

SWEAR WORDS IN THE COMIC “HANLIM GYM” ENGLISH VERSION: PRAGMATIC APPROACH

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Abstract: Swearing is a word spoken when the speaker is in an emotional state, usually with a negative connotation. However, in this study, swearing no longer has a negative meaning depending on the circumstances in which the words are used. The purpose of this research is to uncover the phenomenon of swear word usage in the comic "Hanlim Gym." The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative and the data collection technique is not-taking. The results of this study reveal that there are some forms of swear words with different functions in the "Hanlim Gym" comic. Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that there are six functions of swear words in the comic, namely: swearing as an expression of anger, creating a sense of closeness, expressing surprise, annoyance, and sarcasm.

Key words : Swear words, Forms, Comic

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language has a very important role in human daily life. Various human activities require language as a tool to convey thoughts, plan activities, carry out buying and selling transaction in market, in the world of education, and others. The use of language in communication can also be used as an indicator to identify emotional condition or human feelings. This feeling can vary, such as happiness, sadness, or anger (Jannah & Mulyono, 2021). One of the feelings that people often experience is anger and annoyance. In these circumstances, people tend to express their feelings using swear words. (Feldman in Rizky 2018) states that there are six kinds of emotions in humans, namely, joy, surprise, sadness, anger, fear and hate. When showing expressions of anger, hatred and surprise, someone usually uses curse words/ swear words to express their mood. One of the feelings that humans often experience is anger or annoyance. In these conditions, people tend to express their feelings in harsh language, or even in the form of swearing. Swear word is used by many people in this world to express their emotional pressures, and it is clearly human behavior, that cannot be separated from our verbal communication. Swear words are a natural part of language, and they are undoubtedly one of the most efficient ways to express our frustration in difficult situations. Swearing can not only be found in films or songs, and is only verbal. but it can also be in the form of writing such as comics, novels, short stories and others. Usually the language used in comics is short dialogue that reflects real life and generally uses everyday conversational language (Fransiska, 2018)

In the world of comics, especially the action genre, swear words often appear as part of character dialogue or narration which aims to add intensity and dynamics to the story. Not only in Indonesian, swear words can also be found in English, Japanese, Korean and others. One example of a comic that features characters using swear words is "hallim gym". This comic is one of the popular action genre comics and many swear words are found in the comic. Swear words (taboo words) have become an increasingly unique phenomenon with the increasing number of swear words being discovered and spoken by various groups, starting from adults, teenagers and even children to express their feelings (Kaeng, 2017).

In general, swear words are used when someone is angry. It can be interpreted that this is a strategy for venting feelings or emotions. However, what is unique is that swear words can also be said with the same words but have different meanings depending on the context, mood, and the relationship between the speaker and the speech partner. Even though swear words are harsh words and are considered inappropriate to be expressed, the meaning of swear words can be different, depending on the use and situation when the words are used. Several years ago some words are unusual and taboo to say, but nowadays it is already changed. The word "Asu" when interpreted from the Bugis language means dog, which was originally used as a word to describe an animal, but over time it became an insult that is unpleasant to the ears when listened to (Muhammad Fajar, 2020) shows that a word can be changed depending on how it is used and what the context is. It all depends on how we use the word in conversation or writing.

Swearing is one of the methods often used to express anger. However, in the current era, swearing is no longer necessarily associated with anger. As research by Ibda (Ibda, 2019), it has been stated that forms of swearing are not only uttered when the speaker is angry, but also when they are happy, amazed, surprised, or in awe. In other words, apart from being a means of expressing offense, anger, annoyance and so on, dirty words can also have different meanings. Quoted from (Safir Makki, 2023), academic Rocky was furious when he opened his voice regarding the news which insulted the president. He said that the words, "stupid and bastard" were his expression to criticize the president's policy which coincidentally is currently being carried out by Mr. Jokowi, meaning that it's not an insult to Jokowi's person or personality. According to him, expressions like that are quite common in democratic political debate forums. He also added that the word "bastard" is a term that shows familiarity. Therefore, the use of swear words back again depends on the motivation and context of its use.

Along with the increase in action comic popularity in various platforms, both printed and digital, there is a need to understand the types of swear words used, and the context of their use. The cursing words in the hallim gym comic became the main focus in this study to then reveal the form, meaning, and function of the cursing words. Several studies have been conducted regarding swear words. (Astuti, S.S.P., Fadilah, N.N., & Sobari, 2018) discussed about forms of insults/swear and references in social media. The results of the research show that there are three swearing references used in social media, namely references in terms of circumstances, animals and professions. Even though the research method and topic are the same, the approaches used by both studies are different so that they receive different results. (Kaeng, 2017) investigates the types and meaning of swear words in the film "Why Him?" using Pinker's theory (2007) and Urban Dictionary. The topics discussed in that research and this research are the same. Both studies discuss swear words. However, there are differences between the two studies. Firstly, the objects studied are different, which are film and comic. Apart from that, the findings and approaches used by the two comics are different, resulting in different findings. The study of this curse word is interesting to use the focus of research considering that there is not the number of literature that specifically explores the pragmatic aspects using Jay's understanding in the context of action comics. So this study aims to fill this gap by analyzing types of swear word that often appear in action comics, as well as exploring the impact of their use.

The reason the researcher chose this research topic was the use of swear words which are not always negative. Based on the context of the speech and the motive for its use, the speaker can say swear words because he is happy, disappointed or angry. What's more, no one has raised this object yet. So the research questions are what the types are of swear words used in hallim gym comics and what was the function and motive of the use of these swear words in the context of a comic story.

2. METHOD

The method used in this research is a descriptive-qualitative method. Qualitative descriptive methods are used to describe the form, meaning and function of swear words uttered by characters in the hallim gym comic. The data collection technique is recording. Pragmatics is a theory used as an analytical tool to understand the use of swearing in communication. Pragmatics involves the study of language use in social contexts and human interactions. In the analysis of swearing, a pragmatic approach helps researchers understand how the use of swearing is related to communicative goals, intentions, and effects in certain communication situations.

Swearing is harsh, impolite, or inappropriate words that are often used in situations that trigger emotion, frustration, or as an expression of a spontaneous reaction to something. According to (Sembiring et al., 2019) swearing a natural part of language, and they are undoubtedly one of the most efficient ways to express our frustration in difficult situations. Timothy Jay has studied various aspects of the use of abusive language in society and identified various types of swear words based on the context and purpose of their use. One of them is the four types of swearing consisting of:

1. Emotional Swearing: This type of swearing is used to express negative emotions such as anger, frustration, or dissatisfaction. Emotional swearing is often not directly related to the purpose of communication, but is used as an expression of strong emotions.
2. Interpersonal Swearing: This type of swearing is used to attack or hurt other people's feelings. This can be done directly or can be directed indirectly through the use of derogatory words.
3. Reflexive Swearing: Reflexive swearing is used without direct intention and is often said spontaneously. Typically, reflexive swearing occurs as a reaction to an unexpected or surprising event and arises naturally in stressful or upsetting situations.
4. Conventional Swearing: This type of swearing is used as part of a cultural expression or in a context of excitement, and is sometimes used to achieve a humoristic effect. Conventional swearing is often considered less harsh than emotional or interpersonal swearing.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After collecting data from several chapters in the hanlim gym comic, researcher found several sentences and phrases containing swear word. The cursing/swearing based on the type obtained is as follows:

Table 1. Swearing Word Classification

No	Types of swear words	Amount of data
1	Emotional swearing	1
2	Interpersonal swearing	1
3	Reflexive swearing	1
4	Conventional swearing	1
Total data		4

Researchers will analyze the types of findings above based on the situations in which these swear words are used. Swearing will have different meanings when the people, situation, reference and ways of pronouncing it are different. Therefore, researchers use Jay's theory to better understand the implications of the use of swear words in different contexts.

A. Emotional Swearing

Data 1. "*Eat them alive*"

The phrase "eat them alive" cannot be permanently categorized as a curse; rather, it depends on who, how, and when it is said. For example, if a mother visits her friend and sees her friend's cute baby, she might say, "Aaaa, aku bisa memakannya hidup-hidup." This is considered a conventional expression with a humorous connotation. It changes when said in a different situation. A character in a comic has been a victim of bullying and harsh treatment by a group of delinquents in his environment. They feel they can be mean to people who are weaker than them, including the character named Youngha. After feeling pressured and angry about the treatment, this character decides to take revenge. In this situation, Youngha feels trapped in a cycle of violence and bullying by a group of delinquents. The expression "eat them alive," said with emotion and anger, is an expressive reaction to the frustration and inability to continue accepting the unfair and harmful treatment.. The meaning of this expression is more about actions or situations that really pressure, intimidate, or overpower someone in a very dominant or aggressive way.

Data 2. "*Find him, morons!*"

Speakers use the word "morons" when he feels angry, annoyed, and frustrated, because he got beaten up by stranger. This swearword aims to express the speaker's dissatisfaction or tension towards others who are considered stupid or incompetent. Example: youngha jeon (mc) told his friends "find him" to bring the person who had beaten him up, but one of his friends replied "uh what" then with angry tone youngha replied "find him, morons!" Morons is a word used to refer to someone who is considered very unintelligent or an idiot. It is highly derogatory and is often used to denigrate or criticize someone's level of intelligence.

Data 3. "*You got it? You pricks*"

"prick" is an English word that has several meaning, but is generally used as a vulgar and derogatory term to refer to someone who is considered annoying. From the sentence above, we can know that the speaker swears with the aim of giving fear or bluff to the interlocutor. The speaker utters the swear words with an angry

tone, full of emotion, and accompanied by facial expressions that show displeasure. It is done to make the interlocutor feel afraid or intimidated, so that the interlocutor will be more careful or feel pressured in the situation. This shows that speakers use swearing as a tool to express anger and to influence the behavior of others.

B. Interpersonal Swearing

Data 4. *"I'm youngha jeon, you **douchebags**"*

In the context of the above conversation, the use of the curse "you douchebags" shows that the character named Youngha Jeon feels very annoyed and concerned about the behavior of the people around him. Because in the comic he is not welcomed by his friend. He might have used polite words if the classroom atmosphere were peaceful and he received a good response. However, in the comic, Youngha uses this curse to mock and give sarcasm to the interlocutors without being driven by extreme anger or saying it spontaneously, making this curse fall into the interpersonal curse category. Douchebags [vaginal irrigation bags] were originally tools used to clean the vaginal area. However, in American slang, this term has changed context and become a swear word that refers to someone who is considered very annoying, arrogant, or naive. This word gives the image of someone who always annoys others with his stupid or two-faced behavior.

Data 5. *"Hey, you **little shit**"*

In the context of the sentence "Hey, you little shit," the phrase "little shit" is used as a form of interpersonal swearing. This means that the swearing is intended to attack or hurt the other person's feelings directly. The character uses the phrase because he feels that the person he's calling is weak and will not dare to retaliate when sworn at. The phrase is used to insult him. The word "shit" itself means dirt, and in this context it is used to embarrass or demean someone who looks weak and small in the school neighborhood.

Data 6. *"how could **a dog** like you"*

The word "dog" is also often chosen as a swear word in several cultures, including Indonesia. This swearing is associated with several stereotypes and negative images given to these animals. One reason is that when someone is described as a "dog," it can describe the nature of dogs as being considered lowly. Additionally, in some cultural contexts, dogs are considered unclean or dirty, adding a negative charge to the word as a curse. From the sentence above, it can be seen that the speaker curses using the word "dog" with the aim of demeaning the person he is talking to. Because a dog is usually depicted as a dirty animal. The speaker uses this swear word to reduce the person he is talking to as low as possible. It's a different story if the speaker uses words like ant, eagle, or lion.

Data 7. *"You **monster**"*

Monsters are fictional creatures often found in mythology, legends, science fiction and horror stories. They are usually depicted as terrifying creatures, strange or hideous in form, and often possessing extraordinary powers or abilities. Monsters are often symbols of fear or threat and are used to frighten or explain abstract feelings of fear. In the context of contemporary developments, the word "monster" is also often used as a metaphor to describe someone or something that is considered very scary, strong, or poses a threat. The speaker uses this word as a form of sarcasm and insult to describe the person he's fighting with has the power as a monster. On the other hand, the speaker is also amazed by the opponents which not budge even though he has been hit with a match knuckle and responds with a harder blow.

Data 8. *"Give me **a woof**"*

"A woof" is a common sound made by dogs. This is a characteristic sound identified as one of the dog's ways of expressing. In this case, the character uses this word to humiliate and provoke someone's emotions which is the MC of the comic while at the same time teasing him by telling him to imitate the sound of a dog. He does this with the intention of demeaning one of the characters in front of his friend so that he appears stronger.

Data 9. *"I should still **be a sperm, fucker**"*

The expletive "a sperm" is a phrase that is generally used as an insult or mockery of someone. It relates to human reproduction (sperm is a male reproductive cell) but is used with the intention of demeaning or mocking someone in a vulgar or abusive manner. The character says the word in a sarcastic tone because he wants to comment that the appearance of the interlocutor's face does not match his actual age at all, a statement that implies

that someone he's talking with, looks much older than it should. That is, That is why, the speaker mocks interlocutor as "a sperm"

Data 10. *"I heard something else. Youngha was a complete loser..."*

A complete loser is a derogatory word that says that someone is a loser in every way, be it in terms of social life, work, or personal achievements. It is a very demeaning expression. The phrase "a complete loser" is used one of the character to directly attack someone's personality. In the comic this character is a nobody and the person he mocks is good at fighting. Because he felt rivaled and not dare to fight, he finally used mocking words to play on his opponent's feelings.

C. Reflexive Swearing

Data 11. *"Who is it? You dick! Don't you know my voice?"*

The phrase "You dick!" is a crude swear word that refers to the male genital, but in a colloquial context, it is used to insult someone who is considered a jerk. It carries a very negative and insulting connotation. The phrase "You dick!" is a reflexive swear word that is uttered spontaneously by the character on the comic as a reaction to an unexpected or surprising event. Since the speaker and the interlocutor know each other and quite close the expression "you dick! don't you know my voice?!" can be considered a reflexive curse that appears in moments when the speaker feels disappointed or surprised that the interlocutor cannot recognize his voice. This curse arises from a reflexive response without much thought, especially because there is a sense of disappointment felt by the speaker.

Data 12. *"What the hell...I only heard the rumors"*

The phrase "what the hell" is an informal expression in English that is often used to express surprise, confusion, or disbelief. Sometimes this phrase is also used to show impatience or frustration. In certain contexts, these phrases are considered impolite or even rude, depending on the situation and tone of voice. The character uses this swear word without realizing it. There is a chapter where one of the characters in the comic is shocked and amazed by the main character who is really strong as is rumored among hooligans. Not only that, the speaker also immediately sees the brutality of the main character who was able to take down several people in one attack. Then the swear word came out.

Data 13. *"That asshole!!!"*

The phrase "That asshole!!!" is a rude swear word that is usually used to describe someone who is extremely annoying, selfish, or has bad manners. The word "asshole" literally means butt hole, but in the context of reflexive swearing, This swear word was used by the character on the comic spontaneously when he saw the person he was looking for suddenly in front of his eyes. There is no intention to insult or put down the other person. This means that swear words do not always function as insult or as a form of anger. But it can be used according to the situation in the which the word is spoken.

Data 14. *"How pathetic"*

The phrase "How pathetic" is an expression in English that is often used to express feelings of disappointment, humiliation, or ridicule towards someone or something that is considered very weak, pathetic. This expression carries a negative connotation and is usually used to criticize or belittle a particular subject. When someone says "How pathetic," they are usually giving a judgment that considers the subject to be grossly inadequate. This curse was uttered spontaneously by the character on the comic when he saw people he knew fighting on the side of the road which is absolutely no emotion shown by the speaker, The character swears not merely to ridicule and bring down other people, but as an expression of his astonishment at the behavior shown by his friend

D. Conventional Swearing

Data 15. *"We beat daeseong high! Don't mess with us anymore fucker!"*

The word "Fucker" is a very rude and vulgar swear word in English. This word literally refers to someone having sex, but in the context of swearing, it is used to refer to someone who is particularly annoying, obnoxious,

or has bad behavior. This word carries a very negative and impolite connotation. In this context, the word "Fucker" is used as part of a conventional swearing. Although in general this word has a rude and offensive meaning, in a sentence, this word is more of a bluff with the aim of getting a fun effect or to emphasize victory in a relaxed and not too serious style and it is directed at friends by the speaker to enhance the effect of happiness. If translated into bahasa, it would look like this. 'sialan, kita berhasil mengalahkan mereka! Kita keren banget!'

Data 16. "Bahaaha. I finally get to fight this **bastard!**"

The word "bastard" is used to insult someone who is considered evil or immoral. "Bastard" literally means a child born out of wedlock, but in the context of swearing, it is used to describe a person who behaves very badly. In this sentence which was taken from the comic, "bastard" is meant as a casual expression used in everyday idioms to express joy, excitement or humor. It is not meant to be rude or offensive, but rather to add an emotional effect to the statement in a light and non-serious way.

Data 17. "**Shit**, the pain is over. It's happy time now'

The word "Shit" is a crude English word that refers to human feces. In the context of swearing, "shit" is used to express annoyance, anger, or surprise. It's a very informal word and has a very negative connotation. In the context of conventional swearing on the sentence of the comic, the word "shit" is used to emphasize a strong feeling of transition from a painful or unpleasant situation to a happier or pleasant one. The character in the comic who says this swear word has no intention of mocking someone or using it as a forum for expressing emotions or something, but purely to add the fun effect of the moment.

4. CONCLUSION

From the results of research on the types and functions of swear words in hanlim gym comics, there are four types of swearing used by the characters in the comic, namely Emotional Swearing, Interpersonal Swearing, Reflexive Swearing and Conventional Swearing. The function of swearing in this comic is divided into five functions namely: swearing as an expression of anger, creating a sense of closeness, expressing surprise, admiration, annoyance, and sarcasm.

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