

Swear Words Used by Dutch

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify Dutch swear words and analyze their form, function, and reference using a descriptive qualitative approach. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews, while secondary data were collected via document analysis. The researcher served as the main research instrument, supported by a questionnaire for selecting relevant swear words and an interview guide to explore their function and reference. The participants included three Dutch tourists visiting Bali, selected based on predetermined criteria. The analysis identified 46 Dutch swear words, categorized by their form: words (31), phrases (9), and clauses (6). In terms of function, the swear words were used to draw attention (7), discredit someone or something (32), provoke (28), and provide catharsis (6). References of the swear words were grouped into several categories, including animal (6), religion (1), scatology (5), sexual reproductive organ (6), sexual activity (8), kinship (1), disease (6), and mental incapacity (7). The findings comprehensively address the research questions and highlight the complexity of Dutch swearing. This study also underscores the potential for misinterpretation in cross-cultural interactions involving taboo language. The results contribute to the broader understanding of linguistic expression, sociocultural context, and pragmatic functions of swearing in Dutch.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kata-kata umpatan dalam bahasa Belanda dan menganalisis bentuk, fungsi, dan referensinya dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Data primer diperoleh melalui wawancara mendalam, sedangkan data sekunder dikumpulkan melalui analisis dokumen. Peneliti berperan sebagai instrumen penelitian utama, didukung oleh kuesioner untuk memilih kata-kata umpatan yang relevan dan panduan wawancara untuk mengeksplorasi fungsi dan referensinya. Partisipan penelitian ini terdiri dari tiga orang wisatawan Belanda yang berkunjung ke Bali, yang dipilih berdasarkan kriteria yang telah ditentukan. Hasil analisis mengidentifikasi 46 kata umpatan dalam bahasa Belanda, yang dikategorikan berdasarkan bentuknya: kata (31), frasa (9), dan klausa (6). Dari segi fungsi, kata-kata umpatan tersebut digunakan untuk menarik perhatian (7), mendiskreditkan seseorang atau sesuatu (32), memprovokasi (28), dan memberikan katarsis (6). Referensi dari kata-kata umpatan tersebut dikelompokkan ke dalam beberapa kategori, termasuk binatang (6), agama (1), skatologi (5), organ reproduksi seksual (6), aktivitas seksual (8), kekerabatan (1), penyakit (6), dan ketidakmampuan mental (7). Temuan-temuan ini secara komprehensif menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan penelitian dan menyoroti kompleksitas umpatan dalam bahasa Belanda. Penelitian ini juga menggarisbawahi potensi salah tafsir dalam interaksi lintas budaya yang melibatkan bahasa tabu. Hasil penelitian ini berkontribusi pada pemahaman yang

lebih luas tentang ekspresi linguistik, konteks sosiokultural, dan fungsi pragmatis umpatan dalam bahasa Belanda.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa Belanda; Bentuk Umpatan; Fungsi Umpatan; Referensi Umpatan.

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Introduction

Language plays a vital role in human interaction as a medium for communicating information, expressing emotions, conveying ideas, and maintaining social relationships (Dewipayani et al., 2017; Juidah et al., 2024). Through language, individuals construct meaning and build understanding in specific social contexts. Effective communication occurs when a message is successfully delivered and understood by both speaker and listener. However, not all forms of language promote effective communication. Certain types of expressions, especially those considered inappropriate or offensive, may lead to misunderstanding and disruption in social interaction. One such linguistic phenomenon is the use of swear words expressions that are often perceived as offensive, disrespectful, or taboo (Islamiyah, 2022; Saniada et al., 2023; Yani et al., 2017).

The functions of swear words vary widely. People may swear to insult others, release frustration, express surprise, or strengthen the emotional tone of a statement (Juidah et al., 2024; Yani et al., 2017). The pragmatic value of these expressions is closely linked to the culture in which they are used. Cultural norms define what is considered offensive or acceptable, and this varies significantly across societies. For instance, research by Lutzky and Kehoe (2016) found that in American English, swear words particularly religious expressions—are often used casually and may not always be considered offensive. In contrast, Wisudayanti (2020) found that in Indonesia, particularly in Bali, the use of swear words is generally frowned upon and deemed highly disrespectful, especially in public or when addressing elders. These findings highlight the importance of cultural context in interpreting the meaning and appropriateness of swear words.

Dutch culture is characterized by a relatively high degree of linguistic directness, where even swear words are sometimes used casually in everyday conversation (Olson, 2024). Dutch speakers may not always intend to offend when using such language; instead, these expressions can serve various pragmatic purposes, including humor, emphasis, or emotional relief (Lin et al., 2018; Roest et al., 2018). However, this casualness can become problematic in cross-cultural interactions, especially with people from more reserved cultures like Indonesia. Furthermore, while swearing may be accepted in informal Dutch contexts, it is usually deemed inappropriate in formal or professional settings, indicating a clear distinction between language registers within the Dutch-speaking community. These nuances must be understood to ensure respectful and effective communication between Dutch tourists and Balinese locals.

In recent years, several studies have explored the phenomenon of swearing in different languages and cultural contexts. For example, Sajarwa (2021) analyzed animal-related swearing in French and concluded that such expressions often equate humans with animals to demean or insult. Meanwhile, Saniada et al. (2023) examined the use of swear words among children in Poh Bergong Village and identified multiple types and functions of swearing, emphasizing its early acquisition and varied usage even at a young age. While these studies offer valuable insights into swearing in various languages, the use of Dutch swear words remains relatively underexplored in academic literature.

Given the cultural and communicative challenges outlined above, this study seeks to fill the research gap by examining Dutch swear words in terms of their form, function, and reference. The purpose is to understand how certain Dutch expressions become offensive in specific

contexts and how their meaning and usage may differ across cultures. By analyzing the pragmatic and cultural aspects of Dutch swearing, the study aims to contribute to improved cross-cultural understanding, especially in tourism contexts involving Dutch-speaking visitors. The significance of this research lies in its potential to help tourism practitioners, language educators, and intercultural communicators navigate the challenges posed by linguistic and cultural differences. The study is guided by the theoretical framework of Pinker (2010) and Hughes (1998), which emphasize the emotional, contextual, and cultural dimensions of swearing.

The use of swear words as a sociolinguistic phenomenon has drawn the attention of researchers across various languages and cultural contexts. Several studies have attempted to classify and analyze swear words based on their form, reference, and function, shedding light on how such expressions are embedded in sociocultural values. These investigations have primarily utilized descriptive qualitative methods to explore swearing as a pragmatic and expressive form of language. One of the foundational studies in this area was conducted by Yani et al. (2017), who compared the use of swear words in Balinese and American cultures. Employing a descriptive qualitative approach, the researchers identified similarities between the two cultures in terms of the forms, references, and functions of swear words. Despite these findings, the study's reliance on data sourced from movies, the internet, and journals limited the scope of its generalizability. The dataset did not fully represent the wider population, signaling the need for more expansive and diverse data sources in future studies.

Similarly, Dewipayani et al. (2017) conducted a study focusing exclusively on swear words in the Balinese language. Using observation, interviews, and audio recordings, the study involved informants aged 25 and above from Cempaga Village in North Bali. Their research categorized Balinese swear words into several forms, including single words, phrases, and clauses. The references were broadly divided into nine categories: religion, body function, excrement, animal terms, activity, personal background, mental illness, devils, and kinship. Additionally, the study found multiple functions of swearing, such as drawing attention, providing catharsis, provoking reactions, and creating interpersonal identity. However, the study was limited by its narrow demographic focus, as it did not include perspectives from younger generations or other regions of Bali. Wisudayanti (2020) explored swear word usage among private English course students in Buleleng, Bali. Her study highlighted the socio-cultural dimension of swearing, revealing that words related to religion, sex, excrement, animals, and mental illness were commonly used. These words, although deemed rude, were part of everyday expressions in the Buleleng community. Yet, the study's limited geographic and demographic scope made it difficult to extrapolate the findings to other regions or social groups. A more extensive comparative framework could have enriched the analysis and offered a broader understanding of swear word usage in Balinese society.

Importantly, none of the aforementioned studies have investigated the use of Dutch swear words in depth. Although Dutch culture is often associated with linguistic directness and a high degree of tolerance toward informal or expressive speech (Olson, 2024; Lin et al., 2018), little academic attention has been paid to understanding how swear words function within Dutch society or how they are interpreted across cultural boundaries. This gap becomes particularly relevant in intercultural communication contexts, such as tourism in Bali, where Dutch tourists may use expressions that are misunderstood or deemed offensive by locals.

Given this gap in the literature, the present study adopts a descriptive qualitative approach to explore the use of Dutch swear words. This method allows for a detailed analysis of how these words are formed, what they refer to, and what functions they serve in everyday communication. It also supports a deeper understanding of cultural and linguistic nuances, which is crucial for fostering more effective and respectful intercultural communication. By examining Dutch swearing practices within a sociolinguistic framework and comparing them to findings from other cultures, this study aims to contribute to the growing body of research on the pragmatic use of taboo language in global contexts.

Metode

This study employed a descriptive qualitative design to explore the forms, references, and functions of Dutch swear words. Data collection included document analysis, questionnaires, and interviews, allowing an in-depth understanding of how Dutch individuals use swear words in real contexts. The research was conducted in Sanur, Bali, a location chosen for its accessibility and large population of Dutch tourists and residents. The study involved three Dutch informants selected through purposive sampling based on the following criteria: native Dutch speakers, currently residing in Bali, aged 17–65, proficient in Dutch and English, knowledgeable about Dutch culture, and available for interviews. Primary data were obtained from informants through interviews and questionnaires, while secondary data were gathered from books, articles, and related documents. Instruments included the researcher as the key instrument, structured questionnaires, and an interview guide to ensure consistency and depth in data collection. Data were analyzed using Miles and Huberman's (1994) model: Data reduction involved filtering and organizing relevant information into categories. Data display used tables to present patterns clearly. Conclusion drawing and verification were based on triangulated findings to ensure validity. To enhance trustworthiness, the study used data triangulation (comparing interviews, questionnaires, and documents) and method triangulation (combining multiple data collection methods) to ensure the reliability and credibility of results.

Findings and Discussion

The findings in this research focus on the swear words used, the forms of swear words, and the functions of swear words used by Dutch and also presents the references of swear words used by Dutch.

1. The Swear Words Used by Dutch

Table 1. Swear Words Used by Dutch

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>godverdomme</i> | god damn it |
| 2. | <i>kut</i> | shit |
| 3. | <i>dikzak</i> | fatass |
| 4. | <i>slet</i> | slut, dirty whore |
| 5. | <i>jij bent een trut</i> | you are a bitch |
| 6. | <i>klootzak</i> | asshole, bastard |
| 7. | <i>idioot</i> | idiot |
| 8. | <i>zo dom al seen ezel</i> | as stupid as a donkey |
| 9. | <i>je bent echt een zak</i> | you are an ass |
| 10. | <i>flikker op</i> | "fuck off" or "get lost" |
| 11. | <i>krijg de kanker!</i> | get the cancer! |
| 12. | <i>kankerlijer</i> | cancer sufferer |
| 13. | <i>je moeder</i> | your mother |
| 14. | <i>lafaard</i> | coward |
| 15. | <i>ezel</i> | the literal meaning of donkey, used on calling someone "stupid" |
| 16. | <i>dwaas</i> | fool |
| 17. | <i>malloot</i> | moron |
| 18. | <i>hoer</i> | whore |
| 19. | <i>kutwijf</i> | cunt, bitch |
| 20. | <i>krijg de tering!</i> | "get the tuberculosis!" is similar on saying "go to hell!" |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 21. | <i>wie de fuk denk je dat jij bent?</i> | who the fuck do you think you are? |
| 22. | <i>schijt</i> | shit |
| 23. | <i>je bent zo'n eikel</i> | you are such a jerk! |
| 24. | <i>hufter</i> | jerk, asshole |
| 25. | <i>je bent echt een lul!</i> | you are a dick! |
| 26. | <i>kankerhoer</i> | cancer whore |
| 27. | <i>gek</i> | crazy, idiot |
| 28. | <i>mafkees</i> | weirdo, fool |
| 29. | <i>halvegare</i> | imbecile, weirdo |
| 30. | <i>krijg het schijt!</i> | get the shit! |
| 31. | <i>zeiken</i> | bullshitting |
| 32. | <i>hou je muil</i> | shut the fuck up |
| 33. | <i>kreng</i> | mean woman, bitch |
| 34. | <i>krijg de tyfus!</i> | "get the typhus!" is similar on saying "go to hell!" |
| 35. | <i>hou je bek dicht!</i> | shut your fucking mouth! |
| 36. | <i>kankerlul</i> | cancer dick |
| 37. | <i>kankerwijf</i> | cancer bitch |
| 38. | <i>kloten</i> | literal meaning "testicles" or "balls" (male genital organ), often used to refer to someone's annoying |
| 39. | <i>kutding</i> | fucking thing |
| 40. | <i>zuig mijn lul</i> | suck my dick |
| 41. | <i> hoerenjong</i> | son of a bitch |
| 42. | <i>hoerenzoon</i> | son of a whore |
| 43. | <i>kak</i> | shit |
| 44. | <i>rotzak</i> | bastard |
| 45. | <i>teef</i> | bitch |
| 46. | <i>sukkel</i> | dumbass |

2. Forms of Swear Words Used by Dutch

a. Words

1). Monomorphemic

Table 2. The Swear Word Used by Dutch in Morphological Structure of Monomorphemic

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>kut</i> | a vulgar term for female genitalia, similar on saying "shit" |
| 2. | <i>slet</i> | slut, dirty whore |
| 3. | <i>idioot</i> | idiot |
| 4. | <i>ezel</i> | the literal meaning of donkey, used on calling someone "stupid" |
| 5. | <i>lafaard</i> | coward |
| 6. | <i>dwaas</i> | fool |
| 7. | <i>malloot</i> | moron |
| 8. | <i>hoer</i> | whore |
| 9. | <i>schijt</i> | shit |
| 10. | <i>hufter</i> | jerk, asshole |
| 11. | <i>gek</i> | crazy, idiot |

| | | |
|-----|---------------|--|
| 12. | <i>zeiken</i> | bullshitting |
| 13. | <i>kreng</i> | mean woman, bitch |
| 14. | <i>kak</i> | shit |
| 15. | <i>teef</i> | the literal meaning of female dog, used on calling someone a "bitch" |
| 16. | <i>sukkel</i> | dumbass |

Table 2 shows the results of swear words in Dutch, in which 16 swear words are in the monomorphemic morphological structure. The swear words are *kut*, *slet*, *idioot*, *ezel*, *lafaard*, *dwaas*, *malloot*, *hoer*, *shijt*, *hufter*, *gek*, *zeiken*, *kreng*, *kak*, *teef*, and *sukkel*. These swear words are classified as monomorphemic words because each word consists of a single morpheme that carries its complete meaning independently. Moreover, a monomorphemic cannot be broken down into smaller meaningful units without additional morpheme attached. Thus, it represents the simplest form of a word, containing only one morpheme that carries meaning.

2). Polymorphemic

Table 3. The Swear Word Used by Dutch in Morphological Structure of Polymorphemic

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning | Morphemes |
|-----|--------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | <i>godverdomme</i> | god damn it | <i>god + ver + domme</i> |
| 2. | <i>dikzak</i> | fatass | <i>dik + zak</i> |
| 3. | <i>klootzak</i> | asshole | <i>kloot + zak</i> |
| 4. | <i>kankerlijer</i> | cancer sufferer | <i>kanker + lijer</i> |
| 5. | <i>kutwijf</i> | cunt, bitch | <i>kut + wijf</i> |
| 6. | <i>kankerhoer</i> | cancer whore | <i>kanker + hoer</i> |
| 7. | <i>mafkees</i> | idiot, fool | <i>maf + kees</i> |
| 8. | <i>halvegare</i> | imbecile, weirdo | <i>halve + gare</i> |
| 9. | <i>kankerlul</i> | cancer dick | <i>kanker + lul</i> |
| 10. | <i>kankerwijf</i> | cancer bitch | <i>kanker + wijf</i> |
| 11. | <i>kloten</i> | literal meaning "testicles" or "balls" (male genital organ) | <i>kloot + en</i> |
| 12. | <i>kutding</i> | "fucking shit" or "damn thing" | <i>kut + ding</i> |
| 13. | <i>hoerenjong</i> | son of a bitch | <i>hoer + jong</i> |
| 14. | <i>hoerenzoon</i> | son of a whore | <i>hoer + zoon</i> |
| 15. | <i>rotzak</i> | bastard | <i>rot + zak</i> |

Table 3 presents the results of Dutch swear words, showing that 15 of them have a polymorphemic morphological structure. Those swear words are classified as polymorphemic because they consist of more than one morpheme.

a. Phrase

1). Noun Phrase

This section presents swear words used by Dutch people in the form of verb phrases, as shown below.

Table 4. The Swear Word Used by Dutch in The Form of Noun Phrase

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning | Noun |
|----|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | <i>je moeder</i> | Your mother | <i>moeder</i> |

Table 4 shows the results swear words used by Dutch, identifying one swear words in the form of noun phrase, namely *je moeder*.

2). Verb Phrase

Table 5. The Swear Word Used by Dutch in The Form of Verb Phrase

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning | Verb |
|----|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. | <i>flikker op</i> | "fuck off" or "get lost" | <i>flikker</i> |
| 2. | <i>krijg de kanker</i> | get the cancer | <i>krijg</i> |
| 3. | <i>krijg de tering</i> | "get the tuberculosis" is similar on saying "go to hell!" | <i>krijg</i> |
| 4. | <i>krijg het schijt</i> | get the shit | <i>krijg</i> |
| 5. | <i>hou je muil</i> | shut the fuck up | <i>hou</i> |
| 6. | <i>krijg de tyfus</i> | "get the typhus" is similar on saying "go to hell" | <i>krijg</i> |
| 7. | <i>zuig mijn lul</i> | suck my dick | <i>zuig</i> |

Table 5 shows the results swear words that are used by Dutch, identifying seven swear words in the form of verb phrase; *flikker op*, *krijg de kanker*, *krijg de tering*, *krijg het schijt*, *hou je muil*, *krijg de tyfus*, and *zuig mijn lul*.

3). Adjective Phrase

Table 6. The Swear Word Used by Dutch in The Form of Adjective Phrase

| No | Ducth Swear Words | Meaning | Adjective |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. | <i>zo dom al seen ezel</i> | As stupid as a donkey | <i>dom</i> |

Table 6 presents the results of Dutch swear words, identifying one swear words in the form of adjective phrase, namely *zo dom al seen ezel*.

b. Swear Words in Forms of Clause

1). Independent Clause

In this section swear words used by Dutch people in the form of independent clause shown as follows.

Table 7. The Swear Words Used by Dutch in The Forms of Independent Clause

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>jij bent een trut</i> | You are a bitch |
| 2. | <i>je bent echt een zak</i> | You are an ass |
| 3. | <i>je bent zo'n eikel</i> | You are such a jerk |
| 4. | <i>wie de fuk denk je dat jij bent?</i> | Who the fuck do you think you are? |
| 5. | <i>je bent echt een lul!</i> | You are a dick! |
| 6. | <i>hou je bek dicht!</i> | Shut your fucking mouth! |

Table 7 presents the results of Dutch swear words in forms of independent clause, identifying six independent clause of Dutch swear words: *jij bent een trut*, *je bent echt een zak*, *je bent zo'n eikel*, *wie de fuk denk je dat jij bent*, *je bent echt een lul*, and *hou je bek dicht*.

3. References of Swear Words Used by Dutch

a. Animal References

Table 8. Swear Words that Refers to Animal Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>ezel</i> | the literal meaning of donkey, used on calling someone "stupid" |
| 2. | <i>teef</i> | the literal meaning of female dog, used on calling someone a "bitch" |
| 3. | <i>kreng</i> | mean woman, bitch (literally means dead bod of animal) |
| 4. | <i>zo dom al seen ezel</i> | as stupid as a donkey |
| 5. | <i>hou je bek dicht!</i> | shut your fucking mouth! (<i>bek</i> means animal's mouth) |
| 6. | <i>hou je muil</i> | shut the fuck up (<i>muil</i> means animal's jaw, commonly like dogs or lions) |

b. Religion References

In this section swear words that refer to religion used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 9. Swear Words that Refers to Religion Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. | <i>godverdomme</i> | god damn it |

c. Scatology References

In this section swear words that refer to scatology used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 10. Swear Words that Refers to Scatology Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | <i>schijt</i> | shit |
| 2. | <i>kak</i> | shit |
| 3. | <i>kutding</i> | "fucking shit" or "damn thing" |
| 4. | <i>zeiken</i> | bullshitting |
| 5. | <i>krijg het schijt</i> | get the shit |

d. Sexual Reproductive Organ References

In this section swear words that refer to sexual reproductive organ used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 11. Swear Words that Refers to Sexual Reproductive Organ Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>kut</i> | a vulgar term for female genitalia, similar on saying "shit" |
| 2. | <i>klootzak</i> | asshole |
| 3. | <i>kloten</i> | literal meaning "testicles" or "balls" (male genital organ), often used to refer to someone's annoying or something bad |
| 4. | <i>zuig mijn lul</i> | suck my dick |
| 5. | <i>je bent zo'n eikel</i> | You are such a jerk |
| 6. | <i>je bent echt een lul!</i> | you are a dick! |

e. Sexual Activity References

In this section swear words that refer to sexual activity used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 12. Swear Words that Refers to Sexual Activity Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | <i>hoer</i> | whore |
| 2. | <i>slet</i> | slut, dirty whore |
| 3. | <i>flikker op</i> | "fuck off" or "get lost" |
| 4. | <i>kankerhoer</i> | cancer whore |
| 5. | <i>kutwif</i> | cunt, bitch |
| 6. | <i>hoerenjong</i> | son of a bitch |
| 7. | <i>hoerenzoon</i> | son of a whore |
| 8. | <i>ij bent een trut</i> | you are a bitch |

f. Kinship References

In this section, swear words that refer to kinship used by Dutch people are presented in terms of their meaning, as follows.

Table 13. Swear Words that Refers to Kinship Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. | <i>je moeder</i> | your mother |

g. Disease References

In this section, swear words that refer to disease used by Dutch people are presented in terms of their meaning, as follows.

Table 14. Swear Words that Refers to Disease Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|------------------------|--|
| 1. | <i>kankerlijer</i> | cancer sufferer |
| 2. | <i>kankerlul</i> | cancer dick |
| 3. | <i>kankerwif</i> | cancer bitch |
| 4. | <i>krijg de kanker</i> | get the cancer |
| 5. | <i>krijg de tyfus</i> | "get the typhus" is similar on saying "go to hell" |
| 6. | <i>krijg de tering</i> | get the tuberculosis |

h. Mental Incapacity References

In this section swear words that refer to mental incapacity used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 15. Swear Words that Refers to Mental Incapacity Used by Dutch

| No | List of Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. | <i>idiot</i> | idiot |
| 2. | <i>dwaas</i> | fool |
| 3. | <i>malloot</i> | moron, fool |
| 4. | <i>gek</i> | crazy, idiot |
| 5. | <i>mafkees</i> | weirdo, fool |
| 6. | <i>halvegare</i> | imbecile, weirdo |

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------|
| 7. | <i>sukkel</i> | dumbass |
|----|---------------|---------|

4. Functions of Swear Words Used by Dutch

a. To Draw Attention

In this section swear words that function to draw attention used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 16. Dutch Swear Words Function to Draw Attention

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|--------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>kut</i> | a vulgar term for female genitalia, similar on saying "shit" |
| 2. | <i>schijt</i> | shit |
| 3. | <i>zeiken</i> | bullshitting |
| 4. | <i>kak</i> | shit |
| 5. | <i>godverdomme</i> | god damn it |
| 6. | <i>kloten</i> | literal meaning "testicles" or "balls" (male genital organ), often used to refer to someone's annoying or something bad |
| 7. | <i>kutding</i> | "fucking shit" or "damn thing" |

Swear words have different functions in communication, depending on the context in which they are used. Based on table 4.16, it shows that Dutch swear words function to draw attention, including *kut*, *schijt*, *zeiken*, *kak*, *godverdomme*, *kloten*, and *kutding*.

b. To Discredit Someone or Something

In this section swear words that function to discredit someone or something used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 17. Dutch Swear Words Function to Discredit Someone or Something

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1. | <i>slet</i> | slut, dirty whore |
| 2. | <i>idioot</i> | idiot |
| 3. | <i>ezel</i> | the literal meaning of donkey, used on calling someone "stupid" |
| 4. | <i>lafaard</i> | coward |
| 5. | <i>dwaas</i> | fool |
| 6. | <i>malloot</i> | moron |
| 7. | <i>hoer</i> | whore |
| 8. | <i>hufter</i> | jerk, asshole |
| 9. | <i>gek</i> | crazy, idiot |
| 10. | <i>kreng</i> | mean woman, bitch |
| 11. | <i>teef</i> | the literal meaning of female dog, used on calling someone a "bitch" |
| 12. | <i>sukkel</i> | dumbass |
| 13. | <i>dikzak</i> | fatass |
| 14. | <i>klootzak</i> | asshole |
| 15. | <i>kankerlijer</i> | cancer sufferer |
| 16. | <i>kutwijf</i> | cunt, bitch |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| 17. | <i>kankerhoer</i> | cancer whore |
| 18. | <i>mafkees</i> | idiot, fool |
| 19. | <i>halvegare</i> | imbecile, weirdo |
| 20. | <i>kankerlul</i> | cancer dick |
| 21. | <i>kankerwif</i> | cancer bitch |
| 22. | <i>hoerenjong</i> | son of a bitch |
| 23. | <i>hoerenzoon</i> | son of a whore |
| 24. | <i>rotzak</i> | bastard |
| 25. | <i>flikker op</i> | "fuck off" or "get lost" |
| 26. | <i>zo dom al seen ezel</i> | as stupid as a donkey |
| 27. | <i>krijg de kanker</i> | get the cancer |
| 28. | <i>krijg de tering</i> | "get the tuberculosis" is similar on saying "go to hell!" |
| 29. | <i>krijg het schijt</i> | get the shit |
| 30. | <i>krijg de tyfus</i> | "get the typhus" is similar on saying "go to hell" |
| 31. | <i>je bent echt een zak</i> | You are an ass |
| 32. | <i>je bent zo'n eikel</i> | You are such a jerk |

Based on table 17., it presents 32 swear words in Dutch that function used to discredit or damaging someone's reputation or social standing. These words vary in intensity and offensiveness, ranging from mild derogatory terms to highly offensive swearing.

c. To Provoke

In this section swear words that function to provoke used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 18. Dutch Swear Words Function to Provoke

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1. | <i>slet</i> | slut, dirty whore |
| 2. | <i>hoer</i> | whore |
| 3. | <i>hufter</i> | jerk, asshole |
| 4. | <i>zeiken</i> | bullshitting |
| 5. | <i>kreng</i> | mean woman, bitch |
| 6. | <i>teef</i> | the literal meaning of female dog, used on calling someone a "bitch" |
| 7. | <i>dikzak</i> | fatass |
| 8. | <i>klootzak</i> | asshole |
| 9. | <i>kankerlijer</i> | cancer sufferer |
| 10. | <i>kutwif</i> | cunt, bitch |
| 11. | <i>kankerhoer</i> | cancer whore |
| 12. | <i>kankerlul</i> | cancer dick |
| 13. | <i>kankerwif</i> | cancer bitch |
| 14. | <i>hoerenjong</i> | son of a bitch |
| 15. | <i>hoerenzoon</i> | son of a whore |
| 16. | <i>rotzak</i> | bastard |
| 17. | <i>je moeder</i> | Your mother |
| 18. | <i>flikker op</i> | "fuck off" or "get lost" |

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 19. | <i>krijg de kanker</i> | get the cancer |
| 20. | <i>krijg de toring</i> | "get the tuberculosis" is similar on saying "go to hell!" |
| 21. | <i>krijg het schijt</i> | get the shit |
| 22. | <i>hou je muil</i> | shut the fuck up |
| 23. | <i>krijg de tyfus</i> | "get the typhus" is similar on saying "go to hell" |
| 24. | <i>hou je bek dicht!</i> | shut your fucking mouth! |
| 25. | <i>zuig mijn lul</i> | suck my dick |
| 26. | <i>jij bent een trut</i> | You are a bitch |
| 27. | <i>wie de fuk denk je dat jij bent?</i> | Who the fuck do you think you are? |
| 28. | <i>je bent echt een lul!</i> | You are a dick! |

Based on table 18, presents 28 swear words in Dutch that function primarily to provoke an emotional or aggressive response.

d. To Provide Catharsis

In this section swear words that function to provide catharsis used by Dutch people are shown as follows.

Table 19. Dutch Swear Words Function to Provide Catharsis

| No | Dutch Swear Words | Meaning |
|----|--------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>kut</i> | a vulgar term for female genitalia, similar on saying "shit" |
| 2. | <i>schijt</i> | shit |
| 3. | <i>kak</i> | shit |
| 4. | <i>godverdomme</i> | god damn it |
| 5. | <i>kloten</i> | literal meaning "testicles" or "balls" (male genital organ), often used to refer to someone's annoying or something bad |
| 6. | <i>kutding</i> | "fucking shit" or "damn thing" |

Based on table 19, presents six swear words by Dutch people that primarily serve to provide catharsis, allowing one to express frustration, pain, or strong emotions.

Based on the research results, there are a total of 46 Dutch swear words. All the swear words are classified based on form, which consists of words (monomorphemic: 16, polymorphemic: 15), phrases (9), and clauses (6). Based on function, the swear words are categorized into drawing attention (7), discrediting (32), provoking (28), and providing catharsis (6). Meanwhile, based on the reference, the swear words are categorized into animals (6), religion (1), scatology (5), sexual reproductive organs (6), sexual activity (8), kinship (1), disease (6), and mental incapacity (7). Based on this, it was found that Dutch swear words are mostly used to discredit and provoke others. Some swear words were also found to serve more than one function. In terms of references, mental incapacity and sexual activity are the most prominent themes in Dutch swearing.

For comparison with recent studies, the previous study entitled "An Analysis of Balinese Swearwords of English Private Course Students in Buleleng Regency" by Wisudayanti (2020), used the same descriptive qualitative method. Both studies analyze references to religion, sex, excrement, animals, and mental illness. However, the present study on Dutch swearing includes additional references to disease and kinship, showing broader variation.

Meanwhile, similarities with Yani et al. (2017) include the examination of swear word functions, revealing that swear words serve both negative and bonding purposes in different contexts. This study, however, found no functions related to group identity or regression, unlike in some previous research. Also, unlike Dewi et al. (2017) who found devil and personal background related swearing in Balinese, these were not found in the Dutch context. The study also identified six Dutch swear words that do not fit the established reference categories. These include *dikzak*, *lafaard*, *hufter*, and *rotzak*, which are used to criticize someone's behavior or character without referencing animals, sex, religion, or illness. Rather than excluding them, a deeper analysis of their semantic and cultural functions would be valuable. These may reflect a tendency in Dutch culture to use general character attacks as a form of verbal insult, emphasizing personality traits rather than taboo references. Furthermore, while the classification of forms and references is clear, future studies should explore the social and contextual use of these swear words. Understanding the impact of tone, relationship between speakers, and setting would offer richer insights into how swearing functions in Dutch society. A more nuanced cultural lens would also help explain why disease and mental incapacity appear frequently in Dutch swearing—possibly reflecting historical or societal tensions around health and cognition.

Conclusion

Based on the research findings, a total of 46 Dutch swear words were identified. These swear words were classified by form, function, and reference. In terms of form, they were divided into words (monomorphemic and polymorphemic), phrases (noun, verb, and adjective), and clauses (independent). Based on their functions, Dutch swear words were used to draw attention, discredit, provoke, and provide catharsis. Most of the swear words functioned to discredit and provoke others. No instances of interpersonal identification were found. In terms of reference, eight categories were identified: animal names, religion, scatology, sexual organs, sexual activity, kinship, disease, and mental incapacity. The most common references were sexual activity and mental incapacity. Additionally, six swear words (e.g., *dikzak*, *rotzak*) did not fall under these categories and were considered general swearing. Compared to previous studies such as Wisudayanti (2020) and Yani et al. (2017), this study shares similarities in using descriptive qualitative methods and in examining functions and references. However, this study identified a broader range of functional categories and found references not limited to religion, sex, and animals but extending to kinship, mental incapacity, and disease, emphasizing negative connotations in Dutch swearing. Unlike some other cultures where swear words may foster intimacy, this study found no evidence of positive social bonding functions. While the research effectively categorized Dutch swear words, a deeper analysis of cultural context could enrich understanding. For instance, why diseases and mental incapacity are prominent references in Dutch swearing could reflect societal taboos or cultural sensitivities.

This study was limited to three Dutch tourists in Bali, and their language use may have been influenced by the vacation setting. Future studies should explore a broader demographic and different settings (e.g., within the Netherlands). Comparative research between Dutch and other languages could provide richer insights into cultural influences on swearing. Lastly, deeper contextual and cultural interpretations of swear words such as tone, speaker

relationship, and situational use are recommended for future exploration to fully capture their social and emotional significance.

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