

# CATEGORY, TYPE AND MOTIVE OF SWEAR WORDS IN PASA LAUAK, SUNGAI BAMEH, LUBUK BEGALUNG DISTRICT IN COVID PANDEMI AS LANGUAGE LEARNING

Mutia Damayanti<sup>1</sup>, Edwar Kemal<sup>2</sup>, Wahyudi Rahmat\*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Politeknik Negeri Padang

<sup>2</sup>Center for Language Studies and Generic Development-Ph.D's Program, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan

<sup>2</sup>STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat

Email: muthiadamayanti@gmail.com, edwarkemal@gmail.com, wahyudirahmat24@gmail.com

Submitted: 2020-11-24, Reviewed: 2021-12-12, Accepted: 2021-01-11

DOI: 10.22216/jcc.2021.v6i1.140 URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22216/jcc.2021.v6i1.140>

## Abstract

The researcher analyzed the swear word categories, types, and motives, in Pasa Lauak. Data were collected through recording, taking notes, interview and questionnaire techniques. It was analyzed by a referential method. Andersson and Hughes theories were used to analyze the swear word categories and the motives. Pinker theory was to explain the swearing types. The research shows there are 2 forms of swear words i.e. high for 13 % and low for 87 %. The categories are (a) sexual organs, sexual relations 16 %, (b) religion 13 %, (c) excrement 16 %, (d) physically-mentally disabled 12 %, (e) prostitution 3 %, (f) drugs and crime 3 %, (g) skin color 3 %, (h) family member 10 %, (i) age level 3 %, (j) skin disease 3 %, (k) body size 3 %, (l) animal 7 %, and (m) height level 3 %. The swearing types are abusive swearing 39 %, idiomatic swearing) 42 %, emphatic swearing 3 %, chatartic swearing 16 %. The motives are psychology motive 55 %, social motive 32 %, and working condition motive 16 %. It shows that Pasa Lauak community is creative in creating the swear words. Swear words have negative and positive impacts.

**Key words:** Category, Type, Motive, Swear Words, Pasa Lauak.

## Abstrak

Peneliti menganalisis kategori, jenis, dan motif kata umpatan dalam Pasa Lauak. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan teknik pencatatan, wawancara dan kuesioner. Ini dianalisis dengan metode referensial. Teori Andersson dan Hughes digunakan untuk menganalisis kategori kata umpatan dan motifnya. Teori Pinker menjelaskan jenis umpatan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada 2 bentuk kata umpatan yaitu tinggi 13% dan rendah 87%. Kategorinya adalah (a) alat kelamin, hubungan seksual 16%, (b) agama 13%, (c) tinja 16%, (d) cacat fisik-mental 12%, (e) prostitusi 3%, (f) narkoba dan kejahatan 3%, (g) warna kulit 3%, (h) anggota keluarga 10%, (i) tingkat usia 3%, (j) penyakit kulit 3%, (k) ukuran tubuh 3%, (l) hewan 7%, dan (m) tingkat tinggi 3%. Jenis umpatan kasar 39%, umpatan idiomatik) 42%, umpatan empatik 3%, umpatan chatartic 16%. Motifnya adalah motif psikologi 55%, motif sosial 32%, dan motif kondisi kerja 16%. Hal tersebut menunjukkan bahwa komunitas Pasa Lauak kreatif dalam menciptakan kata umpatan. Kata umpatan memiliki dampak negatif dan positif.

**Kata kunci:** Kategori, Jenis, Motif, Kata Sumpah, Pasa Lauak.

## INTRODUCTION

Since the corona virus has been detected in China, the victims of the virus

keep increasing in the various countries. The rapid movement of the virus makes many countries have not been ready about how to

cure the victims and even until right now, the cure has not been found yet. Because of the corona virus, there are many impacts felt by the societies such as economics, job, communication, and also education. Since the symptoms have been known there are many public activities have been closed such as supermarket, theater, crowds, school and universities. The people who still come out without urgent or important reason are sent home verbal and non verbal. In some countries, those people get some physical punishments because they do not obey the rules or the regulation of the government. Nowadays, some countries have been able to avoid the covid 19 distribution. In indonesia, the virus is still growing up where there 287 thousand people become suspect of corona virus, 215 thousand poeple have been cured and 10.740 people are dead ([www.covid19.go.id](http://www.covid19.go.id)). The numbers keep raising constantly from day to day. Likely, it is quite difficult for Indonesia to be free from the covid 19 attack for now

Language is a means of communication which operates in a speech community. As a mean of communication, language can be divided into three namely, spoken, written, and gesture. Spoken is one of the communication forms created by a speaker (s) and a listener (s) through air. Written is one of the communication forms produced by a writer to the readers through paper or graph. Gesture is a process of communication formed by a sender to a receiver through body movements. Meanwhile, as a system of communication, language is used in a great variety of situation. Language and contexts have great role in communication (Kemal, 2015)

One of the language functions is a tool to show one's expression or feeling of anger, happiness, sadness, and loneliness. In expressing it, people have many ways of using language and one of them is by producing swearing words. People always

associate swear words with nasty words, which are not allowed to be used in a conversation or talk. Swear words are fascinating. Society condemns them, few admit use them, and still, everybody swears, at least occasionally. In simple words, swear words are contradictive for people in communication. Swearing makes many people upset, annoyed, insulted, mad or even angry. It is really a verbal harassment if other people hear it.

Hughes (1991) commented that swearing draws upon such powerful and incongruous resonators 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. It can be simplified that the usage of swearing will give negative impacts on the hearers.

Meanwhile, Dutton (2007) argued that swearwords have negative meanings because they are disgusting, rude, and offensive. He also stated that most people found words such as *fuck* and *cunt* offensive at least to a degree and associated negative ideas with those who used such words. Then, in British English at least, a person who uses swearwords refer to a person being, essentially, working class and, perhaps by extension, a person who is distant from the power centre of society. Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that the usage of swear words have negative effects for others and for the people who use the words are considered the people from low class people i.e. working class people.

There are some groups in our social life still consider that swear words are the appropriate media to express strong emotion and attitudes like sellers in the market, loaders/ workers , and also fish sellers. It is proved by the facts found in some communities. The nasty words can be heard

on it. They do swearing whether to his or her friends or even to the costumers. It signs that the people still use nasty words through swearing in their daily communication although it gives negative impacts.

Swear words are a natural part of our language, and they are undoubtedly one of the most efficient ways to do away with extra frustration or anger in difficult situations. It is added by Hughes (1991) who said that people swear *by*, people swear *to* (do something), people swear *at* (somebody or something) and sometimes people swear simply out of exasperation. It has even been suggested that swear words may be a factor in reducing stress (Crystal in Karjalainen, 2002). It means that because swearwords are still kind of our language, it is used by the participants intentionally or unintentionally. It could be influenced by the feeling of the participants themselves.

The research was limited into category, type, and motive of swerwords in Pasa Lauak, Sungai Baramah, Lubuk Begalung Padang. It has purposes to find out the positive impacts and negative impacts of using swearwords among the interaction.

## METHOD

This research is a qualitative research. A qualitative research also allows the researcher to gain access the motives, meanings, actions and reactions of people in the context of their daily life. The focus of it does not reveal causal relationships, but rather to discover the nature phenomena as humanly experienced. In essence, qualitative research is oriented toward the search for meanings, that is, the interpretation and meanings people give to events, objects, other people, and situations in their environment and its focus in the nature of phenomena of human beings.

Data are the most important component in the research because the research only can be continued by having

the research data. If there are no data, the research is considered failed. According to Sudaryanto (1993) stated that data are the research object that are derived from a selecting process of any kind of utterances occurred on the site. Data are the object of the research plus its contexts. Context is the determinant of the identity of the target object research (Rahmat, 2017). Based on the statement above, it can be explained that the data of this research are all of the utterances related to the swear words used by the people who are working or involving in *Pasa Lauak* in Sungai Baramah, Lubuk Begalung, Padang plus the contexts of the utterances.

Talking about the source of data, according to Loftland (in Moleong, 1996), the sources of qualitative research data are for example: sentence or utterances, actions, written texts, photographs and statistics. Related to the writer's research, his sources of data are taken from the utterances and actions of the conversation among the fish unshippers, the fish unshippers with other people, the fish unshippers with the fish sellers and the fish unshippers with food and drink servicers in Sungai Baramah, Lubuk Begalung, Padang.

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a pragmatics identity method. It is one of the analyzing methods that explain about the meaning of a referent based on the context of the utterance. The reason of applying the method is because the writer wants to see clearly whether the using of swear words by the people who are working or involving in *Pasa Lauak* really mean to what they say or it refers to another thing. Here, the writer uses referent technique in analyzing the data. This technique uses referents as the participants in comprehending the meaning. Next, it will show whether the referent is matched with its referee or the referent does not match

with its referees. To explain it, the context of the utterance helps the writer to analyze it.

Related to the research, after having the data, the writer starts to do an analyzing process. The data are displayed one by one by having its context in order to get a good comprehension. To explain the data, all of the theories that have previously been mentioned are applied in order to analyze what the speaker mean in his utterance to the speaker (s).

Although the term ‘reliability’ is a concept used for testing or evaluating quantitative research, the idea is most often used in all kinds of research. Golafshani, based on the Denzin statement (1978), states that triangulation is used to achieve reliability and validity of a research from the qualitative researchers’ perspectives which are to eliminate bias and increase the researcher’s truthfulness of a proposition about some social phenomenon. Then, he states also (according to Creswell & Miller) triangulation is defined to be a validity procedure where researchers search for convergence among multiple and different sources of information to form themes or categories in a study.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research shows that two forms of swear words occur in the Fish Market Place, Sungai Baramah, Lubuk Begalung District. They are high swearing or sacred swearing and low swearing or unsacred swearing. The occurrences of high swearing are few in conversation among the *Pasa Lauak* community. People are also afraid swearing with high swearing because the swearing could happen for the people. It is also greatly influenced by the religious background of *minangkabau* people that your words are your pray. So, when they are uttering the words, even the swear words, they are afraid that their words are blessed by the God.

Meanwhile, the low swearing is often used in the conversation on the site. It proves that people love to swear with nasty words than sacred words. Firstly, it is caused by the crowded place. On the site, there are many people who keep walking and moving fast in order to go in and out of the *Pasa Lauak* looking for their daily needs. The place is quite small compared to the people who are working there or even for the people. It makes people move slowly to the place. Secondly, it is about the tenseness. The unshippers try to finish their job as soon as possible because if they work late, there are many problems will come out. If they work late, the ships keep coming in line on the spot. In addition, they will finish their jobs rather late and they get only a little money.

There are four types of swearing used by the participants on the site. They are abusive swearing, idiomatic swearing, emphatic swearing and chatartic swearing. Dysphemistic swearing never occurs in the conversation. Perhaps, the people dont want to force the other people thinking about negative or provocative matter when a speaker tells or informs something. Idiomatic swearing is the type of swearing which is often used in in the conversation. It is because most of the people who work in the fish auction place show their close relationship, unity, and friendship among others. Based on the interview, it has been mentioned that the swear words are “greeting” among the people on the site. They dont have any hurt feeling because most of them are friends and even siblings/ families.

According to the table above, it can be seen that there are three motives of swearing occur on the site. They are psychological motive, social motive, and working condition risk motive. Working condition is a new motive of swearing found on the site. It happens because it triggers the

workers to use swear words in communication. They have much tenseness in working and they must work fast in order to create the other problem come and also to get much money on the day. Linguistic motive never occur in the process of communication on the site. It is because the people never modify or renew the way of saying or telling swear words. All of the swearings have a particular motive in the communication and there is no relation found in line with the linguistic motive.

Psychological motive is the swearing motive which is often used in the communication. It may be caused that the job's condition on the site is not comfortable. The place is quite small for the workers to do their job. Then, many people just walk as they like. Seemingly, they don't care about the risk, such as hit by the fish baskets or the ice blocks. At last, the tenseness between the fish seller/ fish agent and fish buyer are quite high. The fish sellers/ fish agents try to sell the fish as high as possible in order to get much money. On the contrary, the fish buyers try to bargain the fish as low as possible in order to get many fish to sell or consume.

The basic difference between human with other cultures is that human is a cultured creature. It is because human has a mind or thought. By having it, human can create various cultures. Human is also well-known as social creature. It means that they must live together with others in one group which is familiarly called as society. Then, as a creature that creates the cultures, they also try to fulfil their daily needs.

Because they try to fulfil their daily needs, it must have a way to communicate or interact with other people. One of the ways is by using language. There are some functions of language in a society. They are as a tool of expression and as a tool of communication. As a tool of expression, human uses language for expressing their

psychological aspects and as a tool of communication, human uses language for having relationship or communication with others.

Swearing is a part of language used by the human to communicate with others. Swearing is one of the controversial of language phenomenon in the world. There are some arguments shows it. First is swear words are known as nasty word, but instead of stopping or prohibiting people to use the words, some people use it in communication. Likely, they do not care if the listeners or other people will be hurt or even be angry when they are using it in communication. For them, swearing is better because it can help them to show their anger or bad mood rather than they fight or do a body contact with the people.

Second is swearing is never taught in the school and at home. Parents and the school teachers also never teach them about the words. If it says so, where do the swear words come from? Based on the readings and data, it shows that someone's language is greatly influenced by his/ her environments. In this place, children will know and study different things i.e. something that they never get at home or school. If it is not known by the parents or by us, finally, swearing will be a habit in communication. If it is already a habit, this problem will be difficult to let it go.

Third is swearing used by various ages, class, and background of people. It is started from children until old people. These words do not only belong to men but also to women. Not only poor people do swearing in conversation, but the middle class until the high class people do so. Educated and uneducated people also use the words in communication. People are from city or people are from countries also use swear words in their communication.

Fourth is swearing almost happens all over the cultures. Perhaps, the type and

categories or form of the words are different from one culture to another culture. Swearing is part of the language used by human to express his or her emotion in communication. Language is created by human. It means that humans are quite free to use any words or any language to use in their daily communication.

At last, people argued that using swear words in communication will merely hurt the people's feeling, make someone angry, and insult or mock other people. However, some people said that swearing helps them to loose their problem. Instead of fighting, it is better to show his bad mood through swearing. Swearing is also a way to show cohesiveness or united of a group. So, swearing is paradox in a communication.

## CONCLUSION

The writers had analyzed the swear words used in *Pasa Lauak*, Sungai Baramah, Lubuk Begalung District, Padang. After analyzing the data, it can be summarized some important conclusions from the research. Firstly, there are two forms of swear words used in the Fish Auction Place, Sungai Baramah, Lubuk Begalung District, Padang. They are high swearing or sacred swearing and low swearing or unsacred swearing. The occurrence of high swearing and low swearing in the conversation is 13 % and 87 %. By having 87 % of the occurrence percentage of low swear words shows that most of participants or people on the site do swearing with nasty words.

Secondly, there are fifteen categories of swear words occur on the site. This condition shows that the people on the site are very creative and quite unique to make swears word in conversation. The fifteen categories are sexual organs, sexual relations 16 %, religion, church 13 %, excrement 16 %, death , the physically or mentally disabled 12 %, prostitution 3 %, narcotics and crime 3 %, skin color 3 %, family

member 10 %, age level 3 %, skin disease 3 % , body size 3 %, animal 7 %, hair color 3 %, height size 3 %.

Sexual organs or sexual relations and excrement swear words are the highest occurrence in the conversation. Death swear words do not appear in the conversation. It is because the participants or people on the site are afraid to use the words. It is caused by the proverb “ your words are your pray”. If someone swears his friends with the death swear words, he or she is quite afraid if what he says will come true.

Thirdly, there are four parts of swearing types used by the participants on the site. They are abusive swearing, idiomatic swearing, emphatic swearing and chatartic swearing. Their occurrence percentages in the conversation are abusive swearing for 39 %, idiomatic swearing for 42 %, emphatic swearing 3 %, and chatartic swearing for 16 %. Idiomatic swearing is the highest swearing type used on the site. It shows that the participants or people there use swear words in order to show their unity, solidarity or friendship among others. Dysphemistic swearing never occurs in the conversation. It might be caused by the will of the participants or people on the site who dont want other people give about negative or provocative matters about other people.

Fourthly, there are three motives of swearing occur on the site. They are psychological motive, social motive, and working condition motive. Their occurrence percentages are psychological motive for 55 %, social motive for 32 %, and working condition motive for 16 %. Psychological motives is the highest motive of swearing used by the participants on the site. It may be caused by the job's conditions (small selling/ working spot, tightly-bargaining, unserious working) do not support the workers to work well. Linguistic motive does not appear in the conversation. It may be caused by the people or participants who

never modify or renew the way of saying or telling swear words.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like the editors and reviewers of *Curricula: Journal of Teaching and Learning* for constructive comments and feedback.

### REFERENCE

- Dutton, Edward Croft. 2007. Swearing as Witness Evangelism in Student Evangelical Groups. Dikutip pada <http://Journal of religion and popular culture>. Volume XVI: Summer 2007 10 januari 2010
- Golafshani, Nahid. 2003. Understanding Reliability and Validity in Qualitative Research. *Jurnal: The Qualitative Report Volume 8 Number 4 December 2003 597-607*. Dikutip pada <http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR8-4/golafshani.pdf>
- Helda, T., Imelwaty, S., & Rahmat, W. (2020). Factors Affecting the Pre-service Student Teachers' Performance in Implementing the Questioning Skills in their Microteaching Practices. *Nuances of Indonesian Language*, 1(1).
- Hughes, Geoffrey. 1991. *Swearing: A Social History of Foul language, Oaths, and Profanity in English*. England: Clays Ltd, St Ives plc.
- Karjalainen, Markus. 2002. Where Have All the Swearwords Gone. Dikutip pada <http://www.google.com+swear+words+gone=q?> 10 januari 2009
- Kemal, E. 2015. The Refusal Strategies Used By Sellers in Pasar Raya Padang. *Journal Polingua*, 3(2), 11-17.
- Kemal, E., Rahmat, W., & Damayanti, M. (2020). CONFLICT OF PARENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA TOWARDS THEIR CHILDREN ONLINE SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC. *Curricula: Journal of Teaching and Learning*, 5(3), 161-170.
- Kemal, Edwar. 2015. Directness And Literalness of Directive Speech Act Between Lecturers And Students In Teaching Learning Process (A Case Study of Pragmatics in STKIP PGRI West Sumatera). *Journal Tell-US Vol 1 No. 2 November 2015*.
- Sudaryanto. 1993. *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa: Pengantar Penelitian Wahana Kebudayaan secara Linguistik*. Jakarta: Duta Wacana University Press.
- Moleong, Lexy J. 1989. *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Rahmat, Wahyudi., 2017. Sinisme dalam Kaba Sabai Nan Aluih Suatu Bentuk Pentingnya Bahasa Bahasa Ibu: Kajian Pragmatik. *Jurnal Curricula*, 2(1).
- Rahmat, W, Revita, I, Septia E., & Fitriyah R (2020) Peran Psikopragmatik dalam Pembelajaran Daring Masa Covid-19. *Simposium Nasional Masyarakat Linguistik Indonesia Komisariat Universitas Andalas* (1). LPPM Universitas Andalas

Yendra, Y., & Wahyudi, R. (2018).  
Introduction Blended Learning Design  
Introduction to Linguistics at  
West Indonesian. *International Journal of  
Engineering & Technology*, 7(33).