



# The Analysis of Swear Words Used by the Children in Poh Bergong Village

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## Abstrak

Fenomena penggunaan kata-kata makian banyak dijumpai di pedesaan di Bali. Bahkan fenomena penggunaan kata-kata umpatan juga banyak digunakan oleh anak-anak yang kurang tepat dalam konteks sosial masyarakat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bentuk, jenis, dan fungsi kata makian yang digunakan oleh anak-anak di Desa Poh Bergong. Metode kualitatif deskriptif digunakan sebagai desain untuk menyelidiki studi dalam penelitian ini dan memperoleh data dari anak-anak. Subyek dalam penelitian ini adalah anak-anak di Desa Poh Bergong yang menggunakan kata-kata makian dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Subyek memiliki rentang usia sekitar 6 sampai 11 tahun. Objek penelitian ini adalah kata-kata makian yang digunakan oleh anak-anak di Desa Poh Bergong. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui observasi dan wawancara. Pengamatan digunakan dalam ilmu sosial sebagai metode untuk mengumpulkan data tentang orang, proses, dan budaya. Wawancara digunakan untuk mengumpulkan informasi tentang kata-kata makian yang digunakan dan alasan mengapa anak menggunakan kata-kata makian dalam berkomunikasi. Dalam penelitian ini terdapat lima instrumen yang digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data yaitu peneliti, perekam suara, buku catatan, lembar observasi, dan pedoman wawancara. Analisis Data Kualitatif (QDA) dalam bentuk deskriptif digunakan sebagai alat untuk menganalisis data yang diperoleh peneliti. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa makian yang digunakan anak di Desa Poh Bergong memiliki delapan puluh tiga bentuk makian, sebelas jenis makian, dan enam fungsi umpatan.

**Kata Kunci:** Kata Umpatan, Bentuk, Jenis, dan Fungsi

## Abstract

The phenomenon of using swear words are often found in rural areas in Bali. Even the phenomenon of using swear words are also widely used by children who are inappropriate in the social context of society. This research aimed to analyze the forms, types, and functions of swear words that used by children in Poh Bergong Village. Descriptive qualitative method was used as a design to investigate the study in this research and gain the data from the children. The subjects in this study were the children in Poh Bergong Village who used swear words in their daily life. The subjects had an age range of about 6 until 11 years. The objects of this study were the swear words that were used by children in Poh Bergong Village. The data were collected through observation and interview. Observation was used in the social sciences as a method for collecting data about people, processes, and cultures. Interview was used to collect the information about swear words used and the reason why the children use swear words in communication. In this research, there were five instruments used to collect the data, that were researcher, voice recorder, notebook, observation sheet, and interview guide. Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) in the form of descriptive was used as a means to analyze data obtained by the researcher. The result showed that the swear words used by children in Poh Bergong Village has eighty-three forms of swear words, eleven types of swear words, and six functions of swear words.

**Keywords:** Swear Words, form, Types, and Function

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The language was used by the people to express the feeling, idea, and information to others. It was used everywhere in our daily life (Ibna Seraj & Habil, 2019; Rabiah, 2018; Sadiku, 2015). Language became a tool that needed to communicate with others. Language had rapid development by the time (Elyas et al., 2020; Knauer et al., 2020; Rina Devianty, 2017). The example, in Indonesia the language is usually combined with English like “*Aku mau ke toilet*”. The word toilet was an English word used in daily life like *exit*, *online*, and

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*browsing*. Many generations of the nation in this era feel more confident and sociable when using such a mixed language (Grobler, 2018; Okal, 2014; Waris, 2012).

Swear words are the words that said as a reaction toward something that people do not expect and want (Bednarek, 2019; Dewaele, 2004; Goddard, 2015). For example, if someone used swear words then the person who heard the word would feel uncomfortable or angry. The action made the people feel disappointed, angry, annoyed etc. Now a days, swear words are not considered as taboo anymore in daily life. Swearing is used to express intense emotions (fear, joy, anger, excitement) (Güvendir, 2015; Stephens & Robertson, 2020; Twenge et al., 2017). The swear words said by people are commonly based on the emotion they want to express. The use of swear words had a negative effect towards others and for people who used words as less educated people (Kristiano & Ardi, 2018; Lafreniere et al., 2022). The use of swear words in Balinese language is not only stigmatized negatively but also contributes positive impact, such as; for reducing their pain or distress and for joke (Melinda & Parwita, 2021; Wisudayanti, 2020).

People in Singaraja are considered to speak more harshly than other areas in Bali (Dewipayani et al., 2017; Wiyasa et al., 2017; Yani et al., 2017). It happened because almost all of the people in Singaraja, especially in Buleleng regency used swear words in their daily life. They didn't feel insulted when swearing to another people around them. But swearing became a culture in Buleleng. In Bali itself, especially in Bali Aga, there are many swear words were used by people in Cempaga village (Dewi et al., 2017). The swear words were not be used to express bad feeling but they used it in daily life. It happened because the swear words were their culture, so that swear words did not make the listener felt angry or uncomfortable, but they enjoyed it.

Children like a sponge; they pervaded everything that they heard especially swear words (Ashman & Snow, 2019; Brown, 2014; Manik & Hutagaol, 2015). They repeated everything that they knew and used it to others. Something unique had happened when children listened to swear words. They were more interested in swear words than good language because the swear words were more exciting for the children. They thought that swear language was fun because people who talked and used swear words looked like a civilian in the film (Allan, K., & Burridge, 2006; Dewaele, 2004; Gao, C., 2013). It is why the children were interested in using swear words.

Based on this phenomenon, it is important to know the characteristics of swear words used by children in a village. Researcher is interested in conducting research related to this matter in one of the villages in Bali, namely Poh Bergong village. In general, this research aims to analyze the forms, types, and functions of swear words used by children in Poh Bergong Village.

## **2. METHOD**

Descriptive qualitative method was used as a design to investigate the study in this research and gain the data from the children (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). The subjects in this study were the children in Poh Bergong Village who used swear words in their daily life. The children have an age range of about 6 until 11 years. The children as the subjects of the research were the children who were born in Poh Bergong Village. They were used to interacting with people in the village. The objects of this study were the swear words that were used by children in Poh Bergong Village. This research used two instruments to collect the data about the analysis of swear words used by the children in Poh Bergong Village. The data were collected through observation and interview. In this research, there were five instruments used to collect the data, that were researcher, voice recorder, notebook,

observation sheet, and interview guide. The data were obtained by observing the children when gathered, and interviewing the children.

Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) in the form of descriptive was used as a means to analyze data obtained by the researcher. This type of analysis referred to vary processes and procedures and it presented in the form of understanding, explanation, interpretation of certain people, and also investigated situations. Additionally, this type of analysis showed other shapes of analysis, such as patterns, features, themes, and identification. (Miles et al., 2018). There were three concurrent ways of conducting the action, such as Data reduction, data display, and also conclusion or verification. Those current ways to analyze the result of this current research was used after data is collected.

### **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Result**

##### ***Swear Words in form of Words***

In this research, 46 swear words in the form of words were found. Those words would divide into two parts: monomorphemic words and polymorphemic words. Monomorphemic words are word that consisting only one morpheme. Polymorphemic words there are complex words that consist of one free morpheme and one or more bound morphemes. In this research, there are 30 monomorphemic words and 16 polymorphemic words. Those explanations are explained as follows:

Monomorphemic in this section, there are 30 swear words used by children in Poh Bergong Village. The swear words are divided into three part such as noun, verb, and adjective. Polymorphemic in this section polymorphemic words consist of one free morpheme and one or more bound morpheme. This morpheme can be added at the beginning or the end of the basic words. When a morpheme is added at the beginning, it is called a prefixation, and when it is in the end, it is called suffixation. In this research, the researcher found 16 swear words that related to the polymorphemic words.

##### ***Swear Words in the form of Phrases***

Swear words in from oh phrases are divided into three categories: noun phrases, adjective phrases, and verb phrases. In this section the researcher found 20 swear words in from of phrases. 20 noun phrase, 5 adjective phrase, and 4 verb phrase were found. Those categorize are explained as:

Noun Phrase is the combination of words that take a function as a noun. Is has had and modifier. It will determine the type of phrases. Based on the findings, there were 11 swear words in the form of noun phrase used by children in Poh Bergong village. In this research, there are 5 swear words that categorized as adjective phrases used by children in Poh Bergong village. In this research, there are 5 swear words that categorized as verb phrases used by children in Poh Bergong village.

##### ***Swear Words in form of Clause***

For the swear words in form of clause, there are 17 swear words that are related to the clause which used in Poh Bergong village, Buleleng regency. The last form of swear words is in the form of clauses. Commonly, swear words in the form of clauses in Indonesia are created by adding the pronominal (cai, “you” and nani “you coarse”) at the end of the swear words, such as cicing cai (you dog), naskeleng cai (you head-dick), and bangkaan nani (you coarse are corpse). Those have a function to emphasize the utterance.

### **The Type of Swear Words**

The varieties of English swear words can be divided into six types, there are: Word related to sex, Word from excrement, Word from name of animal, Word related to personal background, Word from mental illness, and Word related to sex activities. In the theories the researcher gets six varieties of the type English swear words. For the swear word related to personal background, the researcher did not find that kind of swear words. That happened because the children in Poh Bergong village did not use those kind of swear words. For swear words that are not in that type because the word is not included in the type of swear words that are used as a guideline. It happens because in Balinese have a different type of swear words than the other countries. For example in Balinese have *nani* “you coarse” as swear words, but in the theory there is no type related to *nani* “you coarse”. So the researcher did not enter that word. Based on the theory the researcher got 11 swear words related to the topic.

### **The Function of Swear Words**

To Draw Attention, in draw attention, many Balinese swear words can be used depending on the tone of the speaker. Here “*naskeleng*” becoming the swear words that are used to draw attention with the high tone. In that way, the listener can pay attention to what happens to the speaker. Here “*naskeleng*” serve as draw attention to other people because those words commonly used when people feel angry or pissed off. It makes the other people think what happens to him when used those words.

To Provoke, swear word is also one of the dangerous media of communication. Through swearing, can lead someone to curse people or things in roundabout ways and it will also lead to confrontations. To provoke, Balinese swear words that used here is “*sige*”. “*sige*” means you coarse. It words used to provoke the other person like the words in the conversation. “*beneh be sige oraange sing bise main*” the other side words “*duel*” is used to provoke too like the example.

To Create Interpersonal Identification, the use of swear words can function as a strong interpersonal identity. This is used to make an identity of certain groups or communities, for instance in the black community in America use, “*motherfucker*” as a sign of familiarity in a certain community, which might seem rude by other community, but they use it to create identity or name towards someone. In create interpersonal identification, the conversation shows that “*kuluk berung*”, “*kuluk rabies*”, “*peletan*” and “*mue jit*”. Those becoming swear words that used to create interpersonal identification with other people. Those words are usually used when people in Poh Bergong village doing a funny conversation like kidding to each other. Those words were used because it express the nature of the children in the conversation. For example “*kuluk berung*” (wounded dog) the nature is always angry when somebody come to him. That’s why people in the conversation call as “*kuluk berung*” (wounded dog).

To Provide Catharsis, if people use swear words to provide catharsis, it means that people use swear words to reduce their pain and their distress. If people use swear words to provide catharsis, it means that people use swear words to reduce their pain and their distress. In the conversation show that “*naskeleng*”, “*bodo*”, “*nani*”, “*bangke*”, and “*pirate*” become words that show the provide catharsis of the people in the Poh Bergong village that get in the conversation. “*naskeleng*”, “*bodo*”, “*nani*”, “*bangke*”, and “*pirate*” used when the people in Poh Bergong village want to reduce their pain and their distress they used those words. The word “*bangke*” (corpse) in regular sentences is used in provide catharsis because it can bring out the inner irritation of the speaker. For example “*bodo gati nani*” (you so ugly), the word “*bodo*” expressing the speaker's annoyance so that he called the other person ugly.

Express emotion, swearing is associated with negative emotions, such as to express anger or release stress or tension. It is commonly used to express negative emotions like anger and frustration. Express emotion, many Balinese swear words can be used to express emotion. In conversation the researcher gets some example Balinese swear words can be used to express emotion. “*piratane*”, “*nani*”, “*nas peletan*”, “*cing*”, and “*panak gamang*”. It shows in the conversation when ... Ask... To buy some drink and ... Reject it. Those words are usually used when somebody wants to express their emotion as angry. “*piratane*” (this ancestor) can be used as the word to express emotion because when children in Poh Bergong village feel angry they will use those words to express the emotion.

Aggression, swear words can be used for aggressive purposes to a specific target, for instance, you fucking shut up. In this case, shut up is considered rude and impolite, but the word *fucking* is added to make it more forceful. Swear words can be used for aggressive purposes to a specific target, for instance, you fucking shut up. In this case, shut up is considered rude and impolite, but the word *fucking* is added to make it more forceful. In Balinese swear words we also have “*nani bungut deen abe*”, “*bungut*” is considered as rude and impolite, but the word “*nani*” is added to make it more forceful.

## Discussion

In this study the researcher found the type of swear words, such as: three words related to sex (*naskeleng/keleng* “head-dick/dick”, *peletan* “dick”, and *jit* “ass”), one word related to excrement (*tai* “shit”), four words related to name of animal (*cicing* “dog”, *kuluk* “dog”, *bojog* “monkey”, *ubuan* “animal”, and *kaung* “pig”), one word related to mental illness (*buduh* “crazy”), and one word related to sex activities (*mekatukan* “fuck”). In the type of swear words there is a type that is not mentioned because the children in Poh Bergong village has never been used. The type is Word related to personal background (Howarth, 2016; Wolff & De Costa, 2017). The function of swear words were divided in to eight major function. Those were : (a) aggressive, (b) integrative, (c) to create identification, (d) to provide catharsis, (e) emphasis, (f) to provoke, (g) to draw attention, and (h) regressive. In this research, the researcher found six function of swear words because the children in Poh Bergong village used swear words not to express their real emotion but to make the good relationship between the people around them.

It is in line with previous study that analyze the swear words used by people in Sidatapa village (Wiyasa et al., 2017). The results of this study found that swear words used by the people in Sidapa village have their forms, references, and functions. There are three forms of swear words: (1) in the form of words, which divided into two: monomorphemic (*sigug* ‘mischievous’, *bancih* ‘transvestite’, *kables* ‘having intercourse’, etc) and polymorphemic (*bebereke* ‘putrid’, *nusuk* ‘poke’, *ngamah* ‘eat’, etc.), (2) in the form of phrases (*belog-beloge* ‘very stupid’, *sedeng gati* ‘very crazy’, *lengheh buah* ‘very stupid’, etc.), and (3) in the form of clauses (*buduh mene* ‘you are stupid’ , *lengheh mene* , ‘you are stupid’, *ngamah gro gaen mene* ‘you always eat’, etc.). In this case, the used of swear word in Sidatapa village was not only in the form of negative meaning but also positive such as, for reducing their pain and also distress (Abdel-Raheem, 2022; Gao. C, 2013).

This research is in line with other research that explain the motives of taboo words in Denpasar used by the people are psychological, social, and linguistic motives (Mahayana et al., 2020). Psychologically, the taboo words are used for (a) expressing anger, (b) expressing astonishment, (c) expressing disappointment, and (d) expressing happiness. Furthermore, they are socially used for (e) attracting people’s attention, (f) insulting someone, (g) showing intimacy or solidarity, (h) showing contempt, (i) showing sympathy, and (j) amusing someone. And linguistically, they are used for (k) giving emphasis on what they try to communicate (Allan, K., & Burrige, 2006; Dewaele, 2004).

The implications of this research can provide better insight into how and why children use abusive words in the context of Poh Bergong village. The results of this study can provide an understanding of the factors that influence the use of harsh words by children and their impact on their lives. However, this study has limitations, the main limitation of this study is the generalization of the research results only applies to children in the village of Poh Bergong. Research results may not be directly applicable to populations of children elsewhere due to differences in culture, language and social context.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

These studies found that there were three forms of swear words used by children in Poh Bergong village, Buleleng, Bali. Those were in the forms of words, in the forms of phrase, and in the forms of clauses. There are two swear words in form of words were found. Those words divided into two parts: monomorphemic words and polymorphemic words. In this research there are 30 monomorphemic words and 16 polymorphemic words. In the form of phrase, there were three categories swear words in the form of phrase. The researcher found 20 swear words in form of phrase. The last was swear words in form of clause, the researcher found 17 swear words in form of clause.

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