

CHAPTER 2

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter, the researcher reviews some theories related to swearing which serve as a guide of this study. The theories reviewed include the types of swearing and the function of swearing.

2.1.Sociolinguistic

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between language and society. According to Dell Hymes in his book on communicative competence (1972) In sociolinguistics contains several interrelated components which involve understanding the appropriate use of language in a social context, taking into account factors such as participants, the relationship between them, background, and communication goals. This includes knowledge of sociocultural norms, politeness conventions, and register variations. According to Labov (Stated in Melefa et all, 2017), Sociolinguistics is the study of the way language varies and changes in communities of speakers owing to the interaction of social factors. Such as speakers' gender, ethnicity, age, degree of integration in their community, and linguistic structures. Based on this concept, sociolinguistics is a field of research that examines social and linguistic processes. Regardless of formal or informal settings, sociolinguistics is interested in how individuals interact in daily life. On the other hand, Holmes (stated in Permadi 2018) 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 question that emerges in society, particularly dealing with social communication through language, is investigated under the scope of sociolinguistics.

Based on the explanation above, sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the relationship between language and society. It involves understanding the appropriate use of language in social

contexts, considering factors such as participants, their relationship, background, and communication goals. Sociolinguistics also examines language variation and change within communities, influenced by social factors like gender, ethnicity, age, degree of integration, and linguistic structures. The field of sociolinguistics explores the social and linguistic processes that shape communication in various settings, irrespective of formality, aiming to understand how individuals interact in everyday life. Additionally, sociolinguists describe the diverse ways people speak in different social contexts and analyze the use of language to convey social messages. Ultimately, sociolinguistics investigates the questions and issues related to social communication through language within society.

2.2. Swearing Words

People have the power to create language in order to express their minds and thoughts for a certain goal, and even to increase their speech using foul language in order to strengthen their beliefs. According to Jay & Jancschweitz (stated in Islamiyah, 2022.p,8), swearing is the use of taboo language to deliver messages and express emotions. This emotive function leads people to emphasize and strengthen their feelings through language. According to Holmes (stated in Islamiyah, 2022.p,8), people swear to express their annoyance, aggression, insult, or solidarity and friendliness. As a result, cursing is utilized not only to communicate one's feelings, particularly strong emotions, but also to preserve relationships between participants in communication since it disrupts the formality. Then, we can discern someone's emotions, whether rage or others, by language, particularly the usage of swear words.

In line with Crystal, Allan and Burridge (stated in Esterika, 2016.p.13) taboos arise out of social constraints on the individual's behavior where it can cause discomfort, harm, or injury. According to David Crystal (2003), swearing refers to the strongly emotional use of a taboo words or phrase. It can be concluded that taboos serve as a mechanism to regulate and control behavior within a society. They exist to prevent potential negative outcomes and maintain social harmony.

Swearing, on the other hand, is a form of expression that taps into strong emotions, often using taboo language, in situations where social norms may be violated or where heightened intensity needs to be conveyed.

Based on the explanation above, individuals possess the ability to create language as a means of expressing their thoughts and achieving specific goals, even employing foul language to strengthen their beliefs. Swearing, as explained by Jay & Janschweitz, is the utilization of taboo language to convey messages and express emotions. This function allows people to emphasize and intensify their feelings through language. According to Holmes, swearing serves as a means to express annoyance, aggression, insult, or demonstrate solidarity and friendliness. Consequently, cursing is employed not only to communicate strong emotions but also to maintain relationships by disrupting formality in communication. By examining someone's language, particularly the usage of swear words, one can discern their emotions, including rage or other intense feelings.

In line with the views of Crystal, Allan, and Burridge, taboos arise from social constraints that regulate individual behavior to prevent discomfort, harm, or injury. Taboos serve as a mechanism to regulate and control behavior within a society, ensuring the avoidance of potential negative outcomes and the maintenance of social harmony. Swearing, characterized by the highly emotional use of taboo words or phrases, becomes a form of expression used to convey intense emotions and violation of social norms in specific situations.

2.3. Types of Swear Words

There are four types of taboo words used in swearing according to Battistella (stated in Sari 2020,p.233). There are epithet, profanity, vulgarity and obscenity.

2.3.1 Epithet

According to Batistella (states in Islamiyah 2022,p.11) epithet is words or utterances of slurs, such as racial slurs, ethnic slurs, gender slurs,

and sexual slurs. Some words that belong to this type are *bitch, slut, whore, motherfucker, bastard, cocksucker, tit-man, nigger, yankee, kaffir, faggot, woe, kike, coon*, etc. The animal term is also part of epithet like, *dog, pig, bullshit*, etc. (Esterika, 2016). It also relates to appearance, disabilities, or other qualities, such as *midget, gimp, retard, and idiot*. Because an epithet is made up of slurs and insults aimed at a specific item or person, it is mostly used to abuse.

Based on explanation above, epithet refers to slurs and insults aimed at specific items or people, such as racial, ethnic, gender, and sexual slurs. These words can include slurs like *bitch, slut, whore*, and others. Animal terms, appearance, disabilities, and qualities also contribute to epithets. Epithets are often used to abuse.

2.3.2 Profanity

Religious connotations are very sacred in some English communities that the use of them must be conducted for religious matters only. Jay (states in Islamiyah 2022,p.11) that it is considered profane to behave unnecessarily ignoring religious orders of one beliefs. Batistella (states in Islamiyah 2022,p.11) that profanity words contain of religious terms that are implied outside religious needs or customs, taking the God, religion or holy affairs in vain and ignorance. To that end, some speakers attempt to tone down their use of profanity by substituting euphemisms such as "*hell*" for "*heck*" and "*damn*" for "*darn*." On the other hand, swearing is still used in everyday speech. For instance, *god, Jesus, Christ, hell, dammit it*, and so on. They are forbidden because they are deemed sacred and dishonor the deity if expressed outside of religious needs.

Based on explanation above, in some English communities, religious connotations are considered sacred and must be used solely for religious purposes. Unnecessarily ignoring religious orders is considered profane. Some speakers use euphemisms to tone down profanity, while swearing is still used in everyday speech. These words are considered sacred and dishonor the deity if expressed outside religious needs.

2.3.3 Vulgarities

Vulgarity is the type of swearing that relate to the use of sexual part of body and also about excretory function (states in Islamiyah 2022,p.11) For example, *ass, cock, dick, tits, cunt, pussy, asshole, scumbag*, etc. This type of swear words are usually found in everyday conversation, whether in referring their the literal sexual object, or in making dirty jokes. According to Jay (stated in Islamiyah 2022,p.11) vulgarity is socially accepted which means that the use of it can refer to actual meaning in order to make sense of things which make the use of it is tolerable. However, some parties still avoid the use of vulgarity since they trigger the image of words spoken into the participants' minds in conversation.

Based on explanation above, vulgarity is a type of swearing that refers to the use of sexual parts of the body and excretory functions. It is commonly used in everyday conversation and can be tolerable if used correctly. However, some parties avoid vulgarity due to its negative impact on participants' minds.

2.3.4 Obscenities

It is a type of phrase that is not permitted in public because it is deemed immoral since it refers to sexual behavior and body functions, which can induce disgust. According Batistella (states in Islamiyah 2022,p.11) obscenity as swearing which contains or shows sexual activity and bodily function causing disgust feeling. According to Jay (stated in Islamiyah 2022,p.11), many swear words and slang comes from sexual terms. For example, *fuck, shit, piss, suck my dick, jerk, blow job*, etc. Obscenity is the most offensive swear words, yet the most used by English native speakers. The offensiveness makes the words worth it in expressing emotions. For that, as it lacks morality, the use of obscenity in public is best to avoid.

Based on explanation above, obscenity is an immoral phrase that refers to sexual behavior and bodily functions, causing disgust. Many swear words and slang come from sexual terms, making them offensive

but often used by English native speakers. Obscenity lacks morality, making it best to avoid using it in public.

2.4. The Functions of Swearing

According to Steven Pinker (2007), there are five possible functions of swearing:

2.4.1 Abusive Swearing

This Swear word requires a target to be spoken to because other feelings usually accompany it. Finn (2017) states that abusive swearing uses swear words as a weapon to harm others verbally. by referring or associating them with the swear words (Pinker, 2007). In other words, this swearing is used whether to insult listener or defend the speaker itself where they feel superior and become dominance in intense situation between participants. In short, the listener who has been subjected to verbal abuse feels threatened and offended when they are called names, linked to offensive or improper items, or exposed to obscenities or obscene language.

For example:

- ***Fuck you asshole!***
- ***You're a dirty bitch!***

2.4.2 Cathartic Swearing

This swear term is used to communicate unspoken feelings to others. It is frequently shouted in the heart or in a low voice, and it is commonly used to describe bad luck or misery. It is supported by Pinker (2007) that cathartic swearing is used to express the feelings or emotions of pain, miss fortune, or regret that lead people to curse. We curse to show that the misfortune or bad things suddenly happened, triggers our emotional level leading to our worst thoughts. With the use of swear words, people somehow can tolerate pain and cool with a situation. It's supported by Crystal (2003) that swearing can release emotional tension of a person. In short, People frequently use terms like ouch, ugh, yuck, oops,

and others while reacting to terrible situations. However, when dealing with unpleasant things, the speaker substitutes this exclamation with nasty phrases as it conveys more of the circumstance. This is the power of swear words: a speaker becomes offensive in order to relax and feel relaxed.

For example:

- *Ouch! **Fuck!*** (responding towards pain)
- *What the **hell?!!*** (surprised)

2.4.3 Dysphemistic Swearing

Dysphemistic swearing is the polar opposite of euphemism swearing in that it stimulates listeners to explore difficult or provocative issues. According to Pinker (2007), taboo words are used to describe things negatively when the speaker considers something awful that bad words reach their minds. Related to anaphoric pronoun in Ljung's theory, there are times when swear words are more appropriate to refer one's emotions or things in conversation that polite words can't do (Ljung, 2011). Then, when describing or referring to objects using swear words, dysphemism can be divided into curses, name-calling, and others. Furthermore, employing a curse word in a phrase indicates breaching a taboo amongst the parties. Dysphemistic function therefore becomes a signal to show people's closeness.

For example:

- *Money is not a **goddamn** thing*
- *This **shit** again!*

2.4.4 Emphatic Swearing

Swearing does not necessarily have a negative meaning. Swearing that emphasises and stresses a point is known as emphatic swearing. In other words, they function similarly to emphasize. Their use in grammatical construction, however, may differ. Pinker (2007) mentioned that emphatic swearing helps people put emotional force through the construction of words that describe more speaker's feelings towards something, some situations, someone, or others. The use of emphatic

swearing emphasizes something or demonstrates that it is pretty surprising. In other words, they serve the same purpose as emphasers. However, their use in sentence construction may differ.

For example :

- *Stay the **fuck** out of my way!*
- *Look at this **fucking** mess!*
- *I **abso-bloody-lutely** love him!*

2.4.5 Idiomatic Swearing

Offensive words can be used without any specific meaning rather than showing that the situation is informal, intimacy, where the speaker can communicate freely breaking taboos between participants. According to Pinker (2007), this function also shows that people swear to evoke power to their language through words arrangement and orders, without concerning the meaning. In idiomatic swearing, phrase or idioms are constructed to express the speaker's feeling (Fromkin et al., 1998). For that, there is a time when cultural norms are avoided when using swear words. Swearing becomes acceptable when group of people or participants in communication have the same perspective towards the swear words or mutual understanding that they can get familiar with it, accept it and tolerate it.

For example:

- *I'm **fucked** up*
- ***Fuck**, man*

2.5. Previous Related Study

Related to the swearing phenomenon, there are 3 types of research that have been conducted.

Andini and Amalia (2022) in their research entitled "An Analysis Of Swearing Word Types And Translation Techniques In Shaft Movie Subtitles ". This study aims to describe the types of swearing words and analyze the translation technique. The translation of swearing words is one of the problems encountered by translators due to the cultural differences in terms of whether or not certain expressions used in the Source

Language (SL) are acceptable in the Target Language (TL) culture. There are 61 data collected consisting of abusive swearing (20 data), idiomatic swearing (26 data), cathartic swearing (13 data), and emphatic swearing (2 data). The main theories used are Pinker's types of swear words and Molina and Albir's translation techniques. From this research, it is concluded that there is a significant cultural role in target text that must be taken into account by translators so as to produce a culturally acceptable translation in the TL.

The second relevant research on swearing is research by Kristanto and Ardi (2018) entitled "Swear Words In Bad Boys II: A Semantic Analysis". This research aims to figure out the semantic referents of swear words in the film *Bad Boys II*. Content analysis was employed as its method. The results of this study show that nine semantic referents of swear words were used in the movie, namely sexual references, profane or blasphemous, scatological and disgusting objects, animal names, ethnic-racial-gender slurs, psychological-physical-social deviations, ancestral allusions, substandard vulgar terms, and offensive slang. Thus, *Bad Boys II* has a vast variety of swear words.

The third relevant research on swearing is research by Sarnika (2018) entitled "Types And Functions Of Swear Words Used In American Sitcom *How I Met Your Mother* Season One" he aims of this research are to find out types of swear words and to describe the functions of swear words found in American sitcom *How I Met Your Mother* season one. This research uses qualitative method. The source data is taken from sitcom *How I Met Your Mother* season one. The writer uses Hughes's theory to find out types of swear words and uses Andersson and Thrudgill theory to find out its functions of swear words found in *How I Met Your Mother* season one. The result of this research shows six types of swear words and its functions from 44 data, there are: 1). Types of swear words related to sex (4 data) and it has two functions; expletive and humorous. 2). Types of swear words related to excrement (3 data) and it has two functions; expletive and humorous. 3). Types of swear words related to name of

animal (3 data) and it has two function; expletive and humorous. 4). Types of swear words related to personal background (9 data) and it has two functions; abusive and humorous. 5). Types of swear words related to taboo or religion or oath (14 data) and it has four functions; expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary. 6). Types of swear words related to mental illness (11 data) and it has four functions; expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary.

Based on the previous finding above, the writer takes the "UNCUT GEMS" movie to analyze swearing in the movie script. Moreover, this research is aimed at describing the types of swearing and the functions and the most dominant for the main character of "UNCUT GEMS" movie to swear. These types, functions and the most dominant for swearing are analyzed with use of a sociolinguistic approach, since sociolinguistics deals with the use of language in society. The study of swearing in social life is under the umbrella of sociolinguistics, since it is also concerned with language and society.

