SWEAR WORDS USED BY ENGLISH

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The purpose of the study is to identify the types of swear words used by English people and analyze their linguistic and pragmatic aspects. A descriptive qualitative method was employed, with data collected through interviews and direct observation. The research subjects were English tourists aged between 17 and 60 years, visiting Bali. Data collection involved three instruments: the researcher, an interview guide, and an observation sheet. Interviews were conducted to explore the reasons behind the use of swear words and how these words function in everyday communication. The data were analyzed using the interactive model of analysis developed by Miles and Huberman (1984), which involves data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings reveal that English speakers commonly use thirty-eight distinct swear words. These swear words can be categorized into three major forms: single words, phrases, and altered expressions. In terms of references, seven types were identified, including those referring to sexual acts, bodily functions, religion, and animals. Furthermore, five main functions of swear words were observed: expressing emotion, social bonding, humor, emphasis, and insult. This study contributes to the understanding of the pragmatic and sociolinguistic roles that swear words play in English communication, particularly in informal settings.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis kata umpatan yang digunakan oleh orang Inggris dan menganalisis aspek linguistik dan pragmatisnya. Metode kualitatif deskriptif digunakan, dengan data yang dikumpulkan melalui wawancara dan observasi langsung. Subjek penelitian adalah wisatawan Inggris yang berusia antara 17 hingga 60 tahun, yang berkunjung ke Bali. Pengumpulan data melibatkan tiga instrumen: peneliti, panduan wawancara, dan lembar observasi. Wawancara dilakukan untuk mengeksplorasi alasan di balik penggunaan kata-kata umpatan dan bagaimana kata-kata ini berfungsi dalam komunikasi sehari-hari. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan model analisis interaktif yang dikembangkan oleh Miles dan Huberman (1984), yang melibatkan reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Temuan ini mengungkapkan bahwa penutur bahasa Inggris umumnya menggunakan tiga puluh delapan kata umpatan yang berbeda. Kata-kata umpatan ini dapat dikategorikan ke dalam tiga bentuk utama: kata tunggal, frasa, dan ekspresi yang diubah. Dalam hal referensi, tujuh jenis diidentifikasi, termasuk yang mengacu pada tindakan seksual, fungsi tubuh, agama, dan hewan. Selain itu, lima fungsi utama dari kata-kata umpatan diamati: mengekspresikan emosi, ikatan sosial, humor, penekanan, dan penghinaan. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada pemahaman tentang peran pragmatis dan sosiolinguistik yang dimainkan oleh kata-kata umpatan dalam komunikasi bahasa Inggris, terutama dalam lingkungan informal.

Kata Kunci: Kata Umpatan; Kata Umapatan dalam Bahasa Inggris; Bentuk; Referensi; Fungsi.

Introduction

Language is a fundamental aspect of human life and plays a vital role in communication. It serves as a means for individuals to express emotions, share ideas, and convey information in daily interactions (Chaer, 2003.). Language forms the basis of social relationships, allowing people to connect, relate, and understand each other. People will use formal language even though it has the same basic expression as when they speak in informal situations (Amrullah,

2016). However, not all forms of language are socially acceptable or considered polite. Among the many facets of language use, one particularly controversial and often stigmatized category is that of swear words. These expressions, commonly referred to as "swearwords" or "profanities," are frequently regarded as taboo and offensive in many cultures. Words such as "fuck" and "damn" are frequently used by speakers to express strong emotions such as anger, frustration, or surprise, often with the intention of insulting or shocking the listener.

Swearing, however, is not merely a reflection of bad manners or inappropriate behavior. It is also a complex sociolinguistic phenomenon that can fulfill a range of communicative functions. People commonly swear in response to unexpected or undesired situations. Swear words serve as emotional outlets, allowing speakers to express annoyance, frustration, anger, or even humor. Importantly, swearing is not limited by age or social group and occurs in all layers of society, including both adults and children. The meaning and purpose of a swear word can change depending on the context in which it is used, who the speaker is, and their relationship with the listener.

In recent times, the use of swear words has become more widespread and, in some communities, less taboo. While swear words were once strictly avoided in public or formal contexts, they are now increasingly heard in casual conversations, media, and popular culture. Nonetheless, understanding the context and social dynamics of their use remains essential. Richards and Schmidt (2010), along with Trudgill (2000), describe taboo language as referring to words or expressions considered offensive, vulgar, or inappropriate for public settings. Meanwhile, Dutton (2007) mentions that 'swear words' have a negative meaning because they are disgusting, rude, and impolite

However, swear words also serve as a joke in various contexts and a tool for bonding in social interaction (Andersson & Trugil, 1992). While all taboo expressions can be categorized under curse words, not all swear words are necessarily taboo. Some carry humorous, casual, or even affectionate connotations depending on the situation. For instance, the term "bitch" can function both as a severe insult or a term of endearment among close friends, depending on tone and context (Wintari et al., 2021). However, when swear words are used to insult, bully, or mock others, they are more likely to be perceived as taboo and socially unacceptable.

The phenomenon of swearing is not exclusive to any single culture or region it is a global linguistic trend. In Western countries such as England, swearing is a common feature of informal speech. English people often use swear words casually, especially when talking with friends or peers. Swear words like "bloody," "bastard," "dickhead," and "bollocks" are frequently heard in informal British English. These words, while offensive in nature, can sometimes function as expressions of camaraderie or humor in certain contexts. English speakers typically use swear words to convey strong negative emotions, express anger, or to insult someone. Nevertheless, they also tend to switch to more polite language when interacting with strangers or in formal settings, thereby maintaining courtesy and respect.

Although swearing has been widely studied in various cultural contexts, the use of swear words by English people, particularly in terms of their forms, references, and functions, has not been examined in detail. Several previous studies have explored this phenomenon from different cultural perspectives. For instance, Wintari et al., (2021) examined the use of swear words by children in Banjar Dinas Satria, identifying three forms, ten references, and five functions of swear words in that context. Similarly, Martinez (2020) analyzed taboo vocatives among London teenagers, showing how swearing can also serve to reinforce social bonds and carry non-insulting, even affectionate meanings. Another comparative study by Yani et al. (2017) investigated the similarities and differences between American and Balinese swear words, finding commonalities in form and function but noting culturally specific usage. Despite these valuable insights, there remains a gap in the literature concerning the specific use of swear words among English British people, particularly adult speakers across different age groups. The previous studies tend to focus on children, specific regions, or comparative

approaches, leaving room for further research that addresses swearing as a phenomenon among English adults in informal settings.

The present research, therefore, aims to investigate the use of swear words by English people, focusing on their forms, references, and communicative functions. The study seeks to answer the following research questions: (1) What swear words are used by English people? (2) What forms do these swear words take? (3) What are the references of these swear words? and (4) What functions do swear words serve in English communication? The purpose of this research is to identify and analyze the swear words used by English people, to provide a deeper understanding of their linguistic structure and pragmatic use. This study is expected to contribute to the field of sociolinguistics by offering insights into the ways swear words function in English communication and how their use reflects broader social, cultural, and emotional dynamics.

The study of swear words has attracted the attention of many scholars across different regions and cultural backgrounds. These studies highlight the various forms, references, and functions of swear words, which are influenced by linguistic, psychological, and sociocultural factors. Previous research provides valuable insights into how swear words are used as part of communication in specific contexts, offering a theoretical base for the present study on the use of English swear words by English people.

Dewipayani (2017) conducted a study titled "Swear Words Used by the Teenagers in Nusa Penida: A Descriptive Qualitative Study" which focused on identifying the types, forms, references, and functions of swear words used by teenagers in Nusa Penida. This research revealed three main forms of swear words: words (monomorphemic and polymorphemic), phrases (noun, verb, and adjective phrases), and clauses. The references of swear words in this context included religious terms, body functions, excrement, animal terms, kinship, and others. In terms of function, the study identified that teenagers used swear words to draw attention, provoke, express emotion, emphasize, and establish interpersonal identification. While this study provided a comprehensive classification, it was limited to one geographical area and one age group, which reduced the potential for broader generalizations about swear word usage across different age ranges and cultural backgrounds.

Another related study was conducted by Yani et al. (2017) under the title "A Comparative Study of American and Balinese Swearwords." This study compared swear words used in American and Balinese contexts and revealed that both cultures share similarities in the forms, references, and functions of swear words. The shared references included religion, sex, excrement, animals, personal background, mental illness, and sexual activity. Notably, this study found that swear words could be used not only negatively but also positively to foster intimacy or signal in-group identity. Despite its usefulness, the data in this study were drawn largely from films, online sources, and journals, which limited the depth and authenticity of the spoken language data. As such, the findings may not fully represent natural conversational patterns or broader societal trends.

In a more urban and youth-focused context, Martinez (2020) examined "Taboo Vocative in the Language of London Teenagers." This study analyzed over 500 examples from the Bergen Corpus of London Teenage Language (COLT) and the London English Corpus (LEC). The research focused specifically on taboo vocatives insulting or informal name-calling such as "dickhead," "bastard," and "bitch." Martinez found that these expressions were often used not only to insult but also affectionately among peers, particularly among London teenagers. Most of these vocatives were nouns referring to sexual or animal-related concepts. The study concluded that the function of swearing extended beyond aggression to social bonding. However, it did not provide a detailed classification of swear word forms and focused solely on functional and referential aspects within the teenage demographic.

Mahayana et al. (2020), in their study titled "The Use of Taboo Words in Denpasar," explored the motives behind the use of taboo words in everyday conversations among people aged 50 to 60 years old. Using observation as the primary data collection method, this descriptive qualitative study identified psychological, social, and linguistic motivations behind

the use of taboo expressions. While this study shed light on how older adults in Denpasar use taboo words, it did not include data from younger individuals, thus providing a limited picture of swear word use across generations in the city.

Another valuable contribution comes from Saniada et al. (2023) in their study "The Analysis of Swear Words Used by the Children in Poh Bergong Village." This research analyzed the forms of swear words used by children, finding that these included single words, phrases, and clauses. The study applied a descriptive qualitative method to uncover how swear words were utilized in everyday interactions among children. However, it lacked a gender-based analysis, failing to explore whether and how the use of swear words differed between boys and girls or across different social settings.

The present study seeks to fill this gap by focusing on English people, particularly adult speakers who were observed and interviewed during their vacation in Bali. By analyzing the forms, references, and functions of the swear words used by English speakers in everyday conversation, this study will contribute a new perspective to the existing body of research. Moreover, it will offer insights into the sociolinguistic characteristics of English swearing behavior, furthering our understanding of how language operates as a tool for emotional expression, social identity, and interpersonal interaction.

Method

This research employs a descriptive qualitative design. The method was chosen because the data collection involved interviews, direct observations, and documentation of swear words used by English speakers. The primary objective of this study is to analyze the forms, references, and functions of English swear words used by individuals visiting tourist destinations in Canggu, Badung, as well as those used on social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, and X. The subjects of this research were five English native speakers aged 17–65 who were visiting or residing in Canggu. A purposive sampling method was used, guided by the following criteria: subjects must be native-born residents of England, speak British English, be willing to be interviewed, possess a strong cultural and linguistic identity, and not have resided outside England for a prolonged period. Additional data sources included English-language comments and posts containing swear words on social media, which supported findings from field observations and interviews. Three instruments were used in the data collection process: the researcher, an interview guide, and an observation sheet. The researcher served as the main instrument, facilitating data collection and analysis. The interview guide included structured questions aimed at identifying the types and functions of swear words. The observation sheet was used to record occurrences of swear words, including the context, form, function, and reference of each term observed. The data analysis followed the Miles and Huberman (1994) model, which consists of three steps: (1) data reduction, where raw data from interviews and observations were transcribed, simplified, and categorized based on the research focus; (2) data display, where categorized data were presented in tables to facilitate interpretation and comparison of the forms, references, and functions of swear words; and (3) conclusion drawing and verification, where patterns and themes were identified to formulate conclusions. To ensure the validity and reliability of the results, this study applied source triangulation and method triangulation. Source triangulation involved comparing data from English speakers and social media platforms, while method triangulation involved using both interviews and observations to cross-verify the use and interpretation of swear words. The research was conducted over a one-month period, allowing adequate time for in-depth data collection and analysis.

Results and Discussion

The findings are used to answer the following research questions: 1. What swear words are used in English? 2. What forms of swear swear words are used in English? 3. What are the functions of swear words in English? 4. What references are used in swear words in English?. The result can be seen in the table below.

1. Swear Words Used in English

Table 1. Swear Words Used by English

No	Swear Words in English	Meaning
1	*arse/arsehole*	ass
2	*bastard*	illegitimate child
3	*bitch*	female dog
4	*bellend*	penis
5	*bint*	derogatory term for a woman
6	*Bloody hell*	be our lady/Virgin Mary
7	*bullshit*	nonsense or lies
8	*bugger*	annoying person
9	*chav*	lower-class youth in England
10	*cow*	animal
11	*christ*	Jesus Christ
12	*crazy*	mental disorders
13	*cunt*	female genitalia
14	*damn*	expression of anger or frustration
15	*dickhead*	penis
16	*dog*	animal
17	*fuck*	sex activity
18	*fuck off*	sex activity
19	*fucker*	sex activity
20	*god damn*	God
21	*gormless*	foolish or lacking intelligence
22	*idiot*	foolish or lacking intelligence
23	*jesus*	Jesus Christ or God
24	*knobhead*	penis
25	*minger*	unattractive person
26	*motherfucker*	annoying person
27	*pillock*	stupid or idiot
28	*pish*	urine
29	*pissed off*	annoyed or angry
30	*pig*	animal
31	*prick*	penis
32	*scrubber*	promiscuous woman
33	*shit*	faces
34	*swine*	unpleasant or despicable person
35	*twat*	female genitalia
36	*I'm so fucking tired of this*	I'm very tired
37	*He's such an asshole that I can't stand with him*	he's behavior like an asshole
38	*What the fuck is going on here?*	what is going on here

2. What Forms of Swear Swear Words are Used in English?

a. Words

Table 2. Swear Words in the forms of Monomorphemic Words

No	Swear Words in English	Meaning
1	*arse*	ass
2	*bitch*	female dog

3	*bint*	derogatory term for woman
4	*chav*	lower-class youth in England
5	*cow*	animal
6	*cunt*	female genitalia
7	*dog*	animal
8	*pig*	animal
9	*prick*	penis
10	*shit*	faces
11	*swine*	unpleasant or despicable person
12	*twat*	female genitalia
13	*fuck*	sex activity
14	*damn*	frustration

Based on table 2 there are fourteen swear words in the form of words including*: arse, bitch, bint, chav, cow, cunt, dog, pig, prick, shit, swine, twat, fuck,* and *damn*. They are classified as monomorphemic words because each word functions as a single, indivisible morpheme, and the meaning cannot be broken into small units.

Table 3. Swear Words in the Forms of Polymorphemic Words

No	List of Swear Words	Meaning	Morpheme
1	*arsehole*	ass	*arse+hole*
2	*bullshit*	nonsense or lies	*bull+shit*
3	*dickhead*	penis	*dick+head*
4	*knobhead*	penis	*knob+head*
5	*god damn*	god	*god+damn*
6	*pissed off*	annoyed or angry	*pissed+off*
7	*motherfucker*	annoying person	*mother+fuck+er*
8	*fucker*	sex activity	*fuck+er*

Based on table 4.3 it found eight swear words in polymorphemic words including: *arsehole, bullshit, dickhead, knobhead, God damn, pissed off, motherfucker, and fucker*. Word like *fucker* derived from *fuck* "sex" and the imperative *-er*, forming to word fucker to describe annoying person. Since these words are formed by combining this two-district morpheme, it is not a single, indivisible unit like monomorphemic words but rather a word that derives meaning from the combination of its parts, making the polymorphemic words. In English, swear words combine multiple meaningful units to create strong and often aggressive expressions.

b. Phrases

Table 4. Swear Words in the Form of Phrases

No	Swear Words in English	Meaning	Types of Phrases
1	*bloody hell*	be our lady/Virgin Mary	Noun phrases
2	*bugger*	annoying person	Noun phrases
3	*minger*	unattractive person	Noun phrases
4	*pillock*	stupid or idiot	Noun phrases
5	*scrubber*	promiscuous woman	Noun phrases
6	*fuck off*	sex activity	Verb phrases

Table 4. shows five noun phrases: *bloody hell, bugger, minger, pillock,* and *scrubber,* they are classified because each phrase contains a noun, which serves as the head of the phrase. Additionally, one verb phrase: *fuck off* because the combination of a verb with an additional element that forms a more specific meaning. These swear words are categorized based on the common phrase structures used by English people.

c. Clause

Table 5. Swear Words in the Form of Clauses

No	Swear Words in English	Meaning	Types of Clauses
1	*I'm so fucking tired of this*	I'm very tired	Independent clauses
2	*He's such an asshole that I can't stand with him*	he's behavior like an asshole	Independent clauses
3	*What the fuck is going on here?*	what is going on here	Independent clauses

Table 5 shows the researcher found three swear words refers to independent of clauses: *I'm so fucking tired of this, He's such an asshole that I can't stand with him, and What the fuck is going on here?* They are categorized as independent clauses because each phrase has a subject and a predicate, making them complete thoughts. Common swear words depend on the clauses used by English people.

3. The Reference of Swear Words Used by English

Table 6. Reference of Swear Words Used by English

No	List of Swear Words	Meaning	Reference
1	*bloody hell*	"Be our Lady/Virgin Mary" is the word that is used to convey strong emotion.	Religion
2	*christ*	"Jesus Christ" is used to convey surprise and gain attention.	Religion
3	*god damn*	"Oh my God" is used to express frustration.	Religion
4	*jesus*	"Jesus Christ or God" is used to show the surprise expression.	Religion
5	*arse/arsehole*	"Ass" literally used to insult someone's behavior	Sex
6	*bitch*	"Female dog" is used to describe someone with a bad character.	Sex
7	*bellend*	"Penis" to describe someone annoying and foolish.	Sex
8	*cunt*	"Female genitalia" strong swear word that is used to insult someone.	Sex
9	*dickhead*	"Male genitalia" is a strong swear word that is used to describe someone's character.	Sex
10	*fuck*	"Having sex with someone" vulgar swear word to express negative emotion.	Sex
11	*knobhead*	"Penis" is used to describe someone with a bad character.	Sex
12	*prick*	"Penis" literally to describe someone's behavior.	Sex
13	*scrubber*	"Promiscuous woman" is used to insult a woman with bad character.	Sex
14	*twat*	"Female genitalia" is used to insult someone's foolishness.	Sex
15	*pish*	"Urine" is used for disagreement and nonsense.	Excrement
16	*shit*	"Faces" is used to insult someone's and expression of anger.	Excrement
17	*cow*	"Animal" literally means animal to and is used to insult a woman's character.	Animal Term

18	*dog*	"Animal" literally means animal is used to express anger and frustration.	Animal Term
19	*pig*	"Animal" is meant to be an animal to describe someone greedy and acts like a pig.	Animal Term
20	*swine*	"Pig" literally means animal to insult corruptor.	Animal Term
21	*bastard*	"Illegitimate child" insults someone's character and expresses annoyance.	Personal Background
22	*chav*	"Lower-class youth in England" describes someone flashy, a lower-class youth, and also mocking people who use duplicate luxury brands.	Personal Background
23	*minger*	"Unattractive person" is used to express disgust for someone's.	Personal Background
24	*crazy*	"Mental disorder" is used to express frustration, anger, and insult someone.	Mental Illness
25	*gormless*	"Foolish or lacking intelligence" is used to describe someone foolish, unintelligent, and clueless.	Mental Illness
26	*idiot*	"Foolish or lacking intelligence" describes someone who lacks intelligence.	Mental Illness
27	*pillock*	"Stupid or idiot" swear words are used to describe someone's foolishness, stupidity, and idiocy.	Mental Illness
28	*fuck off*	"Sex activity" is a strong swear word to express anger, frustration, and desire for someone to leave.	Sex Activity
29	*fucker*	"Sex Activity" is a strong swear word to convey the deep anger, frustration, and insult someone.	Sex Activity

Based on Table 6 four swear words are classified as related to religion: *bloody, Christ, God damn,* and *Jesus.* Swear words with religious reference often used concepts to intensify expressions of surprise, shock, and frustration. Additionally, ten swear words related to sex were identified: *arse/arsehole, bitch, bellend, cunt, dickhead, fuck, knobhead, prick, scrubber,* and *twat.* Swear words with sex reference often involve terms for sexual acts, organs, and behaviors, and also, they are used to express anger, strong emotions, insult, and emphasis. Two swear words related to excrement were also found: *pish* and *shit,* swear words related to excrement are used body waste to describe something negative, disgusting, and frustration. Furthermore, four swear words referencing animals were identified: *cow, dog, pig,* and *swine.* They are used to insult and demean someone who acts foolishly. Three swear words were found to reference personal background: *bastard, chav,* and *minger.* Swear words related to personal background often have a specific target of an individual's background, economic status, and individual characteristics. Additionally, four swear words related to mental illness were identified: *crazy, gormless, idiot,* and *pillock.* These swear words are related to mental disorders and describe someone who acts irrationally. Finally, two swear words related to sexual activity were found: *fuck off* and *fucker* these swear words are reference to doing sex activity with someone and used to putting someone down.

4. The Function of Swear Words Used by English
     a.   Expressing Emotions

Table 7. Swear Words to Express Emotions

No	List of Swear Words	Meaning
1	*fuck*	sex activity
2	*fucker*	sex activity
3	*motherfucker*	annoying person
4	*bugger*	annoying person
5	*knobhead*	penis
6	*prick*	penis
7	*shit*	faces

Based on table 7 seven swear words are considered to be used as expressions of emotions. The dialogue below shows the use of swear words to express emotions. This is a dialogue between two friends in an informal setting, likely after a long and frustrating day for speaker B. The situation in the workplace is stressful and filled with road rage, and speaker A offers support and suggests a drink to help speaker B.

A: Dude, you look like *shit*. What happened?

B: Ugh, don't even get me started. My boss is a total *knobhead*. That *fucker* made me redo an entire report because of one tiny mistake.

A: What a *prick*. He seriously needs to chill.

B: Right? And then, as I'm leaving, some *motherfucker* cuts me off in traffic and flips me off like it was my fault.

A: Classic. People are absolute *buggers* on the road. No patience whatsoever.

B: I swear, if one more thing goes wrong today, I'm gonna lose my *shit*.

A: Well, let's get you a drink before you start punching walls or some poor *fuck* gets in your way.

B: Good plan. I need something strong.

The word *fucker* is used to convey the frustration toward the boss, making the emotion feel more intense. Then the word *motherfucker* emphasizes the anger toward the reckless driver. Furthermore, the *knobhead* describes a strong emotion, insulting emphasis on feeling about his boss. The word *bugger* reinforces the general annoyance towards bad drivers. Additionally, the word *prick* describes the speechlessness. Lastly, the word *fuck* describes the unlucky person in this dialogue and the word *shit* is used to emphasize.

b. Drawing Attention

Table 8. Swear Words to Drawing Attention

No	List of Swear Words	Meaning
1	*christ*	Jesus Christ or God
2	*crazy*	mental disorder
3	*jesus*	Jesus Christ or God
4	*god damn*	Jesus Christ or God
5	*bloody hell*	Virgin Mary

Based on table 4.8 it found five swear words are considered to draw attention from others. Below, the dialogue shows the use of swear words to gain attention from the listeners. This is a dialogue between two people about gossip exchange. Speaker A is excited and shocked after hearing a rumour about their manager and the head of HR dating, while Speaker B is curious and eager for more details. The conversation is in an informal setting, and speaker A gains attention to speaker B.

A: *Christ*, listen to me! It's so *crazy*!

B: What is it?

A: My *bloody hell*! I heard our manager and the head of human resources are dating.

B: *Jesus*, seriously? Then?

A: *God damn*, even though they always look indifferent. That's *crazy*!

The word *Christ* emphasizes urgency and gets the listener's attention. Then, the word *Jesus* is used to describe disbelief and shock. *My bloody hell* is the slang for making the exclamation sound stronger. Additionally, the word *God damn* is expressing strong disbelief in the above dialogue, the word *crazy* describes the absurdity of the situation.

d. Interpersonal or Group Identity

Table 9. Swear Words to Interpersonal or Group Identity

No	List of Swear Words	Meaning
1	*chav*	lower-class in England
2	*bint*	derogatory term for women
3	*minger*	unattractive person
4	*scrubber*	promiscuous women

Based on table 9 it found four swear words related to interpersonal or group identity. Below is a dialogue on how to use swear words to insult someone's interpersonal or group identity. This is a dialogue between two friends talking about a couple. In this couple, the girl acts like a minger which is annoying girl, then her boyfriend acts like a chav using a tracksuit like a celebrity.
A: Dude, you won't believe who I saw last night at the party.
B: Who?
A: That *scrubber* C, all over some random bloke. She was acting like she was the queen of the place.
B: Ugh, she's always been like that. Proper *bint*, if you ask me.
A: Exactly! And guess who she was with? That *chav* D, wearing his stupid tracksuit like he owns the world.
B: *Minger* and *chav*, what a pair! But they think they're some sort of celebrity couple.
A: Yeah, well, give it a week, and she'll be onto the next poor sod.

The word *scrubber* is used to criticize the girl's behavior. Then, the word *bint* is also used to reinforce dislike. The word *chav* is used to mock D. Lastly, *minger* is used to emphasize disapproval of the couple.

D. Aggression or Emphasis

Table 10. Swearwords to Aggression or Emphasis

No	List of Swear Words	Meaning
1	*arse/arsehole*	ass or anus
2	*bastard*	illegitimate child
3	*bitch*	female dog
4	*cunt*	female genitalia
5	*dickhead*	penis
6	*twat*	female genitalia
7	*bullshit*	nonsense or lies

Table 10 shows seven swear words that are related to showing aggression or emphasis. Below, the dialogue shows how to use swear words as aggression or emphasis. This is a dialogue between two close friends in an informal situation. Speaker B drank the last beer belonging to A. So, speaker A gets mad at B and then emphasizes that speaker B shouldn't do this again.
A: Oi, did you nick my last beer from the fridge?
B: Maybe…
A: You *bastard*! That was my Friday night treat!
B: Oh, quit whining, you *twat*. I'll buy you another one.
A: *Bullshit*! You always say that, but I never see any replacement beers.
B: Alright, alright, don't be such a *bitch*. I owe you a pint. Happy now?
A: You better, or I'm never letting you in my flat again, you thieving *arsehole*.

B: *Cunt*, you act like I robbed a bank.
A: You're still a *dickhead*, though.

The word *bastard* is used to express annoyance and frustration toward B for taking the beer. It intensifies A's emotional reaction. Then the word *bullshit* is used to call out dishonesty or insincerity. Furthermore, *twat* is an insult and the swear word *cunt* is a highly offensive word in some contexts. *Arsehole* is used to assert dominance and reinforce a boundary. Lastly, *bitch* is used to mock A's complaints, making them seem exaggerated or dramatic.

 E. Regressive

Table 11. Swear words to Regressive

No	List of Swear Words	Meaning
1	idiot	Stupid person
2	damn	Expressing anger

Table 11 shows two swear words related to regression. Below is the dialogue that shows how swear words are a regression. This is a dialogue between two close friends. Speaker A gives Speaker B a gift for her birthday.
A: Let's open it!
B: *Damn*, are you serious?!
A: Yeah, happy birthday!
B: I don't believe it, you're such an *idiot*. It's a diamond ring!
A: I know you want it, so it's for you.

The word *damn* is used to convey surprise or disbelief, not aggressive likely positive astonishment. Then the word *idiot* used to characterize the situations or possibly the gift giver as "crazy," giving the emotional tone.

Based on the research findings obtained from the data collection process, the researcher identified a total of thirty-eight (38) swear words that are commonly used by English people in various contexts.

Based on the theory of swear words, the identified swear words were systematically classified according to their linguistic form. This classification revealed a total of twenty-two (22) forms of words. Additionally, the research findings included six (6) phrases, Furthermore, the study identified three (3) clauses, which were classified as independent clauses, The swear words identified were also classified based on their references, which were divided into several categories. Swear words related to religion included four (4) terms: Additionally, ten (10) swear words were found to be related to sex. The study also identified two (2) swear words related to excrement: *pish* and *shit.* Furthermore, four (4) swear words were associated with animal terms: *cow, dog, pig,* and *swine.* Swear words related to personal background total three (3) and included *bastard, chav,* and *minger.* Moreover, four (4) swear words were linked to mental illness: *crazy, gormless, idiot,* and *bastard.* Lastly, two (2) swear words were found to be related to sexual activity: *fuck off* and *fucker.* There are nine (9) swear words do not include in the above classification: *bint, bullshit, bugger, damn, motherfucker, pissed off, I'm so fucking tired of this, he's such an asshole that I can't stand with him, and what the fuck is going in here?*

All the findings in this research are supported by several literature theories used by the writer, namely the theory of sociolinguistics, the theory of swear words, the theory of the forms of swear words, the theory of the functions of swear words, and the theory of the references of swear words. Furthermore, five empirical reviews used by the researcher, such as: Swear Words Used by The Teenagers in Nusa Penida a Descriptive Qualitative Study (Dewipayani et al., 2017), A Comparative Study of American and Balinese Swearwords (Yani et al., 2017), Taboo Vocative in the Language of London Teenagers (Martinez, 2020), The Use of Taboo Words in Denpasar (Mahayana, 2020), and The Analysis of Swear Words Used by The Children in Poh Bergong Village (Saniada et al., 2023). Based on the results of previous studies, this research shows similarities in the application of the descriptive qualitative method as a

research design, with the use of interviews and observation as data collection techniques. However, this research has important novelties by analyzing the swear words used by English people. Although one study that examined the use of taboo vocatives in the language of London teenagers only examined the function of swear words and did not analyze the form and reference. Furthermore, this research analyzes English swear words based on forms, references, and functions.

Conclusion

Swear words, although often considered inappropriate in formal settings, serve a wide range of functions in communication. They are used to express intense emotions, release frustration, provoke insults, and emphasize strong feelings. However, beyond their offensive potential, swear words can also foster social intimacy, bonding, and solidarity in informal interactions, such as jokes, shared frustration, or group identity. English, like any other language, has its own set of swear words which, if misunderstood by non-native speakers, can lead to cultural or interpersonal conflict. This research therefore analyzed the swear words used by English speakers. Based on the research results, a total of 38 swear words were identified. All the swear words are classified based on form, which consists of words (22), phrases (6), and clauses (3). Based on function, the swear words were categorized into expressing emotion (7 swear words), drawing attention (4 swear words), aggression or emphasis (12 swear words), regressive (2 swear words), and group identity (3 swear words). Meanwhile, based on reference, the swear words were found to relate to religion (4 swear words), sex (10 swear words), excrement (2 swear words), animals (4 swear words), personal background (3 swear words), mental illness (4 swear words), and sexual activity (2 swear words).

Based on these findings, it is important for English learners and international visitors to understand not only the vocabulary but also the context, cultural significance, and function behind English swear words. Misinterpreting or misusing these expressions can lead to social misunderstandings or offense. Understanding the complexity of English swearing can foster more respectful, effective communication and cultural sensitivity, particularly in multicultural or international environments.

In this research, data was obtained through analysis of selected examples, but the study is limited in scope as it did not include a broader range of participants or contexts. This limits the generalizability of the findings across all English-speaking populations. The swear words identified reflect commonly used expressions but may vary in different regions or social groups. Therefore, future research could expand the scope by including different English-speaking countries or cultural settings, and by comparing English swear words with those of other languages. A comparative approach may reveal deeper insights into how different cultures use profanity and for what purposes. It is expected that this research will serve as a useful foundation and point of reference for future studies in the field of sociolinguistics and language education, particularly in understanding language taboos and their cultural implications.

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