

The Analysis of Swear Words in *Suicide Squad* Movie

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ABSTRACT

Swear words as a strong language that is expressed by a person to their powerful emotion by Swan in 1995. The present study discussed the type and the function of swear words in *Suicide Squad* movie. This research is descriptive qualitative study whose data are in the form of utterances uttered by the characters in *Suicide Squad* movie that shown the types of swear words and their functions. In finding, the researcher found five types of swear words in *Suicide Squad* movie. Those are dysphemism, idiomatically, abusively, emphatically and cathartically. The researcher also finds the functions those of swear words as they functioned as showing anger or frustration, descriptive- evaluative, joke, surprise and sarcastic irony. The findings showed that abusive was the dominant type, because this type was mostly used by the characters in *Suicide Squad* movie. The implication of this research is knowing that swear words found in *Suicide Squad* movie showed that the characters in *Suicide Squad* movie used swear words not always to humiliate others or to express anger, but also to express their other emotions and to show friendliness.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Swear word, *Suicide Squad* Movie

ABSTRAK

Kata-kata sumpah serapah sebagai bahasa yang kuat yang diungkapkan oleh seseorang untuk emosi mereka yang kuat oleh Swan pada tahun 1995. Peneliti membahas tentang penggunaan kata makian dalam film *Suicide Squad*. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan jenis-jenis kata makian yang diucapkan *Suicide Squad* dan mengidentifikasi fungsi dari kata makian yang diucapkan *Suicide Squad*. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif yang datanya berupa ujaran-ujaran yang diucapkan oleh para tokoh dalam film *Suicide Squad* yang menunjukkan jenis-jenis kata makian dan fungsinya. Dalam temuannya, peneliti menggunakan lima jenis kata makian dalam film *Suicide Squad*. Yaitu disfemisme, idiomatik, kasar, empatik dan katarsis. Peneliti juga menentukan fungsi kata makian yang berfungsi sebagai menunjukkan kemarahan atau frustrasi, deskriptif-evaluatif, lelucon, kejutan dan ironi sarkastik. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa kasar adalah tipe yang dominan, karena tipe ini paling banyak digunakan karakter dalam film *Suicide Squad*. Implikasi dari penelitian ini adalah mengetahui bahwa kata-kata makian yang terdapat dalam film *Suicide Squad* menunjukkan bahwa para tokoh dalam film *Suicide Squad* menggunakan kata-kata umpatan tidak selalu untuk mengumpat, tetapi untuk mengekspresikan perasaan emosi dan keramahan mereka yang lain.

Kata Kunci: Sosiolinguistik, Kata Makian, Film *Suicide Squad*

A. INTRODUCTION

Linguists agree that the knowledge of language that speakers have is a very abstract knowledge. That speakers already know what part of language is and what is not, know what is possible to say and what is impossible to say. People as social creatures need language to interact with each other because language is a media used to communicate to one another. Therefore, language and society are interrelated and inseparable. This relationship then become objects of sociolinguistics. Yule (2005) states that sociolinguistics deals with the inter-relationship between language and society. In relation to the society, every person has different ways in speaking the language. In another word, language can be the personal identification. For example, the using of swear words are to express their emotion through exclamation or swearing.

For most people, swearing has negative connotations and is seen as bad language; something ugly, not appropriate, and is associated with low social class and low prestige. However, the swear words can be used in positive way, as it is used as solidarity orientation. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), the verb swear means to take an oath; make a solemn, declaration, statement, affirmation, promise or undertaking. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), swear does not always relate to insulting or offensive word. Swearing may deliver emotions like anger more effectively. While in western culture the use of swear words works in relationships and social interactions next. For example, a group of boys often call their proper names. Instead, they call the neighbors with other names, such as *asshole*, *bastard*, and so on. Meanwhile, the swear words can be used in negative way. There are many reasons that cause people to produce bad words. In many occasions, bad words are spoken to show anger or just to make a joke. Bad words are often regarded as impolite and rude way to express the emotion.

People find swear words with language features easily not only in the daily life, but also in the media both electronic and non-electronic, such as magazine, television, radio, movie, internet, and so on. All media have reasons why they use swear words as the part of language. A movie which has a style of using swears words in the conversation to show the personality of the characters or the culture behind of scenes. There are so many movies or TV series that are made based on specific theme, for instance a theme which is related to analyze one of them is a movie entitled *Suicide Squad*. The researcher is interested in conducting a research entitled “The Analysis of Swear Words in *Suicide Squad* Movie”, in order to find the types of swear words using (Pinker’s theory) and to find the functions of swear words using (Jay’s theory) in *Suicide Squad* movie.

B. REVIEW AND RELATED THEORIES

1. Sociolinguistics

Yule (2005) believes that Sociolinguistics deals with the relationship between language and society. In addition, Hudson (1996) defined sociolinguistics as ‘the study of language in relation to society’, implying (intentionally) that sociolinguistics is part of the study of language. In sociolinguistics studies, it consists of many topics, some of which are code-mixing, politeness, sexist language, taboo words, swear words, registers, speech acts, etc. it can be said that language and society have relationship and influence on how language

is used. And that sociolinguistics is a part of linguistics which is concerned with language as social and cultural.

2. Language and Society

Language is fundamental to social interaction in all societies. The relationship between language and society is intertwined. It cannot be denied that the existence of language cannot be separated from society. Linguists agree that the knowledge of language that speakers have is a very abstract knowledge. That speakers already know what part of language is and what is not, know what is possible to say and what is impossible to say. Trask (1999) said that the role of language in providing a speaker with individuality and group membership. Every time you open your mouth, you give other people important clues about what sort of person you are: where you come from, what social class you belong to, even your sex and age (for example, on the telephone).

3 Bad Language

In sociolinguistics, there is various classifications system of “bad language”, and each system can be different. However, Anderson and Trudgill (1992) states that sociolinguistics 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”.

4. Swear Word

Swear word is a part of taboo words because every people who use swear word is almost use taboo words inside. According to Michael Swan (1995:550), taboo words and swear words are shock less. According to Jay (2000,p.93), swear word is “linguistic forms of how people show their emotions, such as anger, surprise, frustration, etc”. In addition, this statement is also supported by Ljung (2011) by stating the criteria. ”Swearing is the use of utterances containing taboo words, means swear words are used to something taboo. The taboos words are used in swearing do not retain their literal meaning. It means taboo words that are used with literal meaning cannot be regarded as swearing. Swearing is emotional language.

5. Types of Swear Words

The swear word refers to several uses of the offensive words. Pinker (2007:323) has grouped these words into several types, namely dysphemism, idiomatically, abusively, emphatically and cathartically.

a. Dysphemism

Dysphemism is the swearing which urges the listeners to think about negative or provocative matter, since it is the opposite of euphemism (polite expression used in phrase of words or phrases that otherwise might be considered harsh or unpleasant to hear). For example: That person needs to be locked up in the *loony bin*. The person called *Loony Bin* is in good health, a racist person may use slurs when referring to people from minority backgrounds.

b. Idiomatically

Idiomatically is swearing without really referring to the matter. People who use this type of swearing are just using the words to arouse interest, to show off or to express to peers that the setting is informal. This can be used to express dominance or strengthen a relationship, for example: Doni: Who the *fuck* is Thurman? Budi: He is my friend.

c. Abusively

Abusively swearing is the swearing which creates abuse or intimidation or insulting of others. It is directed towards someone else in a derogatory manner whether in an argument, heated debate or just plain rude behavior. For example: Adi: I have damaged your motorcycle. Didin: *Fuck* you!

d. Emphatically

Emphatically is swearing to emphasize something or to show that it is quite surprising. Emphatic swearing is used to assert emphasis about a certain issue or matter. A person can be emphatic about a point by swearing. For example: Dewi: This pasta is *fucking* delicious. Did you make it yourself? Ani: Yes, it is true.

e. Cathartically

Cathartically is uttered when something bad happens. Cathartically provides the user some much needed psychological relief through the open expression of strong emotions. For example, a person can swear by stating Aww, *fuck!* Damn this coffee.

6. Functions of Swear Words

Swear words also have function in its use. One person knows how to use swear words to express emotions, not everyone does. Many restrained speakers will try not to curse under any circumstances (Jay, 2000:86). In this research, the researcher used Jay's theory about the functions of swear words. Swear word can also express other emotions such as happiness, anger, and frustration (Jay, 1992:63).

a. Anger or Frustration

Anger and/or frustration are combined because of the difficulty in distinguishing these emotions, only with language. Jay (2000:95) states that life is full of unexpected events that encourage people to be angry or frustrated (Jay, 2000:95). For example: Pandi: Dan, I have lost your motorbike key. Dani: Ah, *fuck!*

b. Descriptive - Evaluative

Descriptive- evaluative is used to show how the speaker describes connotatively or denotatively objects and events. When someone uses a swear word such as idiomatically, it is to strengthen dominance or a relationship, for example: Budi: What's up, *bastard?* Jaka: Come on! Let's play football.

c. Joke

Joke is used to frame formal jokes and to use humor with swear words. Sometimes obscenities are added to jokes and stories to make them appear as funny as possible. For example: Andi: Hey Adam! Ani looks like *ass*. Adam: Your character has not changed.

d. Surprise

Surprise is a reaction to unexpected achievement, loss or other behavior. With the swear word, someone can express an unusual and different sense of shock than not using the taboo word. These usages are typical of expletives and commonly involve religious terms, for example: Wili: I will put Budi in prison. Riki: Are you sure? *Oh my God!* Please, do not do it.

e. Sarcastic or Irony

Sarcastic irony is a form of insult. Thus, the swear words can be used to hurt, insult, revile, or offend others. Here the speaker attempted to mock or criticize the target, whether these are real or imaginative for the speaker. For example: Randi: Hey *pedophile!* What are you doing here? I don't want to see you here! Sutris: I was visiting my brother's house.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

This research is a qualitative research with a descriptive method. This research emphasizes the importance of analysis performance of the researcher and set out empirical observation that consists of descriptive and analytical passages. Bogdan and Biklen (1992) delimit qualitative research as a research which is providing description of a phenomenon that occurs naturally without any intervention of an experiment or an artificially contrived treatment. Descriptive is presenting about the characteristics of someone or something. By using this method the researcher would be able to explain or describe types and the use of swear words that found on *Suicide Squad* movie.

2. Research Instrument

In this research, the researcher used table display and table of criteria as the supporting instruments. Table display is the practice method to directly write down the information that has been got by the researcher in collecting data process. The data sheet is in the form a table presenting the two matters, which will became the focus of the study, which is, table of criteria for swear words type and table of criteria for swear words functions. The researcher used two theories as the theoretical foundations for this study, which are Pinker's theory (2007:323) about the types of swear words, and Jay's theory (2000: 86) about the functions of swear words.

3. Data and Data Source

In this research, the researcher took *Suicide Squad* movie and movie script as the data source, while the data of the research are in the form of utterances of the character in *Suicide Squad* movie that shown the types of swear words and the functions of swear words.

4. Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher collected the data from the script of the movie itself entitled *Suicide Squad* based on the utterances from all of the characters. The

researcher watched the selected movie repeatedly. The researcher took notes for every swear words uttered in the movie. The notes contained of swear words uttered in the suicide squad movie, types of swear words and context. The data were shown in table form.

5. Data Analysis

Data reduction becomes the first steps to do in analyzing the data in this research, the researcher use Miles and Huberman's theory in analyzing the data. The second step is data display. According to Miles and Huberman (1994), generally a display is an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action. After the data reduction and the data display, the last step is to analyze the data in this research so-called drawing conclusion.

6. Triangulation

The researcher employed data triangulation because the researcher used two kinds of source of data, they are movie scenes and movie script. Movie script is the primary source of data since the researcher focuses on finding the swear words which can be depicted from the movie scripts. However, movie scene are used to help the researcher to define the meaning of the swear words by looking at the gestures and expression of the characters.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Types of Swear Words

a. Dysphemism

Dysphemism is the use of a harsh, more offensive word instead of one considered less harsh and often contrasted with euphemism (polite expression used in place of words or phrase that otherwise might be considered harsh or unpleasant to hear) (Pinker, 2007).

Deadshot: Yeah. That was a pep talk.

Rick Flag: There's your shit.

Rick Flag: Grab what you need for a fight. We're wheels up in 10.

(Time: 00:45:50.7600 ~ 00:45:55.726)

b. Idiomatically

Idiomatically swearing is swearing without really referring to the matter and it is used to gain attention or to arouse interest in a certain matter (Pinker, 2007). It can be seen as follows:

Chato Santana: You wanna see something? **Deadshot:** Yes, I wanna see something. I was just trying to get you there. **Deadshot:** Phil Jackson. We good, right? **Harley:** I knew you'd come through. **Deadshot:** That shit crazy.

(Time: 01:14:15.549~ 01:14:51.825)

c. Abusively

Abusively swearing is the swearing which creates abuse or intimidation or insulting of others. It is directed towards someone else in a derogatory manner whether in an argument, heated debate or just plain rude behavior (Pinker, 2007). Here is the data.

Deadshot: Did you just... Did you threaten me? This dude's gonna get a sore throat from all the singing he's about to do. **Angelo:** You son of a bitch! **Deadshot:** Pleasure doing business with you, Angie. (Time: 00:06:33.780 ~ 00:06:38.201)

d. Emphatically

Emphatically swearing is to emphasize something either by describing size, stature or relationship to things around it. Emphatically swearing is used to assert emphasis about issue or matter (Pinker: 2007). It can be seen the data as follows.

Rick Flag: Okay. You wanna keep playing. The Hollywood Squares version of I'll Blow Your *Freaking* Head Off? **Rick Flag:** Are you next? **Chato Santana:** You tripping, homie. (Time: 00:53:52.640~ 00:53:58.446)

e. Cathartic

Cathartic swearing is used when something that displeasing happens, for instance, when a person gets hurt or feels bad (Pinker, 2007). The following utterance shows this type.

Rick Flag: I'm on my way. *Shit.* **Rick Flag:** Amanda, we have hostiles up ahead. **Amanda:** Flag, get out of there. We're not here to fight them. We know that doesn't work. (Time: 00:56:53.244 ~ 00:57:10.969).

2. Functions of Swear Words

a. Anger and/or frustration

Anger and/or frustration are combined because of the difficulty in distinguishing these emotions, only with language. Jay (2000: 86). It can be seen the data as follows:

Rick Flag: Amanda, she bolted. **Amanda:** Say it again? **Rick Flag:** She bolted! **Amanda:** *Shit!* (Time: 00:41:44.120 ~ 00:41:48.826).

b. Descriptive- Evaluative

The swear words are also used by speakers to describe objects and events connotatively or denotatively. This function is called by Jay (1992) as descriptive-evaluative. It can be seen the data as follows: **Captain Boomerang:** We gotta take out the big one. **Rick Flag:** I left a big *ass* demo charge down there in that subway. (Time: 01:41:05.000 ~ 01:41:12.763).

c. Joke

Joke is used to frame formal jokes and to use humor with swear words (Pinker. 2007). It can be seen the data as follows.

Chato Santana: Speak for yourself, mate. **Captain Boomerang:** Hey, what's that *crap* on your face? Does it wash off? **Harley:** Hey, if you like a girl, can you light her cigarette with your pinkie? (Time: 00:47:41.866~ 00:47:48.810).

d. Surprise

A surprise is a reaction to an unexpected, loss, or other behavior. With the swear word, someone can express an unusual and different sense of shock than not using the taboo word (Jay, 1992). The data can be seen as follows.

Joker: All of that chitchat's gonna get ya hurt. **Dr. Van Criss:** *Oh! My God!* (Time: 00:33:13.760 ~ 00:33:14.921).

e. Sarcastic Irony

A sarcastic irony is a form of insult. When being sarcastic person involves words that demean and insult. It can be seen the data as follows.

Rick Flag: Let me hit the Tier One units, and I'll build you a team of pipe hitters who'll do anything you can dream up. I mean, you need real soldiers. Not these *scumbags.* **Amanda:** In

World War Two, the US Navy made a deal with the mafia. (Time: 00:30:29.698 ~00:30:37.439).

3. Discussion

Based on the findings, the researcher found 5 types of swear word and 5 functions of swear word used in *Suicide Squad* movie. The researcher found 30 data swear words in *Suicide Squad* movie. The types of swear word in *Suicide Squad* movie supported by Pinker (2007) who stated that there are five types of swear word, namely: dysphemism, idiomatically, abusively, emphatically and cathartically. Dysphemism swearing talk about something that is the opposite of politeness can be the form of provocative. Idiomatically swearing is when used to get attention of others, to strengthen dominance or a relationship. Abusively swearing is used to insult, to hurt feelings and intimidation someone in negative a sense, such as anger, frustration or disappointment. Emphatically is used to emphasize an issue that is being discussed. Another type is cathartically swearing, cathartically swearing is when someone is under pressure or feels pain in a bad condition. The most dominant types of swear word found in “*Suicide Squad*” movie is abusively swearing with 10 data.

Based on the findings about functions of swear word in *Suicide Squad* movie supported by Jay (1999), The functions contained in the findings are to express anger or frustration, to express feeling of shock or surprise when a bad situation, to joke someone, to indicate how speakers describe connotatively or denotatively the objects and events around the camp and to sarcastic person involves words that demean and insult.

E. CONCLUSION

The following conclusions are the results of analysis of the characters in *Suicide Squad* movie expressing swear words. The characters used swear words with different types and functions. The types of swear word is divided into 5 types with 30 data. It consists of 10 data of abusively swearing, 8 data types of cathartically swearing, 6 data of idiomatically swearing, 2 data of emphatically swearing, and 4 data of dysphemism swearing with the words. It shows that the most dominant types of swear word is abusively swearing and the less dominant type of swear word is emphatically swearing with 2 data. The functions of swear word is divided into five functions. The swear words indicates to convey anger, frustration, to describing something, to joke, to surprise and to sarcastic irony. The data from the function of anger and frustration is 10 data, the data from the function of descriptive-evaluative is 4 data, the data from the function of joke is 3 data, the data from the function of surprise is 6 data and the last function of sarcastic irony is 7 the data. The intention of using swear words that found in *Suicide Squad* movie showed that the characters in *Suicide Squad* movie used swear words not always to swear, but to express their other emotion feeling and friendliness.

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