

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

As social creatures, humans need to communicate with others using language. The most unique characteristic of humans that distinguishes them from another creature is that humans can communicate with the aim of expressing their emotions, thoughts, and goals. The delivery of emotions, thoughts, and goals carried out by people is different, therefore language presents as a support and communication tool in daily life.

All the things cannot be separated from communication. Children who are playing together, mothers who are gathered, as well as fathers who work together, they all do communication. In certain situations, people must communicate with a good choice of language and politely because it reflects what people's environment is like, what impact it has, and maintain daily activities through language and culture.

Furthermore, understanding another person's culture can be a bridge to connect and interact with each other. How people speak is influenced by factors such as gender, class, age, and ethnicity. It can also be the factor of which social group they belong to or how they identified. The way you speak is usually a good indicator of

your social background, social identity can be shown by the language that can be used for communicating.

In the environment, people meet and socialize with different types of people with social and cultural diversity, different backgrounds also make a human being express different emotions and grammar in expressing language. In order to make a good society, people need to be around people who influence us to be good and only say good words. On the other hand, in a bad society with a group of people that are only saying bad words and rude words, people can be influenced by speaking harsh words.

Society controls language by giving preferences as to what is acceptable and what is not, because each human has their own perception or point of view. A group of people may accept language, but to another, it can be a kind of insult or humiliation. People must know when and where to say it and for what purpose to affect values in ways that are not yet accurately understood. However, social values are only the same as linguistic values when society is stable and unchanging. Once society begins to change, language changes produce special effects.

People must pay attention to how someone's speak and acts in communication because sometimes there are different opinions from others because of different social backgrounds. In addition, there are many things that make communication well established or even become bad things to say. However, in communication, when people disagree about something, they will tend to speak at a high emotional level and try to convey their negative emotions.

As mentioned earlier, people tend to express their feelings in positive emotions such as happiness, satisfaction, serenity, amazement, etc. In another hemisphere, negative emotions are the expression of the soul to express feelings of anger, fear, loneliness, sorrow, etc. People have different ways to express their feelings as well as the problems that they are facing, people tend to swear to be able to satisfy themselves from feelings or anger or discomfort.

Emotions can employ polite or rude words. As an illustration, when a man sees a beautiful woman, the man must praise her with polite and kind words. Meanwhile, when seeing or hearing people who make us angry, rude words possibly can be uttered. People use swearing words to express bad and hatred situations that are considered unpleasant and feel dissatisfaction with something that is being faced. All the emotions that are shown to people can be verbal or non-verbal.

One of the main purposes of language is to communicate with people and to understand them, therefore it can be done through verbal and non-verbal. Verbally, humans usually express it directly. Meanwhile, non-verbally, humans can convey their ideas through intermediaries such as radio, television, letters, social media, and so on. In addition to swearing, nowadays people often express their hatred through social media such as Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, etc.

As mentioned before by verbal and non-verbal, sometimes people choose swear words in their daily conversation because it might help them to reduce stress. Both men and women also use them. This occurrence can be seen in mass-media

communication such as magazines, newspapers, television, movies, or novels. Not only in the mass-media, but social media is also a big place that can share thoughts and emotions with negative or positive emotions. Things that can be seen and read in mass-media and social media can affect the words that will be uttered.

Freedom of speech is the trigger for words that will be uttered anywhere. In Indonesian, vocabularies such as *bangsat*, *bajingan*, *anjing* and in English such as motherfucker, shit, damn, fuck could be found in social media, reality show, and movies. Those words are called swear words and considered to be dirty, rugged, and impolite words. Swear words can reveal and have a notion that shows negative senses because they are rude, offensive, and disgusting. People use taboo words as swear words to express their feelings.

Taboo words refer to something or action that is forbidden. It should be forbidden because of the harmful rules of etiquette, culture, and politeness. Of course, those words are prohibited to be uttered in any situations and conditions. However, there is an exception for them that they may not use these words in a formal event, schools, offices, etc. The use of swearing words is well known in the US and becoming more popular as well as in the media such as television, radio, and film. In both films, swear words are not only spoken by the main character but also other characters.

Sometimes when someone utters curses or swear words, the hearers can predict the speaker's emotion and are considered to be an impolite person and weak in religious beliefs. As supporting, Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 53) stated that

swearing could be defined as a type of language use in which the expression refers of something that is taboo and/or stigmatized in the culture, should not be interpreted literally, and can be used to express strong emotions and attitudes. The attitude of a person can be seen from their utterances.

Swearing is used in everyday conversation by individuals of all ages and cultures all around the world, Jay (2000, p. 50) stated that swearing is like using the horn on your car and it can be used to gain several emotions in the examples: joy, anger, surprise, frustration. In other words, swearing may be a media to emphasize the emotion of a person. It makes other people recognize if somebody is angry or disappointed because the person uses swear words to express his or her feelings. Swearing is a component of sociolinguistics, which studies how language and society interact.

Holmes in his book “An Introduction to Sociolinguistics” (2013) argued that Sociolinguistics is the study of connection between language and society. Sociolinguistics is concerned with explaining why people speak differently in different social contexts. The effects of social factors such as social distance, social status, age, gender, class on language varieties. It means that Sociolinguistics is the study about why people speak differently in social contexts such as social distance, social status, age, gender, and language varieties.

This study analyzes the swear words used by the characters in the *Euphoria* series. *Euphoria* is an American teen drama television series created and written by Sam Levinson for HBO. The main character of the series is Rue Bennett (Zendaya),

a recovering teenage drug addict who struggles to find his place in the world and follows a group of high school students through their experiences of identity, trauma, drugs, self-harm, family, friendship, love and sex.

The reason why the writer takes data from *Euphoria* is because the series has received numerous accolades, including nominations for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Drama Series. It has become the second most watched show in HBO history with 6.6 million viewers. Besides, this film really describes teenagers today who use a lot of swear words. Adolescent growth and development are influenced by parental education, companionship, the impact of social media, and the freedom to conduct internet research.

The writer gives a sample of the data objects that happen in *Euphoria* drama:

- So, explain this shit to me (Season 1, Episode 1, 00:01:47)

The word shit originally from Middle English “diarrhea” or German Origin of Old English *scitte* related to Dutch *schijten*, German *scheissen* (verb). This vulgar word is the most popular and is widely used by many people in the world. This word used to refer to diarrheal diseases. Nowadays, it is used to describe nonsense, stupid things, meaningless, and pointless talk. This word is also often used as an expression of shock, anger, and feelings of annoyance.

Meanwhile, Cambridge Dictionary defines the word shit as related to the solid waste that is released from the bowels of a person or animal and one of swearing words because the reason for humans speaking by mentioning these words must be

based on feelings of anger and annoyance. The dialogue above was spoken by Rue when Rue's parents were informed by the Therapist about the illness Rue suffered when she was a child. The therapist did not tell Rue that because she was a child, but Rue found out about her illness as she grew older. It can be explained that the categories of swear words which are used in this dialogue is The Scatological Swearing.

From the explanation above, the writer is curious about the tendency of people to express emotions using swearing words and specific situations or a response to earlier statements made by the speaker. In conclusion, the writer chooses the title of the paper "*Swearing Words in Euphoria Play of Season 1.*"

## **B. Questions and Scopes of the Research**

### **1. Questions of the Research**

Thus, from reasons as described in the Background of Research above, the writer asks:

- a. What categories of swear words are used by the characters in the Euphoria series?
- b. What are the reasons for swearing in the Euphoria series?

### **2. Scopes of the Research**

As for the scope of the research, the focus is on swearing words or phrases by the characters in the Euphoria series. A sociolinguistic approach will be

applied in this research. The writer tries to find the categories of swearing words and reason for swearing. The theories used are Magnus Ljung (2011) and Ronald Wardhaugh (2010). The object of the research is limited to Euphoria first season (2019). Then these objects are analyzed for kinds of swear words and the reasons of the characters for swearing in the Euphoria series. In this case, the writer will focus on analyzing the script of Euphoria.

## **C. Objective and Significance of the Research**

### **1. Objective of the Research**

The objective of this research based on the questions mentioned above, the objective is as follows:

- a. To know the categories of swear words which are used by the characters in the Euphoria series.
- b. To explain the reason for swearing which is used by the characters in the Euphoria series.

### **2. Significance of the Research**

From this research, theoretically the writer expects the result which can give more knowledge and provide benefits to multiple parties who may use or read. This research is expected to enhance the data of sociolinguistic research in STBA JIA. The student can get tons of knowledge about swear words. Even



more, it will complement the previous studies which have been written by other students.

For all intents and purposes, practically to create people who think that swearing is additionally a sociolinguistic phenomenon that cannot be maintained a strategic distance from but must be caught on. This can be utilized not as it were by lower course or uneducated individuals but moreover by upper lesson or taught individuals. For future analysts, this inquiry can be a point of view for their perceptions.

#### **D. Operational Definition**

In this research, the writer uses three theories to analyze the movie. Here is the definition of said theories that has been synthesized from various experts' definition:

##### **1. Sociolinguistics**

There are several theories about sociolinguistics, such as Wardhaugh and Fuller's (2015, p. 1) study, which argued that sociolinguistics is the study of our everyday lives and how language works in our casual conversations and the media we are exposed to, as well as the presence of societal norms, policies, and laws that address language.

## 2. Swear Words

According to Karjailanen (2002, p. 3), “swear words are a natural part of the language, and they are undoubtedly one of the most efficient ways to do away with extra frustration or anger in a difficult situation.” Furthermore, Jay (2000) stated that “swearing is like using the horn on your car, which can be used to signify a number of emotions in the examples; anger, frustration, joy, surprise.”

In addition, swear words are the part of language which can be used as the expression of emotions for a certain person. This can be a short and effective way to express anger, disappointment, or even happiness yet they may be considered impolite person by listeners.

## 3. Communication

In communication, there is a sender and a receiver, a message, and interpretations of meaning on both sides. The receiver provides feedback to the message's sender both during and after transmission. Feedback signals can be either vocal or nonverbal, such as nodding in agreement, looking away and sighing, or any of a variety of other movements. Meanwhile, communication is the process of transmitting and receiving messages using verbal or nonverbal means, such as voice or oral communication, writing and graphical representations, signals, and behaviour.

#### **4. Taboo Words**

The usage of taboo words implies that the speakers have, or would like to have, a close personal relationship with others. People also use taboo terms to communicate strong emotions or to threaten or be disagreeable to others. Today's taboo words are often defined by culture and politeness. For example, you might remark its "taboo" to swear in front of your parents. Breaking a modern taboo usually means appearing clueless, harsh, or worse.

#### **5. Drama**

Euphoria is an American teen drama television series based on the Israeli miniseries by Ron Leshem and Daphna Levin which the series created and written by Sam Levinson for HBO. The main character of the series is Rue Bennett (Zendaya), a recovering adolescent drug addict who struggles to find her place in the world. She follows a group of young school students through their experiences with personality, drugs, injury, self-harm, family, adoration, sex, and companionship.

#### **E. Systematization of the Research**

The writer divided this research into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction contains the background of the research, questions and scopes of the research, objective and significance of the research, operational definitions, and systematization of the research.

Chapter II is Theoretical Description consists of sociolinguistics, swear words, speech event, drama, and research of the relevance.

Chapter III is Research Methodology consists of methodology of the research, procedures of the research, technique of the data collection, technique of the data analysis, and data source.

Chapter IV is Data Analysis describes the data description, data analysis, and interpretation of research findings.

Chapter V are Conclusion and Suggestion which give the summary of all chapters and some suggestions.

