

TYPES AND FUNCTIONS OF SWEAR WORDS USED IN BAD SANTA MOVIE

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Abstract

Swearing is one of the phenomena in society that is used in conversation or dialogue in various media; one of which is the movie *Bad Santa*. This research is an analysis of swear words used in *Bad Santa* Movie. The aims of this research are to find out types of swear words and to describe the functions of swear words found in *Bad Santa* Movie. This research uses qualitative method. The source data is taken from the *Bad Santa* Movie. The writer uses Hughes's theory in (Fauzi, 2020) to find out types of swear words and uses Andersson and Thrudgill theory in (Sarnika, 2018) to find out its functions of swear words found in *Bad Santa* Movie. The result of this research shows six types of swear words and four functions from 179 data, there are: Types of swear words related to general terms 103 data, types of swear words related to name of animal 6 data, types of swear words related to religion 26 data, types of swear words related to stupidity 1 datum, types of swear words related to anatomy 25 data, types of swear words related to excretion 18 data. For the function, there are: Expletive 32 data, Abusive 22 data, Humorous 81 data, Auxiliary 44 data.

Keywords: Film, Linguistic, Sociolinguistic, Swear Words

Introduction

Swearing is considered part of language. It represents the culture of social life and is used as a means of communication in daily life. Some communities use swear words to complete the sentences they speak because they are normal words. Swear words are uttered by different communities with different socio-cultural backgrounds. People think that swearing is some kind of reaction to something unexpected, exciting, or painful. It is considered rude, profane, insulting and insulting. In polite contexts, swearing is considered indecent and inappropriate. However, it occurs in most languages and cultures.

Swearing words are one of the forms of linguistic expressions that are often referred to profane words. Swearing words are typically deemed inappropriate, leading many individual to refrain using them in the conversation. However, this statement is not agreed by everyone, as swearing words continue to be employed in human communication as a means to express frustration or anger effectively in certain situations. According to (Ljung, 2011) swearing is an English term denoting a particular type of linguistic behaviour, It is often used in studies of other languages to denote a linguistic resource whose functions and realizations across languages are remarkably similar and seem to emanate from a common pool of emotive utterance types. Swearing may deliver emotions like anger more effectively. While in western culture the use of swear words works in relationships and social interactions next. Therefore, it is important to conduct this study, to gain a deeper insight into



swear words through examination. It does not mean that swearing is permitted, but as a part of language swearing words need to be studied and analyzed.

Swear words appear in the television program like a sitcom or situation comedy which usually use daily language to make the viewers enjoyed in order to make the situation look funny. They used to swear words to make a joke, to insult and so on depending on the story needed. Andersson and Trudgill (1990) (Lars-Gunnar, 1990) categorized swear words into expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary swearing. There are many types of swearing which are usually used in people's communication. Each type of swearing has its own distinctive characteristics that make it different from others.

There are so many movies, television program, or other entertainments in which their actor/actress or characters use swear words. The writer would like to analyze this movie because this movie contains many swear words usage. The swear words that uttered by the characters is very interesting to be analyzed. Based on the writer experienced, swear words usage are not only to insult other people but also has other functions. Based on explanation above the writer is interested to analyze about swear words and its function in the *Bad Santa* movie. In this study the authors focused on the swear words used in terms of their types and functions. The types of swear words were analyzed by using theory of Hughes. Meanwhile the author uses a function from Andersson and Trudgill theory in (Sarnika, 2018) to find out its functions of swear words found in *Bad Santa* movie.

Literature Review

The previous research conducted by (Thamrin, 2023)) regarding swear words in Scarface movie highlights the types of swear words used in the film Scarface and also find out the function swear words. Employing (Lars-Gunnar, 1990) and (Ljung, 2011) theory, the research explain that swear words are not just bad words, it depends on the context and who uses swear words and to whom they use them.

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics deal with examining the relationships between language and society in order to have better understanding of language structure and the function of language in communication Wardhaugh, (2006). Based on this idea, sociolinguistics is a field of study that studies phenomena that affect language and society. Sociolinguistics studies the interactions of people in everyday situations, whether formal or informal settings. In other words, (Holmes, 2001) adds that sociolinguists' main interests are describing people's different way of speaking in different social contexts and explaining the use of language in social life to deliver social messages. Therefore, every problem that arises in society, especially the problem of social communication through language, is studied within the framework of sociolinguistics.

Bad Language

Swearing words regarded as bad words. There is an opinion that these words are not appropriate to use in front of the public. However, in a certain community, swearing words are used in social interactions. In sociolinguistics, there are various classification systems of "bad language", and each system can be different. However, Andersson and Trudgill in (Doyle, 2006) stated that sociolinguists who have studied "bad language" generally agree that the existence of these various classifications is needed, and the value of "badness" in such language is constantly changing; what is previously considered to be "bad language" may later change to become "standard language". As the definition given by Anderson and Trudgill, it can be seen that swearing word has a relation with taboo word because swearing word relate to something taboo to be said since it is considered vulgar.

Swearing



The Oxford English Online Dictionary defines swearing as follows: “To utter a form of oath lightly or irreverently, as mere intensive, or an expression of anger, vexation or other strong feeling...to utter a profane oath, or use profane language habitually; more widely, to use bad language”. As stated by (Jay, 1992) swearing is the employment of taboo language in order to express the speaker’s emotional feeling and to communicate information to the listeners. It implies that the language which is employed in swearing is intended to reflect someone’s emotion. Similarly, (Ljung, 2011) states that swearing is emotive language, in which its primary function is to express the speaker’s feelings. Thus, swearing is a tool to express the speaker’s emotion toward something, or it can also be addressed to someone. Based on the definitions provided earlier, it can be deduced that swearing serves as a form of language utilized to articulate powerful emotions, such as anger towards specific individuals or profound frustration, often expressed as anger directed at the nearest available target. However, does not always relate to emotional feelings.

Swearing words associate with strong emotion. Swearing word is considered as a verbal aggression because it will force those who avoid these words. Andersson and Trudgill in (Kusumayani, 2010) add “However, swearing does not have to be ‘emotional’. When swearing occurs with this kind of frequency, it is used as a ‘style-giver’”. Moreover, Andersson and Trudgill (Kusumayani, 2010) in further add that the use of swearing in relation to its function can be categorized into four types: two major types as expletive and abusive, and two secondary types of swearing that are humorous and auxiliary

1. Expletive: It is uttered to express emotions; not directed toward others. For Examples: *Fuck!* , *Shit!* , *Goddamn it!* , *Damn!* , *Hell!*
2. Abusive: It is directed towards others; derogatory; includes name-calling and different types of curses. For examples: *You bitch!* , *Fuck you!* , *You bastard!* , *Motherfucker!* , *Go to hell!*
3. Humorous: It is said directly towards others but it is not derogatory. It often takes the form of abusive swearing but it has opposite function; it is playful instead of offensive. For examples: *Get your ass in gear!*
4. Auxiliary: Here, swearing is as a way of speaking (“lazy swearing”); it is not said directly towards a person or situation. It is often or always non-emphatic. For examples: *The fucking x*, *motherfucking y*, *bloody z*.

Based on the theory above, it can be concluded that swearing words is not only used to show strong emotion or to express strong feelings which potentially arouse strong reactions to shock their listener, but also to show affection, admiration, enthusiasm, endearment, and so on.

Research Method

The present study is a descriptive qualitative analysis. In qualitative design, the researcher typically examines papers, observes how people behave to get in-depth data, and interprets comprehensively. (Creswell, 2018). The main focus of this study are the types of swear words used in Bad Santa Movie and its function. The data was collected by watching the Bad Santa Movie. The data was taken from utterances of the characters in the movie. In this study, the procedure for data collection is as follows: (1) Watch the Bad Santa Movie and pay attention to the subtitle; (2). Read the script of the movie; (3). Take a note of the dialogue in the script that showed swear words for the data collection; (4) Classify the data that is already taken; (5). Analyze the classified data to find types of swear words and the functions of swear words; (6). Take a conclusion based on data.

Results and Discussion

According to the types of swearing, the researcher found 179 data of types of swear words. Those are: types of swear words related to name of animal 6 data, types of swear words related to religion 26 data, types of swear words related to stupidity 1 datum, types of swear words related to anatomy 25 data,



types of swear words related to excretion 18 data. This study analyzed the types of swear words based on Hughes's theory as quoted in (Fauzi, 2020).

. From the same data founding the researcher divided them into several function based on Andersson and Thrudgill theory in (Sarnika, 2018) . Those are: Expletive with 32 data, Abusive with 22 data, Humorous with 81 data and Auxiliary with 44 data.

Table 1. Types of Swear Words data in *Bad Santa* Movie according to Huges's Theory:

No	Types of swear words	Data
1	Related to General Terms	103
2	Related to Animal Terms	6
3	Related to Religion Terms	26
4	Related to Stupidity Terms	1
5	Related to Anatomy Terms	25
6	Related to Excretion Terms	18
Total		179

Table 2. Function of Swear Words data in *Bad Santa* Movie according to Andersson and Thrudgill's Theory:

No	Function of swear words	Data
1	Expletive	32
2	Abusive	22
3	Humorous	81
4	Auxiliary	44
Total		179

Discussion

Based on table, it could be seen that there are six types of swear words, general, animal, religion, stupidity, anatomy, and excretion terms. From the data above, the most dominant type that is used by the characters are: general terms which appeared 103 times, religion terms which appeared 26, anatomy terms which appeared 25 times, Excretion terms which appeared 18 times, Animal terms which appeared 6 times, and Stupidity terms which respectively appeared only 1 time in the movie.

In specific, each of them would be explained one by one and followed by examples that taken from the dialogue uttered by the characters of the movie. In *Bad Santa* movie, these swear words used several times. The examples are:

General terms:

Fuck you.

The context of situation is when Willie gets angry while the bartender asks him to go out of the bar because Willie has served the customer without the bartender's privities. Moreover, he also drank a beer for free without the bartender's agreement. Oxford online dictionary defines "fuck" as a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to express anger, horror or surprise. The phrase "fuck you" here was used to express anger or strong dislike of the speaker toward others. Therefore, it is considered as types of swear words related to general terms.



Animal Terms:

Who's the **bitch** now, Santy Clause? Huh?

The context of situation is the trouble maker in the bar insults Willy because Willie thinks that the trouble maker is a gay. The troublemaker surprises Willie with a flurry of effective punches. In moments, Willie is on the losing end of homosexual panic. The troublemaker swears at Willie. Oxford online dictionary defines 'Bitch' as female dog or an offensive way of referring to a woman who you think is unpleasant. This word is a kind of offensive name calling which is considered rude and unpleasant. Therefore, it is considered as types of swear words related to animal terms.

Religion Terms**Jesus fucking Christ**

Contextually, this dialogue is happened when Bob Chipeska walks by a cashier station carrying some paperwork he is absorbed in, but hears some faint groans that make him pause. Curious, he heads in the direction of the sounds. They are coming from the dressing room area. Chipeska curiously makes his way towards a corridor of dressing rooms. There are screams with pleasure. He looks underneath and spots black Santa boots with red velvet pants around the ankles. He hears Willie's voice. Therefore, it is considered as types of swear words related to religion terms.

Stupidity Terms

Dumb-ass, why don't you turn around?

'Dumb-ass' is an abusive word. It is used to express emotion of the speaker toward others directly. The Word "ass" can be used to insult somebody's intelligence. Meanwhile, the word 'dumb' means unintelligent, regarded as having or showing a low level of intelligence. The word 'dumb-ass' considered vulgar, rude and can be used as derogatory name calling as shown in the context when the skateboard bully insults the kid who is overweight, snot-nosed, badly dressed and probably smelling of pee. Therefore, it is considered as types of swear words related to stupidity terms.

Anatomy Terms

I called you a fucking guinea homo from the 15th-fucking-century, **youdickhead!**

Oxford online dictionary defines "Dick" an offensive term for penis or an offensive word for somebody, especially a man, that you think is stupid or unpleasant. in this context, this word is used to swear in order to express strong feelings and giving offense. Therefore, it is also considered as swearing words. Therefore, it is considered as types of swear words related to anatomy terms.

Excretion Terms

My brother lost a **goddamn** arm fighting you fuckers in Vietnam

The dialogue above happens when the troublemaker stares at Willie for a beat. He assumes that Willie is a queer as a \$10 bill. Willie gets angry and swears at him. Oxford dictionary defines "goddamns" as a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry or annoyed. Therefore, it is considered as types of swear words related to excretion terms.

Functions of Swear Words

Swear words are usually spoken because there is a reason for them. According to Andersson and Thrudgill, there are several functions, such as expletive, abusive, humorous, auxiliary.

Expletive

What **the hell's** wrong with you, **asshole**?

Literally, 'hell' is a place of punishment after death, the place where the souls of people who are damned suffer eternal punishment after death. in the dialogue above when the security guard blocks Willy's way when Willie wants to leave the department store. It makes Willie gets angry. Therefore, it is considered as expletive function of swear words.

Abusive

Little **bastard**!

Contextually, the dialogue above performs the speaker's emotion. The speaker, Willie, swears at Marcus as they kick their penis each other. Therefore, it can be seen that his word regarded offensive, commonly used by the speaker to insult or to express anger or annoyance toward an obnoxious or despicable person. It is used as abusive word since they used to express the speaker's emotion directly toward other. Therefore, it is considered as abusive function of swear words.

Humorous

I was once drafted by Lyndon Johnson and had to live in **shit-ass** Mexico for two and a half years for no reason.

'Shit-ass' comes from the word 'shit' and 'ass'. According to Oxford online dictionary "shit" means a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry or annoyed. While 'ass' is the part of the body that you sit on; your bottom. Therefore, it is considered as humorous function of swear words.

Auxiliary

I called you a **fucking guinea** homo from the 15th-fucking-century, you dickhead!

According to Anderson and Trudgill (1992: 55) the grammatical pattern of the adjective '*fucking*' in the dialogue above is as a part of constituents of a sentence. The word '*fucking*' here is used as intensifier to modify noun. Contextually, the function of the word '*fucking*' here is to express anger and annoyance. It has no connection with the sexual meaning of the word. Besides, this word is also used to emphasize the speaker's emotion. As shown by the dialogue above Marcus gets angry when Gin asks him to take Willie to the car without considering his height. Gin assumes that Marcus wants to get a special treatment by rejecting his request. Therefore, it is considered as auxiliary function of swear words.

Conclusion

To answer the research question, the researcher found different types of swearing are employed in the way the characters swear in Bad Santa movie. The types of swearing which are found in the movie can be classified into six types, those are: types of swear words related to general terms 103 data, types of swear words related to name of animal 6 data, types of swear words related to religion 26 data, types of swear words related to stupidity 1 datum, types of swear words related to anatomy 25 data, types of swear words related to excretion 18 data. It can be concluded that swear words related to general terms is the preferred type of swearing employed by Hedges in the movie of Bad Santa.

For the function of swearing which are found in the movie can be classified into four, those are Expletive with 32 data, Abusive with 22 data, Humorous with 81 data, and Auxiliary with 44 data.



The findings of this study show that humorous is the most influential reasons for emphasize the thing he is talking about. The characters of Bad Santa Movie have been accustomed to use swearing expressions in daily conversation. Thus, swearing has become their way of speaking. It causes them to swear all the time, even when the swearing expressions are not directed to others. Linguistic motives are the most dominant reason for the characters of Bad Santa movie to swear. The existence of swearing expressions in this movie cannot be separated from social contexts.

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