

## AN ANALYSIS OF SWEARWORDS USED BY KING GEORGE VI IN KING'S SPEECH FILM (A PSYCHOSOCIAL STUDY)

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### Abstract

*Swearing is an action doing by people contain with rude and harsh words as the expression of strong emotion. This study aimed to describe the swearwords that used by King George VI in King's Speech film. This is a historical film about King George VI and his daily life with many problems that make him take it especially in empire. The purposes of this study were: (1) to find out the kinds of swearwords that used by the King George VI (2) to know the factors that made him used swearwords (3) to analyze the situation when he used swearwords. The data were collected through the transcript of King's Speech film. Spradley's domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, componential analysis were used for analyzing the data in this research. The research finding showed that: (1) The highest swearwords that used by the King George VI in King's Speech film are death term and the lowest are animal and mother in law term (2) The most factor that made him used swearwords are anger and then the lowest factor is humor. (3) Swearing as the way of the King to express his strong emotion by used rude words. And then, swearwords are only used by the King in certain situation and place such as in his physician's building.*

**Keywords:** Swearwords, King George VI, King's Speech film.

### Introduction

Language is the important media that has big function to all of human in daily life which use symbol and sound when deliver it to make interaction between one to each other. Chaer and Agustina (2010) stated that human need instrument in social life to make interaction by using language. So, people need good language to deliver and to change the information, feeling, and thinking. Language is a sign used by human in the world. There are two kinds of language such as good language and bad language. Good language is a language that use in the right way and should followed by attitude. While, bad language is a language with harsh words and followed by an emotional feeling such as anger. Actually, this action contains rude words or people known that as swearwords.

According to Allan and Burridge (2006) "cussing or swearing is an action to express strong emotion of anger, frustration, and spontaneously to say". But, when people use swearwords to describe the feeling, that could cause some impact such as free and satisfied feeling. People in certain condition especially use Swearwords also used by someone to inquiry and insulting others. Leigh & Lepine (cited in Hagen 2013) stated that the swearword *fuck* can use in another condition called 20 settings. Here are some of the usage by the word *fuck*: dismay, inquiry, disbelief, retaliation, surprise, dissatisfaction, greetings and hostility.

## Research Design and Methodology

This research uses a descriptive qualitative research. According to Moleong (2008) descriptive is study about describing a reseach based on the real fact. Strauss and Corbin (as cited in Cresswel in Rahmat, 2009) stated that a qualitative reserach is a study about quality that cannot be obtained and not by staitistics (quantitative). In this research, the researcher uses two kinds of data there are primary and secondary data. In the Primary data the researcher found and used all of the conversations of King George VI as the main data of the researcher. The secondary data is five research that have been reviewed before, some journals, ebook, and the biography of King George VI. The data analysis technique, the researcher uses analysis qualitative data by Spradley. Here are the three steps of analysis the data such as: Domain, Taxonomy and Componential Analysis. Moleong's book entitled *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif* Edisi Revisi 2017).

## Finding and Analysis

The researcher has found 20 data that utteranced by the King George VI in King's Speech Film. From the data, there are 34 utterances included in kinds of swearwords and 27 utterances included in factors that causing swearwords. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the theory of Liedlich and Wardhaugh combined with Rothwell in kinds of swearwords and then used the theory of Jay, King, and Duncan in factors causing swearwords. Based on Crystal (as cited in Rullyanti, 2014) in her opinion swearing as the reaction of strong emotion. From this statement, people need one way to show it by using swearwords. Because, swearing as the usual reaction for people in terrible condition. Besides that, swearwords could help to minimize another emotional feeling like as: stress. Here is the table of kinds of swearwords that used by King george VI in *King's Speech* film.

**Table Kinds of Swearwords Used Theory by Liedlich and Wardhaugh Combined with Rothwell**

No	Kinds of Swearwords	Frequency	Percentage
1	Copulative Term	4	12%
2	Excretory Term	9	26%
3	Body Function Term or Human Genital	3	9%
4	Sexual Irregularities	2	6%
5	Animal Term	0	0

6	Mother in Law	0	0
7	Death Term	16	47%
<b>Total Data</b>		34	100%

Based on the table above, the highest swearwords are death term in 47% followed by words *bloody*, *agony* and *damn*. Meanwhile, another kind reached 26% in excretory term, 12% in copulative term, body function and sexual irregularities reached 9% and 6%. But, the lowest term are animal and mother in laws with 0. According to Andersson and Trudgill (as cited in Vingerhoets et al, 2013) asserted that, the effect of emotional feeling by people is swearing. That is why strong emotion is a factor it can be made people to used swearwords in difficult situation. Here is the table of factors that causing swearwords that used by King George VI in *King's Speech* film.

**Table Factors Causing Swearwords Used Theory by Jay, King and Duncan**

<b>NO</b>	<b>Factors of Swearwords</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1	Anger	17	63%
2	Frustration	5	18%
3	Humor	1	4%
4	Pain	4	15%
<b>Total Data</b>		27	100%

Based on those tables, the dominant factors of swearwords is anger in 63%. And then, the second is frustration with 18% also followed by pain 15%. But, the low percentage is humor in 4%.

### 1. Kinds of Swearwords

Based on Liedlich and Wardhaugh, there are six kinds of swearwords such as: copulative term, excretory term, body function, sexual irregularities, animal term and mother in law. Meanwhile, based on Rothwell, swearwords has five kinds. The fourth of them is the same with the theory of Liedlich and Wardhaugh. But, in Rothwell the last kinds is death term.

#### 1.1 Copulative Term

*Fuck. Fuck, fuck, fuck!*(D13, 01:01:58 sec)

This sentence has used by the King George to deliver and show his feeling when he is in the physician building to meet him. This is kinds of swearwords namely *copulative term*. But, the physician was made him angry because of talking about the King's brother namely David. The word *fuck* is like the way to express his feeling about all of his condition.

### **1.2 Excretory Term**

*Shit then, shit, shit, shit* (01:01:42)

This word is a one of swearwords that used by the King in the King's Speech Film. This is has two kinds of swearwords but in this explanation this sentence included of *excretory term*. Swearing as the step to bring out all of the feeling by the King. Because, the word *shit* has spoken when he felt angry and frustration by some situation and he cannot control his emotion to show it. That is why, he decided to say thet dirty words.

### **1.3 Body Function / Human Genital**

*Shit then, shit, shit, shit* (01:01:42)

Furthermore, this word is also kind of swearwords that include of *Body Function* or *Human Genital* term. Besides that, the word *shit* is as the one of our part of body. The King has spoken this word in a building of his physician. After swearing, the King feels like free and relax.

### **1.4 Sexual Irregularities**

*Well bloody bugger to you, you beastly bastard.* (D 01:01:34)

The word *bastard* is one of swearwords that seldom used by the King. This is a *sexual irregularities* of swearwords. But when the King used this word to show his emotional feeling, it looks like he was a real anger and frustration. This word was showing to his physician because the physician was made him angry during the speech in giving him an advice.

### **1.5 Death Term**

*They all did "buh...buh...buh...Bertie" father encouraged it. "Get it out boy". Said it would make me stop. Said ...."I was afraid of my father, and my children are damn well going to be afraid of me".(D6/S, 52:43 minute)*

This sentence contained with swearword *damn* it is kinds of the swearwords by Rothwell namely *death term*. And then, the utterances above spoken by the King when he was met with his physician and then they were sharing about his trauma. At the moment, the physician asked the King about his phobia and a little story about the King when he was young.

## 2. Factors that Causing Swearwords

The factors of why people use swearwords in deliver the strong emotions are some reasons and factors. The factors causing swearwords are anger, frustration, humor and pain. It is based on the theory of Jay, King and Duncan. They made a survey to 600 students to know how many people used swearwords in terrible condition. And then, as the result of the survey, the most factor of swearing are anger and frustration.

*(explodes) I nearly swallowed the damned things! (D1S1, 06:55 minute)*

The utterance above used by the King when he was angry with the doctor in his empire because of his method in trying to heal the King. He was asked by the doctor to put some marbles in his mouth. And then, the doctor suggested him to against the marbles and try to speak loudly with the marbles inside his mouth. But King George VI cannot do that because he was felt that his mouth full enough so it is made him angry and then used swearwords to express what he was felt during the process of his therapy.

*Insert marbles! He can insert his own bloody marbles....! (D2S1, 07:10 minute)*

Continue, from the sentence before, the utterance used by the King George VI refers to the doctor. Because the King's frustration and stress during the therapy.. When he used this sentence, he did not spoke in front of the doctor but he said in front of his wife. And then, the Princes Elizabeth tried to make him relax and always stay at the King's side.

*If we were equal I wouldn't be here I'd be at home with my wife and no-one would give a damn..(D3S4, 22:33 minute)*

This sentence was used by the King George VI when he met with his physician at the physician's building. At the moment, the physician was asking the King to tell him about the story of the King and then some story about his life when he was young. After that, the physician tried to call him with his another name that is *Bertie* but, the King George suddenly felt anger. He can not accept it because the physician is the strange person for him. Because, the physician was not the King's friend.

*(exploding-stammer free) Because I bloody well stammer (D4, 23:16minute)*

Continue the statement from the King George above, this sentence spoken by the King because he was anger when the physician asked him about his stammer. And then, the physician also asked him why

if the King George were speaking he always nervous. After that, the King was anger and swearing to the physician because he was frustration about his problem.

*Because you're bloody well paid to listen! (D8, 01:01:12)*

The utterance above was described about the emotional feeling of the King when he was telling the physician about his condition and complain during the therapy section. But, the physician said "*why do you like this bertie?*" and then the King answered the question by the physician, "*dont call me like that*". Besides that, the King was swearing to express his anger by used swearword *bloody*. It is the evidence of the strong emotion by the King.

*What the bloody hell is it that makes you bloody well want to go on about David. (D9, 01:01:22 sec)*

When the King George met with his physician in the physician's building, he asked the King about the problem that make the King afraid and frustration about his brother namely Prince David. And then, the King answered the question by his physician with used swearwords as the sentence above. Because, the King was thought there is no place and attitude for the physician to knows about his brother.

*If I fall in my duty.....David could come back. I've seen the placards "save our King" they don't mean me. Every other monarch in history succeeded someone who was dead, or about to be but very much. So what u bloody mess! I can't give them a christmas speech. (D16, 01:18:58)*

The King George VI is the next King after his father, King George V. But, if there is no problem in the Buckingham Palace, the next King George VI should be Prince David. Meanwhile, the Prince Arthur has to become a King George VI because his brother can not be a King. That is why Prince Arthur should as the King George VI after his father but, he was not ready for that position. He was thought that he did not perfect to be a King. Because, he has a unperfect side.

Besides that, when he has to take the position immediately, he was afraid that he makes a mistake and then can not be a good King for his people in his empire. The one of his worries about his duties that is give the people christmas speech. Because of, if the King George VI can not do his duties well he must be got some complain from his people eventhough by his prime minister and other staff at the Buckingham Palace. And then, to express his strong emotion, the King George VI used swearwords in his sentence when he talked with his physician. When he was swearing and talking with his physician, he was feels free

and satisfied because there is no something that makes him stress and frustration. Because when the King shared and talked with the physician he got a new power and confidence in himself.

Yes he is. He's on that *bloody* shilling I gave you. (D17, 01:56:50)

This sentence shows us about another factor that causing swearwords. This is part of the factors in humor term. When the King George VI spoken this sentence he was at his physician's house. At the moment, they were talking about the King George V or father of the King George VI. The King George VI came to Lionel's (physician) house to apologize with him. Because, he was felt sorry with Lionel based on his truth. By the way, the King was bringing some money or in that era as we know as *shilling*. In that time, the King is realized about the truth based on Lionel said before. And also, the King was giving the money at the same time to Lionel as the rewards by help him in his problem.

Well *bloody bugger* to you, you beastly *bastard*. (D11/01:01:34 sec)

When the King George VI uttered this sentence, at the time he was feeling angry and really has a strong emotion. Because, the physician said something about the King's problem and try to give a solution without dishonour the King. Meanwhile, the King can not accept about the suggestion about what he should do to finish his problem and try to be brave.

### 3. Analysis Of The Situation That Made King George VI Swearing

In this chapter the researcher analyzed the situation when the King George was swearing. Based on Andersson (as cited in Rullyanti, 2014) in his opinion stated that there are some places and situations could be unusual to use swearwords such as: in church and in front of people when delivering the words in formal agenda. This theory is appropriate with the condition in *King's Speech* film. Because when the King George was swearing only in front of his physician. And then, the King did not used swearwords in front of other people especially public. Besides that, the King knows that he should not speak the harsh and rude words. Because, he is a King and then he is as the role model to his family and people around his empire.

This film show us about another side of the King George VI. It is an evidence that a King is also as the human that has strong emotion and feel about anger, frustration, humor and pain. Sometimes, people can not control theyself in some difficult and hard situation. Even though for the King, he did not control hissself when he can not accept his condition and can not express it. But if another people know about this,

they could be not respect and surprise with the King George VI. King George always used swearwords in front of Lionel. But, Lionel just lets him do it, because, he knows the King has a big problem of himself but there is nobody could help him to finish or reduce the problem.

Based on the situation, the King need someone who could help him besides his wife that is Princess Elizabeth. Lionel has a big mission to help the King and then at the great day he got a reward by the King. Because, he was the first Australian who is successfully finished in the problem of the King and also giving some advice. In early, the King was refuse the solution and the right way by the physician but as soon as possible the King was thought about it and then try to accept it. During the long journey of Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George before and after being a King. Lionel or the physician of the King has a service for the King that should be commendable. That is why, the physician has a title that is as a knight. This title was brought by the King George VI because of his loyalty to the King. Besides that, all of the King's life, he and his physician became a good friend as well as them life.

### Analysis

Based on the explanation before about the usage of swearwords that used by King George VI in King's Speech film. Here is the table of the maximum and minimum kinds of swearwords:

**Table Componential Analysis of Swearwords Used by  
King George VI**

	TOTAL		
	KING GEORGE VI		
	DATA	MIN	MAX
Kinds of Swearwords	34	K5 and K6 = 0	K7 = 16
Factors Causing Swearwords	27	H = 1	A = 17

Based on the table above, the dominant data in kinds of swearwords that is *death term*. But, the lowest term is *animal and mother in law term*. Meanwhile, the highest factors causing swearwords is the feel of anger and the lowest is the fell of humor with only one data. Based on the findings before, in the *King's Speech* film there are some utterances that contained with swearwords. There is some kinds of swearword such as: Copulative Term, Excretory Term, Body Function or Human Genital Term, Sexual Irregularities, Animal Term, Mother in Law Term and the last is Death Term. These all kinds used theory by Liedlich and Wardhaugh combined with Rothwell.

The most data found by King George VI is *death term*. This thesis contained about the kinds and the factors of swearwords that exist in *King's Speech* film. Actually, in this film Collin Firth as the next King George VI of Buckingham Palace, he was playing his character to be a King that has many problem of his life. Sometimes, to refresh and express the big and strong emotion, he used swearwords when he spoke with his physician he can not control himself to anger and to show his feeling.

The factors causing swearwords in this thesis used theory by Jay, King and Duncan (as cited in Vingerhoets et al, 2013). In their theory, there are four factors that could make people swearing such as: Anger, Frustration, Humor and Pain. But, in this thesis the most factor causing swearwords by the King George VI is anger. Because, he has a strong emotion and needs the right way to express it and also the save place not in front of public.

The next discussion is how the King George VI deal with his situation and another thing when he was swearing. In analyzing the situation, The researcher used theory about Social and Linguistic Motives of Swearing by Crystal and Andersson (as cited in Rullyanti, 2014) this theory explain about how is people to control and deal with the situation when they want to use swearwords. This theory is good theory because there is explanation how and when we can use swearwords. Finally, based on the finding and explanation above, the analysis of the utterances used by the King George VI in *King's Speech* film. The three theories before had great dedication during made this thesis especially in finding and analysis. The theory above as the evidence in analyzed the swearwords in this thesis because all of the theory are worked.

## Conclusion

Swearwords used by the King George VI in daily life based on certain situation and place. In *King's Speech* film the kinds of swearwords that usually spoken by the King are death term and excretory term. Meanwhile, animal term and mother in law did not found in this film. But the dominant swearwords is death term. Based on the *King's Speech* film, the most factor made the King George VI swearing is anger and frustration. But, the lowest factor is pain. Because, during the swearing, all of the utterance that used by the King because of his fury with the situation that was made him stress. As the King in the Buckingham Palace, sometimes many problems can influence the worst condition to him and causes him expression his anger by used swearwords. The King George VI used swearwords in certain situation. He just use the rude words in Lionel's building. Because he is the King as the role model to his people in his empire and also he tied with some manner and attitude. Therefore, as the King he should keep his good behaviour and create a good image for his self and other people.

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