

**Comparative Analysis of Swear Words  
in *Uncut Gems* Movie (2019)**

**Thesis**

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of Requirement to Obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) in  
English Literature Program*



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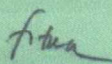
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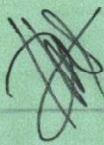
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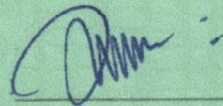
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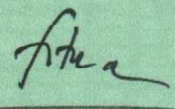
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## ABSTRACT

**Mifta Zelira, Rail. (2022). Comparative Analysis of Swear Words in Uncut Gems Movie. Thesis. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

This research aims to examine the functions, types, and differences in swear words between males and females in the *Uncut Gems* movie. The purpose of this research is to find out the types of swear words, the purposes, and the differences of swear words uttered by male and female characters in *Uncut Gems* movie. This research employed the descriptive-qualitative method. The data of this research were words, phrases, clauses, and sentences consisting of swear words which were selected from the dialogues of male and female characters in the *Uncut Gems* movie. While the source of data was the script of the *Uncut Gems* movie. This study showed that the use of swear words is dominated by the male characters compared to the female. The most dominant type of swear word used by both genders is emphasis. Male characters use swear words mostly to create attention while the female is to provide catharsis. Both male and female characters tend to be more aggressive when uttering swear words. However, when it comes to the variety and range of swear words themselves, it appears that male characters do use more than female characters. This research found that there are two types of swear words, stand-alone and slot-filler. Stand-alone has four functions expletive interjection, curses, unfriendly suggestion, and name-calling. The slot-filler also has four functions adjective/adverbial intensifier, the adjective of dislike, emphasis, and anaphoric use of epithet. At least five purposes of swear words were found to create attention, discredit, provoke, create interpersonal identification, and provide catharsis.

Keywords: Swear words, Male and Female, *Uncut Gems*

## ABSTRAK

**Mifta Zelira, Rail. (2022). Comparative Analysis of Swear Words in Uncut Gems Movie. Thesis. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji fungsi, jenis, dan perbedaan kata makian antara laki-laki dan perempuan dalam film *Uncut Gems*. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis kata makian, tujuan, dan perbedaan kata makian yang diucapkan oleh tokoh laki-laki dan perempuan dalam film *Uncut Gems*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif-kualitatif. Data penelitian ini adalah kata, frasa, klausa, dan kalimat yang terdiri dari kata-kata makian yang dipilih dari dialog tokoh laki-laki dan perempuan dalam film *Uncut Gems*. Sedangkan sumber datanya adalah naskah film *Uncut Gems*. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan kata makian didominasi oleh karakter laki-laki dibandingkan dengan karakter perempuan. Jenis kata makian yang paling dominan digunakan oleh kedua jenis kelamin adalah penekanan. Tokoh laki-laki lebih banyak menggunakan kata-kata umpatan untuk menarik perhatian sedangkan tokoh perempuan untuk katarsis. Baik karakter pria maupun wanita cenderung lebih agresif saat mengucapkan kata-kata makian. Namun, ketika menyangkut variasi dan jangkauan kata makian itu sendiri, tampaknya karakter pria memang lebih banyak menggunakannya daripada karakter wanita. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa ada dua jenis kata makian, *stand-alone* dan *slot-filler*. *Stand-alone* memiliki empat fungsi seruan sumpah serapah, kutukan, saran tidak ramah, dan pemanggilan nama. *Slot-filler* juga memiliki empat fungsi penguat adjektiva/adverbial, adjektiva tidak suka, penekanan, dan penggunaan julukan yang anaforis. Setidaknya lima tujuan kata makian ditemukan untuk menciptakan perhatian, mendiskreditkan, memprovokasi, menciptakan identifikasi interpersonal, dan memberikan katarsis.

Kata kunci: Kata-kata umpatan, Pria dan Wanita, *Uncut Gems*

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Problem

Humans are known to be social beings. They are unable to survive without the assistance of others. Building relationships with others is one of the things that must be done to survive. As a social process, humans need to be able to communicate effectively. It can be accomplished through the use of a medium known as language. Language serves a variety of purposes as a tool of communication. People utilize language to communicate their intentions to others in general, transmit messages, or send information to keep discussion activities moving smoothly. Furthermore, according to Alifiani (2018), language also reflects the speakers' personality, character, and background. As a result, each person has a unique way to select the language variant that can validate someone's identification.

Furthermore, when depressed or upset, some people tend to utilize language that has a big impact, such as swear words. A swear word is a term or phrase that the general public considers profane, obscene, vulgar, or otherwise unpleasant. These words are referred to as "bad words," "obscene words," "expletives," "dirty words," "profanities," and "four-letter words." After all, swear words are not simply a group of phrases that sound harsh, unpleasant, or inappropriate when spoken. Each word has more to it than its precise meaning;

it also has an emotional connotation due to how it is applied in the language (Pinker, 2007).

In reality, many people in society and culture equate swear words with negative connotations. As a result, they avoid uttering them in conversation. According to Svensson (as cited in Beers-Fägersten, 2007), "some people find swearing is impolite and offensive, while others find it extremely useful in their everyday language." According to Karjalainen (2002), two motives influence people's decision to swear. The first one is psychological motives and the second one is social and linguistic motives. Psychological motives indicate that when people are faced with irritation or fury as a result of an unexpected incident or shock, most of us resort to swearing as a manner of expressing our feelings.

However, swearing is not just driven by psychological motives, but also social and linguistic motives. In contrast with psychological one, social swearing requires the presence of an audience to work well. Swearwords can be used to establish and strengthen group identification, demonstrating that one is a "group member." When swearwords are employed in a social context without any negative connotation, however, it is evident that the speaker and his or her audience must share a common understanding. Swearing in invectives is a social kind of cursing since it, like all other socially motivated swearings, is dependent on an audience.

People must take a very analytical and distant approach to language to discuss the linguistic motivations for swearing. People are free to employ any



of the tens of thousands of words in our vocabulary, as long as they convey the message we want to convey. Most of the time, however, human swears on psychological or social motives.

Swear words are frequently used in conversation. Most people hear and use them frequently in both private and public contexts. They can also be found in movies, monologues, music, television, and radio. To put it another way, swearing is not limited to our everyday conversations. The researcher selected a movie to examine in terms of swearing because a movie is a reflection of a people's actual life. The substance of a movie, such as how the characters speak, dress, act, and connect, frequently mirrors real-life events in the culture on which it is based. To see the phenomenon of swear words between males and females, the researcher used a movie titled "*Uncut Gems*" which was released in 2019.

*Uncut Gems* is a crime drama genre movie that tells the story of a jewelry seller from New York who tries to overcome his problems due to his accumulated debt due to gambling to live a luxurious life. The researcher chooses this movie because it uses a lot of swear words in the dialogues of the male and female actors. *Uncut Gems* is also famous for being included in the ranks of the movies with the most swearing in Hollywood. Some examples of swearing that are often found are fuck, Holyshit, Goddamit, shit, bitch, damn, hell, and so on.

In addition, *Uncut Gems* was chosen because both male and female characters swear in large numbers. This portrays a picture in modern society

that women are more daring to swear and try to break their roles linguistically. Many variables contribute to this shift in linguistic behavior, including gender equality and social background. Women's linguistic preferences are also influenced by their upbringing. This affects the swear words that women say; milder and fewer than men (Ljung, 2007:93).

There have been several previous studies on the relationship between swear words and gender. The first study was titled *Male and Female attitudes Towards Swear Words: A Case Study at Binus International School* by Maria Fe S Nicolau and Katharina Endriati Sukamto in 2014. The study focused on the types of swearing spoken by men and women, looked for similar swearing often uttered by both genders, and investigated whether men or women were swearing frequently. A second study was titled *The Use of Swear words by Women: A Study of Single-Sex and Mix Sex Conversations* by Pia Gati in 2014. The results of this study showed that it turns out that womenswear more often when in same-sex friendship environments, what swear words women often say, and the function of swear words spoken by women. The third study was titled *Bad Language in Reality: A Study of Swear Words, Expletives, and Gender in Reality Television* by Anna Falthammar Schippers in 2013. This study's findings tend to debunk perceptions that women are less probable than men to use swear words. The fourth study was titled *Attitudes to Swearwords: Gender Differences Among Native and Non-native Speakers of English* by Helena Sollid in 2009. The researcher looked into whether Swedish men and women use distinct English swearwords differently.

This thesis digs deeper into the swear words said by the male and female characters in *Uncut Gems* movie. In addition, the study also aimed to see if there are differences in the use of swear words used by women and men. Other research, particularly in the field of sociolinguistics, has emphasized the nuanced and different meanings of swearing-in interpersonal situations. The functions and effects of swearing, like other forms of speech activity, are highly dependent on the context in which it occurs, taking into account a variety of social variables such as social norms, expectations, status differentials, and relationships (Chen 1999; Beers-Fägersten 2007; Jay and Janschewitz 2008).

The research look at the swear words in the movie in the context of the society shown in it. The researcher is interested to see the differences between the swear words spoken by male and female characters.

## **1.2 Identification of The Problem**

There is plenty of research related to swearing words. The research about swear words can be analyzed from micro to macro linguistic point of view. From a micro linguistics point of view, the study deals with semantics and pragmatics. Yet from a macro linguistic point of view, the study deals with sociolinguistics. If examined from a semantic point of view, this research can be done by examining the literal meaning of swear words spoken by the characters in the *Uncut Gems* movie. While from a pragmatic point of view, this study can be done by examining swear words that are spoken in certain contexts, such as in communication with close friends, or when they are spoken when they are surprised, and so on. However, this study takes a sociolinguistic



approach to see the difference between swear words, spoken by male and female characters in the *Uncut Gems* movie. This research analyzed the types, the form of the meaning of swear words, and to see swear words difference uttered by male and female characters in *Uncut Gems* movie.

### **1.3 Limitation of The Problem**

In this study, the researcher examines swear words used by characters in the film *Uncut Gems* by looking at words, phrases, and sentences. The area of sociolinguistics is concerned with the study of the link between language and society. The goal of this research is to look at the different sorts of swear words and how they are used.

### **1.4 Formulation of The Problem**

The problems of the research are formulated as:” What are the types, purposes, and differences in swear words between men and women in the *Uncut Gems* movie?”

### **1.5 The Research Questions**

This study addresses three questions as follows:

1. What are the types of swear words uttered by the male and female characters in the *Uncut Gems* movie?
2. What are the purposes of the swear words uttered by the male and female characters in the *Uncut Gems* movie?
3. What are the differences between male and female swear words in *Uncut Gems* movie?

## **1.6 The Purposes of The Research**

The purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the types of swear words uttered by male and female characters in *Uncut Gems* movie.
2. To find out the purposes of the swear word uttered by male and female characters in *Uncut Gems* movie.
3. To find out the differences between male and female swear words in *Uncut Gems* movie.

## **1.7 Significance of The Research**

Theoretically, this research is useful for developing knowledge of swear words, especially their relationship to gender and the social context of society presented through the movie as an intermediary.

Practically, this research help students, particularly in the English Department, understand the concept of swear words. Although it is against the civil code to overtly use swear words, they may utilize them as a source of knowledge when studying English as a second language. For readers, this study should provide them with a better knowledge of swear words and their correlation to gender in the context of sociolinguistics. Researchers who want to do similar research can use the information in this research as a reference because it offers information about the sorts of swear words, the purposes of uttering swear words, and their differences between male and female.

## **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

There are several keywords related to research. The following are the definitions of the important terms used in this study:

### **1. Sociolinguistics**

Sociolinguistics is the study of the impact of many characteristics of society, such as cultural norms, expectations, and context, on how language is used, as well as the impact of society on language.

### **2. Swear Word**

Swear words are words or phrases that are often regarded as blasphemous, rude, vulgar, or otherwise insulting.

### **3. Gender roles**

Gender role is a style of looking and acting that fits societal expectations depending on one's gender.

### **4. American movie**

American movie are any type of movie created and produced by the United States movie industry.