The Analysis of Swear Words in Instagram Comments Column of @lilnasx Account

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Abstract

This research focuses on the swear words on Instagram because so many swear words can be found on this social media. The Instagram @lilnasx account is one of the examples gets swear words from social media users, especially since he is famous. This research used qualitative research method to analyze swear words in Instagram comments column of @lilnasx account taken from June to September 2022. This research showed that there are four types and five functions of swear words. The types of swear words found are one dysphemistic, 30 idiomatically, 31 abusively and 38 emphatically from 100 comments. Meanwhile, the functions of swear words found are 23 abusive, 19 humoristic, 20 expletive, three euphemistic and 35 habitual from 100 comments.
Keywords: Swear words, Instagram, comments column,

Introduction

Language is a tool that humans use to pass on messages to others. One of the features of language is to be a tool for communication or interaction. According to (Chaer & Agustina, 2010) language is another verbal tool used for communication. Language is a social interaction tool for passing on thoughts, ideas, concepts, and feelings. In other words, people can communicate and express their feelings or thoughts orally and in writing.

The language has its rule. Besides that, the use of language can also be influenced by several factors. Those factors are geographical, social, environmental, cultural, and others. Therefore, finding out how language works can be seen from the information conveyed to other people. In everyday life, most people use language to express their feelings, whether good or bad.

Communication is a medium used by people to convey information, messages, or feelings according to what is seen and felt so that they can interact with other people. In Communication, people can convey their thoughts through language with various styles or different ways of conveying them.

In other words, when the language expressed is good, then people will feel happy, but if the language used is innapropriate, then people will be angry or upset, and usually, people use dirty words to express their emotions, and dirty words or swear words are words that use to convey someone's anger or upset. So swear words are for dirty words or harsh words used by people in unpleasant situations and conditions.

Swear words used when people feel upset, angry, or emotional. (Ljung & Ljung, 2011) in (Yani et al., 2017) stated that swear words are a type of linguistic behavior is that considered by some people to be rude, vulgar and offensive.(Hughes, 2015) in (Zakirah, 2020) swear words are used to express annoyance or anger towards something. For some people, the word is considered dirty words, may provoke emotions, and in some situations, people are considered impolite and inappropriate to use in daily life.

Some say that the use of swear words negatively impacts others and themselves. The impact on oneself is the assumption that a person is uneducated. People know what swear words are, but they still use them in communication in everyday life. In other words, the use of swear words has become a habit and even a style of daily conversation.

Some the swear words include;

Fuck, damn, hell, shit, bitch, motherfucker, ass, asshole … etc.

Nevertheless, several references show that swear word used in a negative sense, such as to express the emotion, insult or hurt others but also in a positive sense. It concluded that swear words do not always have a negative meaning but also a positive meaning that can strengthen unity and solidarity in society. So, the use of swear words is becoming more popular in communication.

This phenomenon occurs because people feel that they need to present themselves indirectly or are behind a cell phone or computer, which is currently known as social media, so they can freely do whatever they want to do and say. When they say words that are considered taboo or dirty, some people will assume that they will have no effect. On the other hand, people will expect that saying swear words are a "common thing" because everyone uses them, both in a negative and a positive sense.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing Swear Words contained in the Instagram comments column of the @lilnasx account. The researcher focuses on the types and functions of Swear Words in Instagram @lilnasx entitled "The Analysis of Swear Words in Instagram Comments Column of @lilnasx Account".

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Theoretical Framework

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is a combination of two fields of science, such as sociology and linguistics which have a fairly close relationship. So to understand what sociolinguistics is it is also necessary to understand what sociology is and what linguistics is. Sociology is the study of humans in social life, both in their social processes and in their institutions. While, linguistic is the study of language as an object of study as a whole. Thus, sociolinguistics is a field of science that studies language and how it is used in people's lives (Chaer & Agustina, 2010).

According to (Fishman, 1992)as cited in (Chaer & Agustina, 2010)sociolinguistics is a study of the characteristic of language variations, the function of language variations, and the users or speakers of the language because these three elements always interact, can change each other in a speech community. Meanwhile, (Malabar, 2015) stated that sociolinguistics is a study that specializes in the study of how language functions in society. Bram & Dickey also said that sociolinguistics is a study that explains the human ability to use language rules appropriately in different or varied situations.

The use of Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics has many uses in daily life because language is a verbal tool used by humans to communicate which must have certain rules for using it. In its use, sociolinguistics provides knowledge about how to use language in certain social aspects.

The use of sociolinguistics can be used in communicating or interacting. Sociolinguistics will provide knowledge about the use of language, language variety, or the right language style to use when talking to other people. For example, as a student, of course, we have to use a different variety or style of language when talking to teachers, classmates, or friends who are in a higher class. Sociolinguistics also provides knowledge about how people speak according to where they are.

Definition of Swear words

Swearing or swear words is one of the phenomena that exist in society. Swear words is divided into two categories, namely formal swear words and informal swear words (Hughes, 2015). Formal swear words is usually related to an agreement, such as marriage, where couples promise or swear to each other. Meanwhile, informal swear words relates to bad language, foul language, or emotional expression.

(Crystal, 2003) also thinks in (Sari, 2021) that swear words are like an explosion, an explosion that brings relief to an angry or emotional person, so that it becomes a substitute for the body's response shown to people or something. Another explanation from (Crystal, 2003)as cited in (Rahmawati, 2013) stated that swear words are used to express emotions or expressions of someone who is angry because at that time people need harsh words that are inappropriate to say to show their anger.

In addition, (Fägersten, 2012) in (Mahbubah, 2017)stated that swear words have many words that have the same meaning, including bad words, curse words, cuss words, dirty words, four-letter words, expletives, epithets, obscenities, profanity, blasphemy, bawdy language, foul language, rude language, vulgar language, or taboo language.

Swear words themselves have two meanings, namely words that are generally in the form of "swearing", and words that are related to how we use "swearing". It means that swear words are not only used negatively but also used positively depending on the situation of the speaker. The use of swear words can be considered positive words when bad or negative words become common words and are widely used in social circles. (Wajnryb, 2005) in (Septiyani, 2015).

Types of Swear Words

People used swear words in different ways. (Pinker, 2007) identifies five types of swear words. They are dysphemistic, idiomatically, abusively, emphatically, cathartically.

Dysphemistic

Dysphemistic type refers to the type of swear words that are used in talking about one's opponents, things one wishes to show disapproval of, and things one wishes to be seen to downgrade. Dysphemism is swearing words used to convey the literal meaning of what the speakers want to say.

Idiomatically

Idiomatically refer to the type of swear words without referring to the matter. By using the word, people only want to awaken interest, show off, or express to peers in informal situations. Idiomatic swear words are another possible reason why someone might swear. It is used to gain attention,

used to awaken interest in a certain matter, or appear macho. This can be used to express dominance or strengthen a relationship.

Abusively

Abusively type refer to the words that are directed uttered toward someone else in a derogatory manner whether in an argument, heated debate, or just pain rude behavior, and is used for the abuse, intimidation, or insulting of other. The goal of this type is to bully or gain power.

Emphatically

Emphatically type refer to the type of swear words to emphasize something, stature, or relationship to things around it. Emphatic swear words are used to assert emphasis about a certain matter. A person can be emphatic about a point by swear words.

Cathartically

Cathartically is the type of swear word that provides the speaker needed psychological relief through the open expression of strong emotions. This gives the speaker some form of short-term. It is usually heard when something bad happens.

Cathartic swear words are used when something displeasing happens. For example, when a person gets hurt or feels bad. Cathartic swear words are used to reveal to a listener that a person is undergoing a difficult time or has negative emotions.

The Functions of Swear Words

According to (Andersson & Hirsch, 1985) say that there are five functions behind the use of swear words by someone. These functions are as follows:

Abusive

Abusive function is in which the speaker abuses, offends, or defames something or someone. Abusive functions refer to swear words used intentionally to hurt, insult, revile, threatens, or slander others.

Humoristic

Humoristic function can be taken as an expression of admiration or endearment. In other words, humoristic function means the use of swear words that aim to make a joke.

Expletive

The expletive function is when the speaker uses swear words to express emotions in the form of exclamation. Expletive is basically reactive and not directed towards something or someone. This function is basically a speaker's reaction to something and not directly at others.

Euphemistic

This function means that swear words pronounced are changed into an arguable word that is more subtle than the actual form. Euphemistic swear words are words that may be near homonyms.

Habitual

(Andersson & Hirsch, 1985) stated that "swear words knowledge of the participants in the situation about each other's speech habits can alter the interpretation of the word". This function means the use of the swear word that has become a habit.

Instagram

Instagram is a photo-and video-sharing website. Users can upload photos and videos and comment on them. Users learn more about people they follow through visual posts. Users post everything from images of important life events to funny pet photos. Users can also comment on other's posts. This interaction is a big part of Instagram. It has become a very popular way for people to share moments from their daily lives using photography (Mattern, 2016) Instagram is a social media app used by more than one billion people around the world to share photos, videos, and messages. Whether it's through Stories, Feed, Live, IGTV (an app from Instagram that lets users share longer videos), or direct teens use Instagram to celebrate big milestones, share everyday moments, keep in touch with friends and family, build communities of support and meet others who share their passions and interests. It runs on the Apple iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch as well as Android phones and tablets. Instagram lets you follow people and be followed by them, but unlike Facebook, it's not necessarily a two way street. People can follow someone even if they don't follow the other and vice versa. Users with a private account can control who can follow them. Unless you change the default to private, anyone can see what you post. (The Parent's Guide to Instagram)

@lilnasx Instagram Account

Montero Lamar Hill or commonly known as LIL NAS X has an Instagram account @lilnasx. He is one of the most famous rappers, singers, and songwriters in the United States of America (USA). He was born on April 9, 1999. He became famous after releasing his country rap single "Old Town Road" which reached its peak in early 2019. He has also received several awards for this achievement, one of which is the American Music Awards. No wonder he has 12.2 million followers on his Instagram account.

Method

Research design

The descriptive qualitative method was used by the researcher in conducting research. In every type of research, surely the starting point is sourced from the problem. According to (Arikunto, 2002) problems are part of a person's need to be solved. The purpose of the research itself is to get answers to those problems. According to (Creswell & Creswell, 2017), qualitative methods use different knowledge, investigative strategies, and methods of data collection and analysis. Although the process is similar, the qualitative procedure relies on text and image data, which has a unique step in data analysis. The researcher collected the data through qualitative research. Therefore, researchers who use this qualitative method must be able to adapt to the characteristics of this qualitative research.

The researcher applied a descriptive qualitative method and used analytical data to answer the research questions. The main purpose of this research is to describe the types and functions of swear words on Instagram @lilnasx. The instrument of this research is the researcher himself. It is

the same as (Sugiyono, 2013) to say that *"the researcher is the key instrument"* So the researcher is the key instrument in qualitative research.

Source of data

(Arikunto, 2002) stated that the source of data refers to the subject from which the data are obtained. The data of this research is taken from the @lilnasx Instagram account. The researchers do not use all the posts in the @lilnasx account because it has too many posts. The researcher chooses ten posts only limited, starting on June to September 2022 randomly by taking ten comments on each post. The researcher read their comments where swear words often emerge, then collects the swear words from their comments.

Technique of data collection

(Creswell & Creswell, 2017) stated that qualitative data consists of qualitative audiovisual and digital materials (including social media material). The data is usually in art objects, pictures, videotapes, websites, e-mails, social media text, or any form of sound. The researcher used data collection with written techniques or data analysis through documentation. The data of this research are sentences of swear words contained in comments on Instagram.

Technique of data analysis

An overview of the data analysis process is to look at qualitative data analysis as a process that requires sequential steps to be followed. According to (Creswell & Creswell, 2017) analyzing the data from the specific to the general involves multiple levels of analysis: organizing and preparing the data for analysis, reading or looking at all the data, starting coding all of the data, generating a description and themes, representing the descriptions and themes.

Results and Discussion

Results

The data is swear words taken from 100 comments from ten posts on the Instagram of @lilnasx account starting from June to September 2022 randomly. Based on the Pinker's theory, there are five types of swear words; dysphemistic, idiomatically, abusively, emphatically, and cathartically, but in this study the researcher only found four types of swear words in Instagram comments column of @lilnasx account. Every swear word, almost all types can be found in the four types of swear words, this happens because the swear words used will change their meaning according to the context of the sentence used by the speaker or the user. The swear words found included *fuck, shit, damn, jezzz, fuck, wtf, hell, bitch, gosh, fucking, shut up, ass/asshole, fucked, fuck u, ass shit, goddamn, fuck off, asfuck, and fucker*. Therefore, data shows only four types of swear words found from the 100 comments. They are dysphemistic, idiomatically, abusively, and emphatically as shown in the table below.

Table 1

Types of Swear Words Found in Instagram Comments Column of @lilnasx Account

Types of Swear Words	Total
Dysphemistic	1
Idiomatically	30
Abusively	31
Emphatically	38

In addition, based on the Anderson and Hirchs's theory there are five functions of swear words: abusive, humoristic, expletive, euphemistic, and habitual. Same as the types of swear words, the swear word used will have a different function according to the context of the sentence used. The swear words found included *ass/asshole, as fuck, fuck u, fucker, shit, goddamn, damn, shut up, wtf, fucking, hell, ass shit, bitch, jezzz, gosh, and gosh hell.* From the five functions of swear words almost all off the functions can be found in Instagram comments column of @lilnasx account.

The data below shows five functions of swear words found from the 100 comments. They are abusive, humoristic, expletive, euphemistic, and habitual as shown in the table below.

Table 2

Functions of Swear Words Found in Instagram Comments Column of @lilnasx Account

Function of Swear Words	Total
Abusive	23
Humoristic	19
Expletive	20
Euphemistic	3
Habitual	35

The Types of Swear Words Found in Instagram Comments Column of @lilnasx Account

In this study, the data that has been analyzed by the researcher is the types of swear words in Instagram comments column of @lilnasx account. The researcher examined 100 comments on the post by the @linasx account. Based on 100 comments that have been analyzed the researcher found 4 types of swear words. The 4 types of swear words include 1 dysphemistic, 30 idiomatically, 31 abusively, and 38 emphatically. The swear words found in the Instagram comment column of @lilnasx account include *fuck, shit, damn, jezzz, wtf, hell, bitch, gosh, fucking, shut up, ass/asshole, fucked, fuck u, ass shit, goddamn, fuck off, as fuck, and fucker.* These words can be found in four types of swear words, but each word will change type according to the context of the sentence used.

The Function of Swear Words Found in Instagram Comments Column of @lilnasx Account

In this study, the data that has been analyzed by the researcher is the function of swear words in Instagram comments column of @lilnasx account. The researcher examined 100 comments from ten posts on the @lilnasx Instagram account. From the ten posts, five functions of swear words were found. The functions of swear word found from the 100 comments include 23 abusive, 19 humoristic, 20 expletive, 3 euphemistic, and 35 habitual. The swear words found in the Instagram comments column of @lilnasx account include *ass, as fuck, fuck u, fucker, shit, goddamn, damn, bitch, fucking, shut up, fuck off, wtf, hell, jezzz, gosh,* and *gosh hell.* These words can be found in all functions of swear words, but the words will change meaning according to the context of the sentence used.

Discussion

This study discusses the types and functions of swear words in the Instagram comments column of @lilnasx account. The first research question about the types of swear words found in the comments of the @lilnasx account. The second question is about the function of swear words found in the comments of the @lilnasx account.

Types of swear words

In this study, there are four types found in the comment's column of @lilnasx account namely dysphemistic, idiomatically, abusively and emphatically. While one comment was not found in this study was cathartically types. To examine the types of swear words the researcher examined 100 comments from ten posts on the @ilnasx account. Of the 100 comments analyzed, the most dominant type of swear word that appeared was the emphatically type with 38 comments, then abusively type with 31 comments, idiomatically type with 30 comments, the least type found was dysphemistic type with one comment. The swear words found in this type include *fuck, shit, damn, jezzz, wtf, hell, bitch, gosh, fucking, shut up, ass/asshole, fucked, fuck u, ass shit, goddamn, fuck off, as fuck, and fucker.* Although the swear words are almost in all types found in the comment's column of @lilnasx, but if the word is used in a different sentence or different context it will have a different type according to the context of the sentence used by the comment user. So, even though the word is in every post, it will have a different type if it has a different sentence or context.

Functions of swear words

The functions of swear words found on the Instagram comment column for the @lilnasx account have five functions namely abusive, humoristic, expletive, euphemistic and habitual. In this study, the researcher examined 100 comments from 10 posts on the @lilnasx account. From the results of the study, the most dominant functions found were 35 habitual functions, 23 abusive functions, 20 expletive functions, 19 humoristic functions, and three euphemistic functions. The function of this swear word has almost the same swear words, including *ass/asshole, as fuck, fuck u, fucker, shit, goddamn, damn, shut up, wtf, fucking, hell, ass shit, bitch, jezzz, gosh, and gosh hell.* Even though these words can be found in all types, they will have different functions according to the context of the sentence used.

Conclusion

The research is about the swear words in Instagram comments column @lilnasx account. That is shown from 100 comments from 10 posts on the Instagram @lilnasx account. This study examines the types of swear words based on the Pinker's theory, and the function of swear words based on the Anderson and Hirsch theory.

According to Pinker, there are five types of swear words, namely dysphemistic, idiomatically, abusively, emphatically and cathartically. Of the five types of swear words mentioned above, only four types were found in this study include one dysphemistic, 30 idiomatically, 31 abusively, and 38 emphatically. Meanwhile, based on the

Anderson and theory there are five functions of swear words namely abusive, humoristic, expletive, euphemistic, and habitual. In this study, the researcher found five functions include 23 abusive, 19 humoristic, 20 expletive, three euphemistic, and 35 habitual. There are almost all swear words in the type and function of swear words, but those words will have different types and functions according to the context of the sentence used.

Furthermore, the types and functions of swear words can be found in Instagram comments column @lilnasx account, but the swear words can change according to the context of the sentence.

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