

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deeply presented the research introductions of the study and elaborated the research background, identification problem, research problems, research objectives, and research significances.

1.1. Research Background

Language is used to make interaction with other people. According to Richards and Rodgers (2001), language is a system of expressing meaning. Additionally, they state the characteristics of language: 1) language allows interaction and communication; 2) the structure depends on the function and communicative uses. Language can be used to inform or maintain the relationship. Furthermore, Trudgill (1974) argues that language is not only a communication method. He focuses on the function of language, which is used to establish and maintain relationships with people. Language allows individuals to communicate with one another. Individuals typically speak a different language depending on where they are. There is also a cause for the varied language use.

Indonesian education teaches students to speak Indonesian well and correctly. This can be seen in the subjects that students learn from elementary school to college. Students still take Indonesian language subjects to maximize the use of good and correct Indonesian in communicating. However, most people still use language that could be better when communicating. It is not uncommon to find swear words uttered when communicating.

In communication, sometimes, people may have different expressions from each other. It is because of dissatisfaction, dislike, happiness, or anger that happens when people have a conversation. In this situation, people tend to utter swear words. When someone uses swear words, it may be because they feel stressed, sad, angry, happy, shocked, confused, and want to express their feelings. When the speaker has just experienced a bad day emotionally, they can express it through exclamation or swearing language. In this case, every person has different ways to express their emotions, such as crying, laughing, and swearing.

In line with that statement, Nurhayati (2007) states that swear words are words that are said to react to something people do not expect and want. People also swear to express annoyance, anger, or insults at someone. Hughes (1991) contends that swearing taps into powerful and incongruous resonators such as religion, sex, madness, excretion, and nationality, encompassing an extraordinary variety of attitudes, including the violent, the amusing, the shocking, the absurd, the casual, and the impossible. Swear words are commonly employed across all circles, both adults and children.

Swear words are not exclusively uttered when individuals become angry or upset with something or someone. There are various ways to express our emotions to others. We can use positive words when we want to express our gratitude or appreciation toward them, or maybe there is another way to express our rage or just a silly side of us, which is when we use swear words in conversation. However, swearing can be planned or utterly spontaneous to have a negative and positive intention (Finn, 2017). For example, people consciously joke using swear words to make others laugh, but in contrast, they may spontaneously swear when they injure themselves.

According to Ljung (2011), swear words serve as a means of expressing taboo. While taboo and swear words differ, they still have the same language. All taboo words are included in swear words. The taboo words have more vulgar, insulting, and humiliating meanings, for instance, the word "bitch" which is used to insult someone. Whereas swear words have different meanings and purposes depending on the context of the conversation and the speaker's identity.

In any case, swear words are not only spoken directly by someone when they speak. With increasingly rapid technological developments, humans can communicate via social media on every smartphone they own. Social media is a medium for socializing with each other. It is done online and allows people to interact with each other without being limited by space and time. Social media often becomes a forum for people to communicate personally, in groups, or in general, such as in the comments column. One example of social media currently popular among people is the X Application.

X Application is very popular with many people, including adults and underage children. X Application is a social media that comes in a different format. X Application has the concept of disseminating message information briefly, concisely, and in real time with sentences of less than 140 characters to readers throughout the world. This can be used as a means of disseminating information to all good people, whether known or not.

The topic that is receiving significant attention is politics, with the main focus on political elections and the presidential election, which will be held in 2024. X Application is one of the places where users can share their comments and opinions regarding the presidential election in Indonesia. Through various posts, users use the platform to voice their views on presidential candidates and current issues related to the election. Every post created by a user often gives rise to pros/cons for the video being discussed, which does not rule out the possibility of inviting other users to provide positive and negative comments. Freedom to provide comments is one of the features of the X Application platform. In the context of research on the use of swear words in X Application comments regarding the politics of the 2024 Presidential Election in Indonesia, it is important to understand how X Application users use swear words in X Application comments. It is common to find several swear words in negative comments in a video about the presidential election.

Many studies in Indonesia have examined the use of swear words. Some research the use of swear words in everyday life, YouTube content, the use of swear words in films, and many more. However, more research still needs to be done on using swear words in the comments column, especially in the X Application. Therefore, this study will delve deeper into the usage of swear words found in the comments of X Application posts directly related to political contexts and the preparation for the 2024 presidential election. Through analyzing these comments, the study aims to comprehend how profanity is employed in the political sphere on social media and the significance behind each explicit word expressed in the X Application comment sections within the political context of a presidential election. By tracking and analyzing the use of profanity in the

political context on platforms like X Application, this study seeks to provide a more profound understanding of the swear words used by X Application users regarding politics, particularly the 2024 presidential election.

1.2. Problem Identification

This study was researched starting from Indonesia, where legislative elections, including the 2024 presidential election, are in full swing. Researchers looked at social media, especially the X Application application, where many posts about politics are circulating. Of course, each post contains many comments from users. Initial observation results show that swear words are used in several comments expressed by users in the X Application comments column related to the presidential election in Indonesia.

Based on the explanation, researchers want to investigate the use of swear words by X Application users in the X Application comments column related to the 2024 presidential election in Indonesia.

1.3. Research Problems

1. What are the types of swear words are found in the X Application's comments about the politics of the presidential election in Indonesia in 2024 in terms of form and function?
2. What are the dominant types of swear words used in X Application's comments about the politics of the presidential election in Indonesia in 2024?

1.4. Research Objectives

1. To identify the types of swear words are found in the X Application's comments about the politics of the presidential election in Indonesia in 2024 in terms of form and function.
2. To find out the dominant types of swear words used in X Application's comments about the politics of the presidential election in Indonesia in 2024.

1.5. Research Significances

1. To students, it is hoped that the results of this research can be a source of information for students about swear words and can encourage further research on swear words. Apart from that, this research can be a reference in introducing swearing expressions commonly used by today's young generation.
2. To lecturers, this study can be used to increase information from resource persons about sociolinguistics to foster exploration of sociolinguistics, especially regarding the use of swear words.
3. To other researchers, hopefully the results of this research can be used as input for others and can be relied upon as a good source and direction for other analysts who like this review.

