

Swear Words in the Movie TED: A Sociolinguistics Study

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Abstract

This study examines swear words in the movie Ted and their purposes, focusing on sociolinguistic studies. Swear words are emotional words used in invective conversations, emphasizing the speaker's message. The study uses qualitative research methodology, examining the relationship between language and the context of its use. Swear words have specific power and can be shocking and effective when used in unexpected locations and contexts. The researcher uses the observation technique to analyze the swear words in the movie script. Data collected by watching the Ted movie on Netflix using observation techniques, studying the script, identifying swear words, categorizing the data, and examining the actors' intentions in the research produces propositions related to reasonable principles. The findings are then reviewed, grouped, and reported, resulting in a comprehensive study. The final results of the analysis were poured into the research. All of these classification categories were found in the movie. Then identifies five functions for swear words and suggests motives that influence swear words.

Keywords: *swear words, sociolinguistics study*

Introduction

Every human on this planet depends on other people as social beings. They need the help of others to survive. They need a way to communicate through language when they need aid or wish to seek help from others. Language is often divided into two categories: formal and informal. Depending on the situation, these two linguistic and grammatical formulations are applied. Swearing is an example of informal language. Allan and Burridge (2006:76) stated that Lafreniere et al. (2022) define swearing as derogatory or unpleasant words used to insult and denounce the object of the insult. Invective words are essential in this research because most people associate swearing with something negative and wrong. After all, swearing contains inappropriate words, particularly in formal conversation. When people use informal language, a strange phenomenon occurs in which elements of informal language may contain swear words. Swear words are generally considered harmful in society and should be avoided. The researcher also claims that swearing is offensive and disrespectful. Although swearing is not approved, many people continue using it, particularly young people and adults. Another fact is that young people, particularly students, use profanity not only to insult or curse others but also to express closeness, intimacy, and solidarity.

On the other hand, some people use swear words to express emotions, pain, and surprise, as a joke, and as a friendly greeting between close acquaintances. Whether swear words are good or bad, examining them can provide excellent knowledge of their

uniqueness and how they might communicate the speaker's emotions or feelings. Many people worldwide swear to communicate their emotions, and swearing is a human trait inextricably linked to verbal communication. Swearing is a natural part of our language and is undoubtedly one of the most effective ways to express wrath or disappointment in challenging situations.

According to Hughes's (1991) definition in Sari (2018), swearing draws on powerful and unpredictable resonators such as religion, sex, insanity, excrement, and patriotism. This research notes that swearing spans many attitudes, including violent, hilarious, shocking, ludicrous, casual, and impossible. Most listeners will be harmed if they hear you swear. The researcher chose the movie *Ted* as the research subject in this study. As the IMDb website states, *Ted* is a 2012 American comedy movie. Seth MacFarlane wrote and directed the movie. The reason for choosing *Ted*'s movie is because it contains much information about swearing. Also, it is ideal for English students to learn the impoliteness of strong swear words. And this movie also has a message that teaches about friendship.

Literature Review

Language is a human communication system that uses arbitrary signals such as vocal sounds, gestures, and written symbols. To gain a better understanding of language structure and the function of language in communication, the field of sociolinguistics investigates all phenomena that involve language and society. Researching how individuals interact in their daily lives, whether in formal or casual settings, and how their speech patterns change based on the social context also aims to highlight the connections between language and society. Sociolinguistics, as defined by Simatupang (2019) and stated in (Simatupang & Amalia, 2019), is concerned with the interaction between language and the circumstances in which it is used. They aim to understand how language functions socially, how it is used to communicate social meaning, and why we speak differently in different social situations. Ramadhan (2020) claims sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary science or a combination of two disciplines, namely sociology and linguistics. As an interdisciplinary science, sociolinguistics seeks to explain the human ability to use language rules appropriately in different situations. This is done to learn more about the structure of language and how it works in society.

Language's role is as a communication tool that will be successful if human contact in social life functions smoothly. Using sociolinguistic studies, the researcher discussed the swear words used in the movie in this study. This study intends to emphasize the link between language and society by studying how people interact in their everyday lives in both public and informal situations and how their speech patterns change depending on their social setting. Studying sociolinguistics can tell us how people use language in different social settings, teaching us a lot about how language functions in society. This is especially true regarding language, how it influences interpersonal relationships in communities, and how people express and create aspects of their social identity through language. This study means that sociolinguistics studies who speaks, what language is spoken, and to whom and when he speaks. Another way of saying it is that sociolinguistics is a branch of knowledge that focuses on the problem of how languages interact with each other and with society.

A sociolinguistic study examines language's function in society and its impact on various contexts. Among these social determinants are social position, level of education, age, economic condition, religion, and gender. In addition, contextual variables such as who

communicates, how language is used, to whom, where, when, and on what topics influence how language is used. According to the definitions above, sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary field of study that looks at the problem of language and how it is used in society at different times. Sociolinguistic studies see language as a framework, a social system, a means of communication, and a component of human culture. This study is done to learn more about the structure of language and how it works in society.

Categories of Swear Words

Several experts have classified the various categories of swearing. The swearing categories given are based on the theory of Andersson and Trudgill (1992) in Sembiring et al (2019), who conducted research to analyze and obtain information about swearing. They classify swear words into several categories, including:

1. Expletive: An expletive is not a curse addressed to another person. Its sole purpose is to convey the speaker's emotion, such as joy, anger, or sadness. For example, the word *oh "sh*t!"* could be said when someone is shocked. In this case, the swear word is used to convey the surprise of the speaker rather than refer to the person. Another illustration is the word *"d*mn!"* This word refers to the spontaneous emotion of surprise expressed by the speaker.
2. Abusive: This type of swearing is aimed directly at another person. The main goal is to convey anger. When someone is angry, they might say, *"F*ck you!"* or *"Motherf*cker!"* to express their feelings.
3. Humorous: Humor is meant to make a situation more relaxed and enjoyable. Usually, speakers have a close relationship. For example, if someone is acting strangely, an acquaintance might say, *"Hey, it looks like sh*t!"* Or *"get your a*s ready!"*.
4. Auxiliary: This has nothing to do with the display of emotion. These swear words weren't directed at the other person; they were just a way of speaking. The expression "lazy word" refers to this type of swearing. Examples in the phrase *"it's f*cking fantastic work!"* or *"f*cking awesome"*. It is only used to highlight great terms.

Functions of Swear Words

In this study, the researcher used Pinker's theory as material for discussion in determining the functions of swear words. Many linguists, including Steven Pinker and Magnus Ljung, have proposed ideas related to swear words. Based on Pinker's (2007) view, swear words can be differentiated based on how they are used, or called another way based on their purpose for responding to them. According to Pinker's (2007) theory stated in Lafreniere et al. (2022), there are five different functions for swearing, including:

1. Dysphemistic swearing: This swearing serves to encourage listeners to think negative or provocative things.
Example: I'm not a *"g*y"* or Just you *"h*mos"*.
2. Abusive swearing: This swearing is used to scare and embarrass others and address them in a negative way during arguments, disrespectful behavior, or emotional altercations.
Example: *"F*ck you!"*, or *"You b*stard men!"*.

3. Idiomatic swearing is a swearing style that uses idioms or phrases to convey meaning, not specific words. This is what causes the emergence of various idioms containing swear words or "taboo". This idiomatic function occurs when someone uses bad language to impress others, draw attention to himself, or just show his friends that the situation is informal without actually addressing the subject at hand.

Example: "Oh *Sh*t*, I gotta get to work." Or "*f*ck all*" "give a *f*ck*".

4. Emphatic swearing: This swearing shows by emphasizing something, either by describing its size, stature, or its relation to the things around it. This type of swearing, including swear words in a sentence, increases the value of those words. Swearing can be used to emphasize a point, as in this example sentence: "This picture is *f*cking great*" or "*I'm a f*cking talking bear*".
5. Cathartic swearing: This swearing is used to express negative emotions that someone is experiencing. When something unexpected happens, it is used to convey to the audience that they are feeling upset. When someone uses this kind of swearing, it is at this point because they are under the influence of a strong emotion or irritation. These swear words are specific to the occasion and specific to the language.

Example: "*Holy sh*t*" or "*Jesus f*cking Christ!*"

Motives of Swear Words

Every swear word spoken is considered to have a certain power. Therefore, when someone swears, they are expressing how they are feeling, whether they are happy or annoyed. When used in unexpected locations and contexts, such as public speeches or critical situations, etc., swearing is most shocking and effective (Andersson in Karjalainen, 2002) and stated in Alifia (2021). Many factors contribute to swearing statements, according to Andersson and Trudgill's hypothesis.

The motive for swear words is based on Andersson and Trudgill's (1992) theory in Hasanah et al (2022). There are three reasons why people say swear words: psychological, social, and linguistic motives. Here's the explanation:

1. Psychological Motives

In this motif, it means that swearing is caused by a reaction to a particular phenomenon or event around the speaker. It is considered a normal reaction of surprise or anger. Swear words are a natural part of our language, and they are certainly one of the most efficient ways to relieve further annoyance or discomfort in difficult situations. Hughes (1991) in Fredy and Haristiani (2020) adds that people swear by (something), swear to (do something), regret someone or something, and occasionally swear out of frustration. These emotional states include displeasure, frustration, anger, surprise, and joy.

For example: *Sh*t*, I gotta work. (meaning surprise), You break my wall! You *b*stard* men! (meaning anger), and "wow..this place it's *f*cking nice*." (meaning joy).

2. Social Motives

In this motif, swear words are used to attract attention which may involve more than one person. The characters usually swear to show a friendly relationship or to show an intimate relationship.

For example: “Ought man,you look like a *sh*t!*” Or “*Son of a b*tch*...You wished for my life back.” This example is intended as a swear word to a close friend.

3. Linguistic Motives

The first point is that a single grammar should be used to describe all languages (rather than different grammars for comprehension and different grammars for production). The second point is that this single language can be used successfully for both creation and decoding. The following linguistic explanation can be used for the statement in the first point. Characterizing language is the main theoretical goal of linguistics. There are probably many different perspectives on swearing. Some people may believe that certain phrases are completely inappropriate and should be removed from society, while others will believe that they are appropriate in certain situations.

However, others may claim that they are appropriate in all situations. In linguistic motives, the motives uttered in swear words intend to emphasize certain words. It is used to convey a message properly or to express surprise or astonishment.

For example: “Nice *fu*kin’ example* you’re settin’ for your kid.” Or “*Godd*mn* right!” Or “*Hell, yes!*” In this example, it means to put a strong emphasis on a very prominent word in conveying an utterance.

Examples of Swear Words and Their Context

Strong swear words are words generally used to insult others, and these words are of the most abusive character. Weak swear words are also words used to abuse, but their character is not as harsh as strong words. Here are some examples in English of swear words which are often used in everyday life and are described in the table below as follows:

1. Strong swear words

Table 1. Strong swear words

Words	Example Sentence	Reason/meaning
Holy sh*t	Holy sh*t! You look so beautiful.	Feeling surprised
Hell	What the hell is all this?	Very annoying
Son of a b*tch	You son of a b*tch!	Anger, astonishment.
motherf*cker	This motherf*cker stole my money.	Anger, joke, intimidate.
godd*mn	Godd*mn it!	Upset, shock
f*ck	What the f*ck?	Annoying, anger, upset
sh*t	I don’t give a sh*t., Oh..sh*t i forgot my phone.	upset, shock, annoying, swear for something
a*s	Go or I’ll kick your a*s!	Joke, genitals words
b*tch	This has nothing to do with this b*tch.	Anger, swear for people, joke, etc.
a*shole	You’re such an a*shole.	Anger, intimidate
b*stard	Look at this b*stard asking me what is up.	Anger, annoying
d*ckhead	How’s your dickhead boss?	intimidate, genital words
Words	Example Sentence	Reason/meaning

2. Weak swear words

Table 2. Weak swear words

Words	Example Sentence	Reason/meaning
Blah!	That was disgusting blah!	Annoying, upset
Ouch!	Ouch! I don't like it.	Annoying, upset
stupid!	You look stupid with that costume!	Joke, swear for people
Coward!	He is secretly a coward.	Swear for people
Oh Gosh!	Oh gosh! I forgot his birthday.	Shock
Dummy!	You're also not the dummy you used to be.	Intimidate, underestimate

Despite the prevalence of swearing in ordinary social interaction, using powerful swear words at someone is regarded as offensive and disrespectful conduct in most cultures and communities, and hence its usage in social engagement is typically detested. Males are more susceptible than females to use severe swear words. Men are more likely than women to swear when annoyed or upset, but women are more likely than men to perceive swearing in anger as a loss of control and to recognize that cursing could damage their relationships with others.

Method

The researcher describes the approach followed in this investigation and concentrates on swear words in the movie. In this study, the researcher uses qualitative research methodology that supports analyzing swear words in the movie. Qualitative research aims to provide an in-depth interpretation or explanation of the meaning of events or actions. According to Maxwell (2021), qualitative methods are essential for understanding causal processes in qualitative research, focusing on participants' meanings, beliefs, values, and social and cultural contexts. These strengths enable a deeper understanding of participants' behavior and outcomes, enhancing the validity of the research. Discussion of research methodology, settings, data sources, data collection methods, and analytical methods requires research on the relationship between language and the context of its use; in other words, this research analyzes how language and related society explain how our speech changes depending on the social environment. Data is given as transcripts of dialogue from critical characters in *Ted*. To investigate swear words, this study used a qualitative method with data collection procedures in the form of documentation. The qualitative method is a method that emphasizes the researcher as the main instrument, uses several data sources, and focuses on the meaning given by the respondents. As of October 2022, this research data was collected from subtitles. The researcher is the only instrument that is busy searching, collecting, and analyzing data to achieve the objectives of this research. In this research data source, the researcher watched the movie *Ted*, then searched for the movie script and got it from internet.

The researchers also analyze the data in words and sentences containing swear words according to their categories, functions, and motives. But in this study, the researcher used observation techniques to collect data. The researcher carried out several stages in collecting data, namely, as follows:

1. Watch the movie *Ted* on Netflix.
2. Look for the movie scripts on the internet.

3. Study the script of the movie.
4. Identify the utterances or words containing swear words in the movie script.
5. Categorize the data.
6. Analyze the types of swear words and examine the meaning and intention uttered by the actors in the movie Ted.

At this step, the results are carefully evaluated by evaluating the obtained data records. In contrast, this research produces propositions related to reasonable principles, adopts them as research findings, and then reviews them repeatedly on existing data, groups data that has been formed, then reports complete research results with new findings that differ from existing findings, and compiles the final results by preparing and pouring data into this study.

Results

In this research, the researcher also explains swear words found in the movie. The following are the swear words, including:

A. Based on Andersson and Trudgill's (1992) theory, which is divided into 4 (four) categories, including:

1. Expletive, this is example data containing expletive swear words there are:

Table 3. Data of Expletive swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
sh*t	Shock	Psychological	Sh*t, I gotta get to work.
Oh sh*t!!	Pain, surprise	Psychological	Oh sh*t...that was hurt!
f*ck	frustration	Psychological	Oh f*ck, is it nine-thirty?
Hell	Upset	Psychological	What the hell is all this?
d*mn!!	frustration	Psychological	d*mn! We are in trouble
godd*mn	Annoyed, astonished	Psychological	Godd*mn right, wow. Now get outta here.

Exclamations are occasionally used in tight situations to indicate that the speaker wants to alleviate pressure. Expletives are also regarded as dirty or vulgar expressions regularly called 'bad language.' The purpose of using an expletive is not to communicate anger or bitterness but rather to express a frustrated cry or countenance in response to bad luck or a bad situation. As a result, the speaker becomes irritated or expresses their displeasure toward a specific individual.

2. Abusive, this is example data containing of abusive there are:

Table 4. Data of Abusive swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
B*stard	intimidate, humiliate	Psychological	You b*stard!! You break my wall!
b*tch	accusations, intimidate, humiliate	Psychological	Why are you acting like a b*tch?
motherf*cker	intimidate, humiliate	Psychological	You gonna kick me, motherf*cker?

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
a*shole	Rude, genital, intimidate	Psychological	He's such an a*shole
f*ck you	Anger, intimidate	Psychological	F*ck you. Why do you have to take it so far?

This category includes abusive, rude, and demeaning words used to refer to someone else. This type of communication can be expressed with analogies (e.g., "*You dress like a sl*t!*"), advice (e.g., "*Why don't you go f*ck yourself?*"), and accusations (e.g., "*You're a real b*tch!*"). Another word, like "*motherf*cker*," refers to a tool, blame, a person, or a difficult or stressful situation. Also, the word can be used for admiration, as in the term badass motherf*cker, which means someone fearless and confident.

3. Humorous, this is example data containing of humorous there are:

Table 5. Data of Humorous swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
a*ss	Make a fun, joking	Social	Come on, get your a*s ready!
sh*t	Tease, make fun of	Social	Oh man, you look like a sh*t..
a*sshole	Make a fun, joking	Social	How you doin', you fuzzy little a*shole?
f*ck, f*cking..	Funny, make a fun of, Swearing for something, or express about things, people or feeling	Social	What the f*ck are you doing?, I'm a fucking talking bear.
Son of b*tch	Joking	Social	Son of a b*tch...You wished for my life back

Humorous in this category means making fun of someone in a funny context, making people laugh, or telling a joke. So that in this kind of humour, some of the exact words are spoken; some words intimidate, insult, and make fun of, but in this swearing, it contains meanings that are not serious, just for fun, or just joking. And as a rule, taunts and jokes were only said to those with whom they had a close relationship.

4. Auxiliary, this is example data containing of auxiliary there are:

Table 6. Data of Auxiliary swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
f*cking...	Attention	Linguistics	Are you f*cking serious right now?
bloody..	Pressure	Linguistics	Oh come on... I'm bloody wet!
d*mn...	Pressure	Linguistics	Godd*mn! I forgot my phone

In this study, the researcher analyzes auxiliary swearing. Some of the swearing differences mentioned above have different functions or meanings depending on the context, location, or mood of the receiver. Some of the examples of abusive swearing given above are direct, rude, and unpleasant to the recipient.

B. Based on Pinker's theory (2007) stated in Lafreniere et al. (2022), data found different functions for swearing. There are 5 (five) functions of swear words:

1. Dysphemism, this is example data containing of dysphemism there are:

Table 7. Data of Dysphemism swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
gay	Intimidate, humiliate	Social	I'm gay or whatever.
homo	Intimidate, humiliate	Social	No, just you homos.
cunt	Intimidate, humiliate	Social	What a c*nt !!
stupid	Unpleasant, underestimate	Social	He look stupid

The example in the words above may characterize that type of dysphemism since it is related to politeness and social norms. The words above are also insulting dysphemism because they reveal the physical peculiarities of someone, make fun of someone, humiliate or intimidate someone, or have negative intuition.

2. Abusive, this is example data containing of abusive there are:

Table 8. Data of Abusive swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
a*shole	Anger, Intimidate	Social	You're an asshole!
F*ck you	emotional altercations,	Social	Fuck you! I don't want to talk to you!
motherf*cker	Intimidate, emotional altercations	Social	C'mon, motherfucker!
Son of bitch	disrespectful behavior, intimidate	Social	Son of a bitch...You wished for my life back

This type of speech is used to bluff or gain power over what is being said and call people out rudely. These expressions serve several communicative functions, primarily contributing expressiveness to the interlocutor and making fun of people with abusive swearing.

3. Idiomatic, this is example data containing of idiomatic there are:

Table 9. Data of Idiomatic swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
f*ck	Attention to himself	Psychological	Oh, f*ck me. Nice.
sh*t	Impress other	Psychological	Nobody give a shit
godd*m	Situation informal	Psychological	Goddamn it! this is terrible

The researcher concludes in the previous example that peers or long-known persons may state idiomatic swearing; they can communicate by expressing language geared at catching the listener's attention or encouraging themselves to be sworn at. The abusive language used is very similar to that used in abusive situations, but in a different context.

4. Emphatic, this is example data containing of emphatic there are:

Table 10. Data of Emphatic swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
..f*cking..	Confirm, emphasize	Linguistics	He's the only reason I ever gained any f*cking confidence.
	Emphatic	Linguistics	You're un-f*cking-believable
	Confirm	Linguistics	I'm a f*cking talking bear.
freaking..	Claim	Linguistics	You are freaking cool
bloody..	Claim	Linguistics	He is bloody genius

In the example data table 10 above, the data containing of emphatic swearing is only in the form of affirming sentences that are considered very, most, or claiming that sentences are emphasized by adding those words such as “*f*cking, bloody, or freaking*”.

5. Cathartic, this is example data containing of cathartic there are:

Table 11. Data of Cathartic swear words

Words	Meaning	Motives	Example in Sentence
Oh my god..	Surprise	Psychological	Oh my god... its miracle
Jesus Christ..	Frustration	Psychological	Stop it! Jesus Christ, knock it off!
sh*t	Offended	Psychological	Oh sh*t!... I don't want to meet him!
f*ck	astonishment, insult	Psychological	f*ck... you already date with her
Holysh*t	astonishment	Psychological	Holy sh*t! How can he be here?

Swearing in Cathartic is a word used in part almost the same as abusive but with a different meaning. This swearing is a process of emotional release related to the need to relieve unconscious problems, so the speaker swears to release his emotions that have been faced/are happening.

C. According to Andersson and Trudgill's (1992) theory, the motive for swear words is psychological, social, and linguistic. There are several examples of data that contain there:

Table 12. Data of Motive swear words

Reason of Context Swear words	Example Words	Motives
upset, shock	God d*mm it!	Psychological
Anger, intimidate	B*stard	Social
Joke, shock, astonishment	sh*t	Social
Annoying, upset, regret, shock	f*ck	Psychological
Swearing for something, or express about things, people or feeling	...f*cking....	Linguistics
Anger, frustrate, emotional sensitive, Swearing for people	f*ck you	Psychological, social
Anger, emotional sensitive, upset, annoying, Swearing for people	motherf*cker	Psychological, social
Anger, upset	bullsh*t	Psychological, social

Reason of Context Swear words	Example Words	Motives
Intimidate, humiliate, joke	gay/homo	Psychological, social
Anger, joke, swear at people	a*shole	Psychological, social
Annoying, upset	hell	Psychological
Anger, emotional sensitive, upset, annoying, intimidate	son of b*tch	Psychological, social
Shock, surprise, upset	holy sh*t	Psychological
Shock/surprise	Jesus Christ	Psychological
Shock/surprise	Oh my God	Psychological

The use of swear words in the movie mainly falls into the expletive category, where the characters describe more emotions of anger or annoyance than swearing at other people. The function of the swear word most commonly used in the movie is abusive; its primary purpose is to convey anger in a very rude context and swear at others. The motives used for characters are mostly psychological because this motive expresses more strong emotions about something, such as anger, shock, or joking.

Discussion

Data of Categories of Swear Words

In the data discussion, the researcher classifies data from the source text in the movie Ted to identify the categories, describe the functions, and explain the motives of the swear words used by the characters in the movie. According to Andersson and Trudgill (1992: 53), swearing is reasonably common and challenging to define. Finally, they define swear words as the use of language that refers to something that is taboo and has a stigma in society, should not be taken literally, and can be used to communicate intense feelings and attitudes. The researcher describes the dialogue fragments taken as data on swear words contained in the movie Ted based on the theory, which is divided into several purposes, including;

The five categories of swear words that are used by the characters in the Ted movie based on Andersson and Trudgill's theory (1992) are:

1. Expletive swear words are intended to describe emotions that are neither for a person nor for someone else.

Data of dialogue found in the movie Ted are as follows:

The scene: Ted and John sit on the sofa, just talking about women in Boston, and in the middle conversation, John realizes about time. And he was shocked he would work and be late. John gets up, and hurries into the other room to get dressed.

JOHN (looks at his watch) : Oh **f*ck**, is it nine-thirty? **sh*t**, I gotta work.
(Source: *TED* movie/ Time: 0:11:13)

Analysis of data (1) on the word "**f*ck**" and "**sh*t**" refers to a swear expression that shows he is shocked after seeing the watch and he should go to work. In this case, this swearing

belongs to the expletive category, which describes the emotion of shock over the situation. That man's swearing implies psychological motives.

2. Abusive language is generally considered disrespectful when used to terrify, intimidate, or humiliate someone.

Data of dialogue found in the movie Ted are as follows:

The scene : Sam, John, and Ted stand by the wall. Ted asks Sam to punch. Sam punches the wall several times, and his first goes right through. John, Sam, and Ted run back out into the living room. The Asian man is Ted's neighbour; he runs toward them, screaming first in Cantonese; the Asian man shows his annoyance to Ted, then swears with harsh swear words.

(2) **Asian Man**: You break my wall! This my home long time! You break my wall!
You **b*stard** men!

John/Ted: Dude, we're sorry! We're sorry!

Asian Man: You **b*stard** men! I try to make duck dinner, now plaster everywhere!
(Source: *TED* movie/ Time: 0:57:17)

In the analysis of data (2), the term "**b*stard**" is rated as an abusive or rude category with the meaning of insulting or humiliating, and the motive for that meaning is psychological. He gave off emotional feelings that he wanted to say some swear words.

3. Humorous is categorized as swearing that intends to express something funny, joking, or just a form of mere entertainment and does not intend to swear at other people. Be humorous, not serious, and not offensive.

Data of dialogue found in the movie Ted are as follows:

The scene: When John and Lori have a couple date, Lori is upset by John, who always acts like a kid with his Teddy bear. Then, a guy at a table on the right (John & Lori) screams into his napkin, followed by his dining companions.

LORI (BEAT) :I need a man, John. Not a boy with a teddy bear.

JOHN:I know. Done. Man, right here in front of you. Look at these pecs. Man pecs. Look at the hair on my upper lip. Man hair. I just farted. Man fart.

LORI: Did you really just fart?

JOHN: Yeah, but I pushed it that way with my hand.

LORI :Oh. Wonder where it'll hit first.

GUY 1:Who did this to us?!

(3) **GUY 2**:**God d*mmmit**! I'm here on business!

(Source: *TED* movie/ Time: 0:47:38)

Analysis of data (3) from the word "**God d*mmmit**" refers to a swear expression that shows he is annoyed by something that makes him uncomfortable. In this case, this swearing belongs to the humorous category, describing the emotion of that guy when John made the situation serious, being a joke. That man's swearing implies psychological motives.

4. Auxiliary: This category of swearing is specifically emphasized by speakers who use it to replace or add to the vocabulary in a speech or something that they want to say.

Data of dialogue found in the movie Ted are as follows:

The scene: Ted was on the phone with John and told him the Flash actor was at his party.

TED (V.O.): Johnny! You gotta over here, man!

JOHN : Why? What's going on?

TED:I'm havin' a little impromptu thing with some people, and John... Sam Jones is here

JOHN: What?!

(4) TED : Sam Jones. *Flash f*cking Gordon*. Is here.

JOHN : Holy sh*t! How?

(Source: *TED* movie/ Time: 0:50:44)

Analysis of data (4), the word "*f*cking*" is only used to highlight the word Gordon (name). The replacement vocabulary can strengthen or emphasize the expression that is felt. Either it looks great or it sounds bad. And the motive used linguistics only to emphasize the word that came before it.

Data of Function Swear Words

Every swear word will be explained and followed by dialogue examples from the movie. Each use of swear words will be presented chronologically. The following is an example of data classified based on Pinker's theory (2007), as stated in Lafreniere et al. (2022). The intended function and how the characters in the movie *Ted* utter those swear words show a specific purpose:

1. Dysphemism: an expression that functions to imply unpleasant things about the speaker or the topic of conversation.

Data of the dialogue in the movie *Ted* is as follows:

The scene: John and Ted sit on the couch, in the same exact spots saw them earlier, book ending the day. John drinks a beer as they watch TV. Ted lights up a bong and inhales. Then Lori came with the food. John asked about dinner.

JOHN : What do we got there?

LORI : Turkey burgers.

TED :Oh. Okay. Are we having h*mos over for dinner or something?

(5) LORI :No, just you h*mos.

TED/JOHN :Whoa!!!

(Source: *TED* movie/ Time: 00:16:56)

In data (5), the word "*h*mo*" or "*g*y*" refers to "*h*mos*xuality*" or call same-sex male enthusiasts. When something or someone is belittled, dysphemism is used in those swear words. The motives indicated in this statement refer to social motives as intimate relationship.

2. Abusive: This phrase is used to intimidate and humiliate someone, as well as to address them strongly, during arguments, disrespectful behavior, or emotional altercations.

Data of the dialogue in the movie *Ted* is as follows:

The scene: Lori storms out into the street. After a beat, John runs out after her. She gets in the car and drives away with a screech. Angle on Ted, who is walking out the door.

TED : Johnny, come on upstairs. Tami-Lynn's gonna make some RC Cola from scratch.

(6) **JOHN** : F*ck you! I don't want to talk to you!

TED : What?

JOHN : Do you know what just happened? Do you have any clue? My life just ended.

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 01:00:38)

In data (6), the word "*f*ck you*", which refers to accusations leveled at Ted. Male users use slurs more frequently than female users (Kirk 2013 in Jdetawy 2019). The motive from this statement is social, as in intimate friendship.

3. Idiomatic swearing, This idiomatic function occurs when someone uses bad language to impress others, draw attention to himself, or just show his friends that the situation is informal without actually addressing the subject at hand.

Data of the dialogue in the movie *Ted* is as follows:

The scene: Ted and John watching. They have a bong. Then John ask about work, there Ted met a girl, John curious with her name, and suggest that name.

JOHN : Britney, Tiffany, Candice?

TED : Nope.

(7) **JOHN** : Don't f*ck with me on this. I know this sh*t.

TED : I know you do, and I am not f*cking with you.

JOHN: Okay, was it any one of those names with a Lynn after it?

TED : Yep.

John: Okay. Brandi-Lynn, Heather-Lynn-

TED : Tammy-Lyn

JOHN: F*ck!

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 00:32:31)

In data (7), the word "*f*ck*" which means to mess up, describes John's annoyance at asking Ted not to play with him as a psychological feeling of discomfort. The self-loathing expressed in swear words falls under the category of idiomatic swearing.

4. Emphatic Swearing: this swearing function is used to point out a problem or to draw attention to the situation itself.

Data of dialogue about swearing in the movie *Ted* is as follows:

The scene: when John tells Ted that his life with Lori is over. John is so mad at Ted for asking him to party somewhere else with Ted, to the point where he forgets about Lori because he misses the party.

(8) **JOHN** : All I do is smoke pot and watch movies with a teddy f*cking bear. And because of that, I just lost the love of my life.

TED : Johnny, I'm... I'm sorry.

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 01:00:40)

In data (8), the vocabulary is used to emphasize the word "*teddy f*cking bear*" and the speaker's expression. The motive used in that statement is linguistic.

5. Cathartic swearing: the function of this swearing is to release tension, such as surprise, astonishment, and frustration. It is meant to insult or offend anyone.

The following dialogue follows an data of the use of categorical catharsis from swear words found in the movie *Ted* including:

The scene: When John was at Lori's office party, he went to Ted's party, where the Flash Gordon actor was at his party. After all this time, John realized he had left Lori at her office party, but Lori came to Ted's party, and John was there. Lori broke off the relationship and took her car, leaving John. John seemed to regret it and was very sad. Ted came and asked him to go back inside to have fun, but John angrily blamed Ted for the situation that had happened.

(9) **JOHN** : Are you even listening to me?! Do you give any shred of a sh*t?!
Ted pauses, realizing John is serious.

TED : Well... `course I do, Johnny. Thunder buddies for life.

(10) **JOHN** : Jesus, Lori was right. I should have stopped hanging out with you a long time ago. I'm never gonna have a life with you around. I'm 35 years old and I'm going nowhere...

TED : Johnny, I'm... I'm sorry.

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 1:00:56)

In data (9), John says "sh*t" meaning that he needs somebody to care about his situation, and in data (10), "Jesus" explicitly as a frustrated reaction about what his feeling is so sad. However, more is needed to regain his condition with his girlfriend, Lori. That statement implies a psychological motive.

Data of Motive Swear Words

Swear words motives are based on Anderson and Trudgill's (1992) theory in Hasanah et al (2022). This hypothesis is used by the researcher to explain the motives for swearing in the movie *Ted* as follows:

1. Psychological Motives: in the description of this motive, it expresses swearing as strong emotions about something. These emotional states include displeasure, frustration, anger, surprise, and joy. Here are some illustrations of the psychological motivations that occur in the movie:

Data 11

The scene: Lori enters a haze of pot smoke, and a very much trashed. (empty bottles, wrappers, etc.). Ted sits on the sofa with a small group of Ladies. They're watching romance movie which plays very loudly on the TV.

(11) **LORI** : What the hell is all this?!

TED : Lori! Hey, you're home early! The ladies and I were just watching "Romancing the Stone." Got it on Blu-Ray. Came in a two-pack with "Jewel of the Nile," but I don't know that we'll end up watching that one.

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 0:26:41)

In data (11), Saying "hell" expressing anger and annoyance at the situation is very disturbing. Saw the messy room and the women with Ted.

Data 12

The scene: Ted sits on the sofa with a small group of Ladies. They're watching romance movie which plays very loudly on the TV. Lori glances around the room, then screams as she sees something in the corner.

(12) **Lori:** There is... a sh*t in the corner! On the floor! There's a sh*t!

TED : Oh man, that's what Dierdre was doin' over there in the corner for so long. Remember, she was crouched over there and I thought she was just makin' a call or something.

LORI : There is a sh*t!! On my floor!

TED : Yeah, she's passed out in the bathroom now, she seemed like she was hopped up on somethin'. I mean, mystery solved, I guess--

LORI : What the f*ck!!!!

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 0:27:32)

In data (12) the words "sh*t" and "f*ck" expressed Lori's surprise, anger, and annoyance at having to see something in the corner of the room.

Data 13

The scene: On a kind of double date in a restaurant, John and Lory, Ted, and Tami-Lynn (the girl from the grocery store) have dinner together. Tami-Lynn feels offended by Lori's words. The following is a fragment of the dialogue:

Lori : I was just asking a question.

TAMI-LYNN : You're a friggin' snob! You think you're all cool cause you work at some fancy sh*t place!

TED : It's okay, Tami. (TO LORI) Nice, Lori. Real nice.

LORI : What?! It's not my fault she can't speak English.

(13) **TAMI-LYNN :** F*ck you! Just 'cause you're all in the business world and shit, you think everyone's supposed to like, suck your as*hole!

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 0:45:32)

In data (13) the words "f*ck you" and "a*shole" reveal Tami-Lynn's upset feelings about Lori for remarks that offended her, and she expressed her anger and emotions.

Psychological reasons for swearing involve dealing with someone's emotions. People may become angry or annoyed due to anything unpleasant or unexpected. Usually, physical violence or swearing is used as a reaction to or as a solid sentiment to express displeasure or anger.

2. **Social Motives:** In this motive, the character usually swears to show friendly relations or to indicate intimate relations. As for examples that express social categories, here's a snippet of the dialogue:

Data 14-15

Lori and John celebrate their fourth anniversary at a fancy restaurant, John and Lori talk about their relationship without any distractions from Ted, who is always messing with his career and time with Lori. She always wanted John beside her as a grown man without a teddy bear.

(14) **JOHN** (rolling his eyes with a sigh):....He's the only reason I ever gained any f*cking confidence`Cause of him. So, y'know, I'm not that psyched to just, like, kick him out.

LORI : Well, it's good to know that a talking teddy bear is the only thing that kept you from gunning down your classmates, but John, you're not eight. You're thirty-five. And unless you're too blind to notice, he's not your only friend anymore. You have me. And I love you.

JOHN : I love you, too. You know that.

(15) **LORI** : Look, I've put the best physical years of my life into this. I mean, I'm cute now, but in a few years my body's gonna fall off a f*cking cliff. Things'll be hanging and stretching in ways that might scare a man. I need to feel secure in the fact that you won't leave me when that happens.

(Source: *TED* Movie/ Time: 0:25:30)

In data (14) the words "*f*cking confidence*" in the dialogue expresses John's feelings about his confidence, when Ted comes into his life as a best friend. And data (15) in words "*f*cking cliff*" Lori's expression emphasizes the sentence as a picture that John will always be beside her without wasting time waiting for special moments in each togetherness.

Data 16-17

The scene: Thomas is the boss of John's office; Thomas sat at his desk facing John as he said something to John. Here's a snippet of the dialogue:

(16) **THOMAS**: John, all you have to do is not f*ck up, and you get my job when I go to corporate next month. You will be the new branch manager. All you have to do is not f*ck up, and all you're doing is f*cking up. Not that I don't think you're too f*cked up to handle not f*cking up my job, but you happen to be the least f*cked-up person in the whole office. The next least f*cked-up is Alix, and you've been here three f*cking years longer than him. But I'm telling you, I will promote the f*ck out of him if you f*ck up one more time. That is all. F*ck.

(17) **JOHN**: Sir, I promise, you're not gonna regret promoting the f*ck out of me.

(Source: *Ted* Movie/ Time: 0:12:32)

In data (16), the words "f*ck up, f*cking up, f*cking years, f*ck" (all of them a phrasal verb from the word f*ck) from the dialogue that's meant disappointing express Thomas' regret for John's actions as a form of expression of concern for someone who has known him for a long time. And in data (17) the word "*f*ck out*" John's statement to make sure to his boss, Thomas. It will never happen again, and he will not be disappointed. This case shows the social motives of friends or close relationship.

Data 18

The scene: Ted and John are fighting. Ted throws other objects at John, including beer cans and the phone. John and Ted stare at each other for a beat, each breathing heavily. John and Ted scuffle on the floor, engaging in a realistic-as-possible fistfight. Each one gets some blows. John throws Ted off him and back onto the bed. Ted taunts him. Here's a snippet of the dialogue:

(18) JOHN: AAAAAA!!! F*cking Jesus, f*cking Christ! god f*cking dammit!
(19) TED: C'mon, motherf*cker!

(Source: TED Movie/ Time: 01:07:03)

Swear words from data (18) above, "*F*cking Jesus, f*cking Christ! god f*cking dammit!*" expressed John's annoyance at Ted, who threw an object at him. Meanwhile, John countered Ted's attack, which looked like he was challenging John with the swear word "*motherf*cker*" in data (19) as an expression challenging the next attack. These words express social motives in an intimate way; even though they fight each other, they are friends and love each other.

A social motive is a motive that arises to meet individual needs. This motive causes a person to do something, whether it is positive or negative. In the use of swearing for this social motive, the speakers have a close relationship, so swearing is the language they usually use when communicating, either in a standard or very harsh context.

3. Linguistic motives: In this motive, emphasis is placed on certain words. It is used to convey a message properly or to express surprise or astonishment. The examples of linguistic swear words in the movie *Ted* are as follows:

Data 20

The scene: Ted's boss, Frank, emerges from the back, writing on a clipboard. He looks up, and his expression turns to confused anger as he sees an unusually long line at registers. He walks over to the line. A Guy in line turns and notices him.

(20) FRANK: What the hell?

GUY IN LINE : Hey, dude, you think you could open more than one register?
There's like a thousand people here!

FRANK :There's supposed to be three registers open, for god's sake!

(Source: TED Movie/ Time: 00:59:12)

In data (20), Frank swears "*hell*," which is analyzed as having a linguistic motive because the condition indicates that the word has a pure motive to emphasize what the person is trying to communicate. In this case meant Frank says, "what happen". And it is a common understanding that linguistic motives can also appear in the manner in which someone speaks in everyday life.

Data 21

The scene: John and Ted sit on the couch. Ted asks John to watch the movie Flash again, but John says he will take Lori to dinner together. John explained it would be dinner for his 4th anniversary year with Lori, and John expected he would give her something special. And John wishes Ted would suggest that he give him a good idea about that, such as a ring for Lori. Then Ted jumps on John and starts punching him playfully in the face.

(21) TED: Where's my ring, Johnny? Where's my ring, a**hole?

JOHN : Stop it! Jesus Christ, knock it off!

(Source: TED Movie/ Time: 00:26:40)

The word "*a*shole*" is an English word meaning "*rectum*". "*A*shole*" can be "*meant for a variety of conditions*", as an expression of shock at information, and it can also mean damn. This statement used motive linguistics according to the context.

Data 22

The scene: Lori and John go to Rex's party (Lori's boss) office party. He intends to act arrogant and talk like someone who is seeing a big house for the first time.

REX : There she is! I was worried you weren't
Coming! **(TO JOHN)** Hi kiddo, how ya doin'? Where's your bunny rabbit?
JOHN : He's a bear.
(21) Rex: Got it. "Hey, this house is f*cking huge!" I know, guys. Try not to
get lost.

(Source: TED Movie/ Time: 00:58:40)

In the word "*f*cking huge*" In linguistic motives, the word *f*cking* shows an emphasis on the word huge. That statement expresses the speaker's desire to show off about his house's size, and those are ridiculous words that should not be said by Rex.

Based on the results of this study, first of all, the researcher reveals that the characters in the movie Ted use the category of swear words based on Andersson and Trudgill's (1992) theory. Then, based on Pinker's theory (2007), they used swear words appropriate according to their categories and functions when they swore at their interlocutors. Second, the researcher explains the swearing motives intended by the characters, which are psychological, social, and linguistic motives based on Andersson and Trudgill's (1992) theory. The results also show that swear words can be divided into different types, especially similar ones. For example, words such as "*f*ck*," "*sh*t*," "*d*mn*," and "*a*shole*" can be used powerfully and descriptively in different or related contexts.

Conclusion

Swear words are generally considered harmful in society and should be avoided. However, many people, particularly young people and adults, continue to swear. Swearing can express emotions such as pain and surprise or be used as a joke or friendly greeting between close acquaintances. This study chose the movie *Ted* as its subject, which contains much information concerning impoliteness. Ted movie is ideal for English students studying impoliteness and swearing solid works. Sociolinguistics investigates the relationship between language and society, studying how individuals interact daily and how their speech patterns change based on social context.

Language serves various functions, including discourse, self-expression, integration, communication, adaptability, and social control. The study aims to emphasize the link between language and society by studying how people interact in public and informal situations and how their speech patterns change depending on their social setting. Swearing can be studied not only in terms of linguistics, meaning, word origin, and word creation but also in terms of society, including the speaker's identity and language usage. Anderson and Trudgill's (1992) theory of swearing has categorized swear words into expletive, abusive,

humorous, and auxiliary words. Expletive words convey the speaker's emotion, such as surprise or anger, while abusive words express anger. Humorous words make situations more relaxed and enjoyable, while auxiliary words highlight excellent terms. Pinker's (2007) theory, based on linguists like Steven Pinker suggests five different functions for swear words, including dysphemistic swearing, which encourages listeners to think negative or provocative things.

Abusive swearing involves using swear words to scare and embarrass others during arguments, disrespectful behavior, or emotional altercations. Idiomatic swearing uses idioms or phrases to convey meaning, while emphatic swearing emphasizes something by describing its size, stature, or relation to the environment. Cathartic swearing expresses negative emotions, using specific words to convey the audience's feelings. These swearing styles are specific to the occasion and language, making distinguishing between abusive and idiomatic swearing difficult. These categories of swear words are essential to understanding how people use and express their emotions in various situations. Andersson and Trudgill's hypothesis highlights the various types of swear words and their impact on communication. Abusive swearing, idiomatic swearing, emphatic swearing, and cathartic swearing are all used to express negative emotions. Abusive swearing scares and embarrasses others, while idiomatic swearing uses idioms or phrases to convey meaning. Emphatic swearing emphasizes something, while cathartic swearing expresses negative emotions. Swear words have specific to the occasion and language, and various factors influence their power. Andersson and Trudgill's (1992) theory is to identify the categories and explain the motives of the swear words used by the characters in the movie. Andersson's and Pinker's research highlights the importance of understanding and addressing swearing in various situations, such as in the movie *Ted*.

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