

THE ANALYSIS OF SWEAR WORDS USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN MOONLIGHT

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Abstract

This study aimed to find out types of swear words that are used in the moonlight movie and to analyze purposes of the characters. The subject of this research is the characters in Moonlight movie. This research used descriptive qualitative design. This study used Wardhaugh (2006) theory and Andersson and Trudgill (1992). This research employed two instruments namely the researcher himself and checklist. The result shows that, excretion swear words appeared 38 %, Sex swear words appeared 27 %, religious matter swear word appeared 20 %, mother in law swear words appeared 4 %, animal swear words appeared 7 %, death, and bodily function swear words respectively appeared 2 %. Looking at the purposes of the characters in using swear word the most dominant is used by the characters is auxiliary which appeared 49 %, abusive appeared 47 %, and expletive which appeared 4 %.

Keywords: swear words, characters, movie

INTRODUCTION

Language is the human's treasure which has a close relationship to all of the action of human being (Chaika, 2002). In communication, people will have various intonations when they speak. If the people are angry, they usually use swear words to emphasize their emotion when they speak. According to Crystal (1991), swear-words are the commonest signals to be used as emotional expression, especially when one is in anger. Someone swears to do something, someone swears to somebody or something, and sometimes people swear because of being out of control. Jay (2009) states that "swearing is like using a horn on your car, which can be used to signify a number of emotions (e.g., anger, frustration, joy, and surprise)". According to Khoirunnisa (2017), knowing swear words means that people get new English non-formal vocabularies, so they can use them in the right place and situation.

In this case, swear words can be called as a collection of words that sound impolite, rude, and inappropriate to be said. Every swear word has number of meaning with own emotional association based on how it is used (Pinker, 2007). According to Wardhaugh (2006), there are seven types of swear words based on their meaning namely: mother in law, animal, sex, death, excretion, bodily function, and religious

mater. Here, Mother in law is addressed to women who are described as mischievous women. Animal term is related to animal behavior. Sex is a term that refers to sexual activities. Death refers to something that make people afraid. Excretion refers to human's excretion. Bodily function refers to sexual organ of human. Religious matters is related with something religious or God.

Moreover, there are some purposes in using swear words. Andersson and Trudgill (1992) states there are three purposes of using swear words, expletive, abusive and auxiliary. Expletive is a purpose of using swear words that is used to express personal emotions and it is not directed to anyone. Abusive is a purpose of using swear words which is directed to others. It needs target to whom the speaker can utter the swear words. Auxiliary is a purpose of using swear word which is not indicated to certain people or situation, and auxiliary swear word which is applied as empty meaning and spoken in non-emphatic tone

In daily life people using swear word is quite common. Both in personal and public context we frequently find swear word in conversation. There are many media we can discover the use of swear words. One of them is in movie. Effendy (2004) states that movie is a result of cultural and artistic expression tools. A movie is considered as a tool of communication that is combined with various technologies such as photography, sound recordings, theater, literary, architecture, and music. Therefore, a movie is chosen which the swear words used is going to be investigated. According to Estirika (2016), the way of the characters speak, act, and communicate to each other, usually reflects the real life of the society. One of the examples is an American movie entitled Moonlight. The reasons why the researcher chose moonlight movie to be analyzed were, first, according to according to Internet Movie Database (2016) Moonlight movie is American movie which the story about the journey of black American man from his childhood to adulthood while trying to find his personality and sexual orientation. Second, Kurniawan (2013) states that the use of swear words in American movies from time to time increased.

This study analyzed the swear words used by the characters in Moonlight movie. Moonlight movie was an American movie. The subjects of this study were the characters in Moonlight movie. This study was a descriptive qualitative study. This research used checklist to analyze the types of swear word based on Wardhaugh (2006). To analyze the purpose of using swear words this research used Andersson and Trudgill (1992) theory.

Hence, the current research had two objectives, namely; To find out the types of swear word that are used in the Moonlight movie and To find out the purposes in using swear words that are used by the characters in the Moonlight movie. The study of swear words in this research is given some significances to the readers in some ways. First, the readers learn about the types of swear words. Second, the readers learn about the principal purpose in using swear words and there are many kinds of purposes when somebody is uttering swear words. In addition, the researcher hopes that it can encourage the reader to have a deeper study about swear words. For education, the knowledge of this research will give the students understanding about swear word. Also it will give the students' knowledge that in English speaking country especially America, the use of swear word is quite common although swear words is normally forbidden to be used in most countries in the world. Besides that, by knowing English swear words mean, the students can get new English non-formal vocabularies. So, they can use them in the right place and in the right situation.

A number of empirical studies also found to expose about swear words in movie. (Estirika, 2016; Khoirunnisa, 2017; Kristiano, Ardi, & Dharma, 2019; Puspitasari, 2017; Rahmadi, 2017; Wiyanti, 2015; Yuningsih, 2015). All of those studies, analyzed swear words in movies. All of the researchers were concerned with swear words analysis to analyze types and purposes in movies. There were differences in this study with those in empirical review. The differences are the movie as the data that will be analyzed and the theories used to answer the research questions from this study. Moreover, the characters in Moonlight movie are black Africa America, while in other researches in empirical review have not analyze the movie which the majority of the characters from black Africa America. According to Prastiawan (2019), swear words are usually common for black people in America.

Hence, the current research had two objectives, namely; To find out the types of swear word that are used in the Moonlight movie and To find out the purposes in using swear words that are used by the characters in the Moonlight movie. The study of swear words in this research is given some significances to the readers in some ways. First, the readers learn about the types of swear words. Second, the readers learn about the principal purpose in using swear words and there are many kinds of purposes when somebody is uttering swear words. In addition, the researcher hopes that it can encourage the reader to have a deeper study about swear words. For education, the knowledge of this research will give the students understanding about swear word. Also it will give the students knowledge that in English speaking country especially America, the use of swear word is quite common although swear words is normally forbidden to be used in most countries in the world. Besides that, by knowing English swear words mean, the students can get new English non-formal vocabularies. So, they can use them in the right place and in the right situation.

METHOD

The research design of this study is qualitative research. Bodgan and Biklen (1998) state that qualitative research is the research which the collected data are in the form of words rather than number, and try to describe particular situation or written form as like the narrative form. By using a qualitative researcher methodology, researchers want to collect more the information and get more detailed picture of issues, cases or events (Arora & Stoner, 2009).

The subjects of this research are the characters in Moonlight movie. Character is a person who has an important role to play in movie. Without the character, the movie does not mean anything. The characters in moonlight movie are Juan, Teresa, Paula, Kevin, Terrence, Terrel, Pizzo, Chiron's mom and Chiron. On the other hand, the objects of this study are the swear words that are used by the character in the movie entitled "Moonlight". The researcher analyzes the types of swear words which are found in the movie and find the purposes of the swearwords in the conversation then discuss the purpose theoretically.

The researcher takes a role as the main instrument because the researcher is the only one who acts in conducting the research. The researcher used a checklist to collect the types of swear words data based on the Wardhaugh (2006) theory, while on the purposes of the using swear words the researcher will analyze theoretically based on the Andersson and Trudgill (1992) theory.

There are four steps in collecting de data. First, the researcher watched the Moonlight movie to find the swear words that uttered by the characters in the movie. Second, the data that was obtained in the movie, then recorded in the table that has been provided. Third, then the data that was entered into the table is given a checklist, after that the types of swear words found will be analyzed based on the Wardhaugh (2006) theory. The last step is the researcher described the purposes of the characters in using swear word theoretically, based on the Andersson and Trudgill (1992) theory.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After the data were collected and analyzed, the result of the study found to be interesting.

Types of Swear Words

Table 1. Types of Swear Words

Types of Swear Words	The Occurrences in Conversations	Percentage
Mother in Law	2	4%
Animal	4	7%
Sex	15	27%
Death	1	2%
Excretion	21	38%
Bodily Function	1	2%
Religious Matter	11	20%
Total	55	100%

Based on table 1., it could be seen that there are seven types of swear words, namely mother in law, animal, sex, death, excretion, bodily function, and religious mater. From the data above, the most dominant type that is used by the characters are: Excretion which appeared 21 times with the percentage of 38%, sex which appeared 15 times with the percentage of 27%. religious matter which appeared 11 times with the percentage of 20%, animal which appeared 4 times with the percentage of 7 %, mother in law which appeared 2 times with the percentage of 4%, death and bodily function which respectively appeared only 1 time in the movie with the percentage of 2%.

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 Moonlight movie, these swear words used several times. The examples of the utterances are:

Mother in law

Chiron's Mom (28:55) : Motherfucker.

Don't give me that "You gotta get it from somewhere".

Explanation: In the movie, Chiron's mom Chiron's mom is angry because Juan won't allow her to do drug in Juan's place whereas she bought it from Juan.

The use of mother in law swear word in the examples above is in accordance with the theory of swear word proposed by Wardhaugh (2006) theory who states that mother in law is referred to promiscuous woman. This term is addressed to women who are described as mischievous women who always changes couples and also women who often interfere with other couples. This term also has relation with a woman who has sex outside of marriage, especially if she is used to doing this to get wages. Mother in

law often used in a derogatory sense to refer to someone whose behavior is improper. This could include shamelessness or lack of restraint, lack of hospitality, lack of loyalty, and indiscriminate or excessive violence.

Animal

Terrell (47:35): What'd you say? Huh?

Say that again, dog, I swear

Chiron (47:40): Whatever, man.

Explanation: When Chiron goes back from the school, two of his friends approaching him. Chiron gets bullied by his friends. They say that Chiron's mother is a whore and drug addicts. Due to his friend's words, Chiron becomes angry. Chiron expresses his anger by using swear word to his friends.

The use of animal swear word in the examples above is in accordance with the theory of swear word proposed by Wardhaugh (2006) states that animal is described as a creation of gods that don't have a brain to think. This term is related to animal and animal behavior. Usually, people use this type of swear words to express their annoyed. The examples of animal types of swear words "dog". Only certain traits of the animal have similarities with humans or conditions that are subject to abuse. In addition, not all animals can be used for means of cursing in the use of language. In the use of swear words of animals sometimes it has become a common phrase even though it sounds rude. However, there is also the use of swear words in this category that have exceeded the limits of reasonableness and usually these expressions arise due to feelings of anger or resentment that have peaked against others.

Sex

Juan (27: 48) : Fuck you doing?

Mom friends (27:49) : It's all good, Juan.

Explanation: In the evening, Juan and Terrell do a small talk on the road side. Suddenly, there is someone who uses drug at the same place. Juan is mad at him because there are some police officers who on duty at Juan's area. Juan walks to the drug dealer and says "fuck you doing". According to Wardhaugh (2006) theory sex is a term that referring to sexual activities. This type of swear word is related to the biological activities that contain about sex. Sex is a term that refers to the act of sexual intercourse but is also commonly used as an intensifier or to denote disdain. While, its origins is obscure. This word has always been considered vulgar when it first come to be used to describe (often in an extremely angry, hostile or belligerent manner) the example if this type of swear word is "fuck".

Death

Juan : Yo, nigga, you letting people light up at the spot, now?

Terrence : Hell no.

Explanation When Juan meets Terrence on the roadside, they do some small talk about how they are doing and their work life. Juan suddenly sees Chiron's mom with her friend use drugs in the car. Juan asks Terrence ", nigga, are you letting people light up at the spot, now?" Terrence answers with a swear word "Hell no" with a slightly loud tone.

The use of death swear word in the examples above is in accordance with the theory of swear word proposed by Wardhaugh (2006) who states that death is the type of swear word that refers to something that makes people afraid because this type of swear word is related to the permanent end of life from the world. The word death is a word that is considered something frightening. This word is also used as a sign of

disappointment or submission to something. The person who listens to this word will feel the word as a frightening curse. The example of this type is “hell no”.

Bodily Function

Kevin: 01:30:55 : Nigga, tell me something mean, what you doing? Who you doing? Man, come on now. I've been back there in that kitchen, man, and cooked for your ass and everything, man.

Explanation: When Juan is in a restaurant with Kevin, they talk about how their life has been doing. Kevin tells Juan he has married with Samantha and he already has a child. Before Kevin go to the kitchen to cook some food for Chiron, he asks about how Chiron has been doing lately, then Kevin says he wants to cook for Chiron by saying “cooked for your ass”.

The use of bodily function swear word in the example above is in accordance with the theory of swear word proposed by Wardhaugh (2006) bodily function refers to sexual organ of human. If one person swears another person with this type, he or she thinks that the person is extremely stupid, irritating, and ridiculous and has behaved in a stupid way. Usually, People use this type of swear words such as “cunt”, “ass”, and “asshole”.

Excretion

Kevin (01:40:50) : I'll make you some green tea, man, come on.

Chiron (01:40:53) : I won't be drinking that shit either, man.

Explanation: In the movie, Chiron arrives at Kevin's house and they have some small talks. Kevin says that he gets a headache. Kevin says he wants to make a cup of green tea for Chiron. Kevin says: “I will make you some green tea man”, Chiron answers “I won't be drinking, that shit either, man”.

According to Wardhaugh (2006), who states excretion is a term referring to human's excretion. Excretion is an action to waste useful substance from the blood, tissues, or organs. The examples of excretions of human are urine, feces, or sweat. In this type of swear word people usually use swear word such as “shit”, and “piss”.

Religious matter

Kevin (51: 06) : come on, nigga. It ain't gonna bite you.

Kevin (51:37) : Oh, man... Damn, I didn't know you smoked like that.(laughing)

Explanation: One day Kevin and Chiron go to the beach. They sit on the sand, Kevin gives Chiron a cigarette, and then Chiron smoked it. This is the first time Kevin sees Chiron smoke and he says: “Damn, I didn't know you smoked like that”

A religious matter is a type of swear word that has relation with something religious or God. In using swear word, something religious usually used in the communication to express their feeling. If people use this type of swear word, usually used to emphasize their angrily to other and not care about them. Someone who uses these words carelessly brings a curse because they believe that the name has a supernatural power. In British society, these words also have religious connotations where these words are considered impolite. In this type, people will usually use swear words that contain God terms, such as damn you.

Purposes of Using Swear Words

In other to know the purposes in using swear words the uses of swear words in certain context of utterances are interpreted. In this, may the purposes of the character in using swear words in Moonlight movie can be differentiated into three different purposes.

On the other hand, based on table above there are three purposes of swear word namely abusive swear word, expletive swear word and the last is auxiliary swear word. From the data above, the most dominant purpose that is used by the characters is auxiliary which appeared 27 times with the percentage of 49%. Then, the second purpose mostly used is abusive which appeared 26 times with the percentage of 47%. The last purpose mostly used is expletive, which appeared 2 times with the percentage of 4%. The reason why auxiliary purpose of using swear word used the most in the movie is because the characters in Moonlight movie used swear word while talking with their friend. When the character uttering swear word they used it in non-emphatic tone which mean they used swear word without the intention to offend the interlocutors.

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 Moonlight movie, these swear words used several times. Based on the purpose of the swear word, there are three purposes of swear word used in Moonlight movie based on Andersson and Trudgill (1992) theory namely abusive, expletive, and auxiliary.

Abusive

Juan (27:48) : Fuck you doing?

Mom friends (27:49) : It's all good, Juan.

Explanation: In the movie, Juan is very angry. It is because he sees two people using drugs in the car. Juan approaches them and asks with annoyed tone. "Fuck you doing?" Juan says "fuck" directed at people who use drugs.

According to Andersson and Trudgill (1992) stated that Abusive is a purpose of swear words which is directed to others. It needs a target to whom the speaker can utter the swear words. Unlike the expletive swearing, abusive swearing is directed towards others. This type of swearing includes name calling and other cursing expressions that are offensive and causing insult. The function is to attack the addressee verbally.

Expletive

Terrell (46:55) : Hi, yo little

Chiron (46:56) Fuck. (quietly)

Explanation: When Chiron walks alone on the road, suddenly someone calls him. He is annoyed because he wants to get home quickly, to express his annoyance he says "Huh fuck". In the movie, Chiron Says "Fuck" to express his emotion without directed to other people.

According to Andersson and Trudgill (1992) states that Expletive is to express personal emotions. In this point, swear word is used to express the speaker's emotions and it is not directed to anyone. These are interjections that are clearly emotionally charged such as Shit! Fuck!. Without addressing anyone specifically, speakers use expletives to release their frustrations and emotions. Besides, they are also reflexive reactions to something that has unexpectedly happened to the speaker. For instance, we will utter the certain words when our toe hits the table or when someone who walks carelessly and alone along the road, then he utters "shit ". It belongs to expletive, because he does not direct his swear to anyone.

Auxiliary

Mom's friends (27:53) : It's all good...

Juan (27:53) : Get out the fucking car!

Explanation: When Juan is on the side of the road, he sees two people using drugs in the car. Juan goes to the drugs dealer and then asks them to get out of the car by saying "Get out of the fucking car". The swear words here is used before the noun.

According to Andersson and Trudgill (1992), auxiliary swear words are not indicated to the certain people or situation. In this case, the auxiliary swear words are applied as empty meaning and spoken in non-emphatic tone. Auxiliary swear word can be used before noun. In the movie the auxiliary swear word is used be for noun.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis in finding and discussion, the following conclusion can be drawn to answer the research questions. The first research question is about the types of swear words that are used in the Moonlight movie. Based on the data analysis, there are seven types of swear words that are found in Moonlight movie. The types are; mother in law, animal, sex, death, excretion, bodily function, and religious matter. The swear words those belong to mother in law are bitch and motherfucker. The swear word that belongs to animal is dog. The sex category of swear word used in the movie is fuck. The swear word that belongs to death is hell. The next swear words belonging to excretion are bullshit and shit. Further, the swear word that belongs to bodily function is ass. After that, type of swear word belonging to religious matter is damn.

The second research question is about the purposes of the characters in using swear words in Moonlight movie. Based on the conclusion present previously, it can be suggested that there are three purposes of the characters in using swear words that are found in Moonlight movie, namely; abusive, expletive and auxiliary. Abusive purposes of using swear words is a purpose of the character in using swear word that directed to others. This purpose of the characters in using swear words are used 25 times in Moonlight movie. The swear word fuck in the utterance of "fuck you doing" is the example of abusive purpose of the characters in using swear word where the word "fuck" is directed to other people. Expletive purpose of using swear word is a purpose of the characters in using swear words that used to express personal emotions. In this point, swear word is used to express the speaker's emotions and it is not directed to anyone. This purpose of using swear words is used 2 times in Moonlight movie. The utterance fuck of "Huh fuck." is the example of expletive purpose of the characters in using swears word. The word "fuck" in that utterance is not addressed to interlocutor but to express his own anger. The last purpose of using swear words is known as auxiliary purpose, which is intended as empty meaning and spoken in non - emphatic tone. There are 26 times in Moonlight movie which convey auxiliary purpose such as; the swear words "you damn" and "Fucking car" respectively focus in utterances damn and fucking.

The researcher suggests that the English language teachers give a deeper understanding of swear words to the students especially English Language Education. Nowadays, English has been broadly used among students especially teenagers who also use swear words in their conversation. As a future teacher, teacher can give broader understanding about impoliteness in English for the students. Therefore, students can avoid using some swear words.

For students, they are expected to learn swear words in different perspectives based on the various circumstances and see the context between language and society. By knowing English swear words it means that students get new English non-formal vocabularies. Therefore, they can use them in the right place and situation.

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