

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of this study, problem identification, limitation of the study, research question, purpose of the study, significance of the study and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

In human communication, the phenomenon of swear words makes human communication diverse and at the same time unique. It is from language that people take the tools to bridge gaps created by distinctions of culture, and it is through language that people achieve understanding with people from other parts of the world who come from diverse backgrounds. A complex system of signs, as described by Ovigun and Verde (2020), language fulfills a communicative function that involves verbal and non-verbal aspects and does much more than enable communication. It functions within a structure that is far from inherent logic but which can be applied systematically as it continues to evolve. Therefore, the language could be a means of effective communication and social commitment.

Similarly, Tseng (2018) argues that language goes beyond merely conveying information; it acts as a vehicle for carrying out specific communicative functions, both in writing and speaking. Effective communication, therefore, demands more than just vocabulary mastery; it also

calls for contextual understanding, awareness of the audience, and the skill to deliver a message with the right tone and feeling. Additionally, non-verbal cues are integral to the communication process, further illustrating the intricate nature of language as an ethical construct.

A common problem that occurs when humans interact with language is miscommunication. This is a situation where the message intended by the sender is not received properly or correctly by the receiver. Miscommunication can occur by many human interactions, such as verbal, written, and non-verbal communication and even physical communication can also affect miscommunication. This can have a significant impact in various aspects of life.

Language not only facilitates human communication, but greatly influences the identity of the human being itself which makes an individual learn to live and exist, can form perceptions about themselves and can contain uncontrollable emotions that can lead to miscommunication (Timothy & Janschewitz, 2008). Mistakes occur when humans talk to each other, which can be interpreted as miscommunication. This can occur from the party who starts the conversation first with the interlocutor and also this can be triggered by the ongoing communication process not running effectively or poorly resulting in a mismatch of information that should be, (Yolanda et al., 2021). Likewise, according to Healey et al. (2018) miscommunication is defined as a means of human interaction that can make humans more sensitive to creating a more correct way of communication. This is not only a disruption in the communication system, but it is very important in order to create productive and flexible communication between people, especially when responding structurally to new situations with new people.

However, despite the vital role language plays in fostering understanding, conflicts are still common in our global society. Differences in culture, religion, and social and economic status are significant contributors to these tensions (Galtung, 1990). One of the key issues in such conflicts is often the lack of effective dialogue, which is a critical component of proficient language use. Misunderstandings often happen when inappropriate language is used, which can lead to unnecessary arguments. Swear words, known for being vulgar or socially unacceptable, can especially cause these misunderstandings because they carry a strong emotional punch (Dewaele & Pavlenko, 2003; Finn, 2017)

Swearing is a way to express how someone feels, often showing emotions like anger or frustration. It involves using words that people consider offensive, vulgar, or taboo within their cultural context. The way swearing is appropriated can vary contextually based on many factors such as the relationship between speakers, social context and specific words (Timothy & Janschewitz, 2008). In a relevant study, Finn (2017) added that swearing can lead to deliberate actions or reckless reactions. Spontaneous swearing is often caused by deep emotions, resulting in the emergence of habitual responses that are raised by an individual with daily interactions. This habitual swearing makes it possible for these expressions to occur automatically, especially during times of high emotional volatility. The main factor that causes this spontaneous swearing is a lack of self-control. A person who has difficulty regulating their emotions uses swearing more often, mostly in stressful situations or with pressure. Swearing is often used to mock and hurt other individuals, as well as to express frustration about something used by others or oneself. This can be seen in situations where people use

profanity during an argument. For example, a student angrily says, “Shut up! Asshole” in English during an argument with his friend. Instead of using such harsh language, he could have chosen a kinder phrase, such as “Could you be quiet for a moment?” Lexically, the term “asshole” is still offensive and disrespectful.

Despite the general consensus that swearing is socially undesirable, its prevalence in communication is undeniable. Interestingly, this usage persists despite the absence of formal instruction in such language within educational institutions, family settings, or other traditional learning environments. This observation underscores the significant role of the environment in shaping an individual's propensity to use profane language. Moreover, it is important to recognize that swearing does not solely carry negative connotations. As highlighted by Jay (2008), humans are unique in their capacity to curse, which suggests that swearing can serve positive functions. For instance, swearing can provide an outlet for emotional expression, potentially preventing the escalation of physical conflict and serving as a cathartic release for the speaker's feelings.

Swear words have no manner and structure when used. Swear words are better known as words or phrases that humans believe if swear words are spoken it seems impolite and inappropriate in the context of communication. Swear words are typically loaded with strong emotions and frustration, often considered taboo. Meliyana (2024) define swear words as (a) referencing taboo content within a particular culture, (b) not meant to be taken literally, and (c) expressing strong feelings and opinions. These words go beyond their literal meanings, serving as declarations or affirmations that

provoke, insult, or, in some cases, uplift. They convey surprise, anger, depression, happiness, and fear.

Swear words are seen as inappropriate, dirty, and rude in formal settings, people commonly use them in informal situations. This explains why individuals tend to avoid swearing in socially formal contexts. Swear words, which can be interpreted as dirty words, are known to be inappropriate for use in public by some people, even though they are used in social relationships in certain groups, (Meliyana, 2024). According to Crystal (1987) swearing is a way for people to express their emotions. Swearing and obscenities are likely some of the strongest signals used in language to express intense emotions. Additionally, Cooper (2023)) highlights that swear words are often found in phrases expressing anger, passion, and other strong feelings, including references to religion or deities, and terms deemed indecent. Interestingly, using such language can sometimes help relieve stress for the speaker. Usually these swear words are accompanied by vulgar or rude elements that make humans feel uncomfortable and can also cause conflict between interlocutors and with surrounding listeners. Swear words are used when expressing angry emotions and expressing pain, surprise and are used as a communication tool in the context of jokes, even to call people who have close friendships. From research by Allan and Burridge (2006) Interpreting swear words is a swear word that has a use to insult, mock and denounce something. One group with another type with a disparaging expression. In more recent research Mahamurah, R. C. (2015) explained that swear words are often associated as something negative and disrespectful, this is the reason that swear words have a bad meaning and are not good if spoken and used in daily human communication habits.

Swear words in Indonesian, Juidah et al. (2024) include many words such as "*mampus*" which means "dead" when experiencing a sudden critical situation or forgetting something. "*Goblok*" which means "stupid" is also often thrown in situations where someone makes an unintentional or intentional mistake. "*Bangsat*" which means "motherfucker" is often used if someone feels upset about something. These swear words are also sometimes used in some regions in Indonesia and even almost entirely because these are very famous words.

There are problems that occur in French regarding swear words. This is due to the ignorance of French tourists visiting other country regarding swear words in other country. A survey made by the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism in 2020 found that 45% of 1,000 tourists in Bali admitted to using swear words while on vacation in Indonesia. Only 20% realized that it could be highly offensive to the local population. Causing offense to the locals and causing a ruckus and reporting the matter to the police. Foreign tourists should be aware of swear words that can cause conflict in their conversations with local residents. If the problem of foreign tourists is left unattended and not handled immediately, the tourism sector of other country will get a bad image because guests who enter the district court report will affect the long stay of tourists and make the problem more difficult and complicated. Therefore, this research is not only very important but also needs to be done as soon as possible in order to get an opinion, which is why this research is given the title Comparison Swear Words Used by French in the hope that it can provide insight for biased people to survive knowledge.

In this research, French swear words have not yet been discussed, and there is a lack of comprehensive research that explores the forms, functions, and references of swear words used by the French other than in the context of literature. And the opportunity in this research can fill the previously unexplored gap in French swear words, as well as seeking further understanding in what contexts French speakers use swearing and contributing new insight into the communicative role of swearing in French culture. This approach provides a new perspective on how swearwords become a social phenomenon in wider language use.

1.2 Problem Identification

This study examines the comparison of abusive words between Balinese and French. This is an interesting yet complex area of research. One of the problems that arises is the need to understand the presence, context and characteristics of rude words in the two languages. With this in mind, the main identification problems are:

1. There is a need to understand rude words in depth. What is considered rude by the people who use the local language can vary which can be triggered by the cultural context, social values and norms that apply. Words associated with sexual or religious taboos are often considered rude by French society. Therefore, an in-depth understanding of rude words between these two languages requires research into the prevailing cultural context, social values and language norms.
2. Reflecting the distinctive features of the language structure French rude words, the formation process can be noted.
3. The importance of knowing swear words in French is that there are certain patterns or rules in the formation of Balinese and French swear words.

1.3 Research Limitation

This research is focused on the swear words language which is located in France. In conducting this research carried out to enrich knowledge and understanding, as well as research on swear words languages in France.

1.4 Statement of Research Problem

The identification of the problems described above has inspired researchers to conduct research on the comparison of swear words between French. Therefore, the research problem can be formulated into research questions as follows:

1. What swear words are used by the French?
2. What forms of the swear words are used by French?
3. What are the functions of swear words used by French people?
4. What references are used by the French in swear words mentioned above?

1.5 Research objectives

Based on research questions above, the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the swear words used in French
2. To analyze the form of swear words that are included in French
3. To describe the function of swear words in French
4. To investigate the references of swear words used by French

1.6 Research Significances

This research is expected to play an active and positive role theoretically and practically in French swear words in the future. On the other hand, this research also aims to increase knowledge about swear words in French based on references, terms,

words and other factors that have an effect on the use of swear words in daily communication.

a. Theoretical Significance

This research can be expected to provide good and positive information for the community in the field of linguistics. With the identification of French swear words that will provide additional knowledge related to French swear words.

b. Practical Significance

The findings of this study are expected to be useful for:

a) For The Government

The research that will be produced can be expected to provide information and knowledge in physical form about the comparison of swear words in French as language modification in a linguistic point of view.

b) For Ganesha University of Education

The results of this research are expected to provide information and knowledge about swear words in French.

c) For Linguistic Studies

This study can serve as a valuable reference for researchers exploring swear words in different languages, especially in comparative linguistic studies.

d) For Student

The results of this research can explore more in-depth knowledge about swear words in French. For tourism students interested in culture, engaging in intercultural communication courses, language immersion programs in French-

speaking countries, and learning about taboos and politeness strategies can help them navigate real-world interactions more effectively.

e) For Other Researcher

The results of the study are expected to be a knowledge opportunity for other researchers to deepen understanding related to the field of linguistics, especially in French swear words which are part of the field of sociolinguistics to understand more about the field of linguistics and can be a source of reference for other research and enrich the study of the field of linguistics, especially students of Ganesha University of Education.

