A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF SWEARING IN HEIST

SEBUAH KAJIAN SOSIOLINGUISTIK PADA UMPATAN DALAM HEIST

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Abstract

This research aims to investigate swearing expressions in Heist. The research mainly seeks to reveal the types and the motivating factors of swearing in Heist. This research is under the principles of sociolinguistics since it is concerned with language and its functions in society. This research employed qualitative method to analyze the utterances in Heist. Anderson and Trudgill's theory is used as the foundation for the types of swearing while Anderson in Kajalainen's theory is used to analyze the motivating factors of swearing. The results of this research show that firstly, there are four types of swearing expression in Heist, they are: Expletive Swearing (ES), Abusive Swearing (ABS), Humorous Swearing (HS), and Auxiliary Swearing (AUS). Secondly, there are three motives of swearing deployed in this movie. Psychological motive encompasses Anger, Surprise, and Frustration expression. Second, Social Motive include To Show Identity and To Insult motive. Linguistic motive is about emphasizing the motive of swearing. While Joy and To Amuse Other motives are not found in this movie since the movie belongs to crime and thriller genre which concerns the dissension and conflict of the characters. Thus, from the study, the use of swearing creates and supports the construction of the criminal atmosphere and theme within the context of the movie.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, swearing, Heist.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan   untuk menyelidiki ekspresi umpatan dalam Heist. Tujuan utama penelitian ini untuk mengungkapkan jenis dan faktor pendorong umpatan yang terjadi di Heist. Penelitian ini berada di bawah prinsip sosiolinguistik karena berkaitan dengan bahasa dan fungsinya dalam masyarakat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis ujaran-ujaran di Heist. Teori Anderson dan Trudgill digunakan sebagai dasar untuk jenis umpatan sementara Anderson dalam teori Kajalainen digunakan untuk menganalisis faktor- faktor pendorong dari umpatan. Selain itu, dari penelitian, penggunaan umpatan menciptakan dan mendukung konstruksi suasana kriminal dan tema dalam konteks film. Hasil pada penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pertama, ada empat jenis ekspresi umpatan dalam Heist, yaitu: Expletive Swearing (ES), Abusive Swearing (ABS), Humourous Swearing (HS), dan Auxiliary Swearing (AUS). Kedua, ada tiga motif umpatan digunakan di film ini. Motif psikologis meliputi Anger, Surprise, dan Frustration expression. Kedua, Motif Sosial termasuk To show identity dan To insult motif. Motif linguistik adalah tentang memberi penekanan pada kata umpatan. Sedangkan Joy dan To Amuse Motif tidak ditemukan di film ini mengingat film miliki genre crime and thriller   yang menyangkut pertikaian dan konflik karakter. Dengan demikian, dari penelitian, penggunaan   umpatan menciptakan dan mendukung pembangunan suasana dan tema kriminal dalam konteks film.

Kata kunci: sosiolinguistik, umpatan, Heist.

INTRODUCTIONS

Swearing which becomes a part of the language is often considered as an offensive language (Lay, 2011). It is because through swearing, people can express their anger, frustration, annoyance or interference. Although it is important to note that swearing become prevalent nowadays, the use and attitude toward swearing need to be investigated. Some says that social

background become one of influential factors of swearing. On the other hand, the assumption sometimes is not true. Since the attitude toward the function of swearing is already changed. At the present time, people can use swearing as a mean to show their admiration, enthusiasm, and solidarity or intimacy toward hearer. In addition, the researcher uses sociolinguistics as discipline since it concerns on language and society.

Sociolinguistics appears as a part of linguistics study that investigates language and society. Language and society are strongly connected to each other. As a means of communication, language somehow is not uttered implicitly and always followed by the meaning itself. Corresponding to the notion of sociolinguistics, Holmes (2001) states that sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. Another linguist, Trudgill (1974: 28-34) states that most nonstandard languages, which sounds like a version of English, is thought to be bad or lower than what people "should" speak. In addition, according to Shelton (2007: 66), many groups of people believe that varieties in language can be labelled as "good" or "bad". Since the focus of the research is swearing, the researcher concentrates on bad language which is a part of swearing. Furthermore, Jay (1992) via Doyle (2006: 2-3) classifies

bad language into ten categories such as: cursing, profanity, blasphemy, obscenity, vulgar, epithets, insults and slur, scatology, slang, and taboo.

The use of taboo word, as well as swearword, may be banned in a public. As a part of taboo, swearing needs to be explained more since the usage of swearing is increasingly spreading from time to time. Swearing is entanglement of taboo language which purposes to express the speaker's emotional feeling or to convey information to the listeners. In line with the idea of swearing.

To express emotion, we can use language as a means of communication. Some of emotion can be in a form of anger, happiness, madness, or frustration. As a way to express the emotions, swearing is well suited according to people whom express it. In line with the idea of swearing, Hill (2004) argues that swearing is a way of speaking that some people use to express their feeling of anger, annoyance, and frustration or when they want to hurt someone else's feelings. It implies that swearing is well suited to derogate other's feeling.

The researcher chooses Heist as the object of the research. The characters in the movie use swearing in their casual conversation so that it is relatable to give an example of the swearing since the researcher believes that the movie itself is reflection of the real life. In

addition, the movie is appropriate as the reflection from upper, middle, lower class society, seen from both social and language aspect.

Furthermore, the objectives of the study are to identify the types of swearing in Heist, and to identify the motivating factors of swearing in Heist. To identify the types of honest deception, this research uses Andersson and Trudgill's theory (1990) focuses on four types classification of swearing namely expletive swearing, abusive swearing, humorous swearing, and auxiliary swearing. While Anderson in Kajalainen's (2002:24) to explain motivating factors of swearing including psychological, social, and linguistic motive.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used qualitative approach as main method in this research. It emphasized on defining the phenomena of the use of language in the movie by interpreting the data. Further, Bogdan and Biklen (1982: 39-48) explain that qualitative approach is a research procedure which presents the descriptive data in the form of written or oral data from the subjects of research being observed.

In addition, this research was qualitative since it explains the phenomena of the use of swearing in Heist. It is more concerned with understanding a phenomenon. By employing qualitative research, this research is intended to describe the phenomenon of swearing in Heist. To be specific, it aimed to describe the types of swearing and the motivating factors of swearing in Heist.

Furthermore, a data sheet was employed as the instrument in this research. The data sheet was in the form of table for presenting two objectives which became focuses of the research, which were, types of swearing and motivating factors of swearing.

The form of the data were the utterances of all characters in Heist which were categorized as swearing. The context is the dialogues performed by all the characters of the Heist movie including the monologues uttered by the characters as the narration of the movie. Meanwhile, the primary data source is the video of the movie.

Since the research used qualitative research technique, the research employed note taking technique to collect the data from the object of the research. In collecting the data, there are several types of data collection technique, such as watched Heist movie, downloaded the transcript, observed the transcript, grouped the date based on the classification of types and motivating factors of swearing, and transferred the data into the data sheet.

The research used content analyses in the analysis of data. Qualitative content analysis is used to examine contents or meaning of textual data according to the

categories. The researcher employed triangulation by theories and by observer. To confirm the trustworthiness of the data, triangulation technique was employed in this research. Triangulation is used to establish reliability of data (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009:179). The researcher conducted triangulation to prove that the analysis of the research was trustworthy. The researcher conducted the triangulation with the expert supervisor and some peer reviewers to validate the triangulation of the data.

DISCUSSIONS

Regarding the overlap of the theory, the research adopts Andersson's and Trudgill idea (1990: 36-37) about the characteristics of swearing which is classified into four categories including expletive swearing, abusive swearing, humorous swearing and auxiliary swearing.

Expletive swearing: people use expletive swearing to express personal emotions such as anger, shock and frustration. It is not directed to other people. The words that belong to this type are: fuck, hell, shit and goddamn it.

Abusive swearing: On the contrary to expletive swearing, abusive swearing is directed to other people. It is an insult like name-calling and other cursing expressions. People usually use abusive swearing in order to attack others verbally. The examples that belong to this type are "You asshole!" and "Go to the fucking hell!"

Humorous swearing: humorous swearing is directed to others but not abusive. It also does not have to be emotional because the function of this type is to make a joke or to be playful. For example: "get your ass in gear!"

Auxiliary swearing: Auxiliary swearing can be in a form of auxiliary. This type of swearing is to give emphasize through swearwords. Auxiliary swearing is also known as lazy swearing and often or always non-emphatic. For examples: "this fucking" and "bloody."

In describing motivating factors of swearing in Heist, the researcher used Andersson in Kajalainen's theory (2002: 24) which categorizes reason of swearing into three types: first, psychological motive encompasses anger, surprise, joy, and frustration. Second, social motive include to show identity, to amuse, and to insult. Last, linguistic motives is about to emphasize the idea of the speaker.

Psychological motive often deals with the speaker's emotion. To release speaker emotion including anger, annoyance, and frustration or even unexpected thing, the speaker commonly chooses psychological motive since psychological motive is concerned with non-emphatic feeling, anger, frustration, surprise, sorrow and joy.

Social motive in swearing according to Holmes (2013: 283) is related to someone's social relationship

which is to indicate friendship through interaction. Swearing has different functions when they are released in different social context. It implies that, to show closeness in some social groups in society, they may use swearing.

Linguistic motive of swearing appears to emphasize something by inserting swearword. It means that the speaker tries to emphasize what he/she says. This idea is supported by Andersson (in Karjalainen) who states that people can employ any words in vocabulary in which it is affordable to convey the information when people do communication. Emphasize as a function of swearing highlights the importance or emotional part of a message. The intention of the speakers to do swearing in this motive is emphasizing their feeling about something.

Heist as the object in this research, is an American crime thriller movie directed by Scott Mann and written by Stephen Cyrus Sepher and Max Adams, based on the original screen play by Sepher. This movie involves some famous Hollywood actors and actress such as Robert De Niro as Pope, Jeffrey Dean Morgan as Vaughn, Dave Bautista as Jason Cox, and Morris Chestnut as Dog (Derek Prince). The movie was released in United States on November 13, 2015 by Lionsgate Premiere.

A. Types of Swearing

Based on the analysis, there are 129 swearing expressions are uttered by the characters in the movie. Four types of swearing are found, namely expletive swearing (ES), abusive swearing (ABS), humorous swearing (HS) and auxiliary swearing (AUS). In addition, the classification of each type is depending on the context and condition of the characters in expressing swearing.

1. Expletive swearing

Passenger: What the fuck[54]? Ahh!
Vaughn : Close the door and drive. Everybody be cool. We'll be out of here in a second.

(Datum 54)

The passenger utters swearing which categorized as expletive swearing. It is because "*What the fuck*" spoken by the passenger as the expression of emotion of getting surprised by the robbers who suddenly hijack the bus. As the consequences of the feel of surprise and fear, the emotions get to the passenger does swearing not to derogate others but merely wants to express the personal emotion.

Vaughn: Hey…
Julie : Hey…
Vaughn: Any changes?
Julie : No…. *Jesus*, Luke. It's not going to cover what we owe on last month's bill
Vaughn : I'm doing the best I can, Julie.

(Datum 16)

"*Jesus*" as God's name appears as swearing because the aim of the speaker is not literally want to mention God, but to express his disappointment of incapability or financially unstable. This thing drives Julie

into frustrate thus she express it into swearing "*Jesus*".

2. Abusive swearing

Derrick : You're a real fuckin' moron, you know that? Driving the same car to your job as you drove to a crack house?

Mickey : I don't want...

Derrick : Shut up. You made it easy for me.
Where they headed? Did they have an escape plan?

(Datum 86)

Derrick tries to attack Mickey verbally by calling "fuckin' moron". In this case, Derrick feels superior to humiliate Mickey in order to speak a word he wants to hear. Thus, swearing expression uttered by Derrick belongs to abusive swearing since the aim of the speaker is causing offense and humiliating the hearer.

3. Auxiliary swearing

Pope : What a *fuckin'* day.
Vaughn: You gonna be okay?

(Datum 129)

Pope swears "what a *fuckin'* day" to intensify how the day he has been trough was. Swearing uttered by Pope is categorized as auxiliary swearing because he only wants to emphasize on what he meant to say that is the day he went through so Vaughn can understand how the whole day was frustrating to him.

4. Humorous swearing

Jono: Cock*Sucker*!
Cox : sorry we put you in this situation.
Cox : Remember that time you *fucked* my sister?
Jono : No!
Cox : Yeah, that's 'cause it never happened. If you want it to happen,

you'll do me a favor. No, I'm not *fucking* kidding you. Big-ass bags of money.

(Datum 78)

The word "cock*sucker*" in literal meaning belongs to genital men. But the usage commonly use it as a friendly form of address close friend. For instance, in the conversation which belongs to Jono and Cox, Jono greets his friend Cox through swearing "cock*sucker*". It is used by man to man to show the closeness among them.

B. Motivating Factors of Swearing

Motivating factors of swearing are classified into three main categories which each category is divided into deeper classifications.

1. Psychological Motives

Psychological motive often emphasizes on the speaker's emotion. To release speaker emotion including anger, annoyance, and frustration or even unexpected thing.

a) Anger

Robber: We don't know who he is! Please Mr. Pope, we don't have your money!

Pope : …..two, one.

Robber: Glenn Haley! Glenn fuckin' Haley! He's staying at Candlewood, 451. And it's all her fuckin' idea!

Robber's girlfriend: What? What! You *fuckin' bastard*! I can't…..

(Datum 15)

The girl said "*fuckin' bastard*" to emphasize her statement of anger to her boyfriend. Instead of save her and solve the problem, he blames and uses it as bait. Thus,

to release his emotion of anger, he swears *"fuckin' bastard"* directed to his boyfriend so he can understand about his feeling of being betrayed.

b) Surprise

> Captain : *Who the fuck* are you?
> Marconi: Detective Marconi, lead investigator on this little *shit* show. I was sent here by Deputy Chief Braddock, and chief outranks captain, so I officially release you of your duties and responsibilities and I officially reinstate you, Officer Bauhaus. Grab your *shit*, come with me.
> Captain : But, detective....
>
> (Datum 83)

The swearing expression uttered by the captain is categorized as Psychological motive of swearing part of surprise since the captain is getting surprised from someone he does not know before who come into his room. Besides, the swearing delivered directed to Marconi so Marconi can introduce himself and what he aim for coming in to his room.

c) Frustration

> Vaughn: Hey…
> Julie   : Hey…
> Vaughn: Any changes?
> Julie   : No…. *Jesus*, Luke. It's not going to cover what we owe on last month's bill.
> Vaughn: I'm doing the best I can, Julie.
>
> (Datum 16)

Julie expresses her feeling through swearing *"Jesus"*. The swearing spoken by Julie is categorized as psychological motive of swearing since she feels desperate to the difficult situation she has been through.

2. Social Motive

As a part of language, swearing has different functions when it is released in a different social context. It implies to show closeness. Some of people use swearing to show that they belong to the same identity. It can indicate intimacy, strengthen a group identity, show social distance, and solidarity. In addition, swearing as social motive also purposes as insulting, and amusing.

a. To Show Identity

> Jono: Cocks*ucker*!
> Cox : Jono? Remember that time you *fucked* my sister?
> Jono : No!
> Cox : Yeah, that's 'cause it never happened. If you want it to happen, you'll do me a favor. No, I'm not *fucking* kidding you. Big-ass bags of money.
>
> (Datum 78)

Jono greets Cox through swearing in which he wants to show social intimacy with Cox. Thus, he does swearing *"cocksucker"* as a sign of the relationship between the two. Swearing uttered by Jono is categorized as social motive of swearing to show identity since swearing expression spoken by Jono does not give negative impact or offensive situation because both Jono and Cox are close each other. Indeed, Jono motives is used to strengthen the relationship between him and Cox.

b. To Insult

> Derrick: You're a real *fuckin' moron*, you know that? Driving the same car to your job as you drove to a crack house?
> Mickey: I don't want...

Derrick: Shut up. You made it easy for
  me.

(Datum 86)

He also does swearing *"Fuckin' moron"* directed to Mickey to show his superiority over Mickey. *"Fuckin' moron"* spoken by Derrick is used to insult Mickey for betraying his friend by using the same car to run away that he makes his friends trapped into trouble. Thus, swearing expression addressed by Derrick is classified into social motive of swearing since its aim is for insulting Mickey for his failure in handling his job.

3. Linguistic Motive

Linguistic motive of swearing appears to emphasize an idea by inserting swearword. In other hand, the speaker tries to emphasize what he/she says. People can employ any words in vocabulary in which it is affordable to convey the information when people do communication. Some of people use linguistic motive of swearing since they want to emphasize on what they are trying to communicate.

To Emphasize Something

Pope   : What a *fuckin'* day.
Vaughn: You gonna be okay?

(Datum 129)

Pope does swearing *"fuckin' day"* in her conversation as the expression on how tiring the day he went through. Besides, swearing expression uttered by Pope is categorized as emphasizing motive since he aims for emphasizes on the day he went through during the robbery in his casino.

From the explanations that have been presented above, there are some points that can be taken. Firstly, four types of swearing are applied in *Heist*. Secondly, most of motivating factors of swearing also applied in *Heist*.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Type of Swearing

Four types of swearing are found namely Expletive Swearing (ES), Abusive Swearing (ABS), Humorous Swearing (HS) and Auxiliary Swearing (AUS) appear in the movie. Though the characters preferred to use all of the type of swearing, the motiving factors of each usage may be different depending on the context and situation of the addressee.

2. Motivating factors of Swearing

There are three motivating factors of swearing appear in the movie: first, Psychological motive include Anger, Surprise, and Frustration. Second, Social Motive of swearing include To Show Identity, and To Insult. Last, Linguistic motive include To Emphasize idea. Moreover, Joy as a branch of Psychological motive and To Amuse Other as a branch of Social Motive of swearing do not appear in *Heist*. The absence of Joy and To Amuse Other as motivating factor of swearing is because most of the characters are included in a conflict and have to deal hatred which is there is a little possible to found the character does swearing for aim to create joyfulness. On the other hand, the

use of swearing creates and supports the construction of the criminal atmosphere and theme in the movie.

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