

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses research background, identification of research problem, research limitation, statement of research problem, research objectives, and research significance.

### 1.1 Research Background

Language is one system of communication with others (Yani, 2017). In daily life, language is used to convey thoughts, feelings and emotions to other people. Communication is the process by which people interact with one another by using language to express ideas, feelings, or other important information verbally and nonverbally. Rodger (2001) states some of the characteristics of language namely: 1) System to express meaning; 2) The functions are to allow interaction and communication; 3) Functional and Communicative. By using language, people can build a relationship with others. However, there is a category of words that are often considered rude or inappropriate in some contexts known as *swear words*.

Quoted from detiktravel (Triwidiyanti, 2023), there was a serious case of miscommunication occurred between a foreign tourist and a local resident in Labuan Sait, South Kuta. The incident ended in a big fight when the tourist was upset because he was not given way by the *pecalang* during the *melasti* procession, a sacred ritual of the Balinese people. This misunderstanding occurred because the tourist did not receive an explanation of the meaning and customary rules of the procession. If both parties could communicate more effectively, using clear and

precise language to bridge the cultural gap, the conflict could have been avoided. This case highlights the importance of using appropriate and polite language when communicating across cultures, especially in sensitive contexts.

Swear words are long-lasting words that are included in expressive actions to convey feelings about something. (Hagen, 2013). Swearing is seen as a type of linguistic behaviour that society regards as disrespectful, vulgar, and even offensive (Ljung, 2011). He also states swear words are used to uttering something taboo. Language that is considered taboo often uses harsh words, swearing, or something related to sexuality, religion, race, or topics that are considered sensitive or impolite and give a negative impact to the hearers. In some cultures, words that are considered taboo may not be used well in other cultures. Swearing is an impolite thing to do because it involves words that contain negative things and are demeaning to someone directly or indirectly. This also creates inconvenience, injustice, and is immoral. Swear words are one of the expressions that are often used to express annoyance or anger that occurs in some difficult situations.

Swearing can either be planned or completely spontaneous (Finn, 2017). It can be done spontaneously because it is their emotional form about something and has become a habit that has been formed from everyday life. This is what makes someone able to swear spontaneously. Another cause is a lack of self-control. Those who tend to be less able to control their emotions will tend to be more vulnerable and automatically curse if they are in an urgent situation.

Everyone already knows that using bad words is a negative thing, but people still use these words in communication even though these words have never been

taught at school, in the family, or anywhere else. This concludes that the main influence in the use of bad language is the environment. Swearing doesn't always have a negative meaning, it can be a positive thing. Jay (2006) said "We are the only animals that can curse". This means that overall, swearing can be a positive thing for humans, because sometimes swearing can help us to avoid physical violence and can also express the emotions we are feeling.

There are several studies have been conducted in the feilds of swear words for instance, a study conducted by Dewi, M. (2017) found that *naskeleng* is male genitals, *leak* is devils, *bojog* is monkey. Another study conducted by Yani, K. T. (2017) found that *pirate* is ancestors, *celak* is male genital, *buduh* is crazy. Based on almost all research conducted for local Indonesian languages, Therefore in this research, researchers are interested in researching Singaporean language because many Singaporeans come to Bali for tourism or business trips. Researchers also found several swear words used by Singaporean citizens, namely; *chao chee bye* refers to woman private parts, *lan pa chee* is dick, *kan ni na* is means fuck you.

Balinese and Singaporeans use swear words in their daily communication. But Balinese and Singaporean have similarities and differences in words and clauses. When Balinese and Singaporean communicate, there will definitely be some misunderstandings regarding swear language. Tourism actors should already know offensive words that will cause conflict or problems in the future. If this continues to happen, Bali tourism will decline and get a bad name. Therefore, this research is not only important but must be carried out immediately to find words that can cause offense. Because of that reason, the title of this study should be "Swear Words Used

by Singaporean" with the hope of increasing understanding of swear words and providing new insights into the field of linguistics and intercultural communication.

### **1.2 Identification of Research Problem**

This study was inspired by the role of language in everyday interactions, especially in Bali. Quoted from [forevervacation.com](http://forevervacation.com), Singapore is among the top five countries that visit Bali the most, with a tourist share of 7.8% in December 2023. Since Singaporeans are frequent tourists who come to Bali for tourism, communication between Balinese and Singaporeans is common. However, these interactions sometimes involve the use of offensive language, which can lead to unnecessary conflicts. Since offensive language is generally considered inappropriate and can lead to misunderstandings, it is important to understand Singaporean swear words better. The purpose of this study is to reduce potential misinterpretations and improve communication with Singaporeans by examining the use of swear words.

### **1.3 Research Limitation**

This study examines the use of swear words by Singaporean, specifically focusing on Singaporean tourists with Hokkien dialect that holiday in Bali. This study aims to increase knowledge and understanding of swear word that occur in Singaporean.

### **1.4 Statement of Research Problem**

Based on the background has described, the research question of this study as follows:

1. What swear words are used by Singaporean?
2. What are the forms of the swear words used by Singaporean?
3. What are the functions of swear words used by Singaporean?
4. What are the references of swear words used by Singaporean?

### **1.5 Research Objectives**

Based on the research questions, the objective of the study as follows:

1. To identify the swear words of swear words used by Singaporean
2. To analyse the forms of swear words used by Singaporean
3. To identify the function of swear words used by Singaporean
4. To investigate the references of swear words used by Singaporean

### **1.6 Research Significances**

There are two significances of the study; there are theoretical significance and practical significance.

#### **1.6.1 Theoretical Significance**

The results of this research contribute to existing theories about swear words and focus on the use of swear words in Balinese and Singaporean in linguistic aspects.

#### **1.6.2 Practical Significance**

##### **1.6.2.1 For Balinese**

The results of this research for Balinese people are to make them more careful in communicating with Singaporean people so that misunderstanding between Balinese and Singaporean about swear words can be avoided.

### 1.6.2.2 For Singaporean

The results of this research for Singaporean people are the same as the Balinese, be careful in communicating especially when holiday in Bali to avoid the swear words misunderstanding.

### 1.6.2.3 For Readers

The results of this research for readers are to educate about swear words used by Singaporean.

