

# TYPES AND FUNCTION OF SWEAR WORDS IN NORMAL PEOPLE SERIES SEASON ONE

Ni Wayan Intan Putri Widyanti<sup>1</sup>

Ni Luh Seri Malini<sup>2</sup>

Ni Putu Trisniawati<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Udayana Bali, Indonesia

\*e-mail: [intanputri.widyantiw18@gmail.com](mailto:intanputri.widyantiw18@gmail.com)

\*Correspondence: [intanputri.widyantiw18@gmail.com](mailto:intanputri.widyantiw18@gmail.com)

*Submitted:* May 02<sup>th</sup> 2023

*Revised:* May 15<sup>th</sup> 2023

*Accepted:* May 27<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Abstract:** This research is an analysis of swear words used in the Normal People Series season. Language usage is more modern in the modern era, and people use swear words more frequently in their daily language. Swearing has become common in modern society. Swear words are the least preferred language, but they frequently carry a different message within their meaning. Therefore, social contact is very essential for human beings because it is the foundation to build strong connections among people in society. Therefore, to make social contact function and transmitted properly people need to have language as a means of communication. This research aims to find out the types of swear words and to describe the functions of swear words that were found in Normal People Series Season one. This research uses a qualitative method. The source data is taken from the Hulu Normal People Series Season one. The writer uses Hughe's theory to find out the types of swear words and uses Andresson and Thrudgill's theory to find out the function of swearing used in Normal People Series Season one. The result The types and functions of Swear Words in Normal People series season one are divided into four parts. Huges divides the types of swear words they are 38 related to the name of an animal swear words, 9 related to excrement swear words, 4 related to sex swear words, and 3 related to religion or oath swearwords. The highest distribution of types of swear words belongs to the related name of animal swear words because that type is the most common type used in the Normal People series season one.

**Keywords:** Sociolinguistics; Swear Words; Normal People Series Season one.

---

## INTRODUCTION

People have many ways to express their feelings to others in communication. One method is to use swear words in the conversation (Van Lancer, 1999). When people express their emotions, they frequently use swear words. These words are used not only when the speakers are angry, but also when they are happy. Language usage is more modern in the modern era, and people use swear words more frequently in their daily language. Swearing has become common in modern society (Abu-Rayyash, A. 2023). Swear words are the least preferred language, but they frequently carry a different message within their meaning (Abdelaal, 2021). Social contact is very essential for human beings because it is the foundation to build strong connections among people in society (Pereira, G. M., 2021). Therefore, to make social contact function and transmitted properly people need to have language as a means of communication (Irawan, A. 2021). There are various movies, television shows, and other forms of entertainment in which actors/actresses, or characters use swear words. This adaptation of Sally Rooney's best-selling novel is a rare teen TV show that values intimacy as a powerful storytelling tool, both on and off camera. It's also a young-lust story, as the series quickly makes clear, in which the copious, urgent sex is as much an expression of character as it is of hormones. But, beyond the heavy emotions and heavy breathing, this gorgeous, melancholy series, whose 12 half-hour episodes will be available on Hulu on Wednesday, is really about growing up: the necessary, agonizing process of

dismantling the person you were to become the person you'll be. The TV adaptation of "Normal People" is a young-love story. "Normal People" series one set in Ireland in the early 2010s, introduces small-town schoolmates Marianne, who comes from a wealthy family, and Connell, whose mother cleans the house for Marianne's family. Their dynamic flips the teen-drama stereotype of the popular rich kid and the alienated poor kid. Marianne is an outcast, sarcastic and bookish. While, according to Andersen (Midjord, 2020:20), swearing is a part of everyday language use such as people of all ages and cultures all over the world. Although many swear words have lost their literal meanings and people are more accepting of swear words than they were previously, the use of swear words still has the strength to instigate. Swear words appear in television programs such as situation comedies or rare teens, which use everyday language to entertain viewers and make the situation come alive (Hasan, D. C. 2020).

The writer would analyze this rare teen because it is very interesting and not boring, and the actors and actresses are attractive, entertaining, and in dramas. Aside from that, the writer chose this rare teen movie because it uses a lot of swear words. The swear words used by the characters are very interesting to examine (Fägersten, K. B., & Bednarek, M. (2022). According to the writer's experience, swear words are used for more than just insulting others. For example, if a friend casually refers to you as a magnificent bastard, you are not offended. According to the explanation above, the writer would investigate swear words and their function

---

---

in the first season of the Normal People Series One. The writer discovers that the match theories for this research paper are Hughes's theory of types of swear words and Andersson and Trudgill's theory of the function of swear words after searching for them. The author focuses on the types of swear words and their functions in the first season of the Normal People Series One. In this case, the researcher uses Normal People series one. This series is very interesting to be analyzed since it has so many uncensored swear words that it can be easily analyzed. By the short explanation above, the researcher finds some problems which are very interesting to be explored. The first problem is related to the types of swear words which are used to swear. Since the characters in the Normal People series season one frequently produce swear words in their conversations such as fuck and shit it is very interesting to analyze the types and function of swears words.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

In conducting the research, the researcher chooses a series as the source of data by qualitative data to describe this research, the type of swear researcher used theory by Wardaugh (2006). Moreover, since a series is the representation of the social environment of a teenager's life, the researcher thinks that it is acceptable to use a series as a source of data. The researcher uses a series entitled Normal People series season one as the source of her research. In the Normal People series season one, the characters frequently use swear words in their conversations so that the utterances can be analyzed easily. The researcher of this study has reviewed several previous

types of research which correlate to this study to gain more perspective and useful insight about the topic. The researcher of this study has reviewed an undergraduate thesis that correlates to this study. Sarnika (2020) This study investigates the types and functions of swear words used in the American sitcom How I Met Your Mother Season One. The study focuses on the types and functions of swear words the objectives of this research are to describe the types of swear words and the function for using swear words in the American Sitcom How I Met Your Mother Season One. The method was the qualitative method. The writer focuses on understanding sociological phenomena through the gaze of the individual being studied.

Furthermore, data that is not based on statistics, numbers, or measurement is referred to as qualitative data because it reveals or illuminates the various qualities or characteristics of social life and social behavior. This study implemented a descriptive qualitative technique that contains conversation analysis to discover and analyze the types and functions used in this series. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that using swear words was create a problem for many people if they do not understand the meaning and the functions of why others utter swear words (Bednarek, M. 2019) In this case, the researcher uses Normal People series one. This series is very interesting to be analyzed since it has so many uncensored swear words that it can be easily analyzed. By the short explanation above, the researcher finds some problems which are very interesting to be explored (Fauzi, f. 2020). The first problem is related to the types of

---

swear words which are used to swear. Since the characters in the Normal People series season one frequently produce swear words in their conversations such as fuck and shit it is very interesting to analyze the types and function of swears words. Moreover, the characters in the Normal People series season one mostly come from people with higher educational backgrounds and teenagers in society. Therefore, it is interesting to analyze the use of swear words by the characters that have a good educational background and the real life of teenagers in society. Hence, it can provide a good example of the occurrence of swear words in a well-

educated society.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Types of swear words and its function found in the dialogues in the Normal People series season one which used Hughes's theory to find out the types of swear words appeared in Normal People series season one. After analyzing all of the dialogues in the Normal People series season one and grouping those data into data tables the results of the first analysis found that there were 54 cases of Swear Words in English based on the conversation Normal People Series season one.

**Table 1. Types of Swear Words data in Normal People Series season one according to Huges's Theory :**

No	Types of Swear Words	Data Founding	Percentage
1	Related to Name of Animal	38	70%
2	Related to Religion or Oath	3	6%
3	Related to Sex	4	7%
4	Related to Excrement	9	17%
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1. shows the distribution of the types of Swear Words data in *Normal People* Series season one based on Huges's theory. It can be seen that there are all of the types of swear words in this series. There are 38 Related to Name of Animal Swear Words, 9 Related to Excrement Swear Words, 4 Related to Sex Swear Words, and 3 Related to Religion or Oath Swear Words.

### 1) Related to Name of Animal Swear Words

It's characterized by the existence of several types of slurs, such as bitch and fag. Other references that are included as epithet are connected to race, one's

appearance, and disabilities such as n\*gg\*r, m\*dg\*t and r\*t\*rd, motherf\*\*ker, t\*t-man, defines as a short but strong blast of passionate language which is triggered by frustration or anger such as son of a b\*\*ch although many swear words have lost their literal meanings and people are more accepting of swear words than they were previously, the use of swear words still has the strength to instigate.

### Data 1 :

Time : 00:15:44 in Episode 1

Marriane : are you serious ? I'll be soaking wet ?!

---

Connel : sure, b\*\*ssh\*t for you, Rob!

Marriane : f\*\*k s\*\*t!

Time : 00:23:22 in Episode 2

Phill : Wanna try this out?

Gareth : Huhh..mmm

Marriane : B\*\*ssh\*t for you?!

Phill : It's not dude, please.

Time : 00:05:49 Episode 5

Marriane : I just already broke up like an hours ago

Connel : B\*llsh\*t, what are you drink off? Gin gin?

Marriane : I want you to f\*uck me

Connel : yeah...mm not tonight, you're wasted.

Time : 00:07:50 Episode 6

Jamie : I'm f\*ck\*ing stress with committe thinking b\*llsh\*t, Phill went off on hannah and I think she might resign. It's just f\*ck\*ng boring, you know?

Marriane : I really need to finish this before class

Jamie : Sure, it's fine!

Marriane : b\*\*ch sake!

The definition is now used to refer to any social indiscretion that should be avoided, because a swear words action should never be performed or referred to, and a swear words should never be uttered (Gedik, T. A. 2020). The conversation above contains swear words that contain the name of an animal, which likens the words of expression through swear words to the name of the animal in that word. The relation of the conversation in swear words is an expression of regret from the actor which is vented through swear words that

clarify the intent and purpose of the expression.

2) Related to Religion or Oath Swear Words

Based on Hughes (2006:462) stated that taboo is generally unmentionable because, on a hierarchical scale, it is either ineffably sacred, like the name of God, or unspeakably vile, like cannibalism or incest as the expression involving the use of religious terms in a profane, secular or uncaring manner. The aim of the speaker is not to vilify God or anything connected with religion but it may be used to express emotional response to certain motives.

**Data 2 :**

Time : 00:25:08 in Episode 2

Rachel : yesterday they're together, you just see this!

Connel : OH J\*s\*s!

Time : 00: 13:02 in Episode 2

Phill : I already full dude, why you dont try it on!

Connel : Oh Gosh!

Marriane : D\*mn s\*t!

Time : 00:19:49 Episode 5

Gareth : If you want treesome we can do! You, connel, and I

Connel : Uhh mm

Marriane : Im not sure

\*few minutes\*

Connel : \*sigh\* J\*s\*s, J\*sus Ch\*irst

The definition is now used to refer of the parable is that the cast includes the name of God or oath which gives the impression of giving strength and repentance so that the cast swears by saying the name of God in the conversations of this series. For example, J J\*s\*s, J\*sus Ch\*irst and etc. This curse is

---

often used in conversations that have gone too far which causes the cast to sigh and remember God's name. The relation of the conversation in swear words is an expression of regret from the actor which is vented through swear words that clarify the intent and purpose of the expression.

### 3) Related to Sex

In other words, related to sex means demonstrates the raw expression of street language. Moreover, Jay (in Mercury, 1995: 30) asserts that vulgarity is used to humiliate or bring down the thing or individual referred to or described. The words that belong to this type are such as a\*s, t\*t, c\*\*k, d\*\*k, and c\*\*t.

#### Data 3 :

Time : 00:55:03 in Episode 2

Waldron : You want to come to DEBS with me?

Marriane : Nope, I am, I am too good for you!

Waldron : Ugly!, flat a\*s, b\*\*th!

Marriane : F\*\*k s\*\*t!

Time : 00:40:01 in Episode 6

Gareth : What's poppin?

Phill : Huhh..mmm

Gareth : Are you redy to sh\*t \*p?!

Phill : Oh God, let me win, please.

The definition is now used to refer to any social indiscretion that should be avoided, because a swear words action should never be performed or referred to, and a swear words should never be uttered. The conversation above contains swear words that contain the name of an sex, which likens the words of expression through swear words to the name of the sex in that word. The relation of the

conversation in swear words is an expression of regret from the actor which is vented through swear words that clarify the intent and purpose of the expression.

### 4) Related to Excrement

It's refers to expressions that are prohibited from public use since they involve repulsion to the sense, abhorrent, impolite and detestable to morality. Moreover, according to Batistella (2005: 72) profanity is defined as words or expression which involve sex differentiating anatomy or sexual and excretory function that usually uttered in rough manner. The words that belong to this type are f\*\*k and s\*\*t.

#### Data 4 :

Time : 00:32:15 in Episode 4

Waldron : What's up dude?!

Connel : good...

Waldron : she was almost drunk yesterday like rachel, hahaha

Rachel : f\*\*k off, Rob!

Time : 00:19:49 Episode 5

Gareth : If you want treesome we can do! You, connel, and I

Connel : Uhh mm

Marriane : Im not sure \*few minutes\*

Connel : \*sigh\* J\*s\*s, J\*sus Ch\*irst

Time : 00:55:03 in Episode 2

Waldron : You want to come to DEBS with me?

Marriane : Nope, I am, I am too good for you!

Waldron : Ugly!, flat a\*s, b\*\*th!

Marriane : F\*\*k s\*\*t!

Time 00:17:09

Phill : Are you frearking kidding me?!

---

Connel : Oh Gosh, for sure  
dude!

Garreth : D\*mn s\*t silly!

The function of word f\*\*k is expletive swearing because in the situation that Waldron mocking Rachel was drunk yesterday, and Rachel angry with it express and Swearing to Waldron means keep silence. The conversation above contains swear words that contain the name of an Excrement, which likens the words of expression through swear words to the name of the Excrement in that word. The relation of the conversation in swear words is an expression of regret from the actor which is vented through swear words that clarify the intent and purpose of the expression

## CONCLUSIONS

The types and functions of Swear Words in Normal People series season one is divided into four parts based on the Huges (2006). Moreover, since a series is the representation of the social environment of a teenager's life, the researcher thinks that it is acceptable to use a series as a source of data. The researcher uses a series entitled Normal People series season one as the source of her research. In the Normal People series season one, the characters frequently use swear words in their conversations so that the utterances can be analyzed easily. The researcher of this study has reviewed several previous types of research which correlate to this study to gain more perspective and useful insight about the topic. The researcher uses a series entitled Normal People series season one as the source of her research. In the Normal People series season one, the

characters frequently use swear words in their conversations so that the utterances can be analyzed easily.

The researcher of this study has already reviewed several previous types of research which correlate to this study to gain more perspective and useful insight about the topic. Since the characters in the Normal People series season one frequently produce swear words in their conversations such as fuck and shit it is very interesting to analyze the types and function of swears words. Moreover, the characters in the Normal People series season one mostly come from people with higher educational backgrounds and teenagers in society. Huges divides the types of swear words they are 38 related to the name of an animal swear words, 9 related to excrement swear words, 4 related to sex swear words, and 3 related to religion or oath swearwords. The highest distribution of types of swear words belongs to the related name of animal swear words because that type is the most common type used in the Normal People series season one. In this way, all of the characters in this series are teenagers growing up age, which causes the use of the word taboo a lot in conversation and in some countries while there are speaking using swear words in a social environment is considered normal.

## REFERENCES

- Abu-Rayyash, H., Haider, A. S., & Al-Adwan, A. (2023). Strategies of translating swear words into Arabic: a case study of a parallel corpus of Netflix English-Arabic movie subtitles. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 10(1), 1-13.
-

- Abdelaal, N. M., & Al Sarhani, A. (2021). Subtitling strategies of swear words and taboo expressions in the movie "Training Day". *Heliyon*, 7(7), e07351.
- Bednarek, M. (2019). 'Don't say crap. Don't use swear words.'—Negotiating the use of swear/taboo words in the narrative mass media. *Discourse, Context & Media*, 29, 100293.
- Beers Fägersten, K., & Pereira, G. M. (2021). Swear words for sale: The commodification of swearing. *Pragmatics and Society*, 12(1), 79-105.
- Fadhil, a., yanti, y., & hasan, d. c. (2020). An analysis of swear words in bad boys movie. *Abstract of Undergraduate Research, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University*, 2(2), 23-24.
- Fägersten, K. B., & Bednarek, M. (2022). The evolution of swearing in television catchphrases. *Language and Literature*, 31(2), 196-226.
- Fauzi, f. (2020). *a sociolinguistic analysis of swear words uttered in the deadpool 2 movie* (doctoral dissertation, universitas muhammadiyah purwokerto).
- Gedik, T. A. (2020). Translation of Turkish swear words in subtitling: GORA. *International Journal of English Language & Translation Studies*, 8(1), 19-26.
- Ginanjar, B. R., & Simatupang, E. C. (2022). Swearing Words in "Euphoria" Television Show Sociolinguistic Study. *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal)*, 5(3), 18801-18810.
- Muthalib, K. A., Fata, I. A., & Nuzula, Z. (2022). "Holy Moly!" Positive and Negative Connotations of Swear Words in A Popular Western Animated Movie. *Indonesian Journal of EFL and Linguistics*, 7(2), 331-347.
- Irawan, A. (2021). Constructing the character of Deadpool through swearing words exploitation: A sociolinguistic analysis of Deadpool 2 movie. *Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Studi Amerika*, 27(2).
- Kurniawati, T. R. A., & Hardjanto, T. D. (2019). Taboo Words in the TV Series Stranger Things. *Lexicon*, 6(1), 87-97.
- Kusumaningsih, D. G. Y. (2019). Taboo words in 21 jump street movie. *Retorika: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*, 5(1), 23-31.
- Lafreniere, K. C., Moore, S. G., & Fisher, R. J. (2022). The power of profanity: The meaning and impact of swear words in word of mouth. *Journal of Marketing Research*, 59(5), 908-925.
- Lubis, C. E. R., Lubis, S., & Putri, D. M. (2020). English taboo words in sex education TV series. *Language Literacy: Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Language Teaching*, 4(2), 333-339.
- Pavesi, M., & Zamora, P. (2022). The reception of swearing in film dubbing: a cross-cultural case study. *Perspectives*, 30(3), 382-398.
- Putri, N. I. (2022). *A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Swear Words Used by the Main Character in The Professor Movie* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Hasanuddin).
- Safitri, P. C. (2021). *The use of swear words*
-



- 
- in "The End of the F\*\*\*ing World" TV series* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya).
- Salah, a. m., & raof, m. o. (2022). a sociolinguistic study of swear words in english and iraqi arabic. *Journal of Language Studies*, 5(2), 10-27.
- Setyaningtias, S., Heriyanto, E., & Muhid, A. (2023). The Use of Swearing Words of Young Multicultural Students: A Sociolinguistics Study. *English Language and Education Spectrum*, 1(1).
- Soriano, E. (2019). Profanity and Gender: A Sociolinguistic Analysis on Swear Words Usage between Male and Female Senior High School (SHS) Students as Basis for (Re) vitalizing Values formation Program for SHS. *Ascendens Asia Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Abstracts*, 3(2G).
- Stephens, R., & Robertson, O. (2020). Swearing as a response to pain: Assessing hypoalgesic effects of novel "swear" words. *Frontiers in psychology*, 11, 723.
- Valdeón, R. A. (2020). Swearing and the vulgarization hypothesis in Spanish audiovisual translation. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 155, 261-272.
- Vallery, R., & Lemmens, M. (2021). The sound of taboo: Exploring a sound-meaning association in swear words of English and French. *Pragmatics & Cognition*, 28(1), 87-137.
- Wu, S. (2021). Subtitling swear words from English into Chinese: a corpus-based study of big little lies. *Open Journal of Modern Linguistics*, 11(02), 277.
- Wulandari, R. A. (2022). Swear words by the main female and male characters in Santa Clarita Diet Netflix series (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya).
- Yolanda Ivana, D. (2022). The use of swear words in "the end of the f\*\*\*ing world" series season one movie script (Doctoral dissertation, Unsada)
- 



© 2023 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY SA) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>).