

SWEARING IN STILLER'S TROPIC THUNDER: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

This research investigates the use of swearing in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder* using a sociolinguistic approach. This research aims at identifying the types and revealing the motivating factors of swearing. The principles of sociolinguistics, especially on swearing theories, Anderson and Trudgill (2010) and Stapleton (2003) provide the theoretical foundation of the research. This research employed qualitative method to analyze the data which were taken from *Tropic Thunder*. The data were the main characters' utterances, while the contexts of the data were monologues and dialogues. The data were analyzed based on Anderson's and Trudgill's theory for types of swearing and Stapleton's for motivating factors of swearing. In addition, to make the research trustworthy, the researcher employed investigator triangulation to gain trustworthiness in checking the data and findings. The results of this research suggest that four types of swearing are found in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*, they are expletive swearing, abusive swearing, humorous swearing and auxiliary swearing. In addition, there are seven out of nine motivating factors that are found in this research, i.e. humor/story-telling, emphasis, anger/tension-release, intimacy, vulnerability, part of personality and a way to shock. Habit is not found because there is no swearing uttered by the main characters in every time and everywhere without any reason as their daily life interaction. Normality does not take place because there is no indication of speaker to swear that is expected by his group or environment.

Keywords: swearing, Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*, sociolinguistics

INTRODUCTION

Communication is an act that is needed by humans to deliver information to other people and to share it with one another. In communication, there is an instrument needed by people to deliver a message from one speaker to another speaker. It is language. Language is an instrument of communication used by people in everyday life to communicate with other people. In the communication, language is useful as it makes people easier to deliver the content they want to say. When the hearers do not understand the meaning of the conversation, sometimes people use an emphasis to make it more understandable. There are ways of emphasizing to make people understand. For example, the speakers may repeat the utterances that they say and when the hearers still do not understand, the speaker will get an easy way such as using swear word to make it clear. Swearing could be a problem because not all people, especially non-

native, can easily understand the meaning and the purpose why some people swear. There are many reasons why people use swear words in dialogue, i.e. to express amazement, to show their anger and to make people look better even though the meaning of the swearing is rude and impolite. In other respect, sociolinguistics deals with how the swearing can be applied in the particular context by someone in daily life.

"Sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the purpose to goal being a better understanding of the structure of language and how languages function in communication; the equivalent goal in the sociology of language is trying to discover how social structure can be better understood through the study of language" (Wardhaugh, 2006: 13). Here, sociolinguistics is a study of language and society. They are related because they are components of human life. People learn

language to get a better way to communicate with other people and know how the language can be used in a society. Learning a language in a society is needed as it can make people understand how they can speak in a particular context with other people appropriately.

Hudson in Wardaugh (2006: 13) defines Sociolinguistics as “the study of society in relation to language.” It means in Sociolinguistics people study about language and society to find out the function of language in the society. For example, people live in society, then they have to interact with others. Therefore, they learn language in their society. In other words, Sociolinguistics is concerned about language and society because both of them cannot be separated in daily life. As stated by Chambers in Wardaugh (2006: 11) Sociolinguistics is the study of language that involves people in the world. It means that in the past and nowadays, language is important for people to live in a society. For example, by using a language people can interact with one another. They can communicate and know each other by language. Therefore, language is one of the things that change human life to be better.

Downes in Wardaugh (2006: 15) defines Sociolinguistics as a work which studies the properties of language and languages which require reference to social, including context, and factors in their explanation. Some people use language in different contexts or meanings in a conversation. They use good language to say something good or fun in a particular context. However, sometimes they use bad language to express their anger, disappointment, frustration and other bad things in particular context in a conversation.

Communication in daily life is important, because people use it to interact with other people. Sometimes in communication, people express their feeling, their condition and something good to show that they feel happy, blessed, and good. Every single day, expressing good language is needed by people to make hearers feel more comfortable. On the other hand, the language which is harmful to be

spoken is called as bad language. Based on Jay Timothy (1992: 2-9) bad language is also known as “dirty words”. Then he classifies bad language into ten categories. The first is profanity. Timothy (1992: 3) describes that this type is constructed by distinction of religion. It means that this type consists of religious beliefs. The speaker uses words that are related to God, holy things and religions to express their bad language. Additionally, they are secular to anything about religious things. The example of this type is a dialogue between 2 persons.

Jane: Lets go, we are late!

James: *Jesus Christ!* Let's go. We are late as it is or good God! He's ugly!.

The words that consist of religious belief, Jesus Christ used by the speaker to show his personal bad condition.

The second type is blasphemy. The second type is blasphemy. Timothy says that blasphemy is kind of bad language when someone uses the word to attack certain religious people or religions which usually uses words that consist of attacking words (1992: 3-4). In social life, some people consider that it can be a religion crime. For example, *fucking Jesus* and *fucking popeye*.

The third type is epithets, Timothy (1992: 7) says that epithets is a kind of bad language which consists of words or phrases used by some people to express their anger, frustration or to express a same phrase and word when they hurt themselves. This type may also be a habit in the environment. For example, when people hurt themselves or when someone does something stupid, or feel frustrated, they always express or yell certain bad words or phrases, such as *shit, hell, son of bitch, fuck you, fuck off, piss off and goddamn it up yours*.

The next type of bad language is slang. Timothy describes that slang is certain non-standard words that are sometimes used by people in a group or member of community such as drug addict, musicians, soldiers, teenagers and athletes (1992: 6-7). For example, *bro, dude, and nigga*.

The fifth type is taboo. Taboo is an act where someone suppresses the speaker's behavior. It is also used to protect sensitive things like ethnic groups or supernatural retaliation. This kind of bad language is not good to be spoken in daily life, because the taboo has a high power to suppress someone (Timothy, 1992: 4-5). It means that the taboo is a custom that forbids people to use or talk about a certain thing. Additionally, the taboo words are often offensive and rude because they refer to body part, sex or race. The examples of the taboo words are *fuck*, *damn*, *dick* and *son-of-a-bitch*.

The sixth type is insults and slurs. Timothy states that when someone says insults and slurs, he or she expresses verbal words to attack other people. The main cases of insults and slurs are about ethnic, culture, tribal groups or social in nature. Actually it is forbidden to speak because some people do that based on their imagination or real characteristics. Therefore, the function of this type is to hurt another person directly (1992: 8). In this type, there are several examples drawn from the use animal imagery, social deviations, physical, psychological, or social characteristics until ethnic and racial slurs. They are *bitch*, *bastard*, *fatty*, *blabber mouth*, *tattle tale*, and *honkey*.

The seventh type is scatology. According to Timothy (1992: 8-9) scatology is the involvement of filth or human leftover, both in product and process, in particular utterances. People use it to express their bad feeling when they see or know something disgusting of human dirt. For example when someone watches a human dirt scene, then anyone else comes, and she or he says, "*Why are you watching at that gross scatology scene, are you addicted to the poop?*"

The next type is vulgarity. Timothy says that vulgar words mean rough words that are often used by people in a society where sometimes people that use it are unsocialized and under-educated. Sometimes, people feel it is normal or fine when they utter the utterance even though it is not good to the listeners (1992:

6). An example of this type in utterance can be seen in the following.

Johnson : I have to take a crap, and,
wow, look at her *tits!*

Jane : Excuse me, man?

The ninth type is obscenity. Based on Timothy (1992: 5) this type of bad language is an obscene word that is reflected as the most offensive words, even it is rarely to use in a society. Sometimes it is used by people in public media because it has its own purpose. The purpose of obscenity is to protect the listeners to expletive obscene words. The obscene word *fuck* is one of the most frequently recorded words that is used in public as it has function as a form of expletive.

The last type of bad language is cursing. Based on Timothy (1992: 2-3), the last type of bad language is cursing. Cursing is a kind of bad language that has a purpose to harm and injure other people by using particular words or phrases dealing with heavenly power. It attacks certain people through their physical and psychological aspects. Some of the examples of cursing are: *for Goddamn shake, eat shit and die! Goddamn you, to hell with you!*

There are ten categories of bad language, but this research will be only concerned with the taboo, because swearing is a part of the taboo. Stapleton (as cited in Vingerhoets, Bylsma, and de Vlam, 2013: 288) says that swearing is the activity to express or say ideas that are related to the taboo words. It implies that swearing is using taboo words by people in daily life.

Taboo words and swear words have a similarity. They are words or phrases which are forbidden to say. Based on Hughes in Hagen (2013: 11), taboo is a prohibitions against socially offensive words, expressions, and topics, especially a sexual and racist nature. Therefore the taboo is actually an utterance that is connected to avoided, forbidden and harmed ideas to be spoken.

According to Timothy in Timothy and Janschewitz, (2008: 268), swearing is the use of taboo language with the purpose of expressing

the speaker's emotion which is expressed to the listeners. It means that the language of swearing is intended to reflect someone's emotion. It may be sentences, phrases, or words. In the same way, Ljung (2011: 4) says that swearing is emotive language which aims to express the speaker's feeling. Thus, swearing is an instrument used by the speaker to express their personal emotion toward something, moreover it can also be directed to others.

Andersson and Trudgill in Habibovic (2010: 7) give explanation about swearing. Swearing is (1) something that is taboo and/or stigmatized in the culture, (2) should not be interpreted literally and (3) used to express strong emotions and attitudes. Sometimes, swearing is forbidden to say in a society, moreover swearing is not accepted as it is offensive or rude words. Beside it, people can learn the use of swearing by the context itself. They cannot interpret such swearing as activity using swear word which contain rude or offensive words and it used by the speaker to abuse or insult someone. Nonetheless, in general swearing used by people when they have problems and they feel strong emotion or see bad behavior, automatically swearing is used to express their feeling. Thus, people cannot classify swearing into a type which is used by speaker to harm other speakers.

There are four types of swearing which are used by people in daily life. Each type has its own characteristics that make it dissimilar to the other ones. Based on Anderson and Trudgill in Habibovic (2010: 7-8), there are four types of swearing. The first is expletive swearing. Expletive swearing is swearing which expresses personal emotions and it is not directed to other people, foreexamples frustration, anger, amazement, and shock. When people get trouble or problem, suddenly they swear. It might represent their feeling. Therefore, this swearing is not insulting for the other speakers. The examples in expletive swearing are:

Thomas: *God damn* it!! I forgot to buy some paper.

It describes the personal emotion when someone forgot to buy some paper.

Jane: Oh *fuck*!!

It is a sudden response when someone got hurt.

The second types is abusive swearing. Different from expletive swearing, abusive swearing is usually directed to other people, like name calling and other kinds of cursing that are aggressive and insulting. It can make people feel sad even hurt because this kind of swearing contains rude words. In addition, this swearing is also to abuse other speaker verbally. The examples of abusive swearing are *Go fucking yourself*; *You such an asshole*; *You are motherfucker*; *You are dirty bastard*.

The third type is humorous swearing. Humorous swearing is a swearing that is addressed to other people but it is not derogatory. This swearing has an opposite purpose where playfulness is the key when people utter swearing to others. Furthermore, this type of swearing consists of rude or crash words. It shows or has a sense of humor, funny, joyful, cheerful and not aggressive. The example of this type can be seen in the following:

Johnny : Hurry up Jack. We are late, get your *ass* in gear!!!

Jack : Slow down Johnny.

In the conversation, Johnny asks Jack to be hurry. By using swear word *ass*, the utterance can be more be funny and interesting.

The last type is auxiliary swearing. Auxiliary swearing or lazy swearing is a type of swearing that is not directed towards a person or a situation, and it is used as a way of speaking of human and always non-emphatic. It means that this swearing is not used by people to attack or hurt other people, but it is used to support the way people speaking. Therefore, it might be acceptable to others who hear the swearing. The examples of swearing in auxiliary are *bloody hell...*, *this fucking awesome...*. The insertion of such swear words are spoken by people to support his utterance. It can modify the speaker's utterance.

Every utterance that is spoken by people has its own purposes. There are some motivating factors based on Stapleton (2003: 28). The motivating factors of why people swear are classified into nine. The first motivating factor of swearing is humor/story telling. Swearing is not necessarily for negative activity. According to Stapleton (2003: 28), the first motivating factor why people swear is humor. Humor is used to tell a story or make people laugh that provides some expressions for the planned link between swearing and humor such as to deliver a good or pleasant story to amuse others. Thus, the motivating factor why people swear is they want to create sense of humor in their story as a positive activity. The example can be seen in this following:

JEFF: Simple Jack *sucked ass!*(Datum 15) This example is taken by one of the data in the research. This utterance expressed by one of the main characters who mocks his friends in front of many people. Here, *sucked ass* does not mean literally someone suck that sensitive part of human. It just the way of the speaker's talk to all people to create a humor and provoke laughter, even though it sounds such an aggressive word.

The second motivating factor of swearing is emphasis. When people say or express something, they want to emphasize the opinion that it is true, or it can make people understand more on what the speaker is talking about. If there is a group who has a conversation, but some of them do not understand or believe it, there will be a person or some people using swear words to emphasize the sentence with the purpose of making people understand with what the speaker talks about. For example: *It's damn true!*(It is spoken when someone tells a story where last night he saw a ghost in his house and everybody does not believe that. Thus, the insertion of the word *damn* is to emphasize the utterance.)

The third motivating factor of swearing based on Stapleton (2003: 28) is anger/tension-release. It means when people are in bad condition for example pain, disappointment, and

anger, they will express their feeling by using swearing, even though not all people do that. Furthermore, swearing might be the easiest way for the people to express their feeling. For example for expressing anger, a person may say *fucking hell!!* The speaker swears using aggressive words to express his anger because he is angry to another speaker which is seen as an unpleasant behavior by the speaker.

Then, habit is the fourth motivating factor of swearing. Basically swearing here is used by people to express their utterance without any reason and less aware. It means that when people swear every time and everywhere, they do not notice that they are truly swearing. Then, the speaker will be less aware of what they say. Therefore, swearing is seen as daily life talking which has become a linguistic activity. The example of this motivating factor is: *Holy Shit!!!* The speaker who always express his utterance by using swear word without reason in any condition.

Next, the motivating factor of swearing is normality. Someone swears in every time and everywhere in any condition and it is normal. It directs to something or someone else because if the speaker does not swear, he reflects as not common people in present-day. Moreover, swearing in this context means that people normally use swearing in daily life because it is acceptable to be spoken. Therefore, swearing only provides to fulfil the social expectation. For example *shit man!*. Here, the word *shit* is used by someone in a group which they are all drug addicts.

The sixth motivating factor of swearing is intimacy. Generally, people use swearing to their friends to show that they feel angry or disappointed. However, there is one type of swearing which is used by people to show their intimacy on their relationship. It means that when somebody has a strong relationship with his or her friend, they often use swearing to show intimacy with the hearers. It may show that their relationship is close. The example of this can be seen in the following:

Alan : Hi, stupid *ass*. Long time no see.

Jansen : What is up *son of a bitch*?

How are you?

There are two persons who never meet in a long time. Then, they have a meet, greet and ask each other. Both of them use swear words to show that they have an intimacy in their friendship.

Then, the seventh motivating factor of swearing is covering fear/vulnerability. When people are in possibility of danger, pain, and fear they may scream out loudly. This means that when people are in fear, they use swearing to cover their fear. It can make them braver and braver to face the situation or condition. For example: Alright, I will get this *shit* done!!!(An employer was left by his co-workers and he needs to go home soon.)

The eight motivating factor of swearing is part of personality. This motivating factor means that it is just like a habit but it shows as an identity of the speaker. Swearing is already embodied in someone's daily utterances i.e. someone's characteristic. Therefore, people may know someone by part of her or his personality. It is like swearing is embodied in their daily life. For example: Am I looking *fucking* handsome? Look at my outfit and my style. *Goddamn!* This *fucking* awesome, right? (A person who always ask his friends about himself and he always uses swear words to ask it. Therefore, his friends know him that using swearing is a part of personality.)

The last motivating factor of why people swear based on Stapleton (2003: 28) is a way to shock. In a group, when there is someone or some people do talking about something then a thing happens suddenly. And, there is a person swearing to shock the people, this means that someone spontaneously swearing to shock or surprise other people at the same place and condition. For example: *Oh what the fuck is that??* (Someone is in the dark night with many people, then he looks in the sky and there is something weird is flying. Then he uses swear word to surprise other people in the place.

Based on the theories stated in the literature review, the researcher focuses this

study on identifying the types and the motivating factors of swearing in *Tropic Thunder* movie. *Tropic Thunder* is the object of this research which is a 2008 action comedy that is written, directed, and starred by Ben Stiller. This movie released in 2008. The movie is also starred by Robert Downey Jr, Jack Black and Tom Cruise. This movie is written by Justin Theoroux and Etan Cohen. The setting of the movie is in Southeast Asia jungle (www.imdb.com: 2009). This movie tells about how people make a movie. There are several phenomena in the movie that expressed by the main characters who have own personal problem or background. In this case, swearing used by the main characters isto express his personal feeling. Thus, there are several application of swearing in daily talking in the movie. Therefore, to limit the problems, the research is focused on identifying the types and revealing the motivating factors of swearing in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*. Thus, the researcher observes all the utterances by the main characters in *Tropic Thunder*.

RESEARCH METHOD

This researcher applied qualitative method since it produces narrative or textual descriptions of the phenomena Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009: 7). This approach was chosen because it provides better and more detailed understanding in describing the phenomena of language usage. It particularly was reflected in the main characters' utterances in the movie.

The data in this research were utterances which contain swearing uttered by the main characters of *Tropic Thunder* movie. Furthermore, the source of data of the research was the movie *Tropic Thunder*. The English transcript was downloaded from www.subscene.com. The transcript was used to help researcher grasp the monologues and dialogues spoken in the movie. The context of the data was the monologues and dialogues between the main characters in utilizing swear words in the movie.

In addition, note taking was selected as the data collection technique in this research. In detail, the steps are: watching *Tropic Thunder* movie to check the utterances, events and behavior of the main characters; downloading the transcript of *Tropic Thunder* movie to get more detailed understanding of the main characters' utterances; re – watching the movie to check the accuracy between the movie and the transcript; highlighting the utterances consisting swearing in the transcript of the movie; selecting and classifying the dialogues by the main characters containing swearing in *Tropic Thunder* movie based on the objectives of the study; transferring the data into data sheet as the research instrument.

This research was qualitative research where the data were gathered from the movie. Therefore, to examine qualitative data, the researcher employed textual analysis. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:210) say that textual analysis is description of identification and interpretation of a set of verbal or nonverbal communication. Thus, textual analysis was used to analyze the utterances containing swearing expressed by the main characters in *Tropic Thunder*.

Then, to make the study trustworthy, the researcher employed a technique to gain trustworthiness in checking the data (Vanderstop and Johnston, 2009: 179). Based on Denzin in Litosseliti (2010: 34) there are four ways to conduct triangulation. They are investigator triangulation, theory triangulation, methodology triangulation, and data triangulation. Nonetheless, the researcher only conducted investigator triangulation by involving experts and peer reviewers to check out the trustworthiness of the data. By involving experts and peer reviewers, the researcher was able to find out his mistakes especially in analyzing the data of the research in the data sheets.

DISCUSSIONS

There are four types of swearing performed in *Tropic Thunder* movie. They are

expletive swearing, abusive swearing, humorous swearing and auxiliary swearing.

Expletive swearing is commonly found when the speakers are in a bad or unwanted condition such as anger, shock, and depression. The speakers automatically reflect their emotional feeling, then they use swear word to express his condition as a brief expression. The example of this type can be seen in the following:

(1) (Jeff opens his package which actually drugs not jellybeans)

KEVIN : What are you doing, Jeff?

JEFF : **Fucking...**²³ Nothing, man!

(Datum 23)

The example illustrates when Jeff's time to consume drugs, suddenly Kevin comes and surprises him. To respond the question and the treatment done by Kevin, Jeff employs **fucking** as a verbal reflection. Based on the context, the employment of **fucking** is not literally the word which consist of sexual terms. It shows that the expression **fucking** displays the speaker which in bad condition, i.e. shocked. Meanwhile, Jeff swears is in front of Kevin, it does not mean abuse him. Because when the speaker is in unlucky situation, it can make him to initiate for swearing.

Abusive swearing is used by speaker to harm or insult verbally and directly to other speakers, i.e. name-calling and adjective. Conforming to the findings, there are three examples of the data which represent this swearing. The example of this type is presented in the following dialogue.

(2) ALPHA : I got diamond in toilet.

JEFF : Your **stupid-ass** commercials.

(Datum 31)

In the moment when Jeff feels tired because of the equipment he bring is too heavy. Then, Alpha tries to show off his talent as a commercial star. For Alpha, Jeff is different with him, he just an artist who stars a bizarre film. As a consequence, Jeff attacks Tugg with a direct insult is considered to be an offensive word because **stupid-ass** is a combination of bad behavior of human being, **stupid** and

sensual term, **ass**. The meaning of the swear word is only shows that **stupid-ass** is an unpleasant person for the speaker. The swear word is inserted by the speaker is as a bad reaction to another speaker who mocks him. In addition, using a verbal attack is the easiest way to express the speaker feeling after he gets a mockery from his friend. Nonetheless, the swearing is directly to his friend as a team, producing the expression to another speaker is truly intended to be insulting.

Humorous swearing is not commonly done by the main characters to abuse or insult others while the expression or the utterance might be assumed as rude and offensive by the others. This swearing is done by the main characters involve name-calling and mocking to make it more interesting and create a joke. The example of humorous swearing can be seen in the following statement.

(3) KIRK: Put some pep in your step, **dick! Jelly-ass bitch!**

(Datum 4)

In this scene, Jeff and Kirk act as an army who has to face and kill the enemies. Because too many enemies who try to kill the army, Jeff tries to give support to another army to make them braver for facing the enemies. The utterance comes from Kirk and it directly to Jeff. The name calling **dick! Jelly-ass bitch!** is used by Kirk to call Jeff and it is not abusive. The combination of **dick** and **ass** as a sensitively body part of human, **jelly** as kind of food and **bitch** as an offensive word is the way of Jeff's speaking to make his utterance more interesting. While the word **dick! Jelly-ass bitch!** itself is socially sensitized due to the another speaker, but it does not refer to harm Jeff. Furthermore, the utilization of **dick! Jelly-ass bitch!** becomes hilarious because they are a funny combination between three different terms.

Auxiliary swearing is done by the main characters to express utterances or messages containing personal expression in which the speakers take them as an adjective or adverb. Here, auxiliary swearing performs to modify other linguistic elements e.g. adjective, noun or verb. This swearing is also used by the main

characters to respond what other speakers say and word-changing. The example of the this swearing is showed in the following dialogue.

(4) TUGG : Want the map?

KIRK : Yeah, I want the **fucking** map.

TUGG : Well, you can't have it, 'cause Damien gave it to me.

(Datum 34)

This is a debate between Kirk and Tugg that they seize the map. The map is seized because Kirk feels that they walk in a wrong way. Nevertheless, Tugg is not willing to show the map to Kirk, because the director, Damien gives the map directly to Tugg. The consequence of Tugg's egoism is Kirk inserts swear word in his utterance to show his personal feeling. With the high tone, Kirk uses sexual term to specify the headword, map. **Fucking** here functions as an adjective that help Kirk to deliver his point. Then, the presence of sexual term in his utterance is as a negative utterance to answer Tugg's question. Consequently, inserting the swear word is the way of the speaker's talking to deliver his point considering a negative utterance shows Kirk's personal feeling.

Moreover, the There are seven factors revealed in Stiller's *Tropic thunder*, i.e. humor/story-telling, emphasis, anger/tension-release, intimacy, covering fear/vulnerability, part of personality and a way to shock.

In this motive, humor, swearers use tabooed and forbidden utterance because they want to deliver their messages or stories being more interesting. The main intention of this motive is create sense of humor and amuse others speaker being funny. In addition, this motive functions to show a good or positive atmosphere while it employs tabooed and forbidden expression. The example of this motivating factor is showed in the following dialogue.

(5) JEFF : Simple Jack **sucked ass!**

(All people laugh)

TUGG: All right, who said that? It's not funny.

(Datum 15)

This utterance comes from Jeff when he, his team and the director are in a party. When all

the people enjoy the party, suddenly the music is stopped. Then, Tugg stands up in front of the people and tries to catch an attention of them. In the middle of Tugg's speech, suddenly, Jeff insults Tugg by swearing. Simple Jack **sucked ass** here is directed to Tugg. Simple Jack is a movie stared by Tugg that got a bad review from the audience. In this scene, all the people feel disturbed because of Tugg's action. To break an awkward situation, Jeff mocks his friend by using swear word **sucked ass**. Jeff's main motive is to create a joke, meanwhile he mocks his friend by swearing. As a result, it can reduce the disturbance and provoke laughter of the people in the party.

In emphasis motive, speakers swear because they need to highlight their messages in a certain situation when other speakers do not notice by the speakers say. Swearing representing emphasis is showed by tabooed utterances, i.e. **fucking**. The example of this motivating factor can be seen in the following.

(6) TUGG: I was wrong! Blow the bridge!

Blow the **fucking** bridge!

(Datum 91)

The Tugg's decision to stay in The Faming Dragon's camp is full of regret. He truly wants to live with the boy who is already considered by him as his son. Nonetheless, when all the characters want to go back home by helicopter, Tugg runs fast from the camp and orders his team to blow the bridge. The insertion of taboo content **fucking** in Tugg's utterance is to make his team truly to do what Tugg's say. It indicates for the first he says blow the bridge and he repeats it by inserting swear word. The swear word is utilized by the speaker to get notice of other speakers. Thus, the taboo content makes **fucking** in the example can emphasize Tugg's command.

According to the findings, this motive practiced by the main characters due to negative reactions, i.e. frustration, annoyance, or confusion. These following extracts represent how swearing used by the speakers to show their anger. The example can be seen in the following dialogue.

(7) JEFF : No! That's my jellybeans! No!
Kid, grab the bat! Please! **Shit!**

ALPHA : Yo, man. I got a Bush-A-Nut.

JEFF : You go to hell! There he is.

(Datum 40)

This is a Jeff's moment when he wants to consume the drug, nonetheless there is a bat suddenly stoles his drug. The jellybeans he meant is not truly jellybeans which its truth is drug. Knowing that the drug is stolen by the bat, he runs to catch the bat and asks to help of other characters, but no one who wants to help him, because the four characters consider that it is only jellybeans. To express his annoyance at the bat and doubt at his friends, Jeff then yells **shit!** The use of an excrement term is not addressed to harm his friends. It only describes as an indication of strong frustration, tiredness and disappointment of the speaker to the condition which is considerably a bad condition because the drug he need is cannot be found. As a result, he feels angry and disappointed at the bad and his friends.

Swearing is not only to show bad feeling or condition, it also used by the speaker to show friendship or social relation between the speakers and their friends. Based on the findings, the speakers here practice swearing because they want to support and to respond when their friends are in a good mood. Thus, by using swearing the speakers show their intimacy of friendship. The example of this motivating factor is showed in the following.

(8) KIRK : And the Oscar goes to...Yes!

Tugg Speedman. Tropic Blunder, the true story behind the making of the most expensive fake true war story ever.

AUDIENCE : Yeah

(Giving applause)

JEFF : Yeah, **you son of a bitch!**

(Hugging TUGG)

(Datum 92)

After they successfully escape from the jungle. Then, Oscar is coming. All the characters attend to the Oscar. They really do not patient to wait the winner of the Oscar. At that time, Kirk announces that the winner of the Oscar goes to

Tugg Speedman. All the audience give applause and his friends congratulate him. As Jeff doing, he congratulates him by using swearing and hugging. By using swearing, Jeff does mean that it is to harm Tugg. It is only the way of Jeff to give congratulation to his friends. Before the Oscar, Jeff and Tugg are friend who has been working together. **Son of a bitch** is employed by Jeff to express his congratulation directly to Tugg, it shows that swearing is not disturbing his moment, because they know each other and have a close relation in friendliness. It shows when Jeff swear and hugs Tugg, he still be enjoyable with that. Therefore, when the speaker has a strong relationship with his friend, swearing is acceptable to show their intimacy.

The next motivating factor of swearing is covering fear. According to the findings, the main characters in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder* also swear because they intend to cover their fear. The example of this motivating can be seen in the following statement.

(9) KIRK: Come on, you **damn dirty heathens!**
(Datum 2)

At the scene of the movie, Kirk acts as an army who has to kill the enemies. He uses some guns to shoot them. Then, he challenges the enemies by using name calling. By using name calling, **damn dirty heathens** mean that it is unpleasant people directed to the enemies. He does want to see that there are victims again killed by the enemies. Then, he has to face and kill them by himself. The name calling used by Kirk is a verbal attack as a motivation to kill the enemies, it can make him feel braver to face and kill the enemies. Thus, swearing by speaker, i.e. name-calling to people as enemy is can make to cover speaker's fear.

Not only does swearing present as a reflexive reaction, i.e. disappointment, annoyance or anger. Swearing can also serve as a characters' characteristic or identities. This swearing is not used by strong emotion, it represents the speaker's personal utterance. It called part of personality. the example of this motivating factor can be seen in the following.

(10) KEVIN: God, I think we were supposed to
be doing this, and instead we did this.
JEFF: **Shit, shit, shit, shitty, shit, shit!**
(He feels shivery)

(Datum 55)

Kirk successfully get the map from Tugg. After Kevin reads the map, he concludes that they all are in a wrong way. When Kevin explains what they have done. Suddenly, Kirk express the word shit repeatedly. No one knows why Jeff swear. All the characters consider that Jeff's swearing is a response of what Kevin explaining about. Actually, the swear words, **shit, shit, shit, shitty, shit, shit!** is the way of Jeff express to his character. As well as shown in the movie, Jeff acts as a drug addict. In this role, Jeff does not consume the drug yet, because in the previous scene when Jeff wants to consume the drugs, unfortunately there is a bat steals the drugs. Thus, the drugs are gone. This sudden swearing used by Jeff shows that the condition of a drug addict when he needs drug to be consumed. It shows in the scene when he swears, he feels cold and shivery. Nonetheless, there are no other characters know that Jeff is a drug addict. Therefore, while the speaker shows who true he is, but there are still no other characters knowing that.

In Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*, swearing is also used by the main characters for posing to shock others. The example of this motivating factor is presented in the following.

(11) THE LEADER : Exactly, where is your
farm?
KIRK : My farm. (He is confused)
THE LEADER :Yes, your farm. Where is
your farm? (With high tone) American.
(The leader is preparing his gun)
KIRK : My farm.
KEVIN: Oh, shit.
KIRK : Here's my **motherfucking** farm!
(Kirk is raising his guns and shooting
the enemies)

(Datum 79)

This utterance comes from a tensile conversation between Kirk and the leader of the Flaming Dragon. To save Tugg, the four

characters have a trick, Kevin and Alpha enters to the Flaming Dragon's camp through the river, and meanwhile, Kirk acts as a local guy who get Jeff as captivated. When Kirk tries to explain how he gets Jeff to the Flaming Dragon, the leader of them does not believe it. Then, the leader of the Flaming Dragon suspects that Kirk is an American. To answer his question, bravely he answers the question by using swearing. **Motherfucking** here is as a negative hidden implication is meant to shock the leader of the Flaming dragon which is actually what he say is true. In addition, the swear word inserted by Kirk is a verbal trick to make the Flaming Dragon surprised and inattentive. Thus, when they are in those condition, Kirk has a change to raise and shoot them. In conclusion, the speaker using swear word as a way to shock others, then he has a chance to get what he want.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

This research investigates swearing in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*. According to the research findings, the conclusions can be formulated as follows.

Regarding the types of swearing in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*, the finding shows four types of swearing are found in the swearing practices in the motion picture, they are expletive swearing, abusive swearing, humorous swearing and auxiliary swearing. Expletive swearing is utilized as an automatic reflection of the speaker's emotional feeling, i.e. anger, shock and depression. Then, abusive swearing is used as a verbal attack which considers insulting and derogatory. Third, humorous swearing be assumed as rude and offensive words, on other hand, it involves sense of humor and cheerfulness. Last, auxiliary swearing is employed as a way of speaking to modify or add the meaning to the following element. Thus, it can assume that in the movie, all the types of swearing used by the main characters.

In terms of the main characters' motivating factors of swearing in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*. What can be conclude are seven motives out of nine characters appear in

this research i.e. humor/story-telling, emphasis, anger/tension-release, intimacy, covering fear/vulnerability, part of personality and a way to shock. The two motivating factors of swearing, i.e. habit which are not found in the motion picture, because there is no utterance indicating swearing as a someone's talking in daily life in every time and everywhere. It means that there is no main characters who swear in the first scene until last scene as a repetitive action in communicative occasion. Furthermore, normality is also not found because there are no main characters swear expected by their group or environment which mean that speaker normally swear when they are in a certain and particular situation.

Suggestions

After conducting the research, the researcher proposes suggestions for some parties. To students majoring in Linguistics and readers in general. In analyzing swearing, students of Linguistics have to be more aware of the types and motive of swearing. Swearing which is considerably as bad language due to the expressions is do not always mean bad. The study reveals swearing is not only to hurt someone or to show bad feeling, i.e. anger. Swearing can be functioned to show intimacy, as humor, and swearing as emphasis indication. And to future researchers. This research only focuses on identifying and revealing the types of swearing and motivating factors of swearing in Stiller's *Tropic Thunder*. Thus, to future researchers, can describe more about those swearing. In addition, the future researchers can analyze swearing to be more specific, i.e. swearing as an emphasis of humor. It might be a specific analysis which to be more challenging because twodifferent terms merged into one analysis. It represents that swearing is considerably tabooed for the expression and forbidden in the daily's talking, but there are positive outcomes of swearing. In addition, there are many interesting objects that represent swearing practice which can be analyzed, i.e. poem, novel or song.

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