

## SWEARWORDS AMONG WOMEN IN *BACHELORETTE* MOVIE

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### Abstrak

Kajian ini ditujukan untuk menjelaskan penggunaan *swearwords* dalam film *Bachelorette*. *Swearwords* pada umumnya diucapkan oleh kaum pria di masyarakat (Jay, 2000). Namun di masa kini, kaum wanita pun cenderung melakukan *Swearwords* (Edwards, 2009). Seperti halnya yang dapat dijumpai pada film *Bachelorette* yang mayoritas tokoh wanitanya sering mengucapkan *Swearwords*. Berdasarkan Magnus Ljung (2011), ada lima tema tentang *swearwords* yaitu *the religious/ supernatural theme*, *the scatological theme*, *the sex organ theme*, *the sexual activities theme*, and *the mother (family) theme*. Dari film tersebut, penelitian ini akan mencoba menganalisa jenis - jenis *Swearwords* yang diucapkan di konteks dan situasi tertentu. Descriptive qualitative adalah metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan mengelompokkan dan menganalisa dialog di antara karakter wanita yang terdapat *Swearwords* dalam film *Bachelorette*. Alat yang digunakan adalah peneliti sendiri yang menggunakan laptop, pemutar video KMP, dan earphone untuk membantu peneliti dalam mengumpulkan data. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa *Swearwords* di film *Bachelorette* yang diucapkan oleh para tokoh wanita dikelompokkan ke dalam lima tema. Tema - tema tersebut antara lain *the religious/ supernatural theme*, *the scatological theme*, *the sex organ theme*, *the sexual activities theme*, and *the mother (family) theme*. Kelima tema tersebut terapkan dalam empat konteks yakni untuk mengekspresikan kemarahan, rasa frustrasi, keterkejutan atau kejadian tak terduga, dan untuk memberi dukungan. Dari hasil yang didapat, fuck cenderung sering diucapkan dan muncul dalam berbagai konteks di film *Bachelorette*.

**Kata kunci:** *Swearwords*, wanita, dan film *Bachelorette*

### Abstract

This paper is to reveal the use of swearwords in *Bachelorette* movie. Swearwords are usually uttered by men in society (Jay, 2000). Nowadays, women also tend to do swearing (Edwards, 2009). This can be seen in *Bachelorette* movie which tends to expose women who produce a lot of swearwords. According to Magnus Ljung (2011), there are five themes of swearwords such as religious/ supernatural theme, the scatological theme, the sex organ theme, the sexual activities theme, and the mother (family) theme (Ljung, 2011). From that movie, this research tries to analyze what types of swearwords which are uttered in particular circumstances. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this research. The data collection was done by gathering and analyzing the dialogs which contain of swearwords among the women characters in *Bachelorette* movie. The instrument was the researcher himself who uses a laptop, KMP player, and the earphone to help the researcher to collect the data. The findings from the research show that swearwords in *Bachelorette* movie which are used by women characters are categorized into five themes. They are religious/ supernatural theme, the scatological theme, the sex organ theme, the sexual activities theme, and the mother (family) theme. Those categories are applied in four circumstances such as to express anger feeling, frustration, surprised or unexpected accident, and support giving. From the findings, fuck tend to be uttered in any circumstances in *Bachelorette* movie.

**Key words:** Swearwords, women, and *Bachelorette* movie.



## INTRODUCTION

Swearing is one of phenomenon which appears in society. Swearwords are not taught in school or formal situation. In fact, those words appear in society. It is believed that swearwords is one of the ways to show emotional expression and emotive life since it is nearly impossible to strengthen emotional expression without using swearwords (Jay, 2000). Swearing is used to express anger feeling, annoyance, or frustration (McEnery, 2006). In society, swearing is thought to be related with men. Nowadays, women also tend to use swearwords like what men do (Edwards, 2009). That phenomenon can be seen in *Bachelorette* movie. *Bachelorette* movie is an American black comedy movie in 2012. In that movie, it can be seen that women tend to do swearing. This study will find out what types of swearwords which are uttered in particular circumstances by women in this movie by using Ljung's theory (2011) about some types of swearwords.

### A. Women's Language

Women use more standard language because women is known as more status conscious than men. Standard language or speech form is usually related to high status; that is why women use standard speech form to claim the high status in society (Holmes, 2001). Holmes stated that women avoid vernacular forms because vernacular forms are related to immoral women and loose morals (Holmes, 2001). In traditional general view, it is extremely impolite that women do swearing in society (Hughes, 2006). Although swearing is related to impolite behavior, sometimes they still use swearwords.

It is believed that women are more polite than men while using profane or obscene language (Edwards, 2009). Women refer to use 'weaker' expletives than men (Lakoff, 1973). Nowadays, women also tend to use swearwords like what men do (Edwards, 2009). Hughes has similar view about women use swearwords. He believes nowadays swearing among women has increase in significant aspect such as in fact, in fiction, and in popular culture (Hughes, 2006).

### B. Taboo Words

Taboo is always related to restricted idea or can be said as a sacred, for example the name of God, unpleasant words or things such as cannibalism or incest (Hughes, 2006). Hughes (2006) also stated, generally, taboo have moved from religious to sexual or racial; beside that, taboo can be shown in others topics such as things, creatures, human experiences, conditions, deeds, and words (Hughes, 2006).

In society, there are limitation in using taboo words which are agreed in certain culture; it can be caused that those words are disregarded by religion (Wajnryb, 2005). Those words are believed too strong, dangerous, or mysterious when it is used in society (Jay, 2000). Nowadays, taboo words are uttered to represent "offensive" rather than "strictly forbidden" (Hughes, 2006). The use of taboo words in society are restricted because can cause harm, pain, or discomfort (Allan & Burridge, 2006). Taboo words have to be avoided or never be uttered in society (Hughes, 2006).

### C. Swearwords

Swearing is the activity which is often related to the swearwords. Swearing represents a linguistic behavior which is always related to emotive utterance types (Ljung, 2011). Swear is originally taken from an oath (Allan & Burridge, 2006). They also state that swearing someone or something is to insult and abuse it.

Swearing can be part of good or bad attitude. Swearing can be categorized in two ways, formal swearing and informal swearing (Hughes, 2006). In formal swearing, swearing is related to agreement or promises for example in marriage, the couple swear each other. On the other hand, in informal swearing, swearing is related to bad language or emotive expression. When do swearing, the speaker usually gives some additional stress, intonation and tone of voice, and the gestures and face expression to strengthen the expression of swearing (Ljung, 2011). Using swearwords, it is strengthen way to show emotional expression and emotive life (Jay, 2000). That is why when one expresses one's anger feeling, one tend to use swearwords to strengthen one's anger expression. Swearing is also used to express anger feeling, annoyance, or frustration (McEnery, 2006). That is why swearwords is often related to impolite words or crude words in society.

Magnus Ljung (Ljung, 2011) classified types of swearing in five themes. There are the religious/supernatural theme, the scatological theme, the sex organ theme, the sexual activities theme, and the mother (family) theme. The religious/ supernatural theme is swearword expression which is always related to religion such as *God, Jesus, Christ, Holy*, and etc. The scatological theme is harsh expression which is related to feces such as *ass, asshole, piss, shit*, and etc. The sex organ theme expresses swearword which is used sex organ as an expression such as *dick, balls, and tits*. The sexual activities theme is a kind of swearword expression which is related to sexual activities such as *fuck, blowjobs*, and etc. The mother (family) theme is a swearword expression which insult by mentioning or referring to mothers or

others family's members such as *motherfucker*, *son of a bitch*, and etc.

This study has one research question. The question is about what types of swearwords which are uttered in any circumstances in *Bachelorette* movie. The purpose of this study is to describe the types of swearwords which are uttered in particular circumstances in *Bachelorette* movie.

### METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative method is proper to use in an analyzing of "Swearwords among women in *Bachelorette* movie". This researcher intends to analyze what types of swearwords which are shown in *Bachelorette* movie in particular circumstances.

The data source of this research is taken from *Bachelorette* movie. The data of this research is the women's utterance in *Bachelorette* movie. This research concerns with the women's utterance which contains swearwords. The data is gotten from *Bachelorette* movie which is directed by Leslye Headland in 2012. The script of this movie is also taken from the internet to help finding the scenes and part of swearwords which is shown in *Bachelorette* movie.

In qualitative method, the instrument is a human (Ary, Jacobs, Sorensen, & Razavieh, 2010). They also explained that human as the instrument can adapt to the environment and condition; human as the instrument can observe and analyses by himself like he wants (Ary, et al., 2010). Besides that, a laptop was needed to help the researcher to do this research. The video of *Bachelorette* movie, KMP player, and earphone were also needed in this research.

In this research, observation is used to collect the data. By doing observation, watching movie was done to collect the data. In this step, watching and repeating the scenes of *Bachelorette* movie which contain swearwords uttered by the actress.

There are three steps for analyzing techniques. There are data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification (Miles & Huberman, 1994). In this data analysis, those three steps are also used in this research. In data reduction, there are some data which are reduced in this research. Those are reduced because there are lots of swearwords which are uttered by the actors or the actress. In this research, it just focuses on the swearwords which are uttered by the actress in *Bachelorette* movie. In data display, the data display can be created in description, chart, and etc. In data display, it is used to show the type or kind of swearwords based on Magnus Ljung (2011).

The last step is conclusion drawing or verification. The conclusion is drawn to answer the research questions.

### DISCUSSION

Swearwords among women were appeared in *Bachelorette* movie. The women in *Bachelorette* movie were found to use swearwords in their conversation. They added swearwords to convey their feelings such as anger feeling, frustration, and support. From those swearwords which are uttered by women in *Bachelorette* movie, they can be classified into five themes such as the religious/supernatural theme, the scatological theme, the sex organ theme, the sexual activities theme, and the mother (family) theme (Ljung, 2011).

In the religious/ supernatural theme, there are some swearwords which can be found such as *God*, *Jesus*, *Chris sakes*, and *hell*. For example, first, Gena said "*oh, my god!*" when saw Katie wore Becky's dress. Then Gena had an idea to take a picture when both of them wore Becky's dress together. They were surprised when saying that swearwords. Second, Becky was so angry when she was called as a *pig face*. Then, she said "*What the hell was that?*" to strengthen her emotion or anger feeling because she did not like called as *Pig face*. "*Hell*" was added in interrogative sentence to emphasize the meaning of that interrogative sentence from "*what was that?*" become "*what the hell was that?*"

In the scatological theme, there are some swearwords such as *shit*, *holy shit*, and *asshole*. For example, first, Gena used *shit* word to express her frustration because she was fired from her work. She did not address directly that swearword to others, she just expressed her own feeling. At that time, Katie said "*I've gotta go to work*". Then, Gena answered "*Yeah, shit. I'm fired by now*". She added "*shit*" in her utterances to convey her frustration because she was fired. Second, *Asshole* expression is used to express anger feeling. Gena said "*The asshole didn't show up for the appointment*". Besides as name calling, *asshole* expression is categorized as an anaphoric use of epithets. In anaphoric of epithets, those swearwords are used in the same way as pronouns. Gena said "*asshole*" which was addressed to Clyde. The "*asshole*" was used as pronoun. That swearword is used to replace personal pronoun which refer to him (Clyde). The speaker used that swearword to express her anger feeling by changing the listener's name to the swearword "*asshole*".

In the sex organ theme, it can be found some swearwords which are uttered such as *dick*, *vagina*, and *tits*. For example, first, *dick* was used to emphasize about the sexual activities *suck*. Gena was angry because she came late to Becky's wedding party. Then, while she was on the taxi, she said to the taxi driver "*I will suck your dick*"

if you get us there in two minutes". It mean that "dick" expressions are used to emphasize sexual activities especially "sucking". Second, Katie said to Gena and Regan "God blessed me with perfect **tits**". She said her utterance while showing her breast. "Tits" is often used than women's breast as a slang word.

In the sexual theme, there are some swearwords such as *fuck*, *suck my dick*, *blowjobs*, and *choking on just semen*. For example, first, Gena said "*fucker!*" when she was talking to Regan by phone, but that swearword did not utter for Regan. When Regan thought that the swearword was uttered for her, Gena said to her "No. Ugh. I just realized that the guy I slept with sucks". From that utterance, Gena explained to Regan that she used that swearwords for addressing the guy whom slept with Gena. Second, Gena said "*Fuck! Wedding! Shit! Oh, dress!*" Those swearwords are not aimed for others, she just expressed her feeling about unexpected accident because Gena woke up late. At that time, Gena woke up late after sleeping with Clyde. Gena realized that she had to go to Becky's wedding and brought Becky's wedding dress. Third, Gena said "*this story is so fucking long already*". The "*fucking*" word here means that intensifying of high degree of an adjective "*long*". It is similar that the story is "very long". "*Fucking*" words are used to replace a gradable expression such as "very" or "highly". Gena used "*fucking long*" than "very long" to show her frustration hearing the story which she could not remember it. At that time, when Regan told a story to Gena.

In the mother (family) theme, there is swearword which is uttered such as *motherfucker*. For example, Gena said "*that's you, mother fucker*". She used that swearword to show her anger feeling because Clyde didn't come to their appointment. Clyde broke his promises. It made Gena was angry to him. Then, Gena conveyed her anger feeling by pointing someone or addressing directly to Clyde as a "*motherfucker*"; that word is rude word because blaming one has sexual intercourse with one's mother which that activity is taboo in society

Although the swearwords belong to the same theme, the functions of those swearwords can be different based on the circumstances when the women characters uttered those swearwords. *Fuck* word has a large number of meaning, compounds, idioms, and tunes (Hughes, 2006).

First, *fuck* has a large number of meaning. Actually, *fuck* stands for sexual activity which is similar to "make love" activity (Wajnryb, 2005). *Fuck* word is used by the speaker to express one's feeling as an expletives. *Fuck!* Expression was used by Gena to express her own feeling especially to show her emotion

in unexpected accident. Gena used that expression did not insult others, she just showed her emotion because she woke up late which actually she had to go to Becky's wedding party. From Gena's utterance, *fuck* word which was said by Gena did not refer to "make love" activity. She just expressed her feeling. That is why *fuck* word has a large meaning. Another example can be seen in Becky's said. Becky said "*I hope you fucking die*". That *fucking* word does not mean that word is related to "make love" activity; but, *fucking* word is used to give a harm or to insult other people. There is another data, Gena said "*this story is so fucking long already*". *Fucking* was used by Gena to replace "very" or "highly"; this is kind of gradable expression by using swearwords as known as adjectival/ adverbial intensifier. So, "*fucking long*" can be replaced as "very long". From those data, it can be concluded that *fuck* has another meaning based on the circumstances.

*Fuck* also has a large number of compound. From *Bachelorette* movie, there are some compound word of *fuck* such as *fucker*, *fucked*, and *fucking*. First, Gena said "*fucker!*" that swearwords did not address directly to anyone. *Fuck* + -er became *fucker* which was categorized as an agent noun. *Fucker* is an expression to address someone for expressing one's emotion (Wajnryb, 2005). At that time, Gena used that expression to express her anger feeling to the guy whom slept with her and ejaculated in her t-shirt. Second, Gena said "*we're fucked!*" *Fuck* + -ed become *fucked*. That swearword has a position as adjective which can replace "screwed" which is actually more common to be expressed in such as a chaotic situation. Besides that, there is also another variant of *fuck* word. Third, there is "*fucking*", *fuck* + -ing become *fucking*. *Fucking* can be as an adjective intensifier. In adjective intensifier, it had been explained before that *fucking* can be replaced "very" or "high" expression. Gena said "*this story is so fucking long already*" when talking to Regan. "*Fucking long*" means that very long. From those three data, *fuck* has some numbers of compound.

It is common that swearwords are used to express anger feeling, frustration, or surprise (McEnery, 2006). The speaker used swearwords to express anger feeling. It can be seen in Gena's utterances, Gena used some swearword expressions "*oh my God*" and "*fucking end you*". Gena was angry because she was late come to Becky's wedding party. Then, she expressed her anger feeling to the taxi driver by saying those swearwords. Firstly, Gena used exclamation "*oh my God*", after that, she added "*fucking end you*" to strengthen her anger feeling which was addressed directly to the taxi driver. Becky also used swearword expression to show her anger feeling "*what the hell...*"

*Hell* was used to express anger feeling because *hell* is the concept of a place of eternal swearing. That is why, it is suitable to use in anger feeling to give other people a curse like in *hell*. Becky was angry to Gena because she did not like if someone called her *pig-face*. *Shit* expression also was used to express anger feeling. Regan said “*you don’t handle shit! I handle shit... and I handle shit...*” Regan was angry to Gena because her effort to fix Becky’s wedding dress did not appreciate by Gena. *Shit* was used to replace chaos situation about fixing Becky’s wedding dress. *Asshole* expression was used to express anger feeling. Gena said “*asshole*” which was addressed to Clyde. She was angry to him because he broke his promises.

*Fuck* word is tend to be used to express anger feeling. First, Gena said “*fucker!*” She just expressed her anger feeling that actually it was said to express her anger feeling because the guy whom slept with her was ejaculated in her t-shirt. Second, Regan expressed her anger feeling to Frank by saying “*fuck Frank!*” She cursed him because he broke his promise to Regan that he could not come and help her in Becky’s wedding party. Third, Gena said “*you fucking*” to Joe. Gena expressed her anger feeling because Katie was over doses after using some drugs with Joe. Fourth, Becky was expressing her anger feeling which was addressed to Regan. Becky said “*I hope you fucking die*”. Becky was angry to Regan because the wedding dress was not ready to wear. Fifth, Regan said “*where the fuck are you?*” to Gena. Regan was angry to her because they had lost contact since last night.

*Motherfucker* expressions also were used to express anger feeling. First, Gena said “*motherfucker*” to show her anger directly said to Clyde. She used that swearword because Clyde broke his promise, he did not come to their appointment. Second, Regan said “*motherfucker*”. Regan used that swearword to express her anger feeling to Trevor because he did not call her anymore after having sex last night. When she was answering her cell phone, in fact, Gena who was calling her. Gena stole Trevor’s cell phone. Then, Regan was not angry anymore.

From those data, there are some swearwords which were used in *Bachelorette* movie to express anger feeling. There are *God*, *shit*, *asshole*, *fuck* or *fucking*, and *motherfucker*.

Swearwords are also used to express frustration. Regan said “*where the fuck are you?*” and “*where the hell is it?*” Regan frustrated because she had lost contact with Gena since last night. Second, Gena said “*shit*” to express her frustration because she was fired from her work. She did not address to anyone, she just expressed her own feeling. Third, Gena said “*we’re fucked!*” to

express frustration after knowing that Becky’s wedding dress was ripped. *Fucked* can replaced “screwed” which is common used in chaotic situation. Fourth, Regan said “*fuck my life*” after talking with Becky. The Becky’s wedding dress was not ready to use, to show her frustration Regan said swearword for herself. Fifth, Regan said “*oh fuck me*” after hearing that Becky was calling her to ask about her dress. She was frustration because the dress was not ready. Sixth, Regan said “*I’m fucking miserable*”. She was frustration because she did not get married until right now. Seventh, Gena used swearword to show her frustration by saying “*I hate fucking hate me*”. She said that swearword to Theresa to show that she got a bad day from yesterday which made her frustrated.

Besides that, swearwords can be used to express surprise or unexpected accident. First, Gena, Regan, and Katie used “*oh my God*” expressions to show their feeling about unexpected accident. They were surprised when they were ripped Becky’s wedding dress. Second, Gena said “*Jesus*” to show her surprised when she heard Regan’s suggestion about fixing Becky’s wedding dress. Third, *shit* was used to express surprise feeling. Becky said “*Holy shit. It’s time*” when her mother came to her and said that the hair and make-up artists for her wedding was coming. She was surprise and said that swearword. *Holy shit* is common to express a surprise (Wajnryb, 2005). Fourth, Gena used some swearwords to express an unexpected accident. She said “*fuck!*” and “*shit!*” to express Gena’s emotion in unexpected accident but not aimed directly to anyone. She woke up late which actually she had to go to Becky’s wedding party. Fifth, Regan said “*what the fuck are you doing?*” to Katie. Regan was surprised when she saw Katie was throwing up the bottle to the door.

Moreover, swearwords are also used to give motivation or support for others. Swearwords can be used as an instrument to give motivation. At that time, Becky was afraid facing her wedding because she thought that she was too fat for her fiancé. Then, Regan said to Becky “*fuck everyone!*” expression which “*everyone*” was addressed to anyone who said bad thing about Becky. For the effect, Becky started to be little brave in facing her wedding. It is proved that curses are also can be used for giving support and motivation. *Fuck* word, which is usually used to show anger feeling or emotion, was used by Regan to give Becky motivation.

## CONCLUSION

In *Bachelorette* movie, it can be seen that women also tend to do swearing. There are five themes of swearwords which are uttered by the women characters. There are religious/ supernatural theme (“*God*”, “*Jesus*”,

"For Chris Sake", and "what the hell"), the scatological theme ("Shit", "Holy shit", and "asshole"), the sex organ theme ("dick", "vagina", and "tits"), the sexual activities theme ("fuck", "fucking", "fucker", "blowjobs", "choking on just semen", and "suck your dick"), and the mother (family) theme ("motherfucker").

The swearwords are uttered to express one's feelings such as anger feeling, frustration, surprised or unexpected accident, and support giving. For anger feeling, the speakers use *God, shit, asshole, fuck or fucking*, and *motherfucker*. For expressing frustration, the speakers use *hell, shit, fuck, fucked*, and *fucking*. In expressing surprised or unexpected accident, the speakers use *God, Jesus, holy shit, fuck*, and *shit*. In giving support, the speakers use *fuck*. *Fuck* words tend to utter by women in particular circumstances in *Bachelorette* movie. It is because *fuck* has some number of meaning and compound, and according to the result, *fuck* words are used in particular circumstances such as expressing anger feeling, frustration, surprised, and support giving.

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