

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Human being cannot live without making any communication with others. In communicating their feelings, people sometimes use swear words. It happens when they feel angry, disappointed, or even happy. They say that swearing can help them to feel better.

Some people might say swear words in public. A survey done by American Demographic Magazine showed that there were 72% of 60 people aged 18-34 who liked swearing in public (Grimm, 2004 as cited in Fägersten, 2005, p.4). The same phenomenon also occurs in Indonesia.

The Indonesian swear word *Cuk* for example occurs in many situations and contexts. Students who can pass their subjects express their gratitude by saying “I’m lucky *cuk* because I can pass with c+”. On other occasions, the same swear word is used to express anger, such as in the following statement, “*Cuk*, that red car almost hit me!” These examples show that swear words can be used for any reasons or purposes depending on the situational contexts.

As swearing becomes common in the world society, there are also many films or reality shows in which their actors or characters use swear words openly. *Jackass* is one of such programs.

Jackass is a half-hour television series, originally shown on MTV, and first produced in 1999 in which a group of grown men does various humiliating, dangerous, and/or ridiculous stunts of senseless stupidity for fun. The shows are divided into three seasons. The first shows of *Jackass* were aired on MTV on April 12, 2000 and the final show were aired on February 17, 2002 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackass_%28TV_series%29). Some people claimed that this show gave bad influences to its audience. *Jackass* had been blamed for a number of death and injuries involving teens and children imitating the stunts. In 2001, Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut asked MTV to either pull the show off the air entirely or tone down its content after some incidents happen because *Jackass* shows (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackass_%28TV_series%29)

This reality shows are acted by ten major actors who are all men. However, this reality shows also acted by other actors which join the ten actors as guests' actors. The duration of this movie is eighty minutes.

Even though this reality show is very controversial, many people like it. There are similar programs aired in other countries such as in England *Dirty Sanchez*, in South Africa *Crazy Monkey*, and in Asia *MTV Whatever Things*. As a response to the increasing demands of its fans, in October 2002 MTV released a new movie entitled *Jackass: the Movie*. This movie was directed by Jeff Tremaine and was produced by the collaboration of Paramount Pictures and MTV films (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackass:_The_Movie). This movie is the compilation of some scenes of *Jackass* in television series.

The writer is interested to investigate the swear words expressed in *Jackass: the Movie* rather than *Jackass* the television series shows because of several reasons. Firstly, *Jackass: the Movie* gives opportunities for the writer to watch many scenes for about eighty minutes. It is more practical compared to the TV series in which, the writer can only see two scenes per week. Secondly, *Jackass: the movie* is uncensored, thus the writer could find many swear words expressed naturally and openly.

The writer found that *Jackass: the Movie* is interesting to be researched. The first interesting point that makes this film good to be researched is that film does not have any script. However, this movie still has a scenario that is made by the producer. Thus, the data that are collected is natural data, because none of the words that are spoken by the actors are made by the producer. The second point is that all the actors of *Jackass: the Movie* are pain mania and are not afraid of any danger. In fact, they are willing to hurt themselves. Thus, it is interesting to see what swear words are spoken when they face or are faced with dangerous and crazy action on the movie.

The writer decided to take the ten main actors of *Jackass: the Movie* as the subjects of study. The ten main actors are all male. The ten actors are Johnny Knoxville, Bam Margera, Ryan Dunn, Brandon DiCamillo, Steve-O, Chris Pontius, Preston Lacy, Jason "Wee Man" Acuna, Dave England and Ehren McGhehey. The writer chose all of them so that he would get more reliable data.

The investigation further explores the types of the swear words and determines which words mostly occur. In addition, the writer also wants to find out the reasons of swearing and reasons mostly expressed.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The present study was guided by following research questions:

1. What kinds of swear words are expressed by the actors of *Jackass: the Movie*?
2. What kinds of swear words are expressed the most by the actors?
3. What are the actors' reasons of swearing?
4. What reasons of swearing are mostly expressed by the actors?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate what kinds of swear words are expressed and mostly used by the actors of "Jackass: the Movie". Then, the writer also wants to find out the reasons of swearing that are expressed by the actors of "Jackass: the Movie".

1.4. Significance of the Study

By doing this research, the writer intends to apply sociolinguistics theory in analyzing kinds swear words and the purposes of swearing. The writer hopes that the readers will have a better understanding about swear words that are expressed by the actors of *Jackass: the Movie*. Hopefully, this writing can present the fact that swearing is not always that bad. People can use swear words not only for cursing and offending but also for expressing emotions. Furthermore, this study could be as a reference for those who want to conduct further studies.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of the study is sociolinguistics study. The writer chooses sociolinguistics study because this subject explains about the relation of language and the society, especially the study on types and reasons of swearing. Due the limited time available, the writer discerns to observe only the swear words

expressed by the ten actors of *Jackass: the Movie*. The ten actors are all male. The ten actors' names are Johnny Knoxville, Bam Margera, Ryan Dunn, Brandon DiCamillo, Steve-O, Chris Pontius, Preston Lacy, "Wee Man", Dave England, and Ehren McGhehey.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

The following terms are necessary for the limitation of study:

- Jackass:
"A half-hour television series, originally shown on MTV, and first produced in 1999 in which a group of grown men do various humiliating, dangerous, and / or ridiculous stunts of senseless stupidity for fun."
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jackass_%28TV_series%29)
- Swear Words:
"The obscenity words are used to swear and viewed as indecent and taboo in society. Those words are used to insult, to curse, to offend or to mock at something when the speaker has strong emotion." (Hughes, 1991 as cited in Rosli, 1999, p.4)

1.7. Organization of Study

This study is divided into five chapters. The first chapter provides an introduction, which consists of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, the definition of key term and the organization of the study. In chapter two, the review of related literature is presented. The third chapter is the methodology in which the writer talks about the approach and how the writer collects, classifies and analyzes the data. Chapter four is about the analysis of the data, which consists of the findings and discussions. The last chapter, i.e. chapter five presents the conclusion of the study.