by the character of the movie are used as abusive swearing, cathartic swearing, idiomatic swearing and emphatic swearing. Swear word which used as dysphemistic swearing is not found in the movie. After analysing the properties of swear words, the researcher analysed the reference of swear words by Jay (2009) and also the function of swear words by Andersson and Hirsch (1985). From this study is showed that the characters in films used swear words not always to swear, but to express their other emotion and feeling in different situation.

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