

Linguistics Swearing Of Mobile Legend Players: A Pragmatic Study

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Abstract:

Swearing words are language that are categorized as rude, but this language is still often used by people, especially in online games. People used to use swear words to express their feelings during they played online game. This research aims to describe the Indonesian swear words used by mobile legend players and to distinguish between the functions and meanings of Indonesian swearing used by mobile legend players. The data source for main reference in this research is a video of BrandonKent Everything entitled "Ruby Collector! 1 juta skin! Keren banget efeknya, keluar burung merak. LSNG savage lah". The theory of swearing function formulated by Pinker was used in finding the functions and meanings of Indonesian swearing used by mobile legend players. This research used a qualitative research method called Pragmatic analysis. The result of this research shows that swearing words were often used by people when they played a game. The use of swearing words is not intended to encourage fight, but it aims to express their feelings. In this research, swearing words were also found based on their function, including descriptive, idiomatic, cathartic, abusive, and emphatic swearing.

keywords: Mobile legend, online game, player, swearing word

INTRODUCTION

Bacot (fuck), tai (shit), Anjing (dog) are examples of swear words. Swearing words are harsh words that have a negative meaning [1]. These words cannot be used carelessly because they are impolite words. People usually use swear words when they are angry, disappointed, or annoyed with something or someone. In other words, swearing words become a tool to express people's negative feelings, and it happened for a reason. Language is a tool used by people to express something, both feelings and other intentions [2]. Therefore, language is something that is very important for everyone to use when communicating. Being able to communicate effectively is also very important in a meeting [3]. Pragmatics is a science that teaches language and how to use that language in various settings [4]. Pragmatics is also defined as a study that studies the relationship between language and its context [5]. Swearing words are parts of language that have certain meanings, and every language definitely has swearing words and they are still considered socially relevant [2]. In other words, swearing words are parts of language that are often used by society. Schmitt [6] as cited in Mehl et al [7] stated that people often use vulgar language in their daily activities with a frequency of use of 0/5% and 0.7%. Swearing is part of society's daily lives because swearing can take the form of a narrative and people use it to show their feelings whether in public or not [8]. People often use swear words in public spaces without feeling afraid or embarrassed by other people, and men tend to use swear words more often than women [9]. Besides, swearing is actually thought to strengthen a person's relationship and can make people more familiar with each other [10]. Swearing has two functions, including first, swearing functions to convey angry emotions and negative emotions [11]. Second, swearing functions to express closeness, and it is a sign of community. Swearing words can include bodily functions, sexual organs, sexual acts, sexual orientation, race and/or ethnicity, certain

animals, religion, and gender [12]. However, in any case, swearing is still considered harsh words and can offend people's feelings, so it cannot be used to everyone. In Indonesia, gaming is a way to know other people virtually and have closeness with them. Apart from playing games, game players also share experiences, the activities that they are doing, and they also share other things. In Indonesia, gaming is something that is paid attention to, and this is proven by the existence of the Indonesian Game Association (AGI). Meanwhile, online games that are often played by Indonesians are Mobile Legend (ML), Arena of Valor (AoV), Clash of Clans (CoC), Fortnite, Dota 2 and Player Unknown's Battle Ground (PUBG) (Novrialdy, 2019). From all of those games, the game most played by people is Mobile Legends. Apart from its more interesting games, Mobile Legends also has several very famous professional players, including Hengky Gunawan known as Kyy, Deden Muhammad Nurhasan known as Clay, Chevenko David Tendean known as Skylar, Nicky Fernando known as Kiboy, Muhammad Satria Sanubari known as Butsss, Rafli Alvarez Sudrajat known as Pai, Gustian known as Rekt, Erico known as GodIva, Jehuda Jordan Sumual known as High, and Leonardo Prasetyo Agung known as Kabuki. They do not only work as professional gamers, but they are also known for their expertise in online games in Indonesia. One of the characteristics of mobile legend players is that they always use swear words to express their feelings with other players. Apart from that, they use swear words because they want to express their frustration, emphasize something that must be done, and want to be dominant in the game. Swear words are often associated with impoliteness [13]. Game players often use swear words both for themselves and their opponents and they often even use swear words to address their playing friends. If game players often use swear words when competing, they can receive punishment. As time goes by, swear words are increasingly used by people in Indonesia, both adults and teenagers. Games are a tool that causes someone to know new languages or terms, including swear words, so the swear words are known by many people [14]. By games, people's memory of swear words can become stronger than through other language practice processes [15]. Along with the increasing use of swear words, schools and parents must also start paying attention to their children or students because people can use swear words wherever they want, including at school. This is very contrary to the meaning of school as a place to educate and form good morals and words. In Indonesia, game players are often seen as people who always use swear words because they always use them when playing games with their opponents. If other people hear this, other people can imitate it without knowing its use. However, even though game players always use swear words, they are still always praised and admired by many people, and many young people follow their positions to become game players. By examining the Indonesian swear terms used by Indonesian mobile legend game players when they use these swear words while playing games, the current study seeks to close a gap in the research on the use of swear words in gaming discourse. The top popular YouTube content videos from BrandonKent Everything were used in this study. It is particularly true in Indonesia, where no research has investigated the BrandonKent Everything video to find out how swear words are used, particularly in the language of video games. Therefore, this study differs from other related studies in that it focuses on the slight variations in swearing used by Mobile Legend players when they are playing an online game. It would clarify the subject and bring up fresh perspectives that might be used to conduct a more in-depth examination of the conversation and its implications. By examining the following research problems, this study hopes to advance the fields of pragmatics and discourse analysis that is what are the Indonesian swear words used by the mobile legend players? The current study focused on mobile legend swearing usage. However, the goal of the current study was to distinguish between the functions of Indonesian swearing used by mobile legend players and those already discovered in the literature. The current study used Pinkers' typology of swearing that can have a variety of purposes and can be divided into five categories: (1) descriptive; (2) idiomatic; (3) empathic; (4) abusive; and (5) cathartic.

METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

To identify the purposes and meanings which caused mobile legend players to swear, this study used a qualitative research method called pragmatic analysis. To emphasize the purpose of the study and provide semantic coherence, the terms swear words, swears, and swearing were used. The researchers studied these variables, including the swearing corpus, functions, and meaning. They watch and listen to the video-

recorded forms to get better understanding of the context of swear that may occur to gather swearing corpus. The transcribed format of content video or streaming video of mobile legend players served as the main source for this study's analysis. The researchers collected the data through the video's transcription. The theory of Pinker will be the primary tool to aid the researchers' objectives to figure out the reasons and meanings behind those swearwords uttered by mobile legend players using the five functions of swearing: descriptive, emphatic, abusive, idiomatic, and cathartic. The results were interpreted as to the terms that are used or appeared predominantly. The findings were analyzed considering the phrases that are frequently used or mentioned. The collection served as the basis for the researchers' formulation of linguistic swear words usages in gaming discourse. The spoken discourse for this research was collected through videos by Brandon Kent Everything, one of the well-known gaming streamers in Indonesia, which enthralled thousands of viewers' attention for its uniqueness and entertainment. Brandon Sugianto Kentjana, is well-known as a live streamer and content creator, and with his YouTube video "BrandonKent Everything" in Indonesia. He is currently the most viewed gaming streamer on YouTube, with a total of 6.61 million subscribers this year and still counting. The researchers used one video from his video entitled "Ruby Collector! 1 juta skin! Keren banget efeknya, keluar burung merak. LSNG savage lah". His video received over 3.9 thousand likes and 138,685 views. The researchers screened the events and gathered the terms individually to discern the player's consistency and modern parlance of the swearwords to identify the functions, meanings, and general sense. The study used the BrandonKent Everything's most popular content video. The transcription of the content video served as the primary source for this study. The researcher also watched and listened to the video-recorded forms to get better understanding of the context of swear. The first goal of the study is gathered by the researchers after they have reviewed the text transcriptions of one video by BrandonKent Everything. The next step is to compile a concordance of the text transcriptions and determine the linguistic swear words used by Mobile Legend players in their spoken communications. To create the condensed interpretation of each player's corpus, the data were interpreted using pragmatic analysis. Based on the findings of the study's first goal, the swear words were coded. The study executed the functions and meanings of the gathered corpora. After analyzing the corpus result, the gathered swearwords grasped their functions and meaning concerning Pinker's functions of swearing which are descriptively, abusively, emphatically, idiomatically, and cathartically. Additionally, the coding for the swearing features founded an idea that emotional expression is the primary purpose of swearing [16], [17]. The analysis and interpretation of the gathered data from the corpus were executed.

3] RESULTS

The text analysis revealed out that there were 14 kinds of swear words used in the BrandonKent Everything video entitled "Ruby Collector! 1 million skins! The effect is really cool, peacocks come out. LSNG savage lah". These data are in the table below.

Table 1. Swearwords of Mobile Legend Players in Brandonkent Everything Content Video

Swearwords	(AVE)
<i>Cok</i> Damn	25
<i>Bacot</i> Blabbermouth	1
<i>Anjir</i> Dang	1
<i>Anjing</i> Dog	46
<i>Tahi</i> Feces	18

<i>Gila</i> Crazy	5
<i>Pala</i> Head	1
<i>Cupu</i> Loser	3
<i>Goblok</i> Stupid	12
<i>Tengil</i> Annoying	4
<i>Babi</i> Pig	1
<i>Tolol</i> Idiot	2
<i>Bangke</i> Corpse	1
<i>Bego</i> Dumb	1
Total	121

As table 1 shows, the most frequently used swearword by BrandonKent Everything is dog. The word dog is spoken very often during the game. On the other hand, it can be said that the word dog is natural said by BrandonKent Everything, and he said it to express a certain feeling. With these findings, it can be said that mobile legend players really like to say swear words when playing games either alone or with other friends. Swear words can be in the form of stupid, dog, annoying, etc. These words have meaning, and they show feelings. Besides, by giving swear words, Mobile Legends players will feel satisfied because it is a way of expressing their emotions. They also said that game players often use swear words because they always involve emotions when playing games, so when negative emotions arise, they will say dog, stupid, etc. Sometimes, the swear words are uttered without the speakers realizing it because they often say swear words. However, even so, one of the functions of swear words is to express emotions. Even though each players say swear words to each other, they do not fight because swear words only aim to express emotions without attracting emotions from the other person.

Mobile legend players usually always use swear words when playing games in their daily game activities. This can be proven by the frequency above which shows how often mobile legend players use swear words. Based on the analysis of the data gathered, a lot of swear words were found in the content of video of BrandonKent Everything. As table 2 below shows, the summary of the results of functions of swearing gathered in the utterances of mobile legend player.

Table 2. Function and Meaning of Swearwords Uttered by Mobile Legend Players in Brandonkent Everything Content Video

Functions of Swearing	Occurrences
Descriptive	49
Idiomatic	19
Cathartic	48
Abusive	1

Emphatic	4
Total	121

Descriptive Swearing

Literal meaning is a meaning whose interpretation is the same as the original meaning. Literal meaning is very often found in the swear words where the speaker wants to say something that matches the original meaning. Here are the examples of literal meaning in swear words.

kau anjing anjing kok malah maju Aduh ya ampun kita tuh lagi di push aduh goblok banget malam maju keluar gitu Goblok Goblok Lu tuh kenapa sih apa yang ada dalam otak lu kufra kufra Aduh bego banget guys Ya ampun pusing kepala gua.

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

You are a dog, dog! Why are you moving forward? Oh my God, we are being pushed! Oh, so stupid! Why are you moving out like that? Stupid, stupid! What is wrong with you? What is going on in your brain? Kufra, Kufra! Oh, so dumb, guys! Oh my God, my head hurts.

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)Based on the data above, the words of stupid and idiot convey that Brandon Kent Everything felt annoyed with his friend because his friend did not understand the instructions that he gave, so he was at a disadvantage. In this data, Brandon Kent Everything also shows that he felt frustrated and dizzy due to the actions of his friend. BrandonKent Everything did not want his friend to go forward but his friend continued to go forward, so this endangered his team's position. These words are swearwords because they aim to express Brandon Kent Everything's emotions towards his friend. He felt dissatisfied with his game, so he felt he had to put in more effort to win the game just because of mistakes made by other people. By saying these swear words, Brandon Kent Everything felt satisfied because he had conveyed his disappointment.

Idiomatic Swearing

Idiomatic swearings are swear words where the word and its meaning do not have the same meaning, so it cannot be translated literally. The data below shows an idiomatic function.

Bangke Guys aneh banget dia enggak pernah kena cok woy apa sih ini apa ini cok cok kenapa gua diincar sampai kayak gini tahi tahi Ini aneh banget ya guys ya mau ngapain sih ini martisnya ini woi masa enggak ada yang bisa kasih damage sih goblok banget teman gua ini.

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)Damn, guys, this is so weird! He never gets hit, damn it! What is this? What is going on, damn it! Why am I being targeted like this? Crap, crap! This is so weird, guys. What is this Martis even doing? Come on, is not there anyone who can deal some damage? My teammates are so stupid!

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

In this data, Brandon Kent Everything uses the swear words feces and corpse to express his emotions. He used these swear words because his friend kept fighting him, and he was in an unsafe position, so he used the swear words to express his extraordinary emotions. Apart from the idiomatic meaning of swearing used, these swear words are also seen as a tool to express feelings of annoyance, which can be proven by the intonation of Brandon Kent Everything's voice which is higher than before and the expression that he shows in the video.

Emphatic Swearing

In the Mobile Legends game, emphatic swear words also want to show the player's feelings towards other playing friends. The data below shows an emphatic swearing.

Aneh banget ya Bisa gitu ya Aduh tengil lagi dia anjing anjing gua enggak dapat nih lihat orang-orang yang tengil gini karena dia dibantu sama temannya ya guys ya kalau enggak dibantu pak enggak bisa apa-apa dia cok cok cupu kali ya Anjing ayo ayo ada gua ya ada gua ya ada gua Ya ada ya ada gua Ayo ada gua Yo ada gua Ayo ada gua Ayo bantai Ayo bantai Ayo bantai yuk ah bawa-bawa temen lu ya hilang loh gua datang bawa teman gua juga lu mati goblok Makanya jangan tengil Bro tengil itu bukan cara buat lawan gua gua bantai lu.

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

This is so weird, right? How can that happen? Oh, he is being so annoying again. Damn, damn, I can not stand it, seeing people like him who are so cocky because he is getting help from his teammates, right guys? If he was not helped, he would not be able to do anything. Damn, what a loser. Damn, come on, come on, I am here, I am here, I am here, yeah, I am here! Let us go, I am here! Yo, I am here! Come on, let us go, let us destroy him! Bring your friends, I will make you disappear, I will bring my friends too, and you will die, stupid! That is why you should not act cocky, bro. Being cocky is not the way to beat me, I will destroy you."

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

Based on the data above, this conversation occurred when Brandon Kent Everything thought that his friend was lucky in the game because he was helped by another friend. According to Brandon Kent Everything, his friend could not win the match or be lucky in the game if he did not get help from other people. However, even so, Brandon Kent Everything still does not feel afraid because he has strength, and he thinks he is more than his friend. Brandon Kent Everything also stated that he could also gain more power if he was helped by his friends. Brandon Kent Everything as the speaker in this video uses the swear word annoying to show his surprise at the fraudulent actions carried out by his friend. Even though Brandon Kent Everything was shocked, he still challenged his friend to fight him, and this was also caused by the anger that he felt.

Abusive Swearing

Abusive swearing is a part of swearing that offends other people's feelings by mentioning something, whether that something really exists or is only an imagination of the speaker. The data below shows an abusive swearing.

Pala dia ya guys ya enggak bakal bisa lah dia buat lawan kita anjing anjing

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

He is so dumb, right guys? He will not be able to beat us, damn it, damn it

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

Based on the data above, Brandon Kent Everything expressed his confidence by underestimating his friend who became the player. He used the word head which is an informal form of head, and that is a member of the body to say abusive swearing. By using the word head, it increasingly shows the higher level of abuse carried out by Brandon Kent Everything and the level of emotion that he has. He expresses his confidence that he will be the winner, and his playmates cannot resist him. Even though Brandon Kent Everything uses the word head, he still means that his playmate cannot beat him.

Cathartic Swearing

Cathartic swearing can be used to show emotions and other negative feelings. The data below shows a cathartic swearing.

Ngeri banget anjing ini martis guys kok bisa jago gitu dia ya guys ya kok bisa jago gitu ya ini martis lu anjing anjing gila anjing lah gua enggak dapat.

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

This Martis is terrifying, damn, how can he be so good? How is he so good? Damn, this Martis, damn, crazy, damn, I can not even get it

(BrandonKent Everything, 2023)

Based on the data above, the word dog was said by Brandon Kent Everything when he almost lost. He said dog to show his surprise because his playmate was so good. Apart from expressing his surprise, Brandon Kent Everything also aims to express his frustration with his friend who is good at playing Mobile Legends. Brandon Kent Everything did not believe that his friend was good, and he was almost defeated by his friend, and he did not even get a chance to excel at that time.

DISCUSSION

Based In this study, the researchers only examined the swear words used by a mobile legend player. Swear words can be used in various contexts, both seriously and just as a joke [18]. In serious matters such as in games, swear words have the aim of expressing emotions. In Indonesia, swear words are not used in daily activities. Swear words are only used at certain times. This is due to the high level of politeness in

Indonesia, and swear words are still considered as a negative language. Contrary to this, in gaming, swear words are considered as something normal and not negative because they are used every time they play games, whether they are used by younger people to the older people and vice versa with the aim of humour and expressing feelings. If people use descriptive swearing, they will swear according to its literal meaning, and there is no other meaning except its meaning. Literal meaning is the original meaning of a word [19]. The findings implied that the swear words used by the mobile legend player are included in the descriptive function. This is because the swear words used provide a description of what the player feels. As seen in the video, the swear words used provide a description of what is happening in the match and what the speaker is feeling, namely Brandon Kent Everything. Even though Brandon Kent Everything utters swear words, he still plays games with his friends, and the swear words only describe what he feels towards his friends. On the other hand, it could be said that Brandon Kent Everything said that his friend was careless or did not understand the instructions. Using swear words is something natural that people can use at certain times. In descriptive swearing, the listeners are encouraged to consider the response that they will give. This is caused using the words stupid and dumb which are also based on the context. If these words are uttered to a very close friend, then those swear words will function as a joke. The descriptive swearing also aims to describe the feeling of the speaker toward the listener of his or her friends. Game players often use swear words because it is a reaction to their feelings [20]. Aside from employing descriptive swearing, the speaker also utilizes idiomatic swearing. Idiomatic swearing is swear words in the form of idioms. Idioms are words whose meanings cannot be analyzed one by one [21]. In idiomatic swearing, the most important thing is not the words used but the meaning to be conveyed where the meaning has the aim of expressing the feelings of the speaker. Brandon Kent Everything has another meaning to the words feces and corpse where the literal meaning of these two words is something disgusting, but the intention of Brandon Kent Everything is not to equate his friend with something disgusting, but he just wants to show how annoyed he is with the game at that time. Even though Brandon Kent Everything did not explain the true meaning, his friend was still able to understand what Brandon Kent Everything meant. Idiomatic swearing is also determined by the relationship between the speakers [22]. In a relationship, idiomatic swearing can strengthen the relationship if the relationship is good before the idiomatic swear words are uttered. However, if the relationship between speakers has been bad since before the swear words were uttered, then the idiomatic swear words can break the relationship.

The speaker also used emphatic swearing. Emphatic swearing is swearing which one of its aims is to build relational work and to show empathetic emotions in certain conditions [23]. The purpose of empathic swear words is to provide a way for the feelings of the speaker that the speaker wants to convey. The swear word also has the aim of expressing the speaker's emotions towards his friend and providing confirmation of the annoyance that he feels. Emphatic swearing is very suitable or appropriate to use to convey negative feelings or emotions towards a friend who has committed fraud. In the data above, it is also shown that people who say swear words still have the potential to be better than their friends because they want to prove their best. Although the swear word of annoying is not as harsh as other swear words in terms of quality, but it also aims to show the speaker's emotion. Emphatic swearing must be in the correct position. In other words, emphatic swearing cannot be used carelessly [24]. The words uttered by the speaker includes emphatic swearing because it shows that there was something unexpected where that something was his friend Brandon Kent Everything who ended up losing. Abusive swearing was also used by the speaker. The meaning of swear words is not only seen from the meaning itself but also seen from the context in which the words are used because it can have different meanings depending on the context that surrounded them [25]. Swearing words used in a game are rude, harassing, intimidating, and in a game, it is common for players to use physical appearance, race or culture, and family members to insult each other where the main aim is not to insult but to express emotions of the person who expressed it. Abusive swearing refers to a type of language use that targets others' emotions, often causing offense by referencing something, whether real or imagined by the speaker [26]. This form of swearing is frequently used to express anger, frustration, or hostility. It can also reflect underlying power dynamics, where the speaker seeks to assert dominance or provoke a reaction.

In addition, the speaker employs cathartic swearing while playing Mobile Legends with their friends, utilizing it as a means of emotional release and stress relief in the dynamic and competitive gaming environment. Cathartic swearing is harsh words spoken to express someone's emotions when the person experiences something that ultimately makes him emotional [27]. Moreover, the words were said spontaneously, and the speaker did not plan them before saying them.

Swearing words arise because people want to insult someone who is directed at the person they are talking to. People use swear words to express their emotions or feelings of surprise about something. Cathartic swearing also aims to express anger or feelings of surprise at something that happens, which in the context of this research is in a video game. Cathartic swearing can be understood well by other people because it contains a specific meaning. Besides, cathartic swearing can also come from the name of animals which they are not human, so they are regarded as cathartic because they are very rude.

Swearing words have different functions and depend on the context that surrounds them at that time [28]. Swearing can be a tool to get closer to someone, but swear words can also be a tool to make someone angry and also to insult other people [29]. However, in general, swearing is known as a tool to express someone's emotions about events that make them upset [30].

CONCLUSION

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that playing online games often involves the use of swearing words. This is proven by one of the Brandon Kent Everything videos which contains a lot of swearing words. Mobile Legends is one of the biggest games, especially in Indonesia, whose players come from different ages, backgrounds, and statuses. In the Mobile Legends game, swearing words are often found used by the players when they play together. The swearing words are sometimes uttered without planning it, but they use it to express their feelings, whether disappointed, shocked, or other feelings. Even though their friends are older than them, they still use the swear words to express their feelings. However, the swearing words in the mobile legend game are not intended to provoke emotions from other players, but it aims only to show their feelings, so the game run smoothly until it is finished.

The limitation of this research is the importance of finding out more about the impact of swear words used in the online games on a person's level of politeness in daily communication. This is because it can happen that the swearing words used by someone in online games are also used by them in their daily activities in the wrong place and under the wrong circumstances.

The future researcher can discuss swear words in relation to other things such as their impact in everyday life. The researcher suggested that the future researcher could look for the impact of the swearing words on someone's language politeness and could use other online games which could be the newest online games. Through this research, now it can be known that swearing words do not always function to invite people to fight, but the swearing words can also function to express people's emotions.

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Data Availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available from <https://www.youtube.com/@BrandonKentEverything>

Conflict of interest The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest

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