

# Swear Words Analysis in the Indonesia Version of the Miracle in Cell No. 7 Film

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## Abstract

This research scrutinizes the types of swearing words in “Miracle in Cell No.7” Indonesian Movie. The researchers revisit the types of swear words theory from Andersson & Trudgill. It aims to reveal the types of swear words found in the film Miracle in Cell no.7 based on the theory applied. The research method used is interpretive qualitative with a sociolinguistic approach because the data used is in linguistic phenomena contained in the film. The main data which is most used is the phrases and swear words uttered by the main character in the film Miracle in Cell no. 7 Indonesia Movie. The data is collected using the Listening (watching) technique and recording (notetaking) the swear words in the film. The collected data is then analysed based on the theory adapted from Andersson & Trudgill. From the results of data analysis, there were found 3 (three) types of swear words. Among the four types of swear words; Abusive types, Expletive types and Humor types.

**Keywords:** Film, linguistic, swear words



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## INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role in the relationship with film. Films are a medium of storytelling, and language serves as a fundamental tool for conveying the narrative, dialogue, and overall communication within a film. It is not limited to a medium of conveying the idea, but it is also used in film primarily through dialogue, where characters communicate with each other using spoken. Dialogue helps to develop characters, advance the plot, and convey emotions, thoughts, and intentions. In short, it plays a significant role in characterizing individuals and building relationships among them. Language in film is not solely limited to dialogue (Daneshnia, 2013). It can also be used symbolically or metaphorically to convey deeper meanings. Filmmakers may use specific words, phrases, or visual cues to represent abstract concepts, emotions, or themes.

Moreover, it is deeply connected to culture, and films often reflect specific cultural contexts. With language, filmmakers can explore the intricacies of a particular culture, its customs, values, and unique linguistic expressions. Language choices in film can shape the audience's perception and understanding of different cultures and societies (Mahadi & Jafari, 2012). In short, language plays a crucial role in shaping the relationship between the audience and the film.

The researchers discuss the types of swearing words in "Miracle in Cell No.7" Indonesian movie. Because swearing words are considered offensive, their use is associated with negative emotions. Even if swearing is also used to express frustration, anger, pain, or other negative feelings. The purpose of swearing is to release tension and express strong emotions in a socially acceptable way (Crystal, 2001). Swearing can be used as a form of humor but is generally considered inappropriate in public settings. Swearing often includes taboo words or phrases that are considered offensive to some people. The use of swearing words is also linked to certain social groups, such as young men in the United States and Australia (Crystal, 2001). Swearing is a form of communication that is used in many different cultures around the world. Swearing can be found in every language and culture, even though it may take on different meanings depending on the context. The way people swear also varies across cultures, as some words are considered inappropriate or offensive while others are acceptable under certain circumstances. Swearing is a highly controversial topic. People believe that swearing should be avoided at all costs, while others think that swearing can be used as a form of comedy or even art. Swearing is a common part of everyday speech, but many people try to avoid it for fear of offending others. Swearing can also be used to express emotions or emphasize points in conversation. It may also be used as an insult or put-down against another person.

Thus this research reveals 3 (three) the types of swear word by (Andersson & Trudgill, 1949). The average phenomenon of swearing words in the prior paragraph usually happen in real life reality that the partner of speaking directly hear or listen and event see the speakers' mimic.

## METHOD

The data of the current research is language phenomenon that taken from a discourse among the characters in the film of "Miracle in Cell No.7". The researcher tries to describe and interpret the phenomenon qualitatively. Hence, the appropriate research design applied in the current

research is qualitative descriptive or interpretative. In detail, the current research scrutinizes the swearing words which are uttered by the characters in the film.

The focus of the qualitative method is on the process and procedures not the result, (Strauss & Corbin, 2010). The researchers try explaining what they hear and see in the field, and much more important it is to supply a sense of investigation.

## ANALYSIS DAN DISCUSSION

**Table 1.** Data Findings

Datum	Swear	Types			
		A	E	H	Au
		T	T	T	T
		S	S	S	S
1	Kurang ajar		√		
2	Penjahat-penjahat	√			
3	babi			√	
4	Gila		√		
5	Bodoh	√			
6	Jancuk	√		√	
7	Kurag ajar, gila	√	√		
8	Idiot		√		
9	Goblok, Tai laso	√	√		
10	botol			√	
11	Cok		√		
12	Edan			√	
13	Goblok	√			
14	Mati aku		√		
15	Sotoy you	√			
16	Monyet			√	
17	Goblok	√			
18	Tai laso	√			
19	Sudah tua		√		
20	jancuk			√	
21	Goblok	√			

In the datum 1 above, it informs the readers that swearing word of *kurang ajar* which encompasses in the discourse shows how the officer provokes the psychology of the people while investigating Dodo. As a result, the people got anger and one of them uttered *kurang ajar*.

See the discourse, bellow:

*Petugas: dia mau memukul ibu, catat pak dia mau membunuh ibu ini!...dia memukul bapak?*

*Pembantu (lk): ya pak, untuk menyelamatkan*

*Kartika: bapak...bapaak*

*Warga: kurang ajar!*

This words or phrase falls into the category of rude or impolite, but not strictly classifiable as a swear word, similar enlightenment was also done by (Ningsih, 2015). The term is used to describe someone's behavior that is inappropriate or does not respect the prevailing norms or manners. As performs in the scene minute 17<sup>38</sup> in the film that the society feel so angry to Dodo. In their mind that he is innocent man, but suddenly in that day they are shocked with the situation where Dodo is accused to rape and do murder to the little girl. Hence, they uttered the bad word of *kurang ajar*.

On the other hand, it can be used as a mockery or criticism of someone and be seen as impolite or offensive. The man who uttered the swear word *kurang ajar* is just for showing the anger. It does not directly saying it to Dodo. The characteristic of it confirms (Andersson & Trudgill, 1949). Thus, the researcher addressed it as swearing word with the types of swearing word categorized as expletive. This explanation was also similar to (Mahadi & Jafari, 2012) that explain how the filmmakers select the language to provoke the watchers' psychology by applying swearing words.

In datum 3 Minute: 24<sup>55</sup> it depicts Dodo explaining the type of balloon that he sells for others. But, when he is telling it, he pauses his word, and as a result Bewok as his interlocutor thinks that Dodo says abusive word to him. This scene shows the creative of the filmmaker to hook laugh of the watchers through the scene that contains profanity words, see (Susetyaningsih, 2014). However, even if the actors uttered the bad words but the watchers do not feel they are abusive, instead of the humor (Schnurr & Chan, 1976).

The use of swear words as humor in this film illustrates that the utterances of swear words in our society can vary depending on the cultural context and social environment. Some people may use swear words with the intention of making a joke or describing a funny situation, and the filmmaker uses it in his film. However, through the analysis the researcher concludes that these types of abusive words create humor with linguistic motive. Refers to Andersson & Trudgill (1949); Nisa & Damayanti (2022) people are free to use whatever terms in their lexicon as long as they can express the meanings they wish to convey and do not insults or hurt others' feelings or reinforce negative stereotypes. It is seen that the use of swear words *monyet, anjing, babi* uttered by Dodo in the film is linguistic motive.

See the dialogue:

*Dodo: aku bisa bikin balon bang, satunya sepuluh ribu, ada anjing ada, monyet.....Babi*

*Bewok: ah, babi?... ini srigala terakhir....auuuuuuu*

However, the message that the filmmaker conveys, and watchers can adopt is important to be careful and sensitive to other people's feelings and perspectives when using such words in

a humorous context, because the use of derogatory swear words can exacerbate the social climate and contribute to disrespect towards certain groups.

Datum 6 minute: 27<sup>54</sup> draws the condition in the prison. One of them started to joke by saying “*lo tahu kenapa? Karena ga tahu tanggalnya...(tertawa Bersama)*” and bang Japra got anger to them and say *Jancuk...*and Dodo repeats it.

*Bewok: kamu tahu bang Japra, dia ketua disini ga pernah rayain ulang tahunnya, lo tahu kenapa? Karena ga tahu tanggalnya...(tertaa Bersama)*

*Japra: jancuk (semua sepi)*

*Dodo: hahaha...hahaha...jancuk*

*Bewok: berani-beraninya ya kau ngatain bang japra kayak gitu*

In this scene we can notice that whilst bang Japra uttered the swear word *Jancuk* everyone is silent. It confirms how the swear word *Jancuk* is abusive word that should not be mentioned because it can insult the psychology of bang Japra.

Nevertheless, in another part of the discourse when Dodo uttered the word *jancuk* does not belong to the abusive word that can cause bang Japra to angry. Because the swear word which is uttered by Dodo is just to provoke humor. This idea is similar to (Sembiring et al., 2019; Andersson & Trudgill, 1949). Hence, the meaning of swearing is depending on the context and situation, we cannot judge the word by its writing or sound merely. To confirm the use of word *jancuk* in this scene the readers can refer to datum 20.

Thus the model data analysis of the data finding for swearing words applied in the film *Miracle in Cell No. 7*.

## CONCLUSION

Through the findings and analysis, the researchers finally reached the conclusion of this investigation. The conclusions are depicted in the following descriptions; the researcher notices that the filmmaker of *Miracle in Cell No. 7* applies some types of swearing that are uttered by the characters. The swearing words that have been identified can be classified into 3 (three) types of swearing and they are abusive types of swearing, expletive types of swearing, and humor types of swearing. Thus, the filmmaker creates the plot of the film to attract the viewers' attention, and the use of swear words serves various social and linguistic functions. These functions include expressing strong emotions, establishing social identity, building camaraderie, challenging social norms, and serving as tools for communication and social interaction in the film.

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