

SWEARWORDS FOUND IN CHAT ROOM YAHOO MESSENGER

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mendeskripsikan jenis-jenis kata sumpah-serapah yang digunakan oleh orang-orang dalam ruang perakapan India di Yahoo Messenger, dan apa saja fungsi yang ditemukan dari setiap jenis kata sumpah-serapah tersebut. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah skrip percakapan orang-orang dalam ruang percakapan India di Yahoo Messenger. Data yang dikumpulkan berupa kata-kata yang mengandung makna sumpah-serapah mulai dari tanggal 1 sampai 30 April 2012 yang hanya terfokus pada ruang perakapan India di Yahoo Messenger. Penulis mengumpulkan data sebanyak 40 dan ditampilkan hanya 20 kata atau frase. Dari hasil analisis, penulis menemukan bahwa pengguna Yahoo Messenger menggunakan 6 jenis kata sumpah-serapah. Setiap jenis kata sumpah-serapah memiliki fungsi yang berbeda dengan tipe yang lainnya. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa pengguna Yahoo Messenger menggunakan 7 fungsi kata sumpah-serapah.

Kata Kunci: *pragmatics, swearword, yahoo messenger, type of swearword, function of swearword*

A. Introduction

Pragmatics is the study of the relation between language and context that are basic to an account of language understanding. According to Liu (2004) pragmatics studies how people comprehend and produce a communicative act or speech act in a concrete speech situation which is usually a conversation. It distinguishes two intents or meanings in each utterance or communicative act of verbal communication. Meanwhile, Lockerby (2006) says pragmatics is about the shared knowledge that we all must use as a tool to understand words. Pragmatics examines the importance in language studies of our general knowledge, and the importance of common-sense knowledge of our world.

As for the issue of context, according to Dell Hymes (in James, 1980), including 6 (six) dimensions, namely: 1) the place and time (setting), such as classrooms, in mosques, in the library, and in a stall eating, 2) language users (Participants), such as doctors with patients, teachers and students, the seller with

¹ Mahasiswa penulis Makalah Prodi Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris untuk diwisuda periode September 2012.

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the buyer, 3) the subject (content) such as politics, sex, education, culture, 4) goal (purpose) such as asking, answering, praised, explained, mocked, and told, 5) pitch (key) such as humor, anger, irony, sarcasm, and gentle, and 6) media / channel (channel) like face to face, via SMS, by phone, by mail, and through the E-mail.

Swearword comes from word of swear. The meaning of swear is to make a strong promise to someone or to promise to do something. It has a stronger meaning than just says the promise. Based on the dictionary, the noun of swearing has two senses. First is profane or obscene expression that is usually used of surprise or anger. Second is a commitment to tell the truth, especially in a court of law; to lie under oath is to become subject to prosecution for perjury. In general, swearword has two meanings. The first is to promise or to swear to keep a secret, and the second is to describe rude word or curse. Swearing is to use offensive language, say a "bad"/"curse" word.

Swearwords are found in many media, not only in spoken conversation but also in written conversation by using technology such as, handphone and internet. By using handphone, swearwords can be found in Short Message Service (SMS). In the other hand, by using internet swearwords can be found in Friendster, Twitter, Blog, Facebook, or Yahoo Messenger. Internet is as a means of world-wide information allows human to communicate. It can be used to collaborate and communicate among people. The users can send or replay the letter, update status, get information, play games, and event chat. Yahoo Messenger is one of the favorite features in internet. In this feature, the users can chat on-line to other Yahoo Messenger's user in the world in informal situation with various topics. It also can send a pictures, chat, do call, and video call.

Swearing is usually used when someone suddenly gets angry. According to Andersch (in Liendlich, 1973:108), people should not use the obscene words to swear because the words are viewed as indecent and offensive. Besides, Crystal (1987:10) defines that swearwords are used to express their feeling, especially when one is in angry. The feeling can be anger, indignation, annoyance, intimacy, or joke. Related to the explanation above, swearword is a word or some words that produce swear meaning that used by people when they are in angry, to convince something, surprise or in a joke.

Language serves several functions. First, language has function as a medium of transferring information. Second, language is very useful means to maintain relationship among language users as the member of society. Third, language is as a tool to show one's expression or feeling, such as, anger, happiness, sadness, loneliness, and disappointment. In expression feelings, people have many ways of using language and one of them by producing swearword. Swearword is word or combination of some words that produces swear meaning that is usually used by someone when he or she is angry.

Swearing and cursing are modes of speech existing in all human language. Montagu (1967:100) says there are thirteen forms of swearwords in English. First, names of supernatural or infernal powers of Gods, angels and devils. Second, names connected with the sacred matters of religion. Third, names or allusions to saints, priests, prophets, biblical characters and persons conspicuous in Church

history. Fourth, names of sacred place. Fifth, words relating to the future. Sixth, the names of ancestors and heroes. Seventh, the names of a ruler sovereign or symbol of authority or the attributes or many of these. Eighth, oaths by natural objects, forces and phenomena. Ninth, vulgar or obscene words. Tenth, the word "bloody" and its various forms. Eleventh, expletives, includes words or phrases that have unusual force for various reasons. Twelfth, oaths in the names of classical divinities.

Swearword is associated with things that are not said and also with words or expression that are not used. According to Crystal (1987:10) swearwords are used to express their feeling, especially when one is in angry. Beside, Trudgill (1986) differentiates swearwords into four terms, which are: (1) The left hand. This term refers to the symbol of sexual intercourse by showing the middle finger of the left hand such as fuck you or screw you. (2) Certain game animal terms such as pig you, bitch. (3) Excretion terms such as shit, piss. (4) Religion term. This term is related to God such as Gosh, Goddamn. Whereas, Hughes (1991) defines the swearwords terms into six terms, which are: (1) Genital terms such as cunt, cock, prick, tawt, and pillock. (2) Anatomical such as tit, arsehole, ass, etc. (3) Excretory: shit, turd, fard. (4) Imbecilic: idiot, imbecile, moron, cretin, prat. (5) Animal: pig, cow, bitch, sow, swine. (6) General: bugger, sod, bastard, fucker. In short, there have some types of swearword to express human feelings, especially to promise, convince something, annoyance, surprise, or joke. In short, there have some types of swearword to express human feelings, especially to promise, convince something, annoyance, surprise, or joke.

The function of swearword is to express human feelings especially in angry, surprise, annoyance and joke. According to Partridge (1984) the real functions of the swearwords are to insult, to mock, and to curse someone or something with obscene words. Actually, many kinds of swearwords are forbidden to appear in any conversations in both formal and informal situation. However, people nowadays often use many swearwords in their conversations with their friends especially when they are having jokes. According to Crystal (1987:61) swearing can become a dominant linguistics trait, with sentences containing many taboo words. Another people use swearword to express his or her emotion, anger, annoyance, and intimacy.

Related to the explanation above, Crystal (1987:10) says swearwords are used to express their feeling especially when one is in angry. The function of the swearwords is to express their feeling, commonly to express anger or emotion, disappointment, joke and surprise. He also mentions there are nine types of swearwords in English language; they are from sex, excretion, supernatural, body parts and function, the name of God, devils, future of life, animals and plant. In this study the concept of swearwords is the words that are used to convey the feeling of the speaker. The feeling can be anger, indignation, annoyance, joke, intimacy, promise, or convince something.

In generally, swearword has two meanings. The first is to promise or to swear to keep a secret, and the second is to describe rude word or curse. A Burrige (1999) mention swearing is a way of releasing anger, frustration, or anguish. Swearing has a number of different functions. There's the obvious

expletive function just mentioned the use of a swear word to let off steam. But there's the abusive function as well. This includes curses, name-calling, and any sort of derogatory comment directed towards someone else to insult or wound them. And social functions—swearing as a means of marking social distance, or alternatively signaling social solidarity.

The connotative function of curse words is essential for speech because it provides information about feelings and emotional states that other words do not. According to Benjamin (2000) says a language without emotions is no more normal than a person without emotions. Another expert, Jay and Danks (in cursing, 2012) curse words are used primarily for emotional or connotative purposes. Because they offer linguistic information about emotions in order to affect comprehension processes.

Yahoo Messenger is one of internet features. It is one of the most popular service providers of instant messenger. The wide range of features of Yahoo Messenger and its user friendly service have shot it to the list of most used and most trusted internet messaging services. It is an instant messaging client that supports advertisement happens to be yahoo's associated protocol. Yahoo Messenger allows the users to see when other users are online, send and receive instant messages, make pc-to-pc and pc-to-phone calls, listen to music, play games, and receive alerts and other material and information via the World Wide Web.

Based on Yahoo Messenger IM SDK Developer Terms of Use (2012) Yahoo Messenger has three groups of main feature, they are communication, productivity, and fun and personalization. In communication feature, there are eleven sub features. First is Instant Messaging. Second is Chat Room. Third is Photo Sharing. Fourth is PC-to-PC Calls. Fifth is Phone Out (PC-to-Phone Calls). Sixth is Phone In (get a phone number for messenger). Seventh is SMS (Text Messaging). Eighth is Webcam. Ninth is IM Conferencing. Tenth is IM with Friends on Other Networks. Eleventh is File Transfer. The users can send files instantly to a friend while the user IM.

In productivity feature there are twelve sub features. First is IM Forwarding to Mobile. Second is Contact Search Bar. Third is Yahoo Search. Fourth is Yahoo Address Book. Fifth is Stealth / Privacy Setting. Sixth is Call Forwarding. Seventh, Yahoo Mail alerts. Eighth is Voicemail. Ninth is Message Archiving. Tenth is Tabbed IM Windows. Eleventh is Buzz Alert. Twelfth is Yahoo Updates.

In fun and personality feature there are twelve sub features. First is Plugins. Second is Audibles. Third is Emoticons. Fourth is Avatars. Fifth is Display Images. Sixth is Skins. Seventh is IMVironments. Eighth is Yahoo Games. Ninth is Custom Status Messages. Tenth is Custom Ringtones. Eleventh is Customizable Fonts and Colors. Twelfth is Sound Effects and Soundtrack (During Voice Calls).

Internet is one of the most remarkable things human beings have ever made. It gives impact to the society. According to Crystal (2001), one of the definitive features of the internet is the language used within its community, a representation of creative and innovative adaptation by users. Crystal (2001) also mentions that net speak remains a unique form of communication because it

depends on elements of both speech, which is face-to-face and often informal, and writing, which is more permanent and removed from the reader. The conduit of the World Wide Web (WWW), for instance, seems static, closer to the written word, while instant messaging or chat rooms provide synchronous modes of communications similar to face-to-face engagements.

The internet users do not use grammatical structural in their written language, because they just to convey the idea of their feeling without any rules. According to Baron (in Crystal, 2001) Internet users have often commented that written language on the internet, especially in email or now instant messaging (IM), is more like speech than like writing. Then, Hu, Smith, Westbrook, and Wood (2003) identify Instant Messaging (IM) is used to the medium of Instant Messaging (IM), as another example, it may actually be foster intimacy among users, including self-disclosure and sentimental feelings, because it cultivates a social connectedness. Therefore, according to Crystal (2006:134), the internet allows people to engage in a multi-party conversation online, either synchronously, in real time, or asynchronously, in postponed time.

In addition, Slater (in Crystal, 2006:134) says many people restrict the term chat to the real-time context only. It should also be noted that some systems are very sensitive to the correct use of their own terminology. In short, Yahoo Messenger especially in Instant Messaging (IM) is used to express the chatters feelings, moreover in intimacy, and joke among them. Dominantly, the users of Yahoo Messenger are used English language to communicate each other.

According to the explanation above, the purpose of this research is to describe the forms of swearwords used by people on Yahoo Messenger's chat room and the functions of swearwords used by people on Yahoo Messenger's chat room.

B. Research Method

The source of data of this study was the script of swearword in chat that was downloaded from chats in India room Yahoo Messenger from 1 April up to 30 April 2012. Meanwhile, the data of this study are word, phrase or sentence that contains the swearword meaning. There were 40 data of swearword found in India chat room in Yahoo Messenger. There were only 20 data that were taken randomly to be explained and analyzed in this chapter. The analyses of the data were the analysis of the types of swearword, and the analysis of the functions of swearword.

In doing this research, the writer used some steps in collecting data, they were: (1)Collecting the data.The data were collected through searching and reading chat on Yahoo Messenger for many times. (2) Identifying the source or data.The data were identified by choosing some chats as the source of data which were related to the topic. (3) Copying the data.The writer took the data in doing chat on Yahoo Messenger by copying the data from the internet into a floppy disk. (4) Observing the data.The writer observed various swearwords found. (5) Classifying the data.Finally, the writer classified the swearwords dominantly occur on chat on Yahoo Messenger as the sample.

The data were analyzed by using Montagu theory (1967) that there are thirteen forms of swearwords in English. There were only six types of swearword that can be found in India chat room in Yahoo Messenger that were (1) The name of supernatural or infernal powers of Gods, angels, and devils, (2) Words relating to the future, (3) The name of ancestors and heroes, (4) Oath by natural objects, forces, and phenomena, (5) Vulgar or obscene words, (6) Oath by animals, plants, and their products. The data were analyzed by using Crystal theory (1987) that there are ten functions of swearwords in English. There were only seven functions that can be found in India chat room Yahoo Messenger such as to anger, joke, surprise, unbelievable, promise, convince, and disappointment. The functions of swearword which is mostly used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger is to anger, that has purpose to make the interlocutor respond and act to replay immediately.

C. Discussion

Within a month long observation, from 1st April up to 30th April 2012, the writer had taken 40 data of swearwords used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger from 30 conversations in chat. In analyzing the function of swearword, the data were analyzed by using Montagu theory that there are thirteen forms of swearwords in English. There are only six types of swearwords used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger. They are:

(1) The swearword related to the name of Supernatural or infernal powers of Gods, angels and devils such as; God, Lord, Christ, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Jesus Holy, Great Father, Great Holy. For instance, in those chats, God, Jesus, ghost are often used by the chatters, and the writer analyzes the data of swearwords using the name of God as found in these chats. The word Jesus is used to express the chatter's feeling. The word Jesus is classified into God term because the existence of the word Jesus. The word God is classified into word God term because the existence of the word God. Ghost includes in swearwords which is related to devil because ghost means the spirit of dead person that appears to somebody.

(2) Swearwords relating to the future of life. The writer only finds one example that is hell, in the conversation that are uttered by the chatters to express their feelings. The word hell is classified into words relating to the future term. Hell means a place believed to be the home of wicked people after death, and the place in a future life where devil and a damn burned. Unlike in the data, hell is meaningless and usually used to express what the speaker feels. The word hell is used to avoid strong swearword as consideration being polite people. The word hell is classified into words relating to the future term.

(3) Swearwords related to the names of ancestors and heroes, the writer only finds one example that is by the blood of my father, in conversations between chatter A and chatter B to express their feelings. The phrase by the blood of my father usually use to convince someone or to make strong promises.

(4) Oaths by natural objects, forces and phenomena means swearwords that have related to the natural object, forces and phenomena that happen

in the world such as the sun, the moon, stars, the man in the moon, the hurricane. For instance, in those chats, the sun, the moon is often used by the chatters, and the writer analyzes the data of swearwords using the oath by natural objects, forces, and phenomena as found in these chats. The phrase by the moon is used to convince the chatter's opinion. The phrase by the moon is classified into oaths by natural objects, forces, and phenomena word term.

(5) Vulgar or obscene words means to separate and eliminate the solid waste matter from the sex or not showing good taste; not polite or rude things such as shit, fuck, cunt, piss, asshole, tit, ponce, pimp. For instance, in those chats shit, fuck, and asshole are often used by the chatters, and the writer analyzes the data of swearwords using vulgar or obscene words as found in these chat. (6) Swearword comes from animal means that the words were taken from the name of animal. This swearword related to animal, for examples; bitch, pigs, damn, and pussy. For instance, in those chats bitch and damn were often used by the chatters, and the writer analyzes the data of swearwords using the name of animals as found in these chats.

Table 1: Types of swearword

No	Types of swearword	Frequency	Percentage
1.	The name of supernatural or infernal powers of Gods, angles, and devils	6	15%
2.	Words relating to the future	2	5%
3.	The name of ancestors and heroes	2	5%
4.	Oath by natural objects, forces, and phenomena	3	7,5%
5.	Vulgar or obscene words	17	42,5%
6.	Oath by animals, plants, and their products	10	25%

Based on the table above, there are six types of swearwords used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger. They are: (1) The name of supernatural or infernal powers of Gods, angles, and devils such as God, Jesus, and Gosh. (2) Words relating to the future such as Hell. (3) The name of ancestors and heroes such as by the blood of my father. (4) Oath by natural objects, forces, and phenomena such as the sun, the moon. (5) Vulgar or obscene words such as shit, fuck, and asshole. (6) Oath by animals, plants, and their products such as Bitch, damn.

In analyzing the function of swearword, the data were analyzed by using Crystal theory that there are ten functions of swearwords in English. There are only seven functions of swearwords used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger. In this research, the writer found the function of swearword to shows anger that used by the chatter in India chat room Yahoo Messenger are Jesus, God, Hell, Shit, Asshole, Damn and Bitch. The functions of swearword to shows joke that used by the chatter are By the moon and Shit. The functions of swearword to shows surprise are God and Damn. The functions of swearword to shows unbelievable

are God and Fuck. The function of swearword to promise is By the blood of my father. The functions of swearword to convince are By the blood of my father, By the moon and By the sun. The functions of swearword to shows disappointment are Hell and Bitch.

Table 2: Functions of swearword

No	Functions of Swearword	Frequency	Percentage
1	Anger	23	57,5%
2	Joke	5	12,5%
3	Surprise	3	7,5%
4	Unbelievable	3	7,5%
5	Promise	2	5%
6	Convince	2	5%
7	Disappointment	1	2,5%

Based on the table above, there are seven functions of swearwords used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger. They are to show up anger, joke, surprise, unbelievable, promise, convince and disappointment.

After analyzing the data of types of swearword, it could be discussed from thirteen types of swearword that was classified by Montagu (1967), there were only six types of swearword that can be found in India chat room in Yahoo Messenger that were (1) The name of supernatural or infernal powers of Gods, angles, and devils, (2) Words relating to the future, (3) The name of ancestors and heroes, (4) Oath by natural objects, forces, and phenomena, (5) Vulgar or obscene words, (6) Oath by animals, plants, and their products. The type of swearwords which is mostly used by the users was vulgar or obscene words, because a vulgar or obscene word is a kind of swearwords that express full user emotions.

Then, after analyzing the data of functions of swearword, it could be discussed that from ten functions of swearword that is classified by Crystal (1987), there were only seven functions that can be found in India chat room Yahoo Messenger such as to anger, joke, surprise, unbelievable, promise, convince, and disappointment. The functions of swearword which is mostly used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger is to anger, that has purpose to make the interlocutor respond and act to replay immediately. Furthermore, the types of swearword which is mostly used in India chat room Yahoo Messenger is vulgar or obscene words because it is so rude and impolite words.

The result of this study shows that users in India chat room Yahoo Messenger use different swearword in expressing anger, and also to express surprise, disappointment and unbelievable feelings, to convince, to promise, and to make a joke.

D. Conclusions and Suggestions

After analyzing the data, it was found that swearwords sometimes appear in chat room yahoo messenger. The writer found that those sentences or phrases of chat room are different based on where the constituents of a sentence or phrase can be attached to each other in different ways. Here, in analyzing the types of

swearwords, the writer used the theory of types of swearword introduced by Montagu (1967). Then, in analyzing the function of swearword, the writer used theory of the functions of swearword that is proposed by Crystal (1987).

This study was conducted to reveal the types of swearword in India chat room Yahoo Messenger. The studies about types and functions of swearword were also conducted in various kinds of text both spoken and written. Eventhough there were many studies about types and functions in both spoken and written, the writer hopes to the next writer or researcher to study and to analyze relevant researches and to find out deeply research in this topic to study more other problems that have been mentioned in the formulation of the problem, because swearword contains many choices of words and functions.

Notes: This article is written based on the Ririn Febrina Nasution's paper under the supervision of Rusdi Noor Rosa S.S., M. Hum.

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