



## Swear Words in “End of Watch” Movie Directed by David Ayer (A Socio-Pragmatics Study)

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### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji kata-kata makian yang diucapkan oleh seluruh tokoh dalam film “End of Watch” dengan menggunakan pendekatan socio-pragmatik. Kata makian adalah kata-kata kasar yang digunakan orang untuk mengungkapkan emosinya, seperti marah, frustrasi, gembira, putus asa, dan lain sebagainya. Metode kualitatif digunakan untuk melakukan penelitian ini. Dalam penelitian ini, data dikumpulkan dengan menonton film, kemudian memilih, mengklasifikasikan, menganalisis, dan mendeskripsikan ujaran yang mengandung kata-kata makian dengan menggunakan teknik catat. Data yang terkumpul kemudian dianalisis dengan menggunakan prosedur sebagai berikut: menyiapkan data untuk dianalisis, membaca dan menafsirkan data, mengkategorikan dan mendeskripsikan data, menonton kembali film, menyajikan temuan dan menganalisis data, serta menarik kesimpulan. Data penelitian ini dievaluasi menggunakan teori jenis kata makian Andersson dan Trudgill, serta teori Staley tentang faktor penyebab karakter menggunakan kata makian. Analisis data mengungkapkan terdapat 34 data yang memuat empat kategori kata makian yang digunakan seluruh karakter film “End of Watch” dengan beberapa faktor penyebab. Terdapat 14 data pada kata makian *expletive* dengan 9 faktor, 16 data termasuk dalam makian *abusive* dengan 10 faktor, 2 data termasuk dalam makian *humorous* dengan 2 faktor, dan 2

data pada jenis kata makian *auxiliary*. Berdasarkan data, kata makian *expletive* dan *abusive* merupakan jenis yang paling sering digunakan dalam film ini, dengan beragam penyebab yang menyebabkan karakter menggunakan kata-kata makian tersebut. Sedangkan, jenis yang paling jarang digunakan adalah makian *humorous* dan *auxiliary*. Kesimpulannya, temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa karakter-karakter dalam film tersebut paling banyak menggunakan kata-kata makian jenis *expletive* dan *abusive* untuk mengomunikasikan emosi mereka.

### ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this study is to examine the swear words uttered by all of the characters in the “End of Watch” film using a socio-pragmatics approach. Swear words are harsh words used by people to express their emotions, such as anger, impatience, joy, despair, and so forth. The qualitative method was used to conduct this research. In this study, the data were gathered by watching the movie, then selecting, classifying, analyzing, and describing the utterances that contain swear words utilizing the note-taking technique. The gathered data are then analyzed by using the following procedures: prepare the data for analysis, read and interpret the data, categorize and describe the data, re-watch the movie, present the findings and analyze the data, and draw conclusions. The data of this study were evaluated using Andersson and Trudgill’s theory of swear word types, as well as Staley’s theory of factors that cause characters to use swear words. The data analysis revealed that there were 34 data containing four categories of swear words used by all of the characters in the film “End of Watch,” with several causal factors. There were 14 data include in expletive swearing with 9 factors, 16 in abusive swearing with 10 factors, 2 in humorous swearing with 2 factors, and 2 in auxiliary swearing without any factors influencing them. According to the data, expletive and abusive swearing were the most commonly used categories in this film, with a variety of causes contributing to characters utilizing swear words. The least common forms were humorous and auxiliary swearing. In conclusion, the findings suggest that the characters in the film used swear words to communicate their emotions, with expletive and abusive swearing being the primary means of expression.*

### INTRODUCTION

Interacting or communicating is one way for people to convey what is on their minds, or communication can be interpreted as a way to understand the intent of what someone is saying. There are

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various ways that people can convey what is on their minds both orally and in writing. People can use swear words to convey their message as an alternative because swear words are component of language. As Steven Pinker (2007, p. 68) explains "Swear words are a natural part of our language, and they are undoubtedly one of the most efficient ways to dissipate extra frustration or anger in a difficult situation". Swear words are not only used for negative things, but swear words can also be used to express something positive.

Swear words are often associated with negative emotions such as anger, frustration, or disappointment. However, they can also be used to convey positive sentiments like excitement, enthusiasm, or even love. For instance, a person might use a swear word to express their excitement or joy when something good happens. This challenges the common perception that swear words are only used for negative purposes, demonstrating their versatility in human communication.

Furthermore, swear words can serve as a form of emotional release, allowing individuals to express themselves in a way that might be difficult to convey through more conventional means. This can be particularly true in situations where people are under stress or experiencing strong emotions. As Pinker suggests, swear words can be an efficient way to dissipate extra frustration or anger in a difficult situation, providing a cathartic release for the speaker.

In addition to their emotional function, swear words can also be used to establish a sense of camaraderie or shared experience. When people use swear words in a social setting, it can create a sense of belonging or shared understanding among those present. This highlights the social aspect of swear words, demonstrating how they can be used to build connections and foster a sense of community.

Overall, the use of swear words in communication highlights the complexity and nuance of human expression. While they are often viewed as taboo or inappropriate, swear words can also be a powerful tool for conveying emotions and establishing connections with others. In this millennial era, many people use swear words to express what they feel, whether it's a feeling of pleasure, anger, surprise, and so on. For example, people often use swear words when they are angry, such as when playing online games or watching TV shows. According to Jay (2000), "swear words or bad language can be found in a joke, humor, social commentary, sex talk, and group slang" (p. 93). Additionally, swear words are commonly used in movies, especially in western films, to express a character's role or personality. As stated by Gisle and Hasund (2002, p. 203), "using curse words is a way to establish group identity". Since swear words have become more prevalent, people commonly use them in communication, even though swearing is generally considered a bad habit that should not be used in everyday conversation or talk.

The study was conducted based on the movie "End of Watch," directed by David Ayer and lasting 1 hour and 49 minutes. The film was released on September 8, 2012, in Toronto and has been nominated for an independent movie Spirit Award for best supporting actor. This cinematic work is a significant subject for analysis, as it provides a unique context to examine the use of swear words in a cinematic setting.

The movie "End of Watch" tells the story of two young police officers, Brian Taylor and Mike Zavala, who are the main protagonists of the film. Both actors play crucial roles in the story, which revolves around a series of cases they face in the South-Central area of Los Angeles. The film's setting provides a rich backdrop for analyzing the use of swear words by the characters, as it offers a glimpse into the daily lives and challenges faced by law enforcement officers.

In the film, the two main characters, Brian Taylor and Mike Zavala, use swear words while on duty. This aspect of the movie is particularly noteworthy, as it highlights the use of swear words in a professional setting. The study aims to analyze the swear words used by the characters in the film, exploring their functions and the emotions they convey.

In conclusion, the movie "End of Watch" provides a unique context to examine the use of swear words in a cinematic setting. The film, which tells the story of two young police officers, Brian Taylor and Mike Zavala, offers a rich backdrop for analyzing the use of swear words by the characters. The study aims to analyze the swear words used by the characters in the film, exploring their functions and the emotions they convey.

### **Swear Words in Socio-Pragmatics Study**

In society, people express their feelings through various means, and effective communication is crucial to convey the intent and purpose of the speaker. Pragmatics, a branch of linguistics, studies the contextual meaning of language, as defined by Yule (2010, p. 128) as "the study of 'unseen' meaning or how we are understanding the meaning even it's not said or written." This field is closely related to the study of language usage, as stated by Levinson (1983, p. 5). Furthermore, Leech (1983, p. 10) described socio-pragmatics as a sociological side of pragmatics, which focuses on the speaker's capacity to deliver a meaning in a variety of social situations.

Socio-pragmatics is a significant aspect of linguistics that examines the relationship between sentence meaning, context, and speaker meaning. Kreidler (1998, p. 19) defined socio-pragmatics as "another division of linguistics that is linked with meaning and focuses on the speaker's capacity to deliver a meaning in a variety of social situations." This field is essential in understanding how people communicate in different social contexts. Swear words can be found in socio-pragmatics, particularly in the domain of speech acts. Horn and Ward (2006, p. 1) defined pragmatics as having six domains, including speech acts, which refer to the actions performed by produced utterances.

The study of swear words in socio-pragmatics is significant because it highlights the role of language in conveying emotions and establishing social relationships. Swear words can be used to express strong emotions, such as anger or frustration, and can also be used to establish a sense of camaraderie or shared experience. The analysis of swear words in socio-pragmatics provides insights into the complex relationships between language, culture, and society. By examining the social functions and pragmatic meanings of swear words, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how people communicate and express themselves in various situations.

Analyzing swear words in a socio-pragmatics approach involves examining the social functions and pragmatic meanings of these words in various contexts. This approach recognizes that swear words are not simply offensive or impolite, but rather serve specific purposes in communication. For instance, swearing can be used to express strong emotions, establish solidarity, or even convey humor. By considering the social and cultural contexts in which swear words are used, researchers can better understand how they contribute to the construction of meaning and relationships between individuals. This approach also acknowledges that the perception of swear words as offensive or impolite can vary significantly across cultures and contexts, highlighting the importance of considering the nuances of language use in different settings.

Swear words have been classified by Andresson and Trudgill (in Ririn Susetyaningsih, 2014) into four categories. According to this theory, the use of swear words is triggered by specific expressions or situations that evoke strong emotions in individuals. These expressions can be categorized into several types, including: expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary swearing.

Expletive swearing is characterized by its use to express personal emotions, such as anger, shock, and frustration, and is not directed towards others. This type of swearing is often used to release pent-up emotions or to express a strong reaction to a situation. Abusive swearing, on the other hand, is directed towards others and includes name calling and other cursing expressions that are offensive and causing insult. This type of swearing is often used to express aggression, hostility, or disdain towards another person. Humorous swearing, while still directed towards others, is not abusive and tends to be idiomatic, playful, humorous, and non-serious rather than offensive. Auxiliary swearing, also known as "lazy speaking" or "non-emphatic speaking," is a way of speaking that is not addressed to other people or situations, and is often used to express a sense of relaxation or casualness.

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To elucidate the factors behind the use of swear words, this study will draw upon the theoretical framework proposed by Staley (1978, p. 328) in Vivi Cristiani Katoppo (2016). This framework posits that the utilization of swear words is precipitated by specific expressions or situations that elicit intense emotional responses in individuals. These expressions can be categorized into various types, including fear and apprehensive, bewilderment, panic and nervous, defensiveness, pain, surprise, embarrassment, happiness and excitement, shock and horror, annoyance, intimacy, complimentary, indignity, furious, spoofing and jokes, curiosity, confidence, and sarcasm. By examining these categories, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the emotional and social factors that contribute to the use of swear words in various contexts.

## METHOD

This study employed a qualitative research approach to examine the use of swear words in the movie "End of Watch." Ary et al. (2010) define qualitative research as a study of social and behavioral phenomena, such as human behavior. In this study, the data were described and discovered using qualitative methods, with a focus on the interpretation of the findings rather than the quantity of data.

The data for this study were gathered from the characters' dialogue or utterances in the End of Watch movie, which was downloaded from Google Chrome. The movie was chosen because it contains a diverse range of characters and conversations, including white and black groups, black and multiple races, black fellows, white fellows, and fellow multiple races with different castes. The movie was written and directed by David Ayer and has received a rating of 7.6 out of 10, indicating its popularity among audiences.

The data were collected using the note-taking method, which involved several steps. The first step was to collect data by watching the End of Watch movie and the script downloaded from [www.scriptsbug.com](http://www.scriptsbug.com). The second step was to choose utterances related to the proposed research problem. The third step was to stop the scene that contained swear words said by each character in the film if the researcher found words that contained swear words, which were said by each character in the movie. The fourth step was to read the script from the movie End of Watch and give a sign (using a highlighter) in every conversation containing swear words. The final step was to describe the data of the utterance containing the swear words used in the film End of Watch based on the types and factors, and then to analyze the data.

After data collection, the data were analyzed using theories from Andersson and Trudgill about the types of swear words used by characters in the movie "End of Watch" and theories from Staley (1978) about the factors that led to the use of these swear words. The analysis process involved several steps, including preparing the data for analysis, reading and understanding the content, categorizing dialogues that included swear words, and discussing the data to describe the types of swear words and factors that caused their use. The scenes containing swear words were re-watched to ensure the accuracy of the data, and finally conclusions were drawn from the results and analysis.

## RESULT

The results of the data analysis found that there were thirty-four swear words used by the characters in the "End of Watch" movie. These expressions are divided into four types of swearing. The four types are expletives, abusive swearing, humorous swearing, and auxiliary swearing. Along with this, researchers also found several factors that caused characters to use swear words, for example: panic and nervous, pain, surprise, embarrassment, happiness and excitement, annoyance, shock and horror, intimacy, and so on.

Furthermore, it is found that the characters in the film used the most expletive and abusive swearing types for several factors, and only a few used humorous and auxiliary swearing types. In the expletive swearing type, the factors of the character that express swear words are annoyance, confidence, happiness for the good fortune, bewilderment, surprise, happiness, and excitement, furious, shock, and horror. In the abusive swearing type, there are ten factors that cause the character to use swear words. These factors include spoofing and jokes, being furious, confident, indignity, complementary, sarcasm, fear and apprehension, being curious, happiness and excitement, and embarrassment. In the case of humorous swearing, the researcher only found two factors that caused the character to use swear words, namely complementary and spoofing humor and jokes. While studying this type of auxiliary swearing, the researcher did not find the factors that caused the characters to pronounce swear words because this type was only used as an additional word or condiment in a conversation.

Clearly, to support this research, the theory from Andersson and Trudgill about the type of swear words and the theory from Staley about the factors why the characters in the film used swear words were used. Moreover, the type classification is carried out based on the function of the respective swear words. As a result, a single curse word may be entered in a different type.

The data analysis revealed that the characters in the film "End of Watch" utilized thirty-four swear words. These utterances are classified into four categories of swearing. The four types are expletives swearing, abusive swearing, hilarious swearing, and auxiliary swearing.

Expletive swearing is a form of linguistic expression that serves as a means of conveying an individual's personal emotions, often in a reflexive manner. This type of swearing is characterized by its lack of direct address to a specific person or situation, instead focusing on the expression of the speaker's internal emotional state. Notably, expletive swearing is not limited to the expression of negative emotions, as it can also be used to convey positive emotions, such as happiness, excitement, or surprise. The End of Watch movie provides several examples of expletive swearing, including the use of words such as

"motherfucker," "ass," "shit," "suck my dick," "holy shit," "fuck," "bitch," and "god damn it." These words, often used in a reflexive manner, serve to convey the speaker's emotional state, whether positive or negative, and are a common feature of the expletive swearing type.

The factors that contribute to the use of these expletive swear words include annoyance, confidence, happiness for good fortune, confusion, surprise, happiness and excitement, fury, and shock and horror. These factors highlight the complex and multifaceted nature of swearing, underscoring the need for a nuanced understanding of the various motivations and functions that underlie this linguistic phenomenon. The study of swearing in this movie provides valuable insights into the diverse ways in which language can be used to convey emotions, express aggression, and create humor.

Abusive swearing is a form of linguistic expression that is directed towards other individuals, often with the intention of causing offense, humiliation, or harm. This type of swearing can take the form of name-calling, which can be particularly damaging as it can lead to feelings of shame, embarrassment, and low self-esteem. In the context of the "End of Watch" movie, several words are included in this category, such as "shit," "fuck you," "motherfucker," "ass niggas," "piece of shit," "asshole," "donkey," "dumb-ass," "pig," "bitch," "son of bitch," "shut the fuck up," and "idiots." These words are often used to express aggression, hostility, or disdain towards others, and can have a profound impact on the recipient.

Those forms of language used as abusive swearing serve as a means of conveying strong emotions and can be categorized into various emotional categories, including spoofing and jokes, furious, confident, indignity, complementary, sarcasm, worried, curious, happiness and excitement, and embarrassment. The presence of these linguistic patterns underscores the complex interplay between language, emotion, and social context, highlighting the multifaceted nature of human communication.

Humorous swearing is a form of linguistic expression that is directed towards another individual, yet its intent is not to cause offense or harm. This type of swearing is characterized by its playful, lighthearted, and non-serious nature, often used to add humor or wit to a conversation. While humorous swearing may contain negative name-calling, its primary function is not to inflict emotional distress on the recipient. In the context of the "End of Watch" movie, two words are included in this category: "motherfucker" and "shit." These words, when used in a humorous context, serve to create a sense of levity and camaraderie among the characters, rather than to cause harm or offense.

In the analysis of "End of Watch" movie, it is identified that there are two distinct factors that contribute to the category of humorous swearing. Specifically, the swear words "motherfucker" and "fuck" were found to be employed in a manner that are both complementary and spoofing/joke-like. This suggests that the speakers utilize these swear words in a way that is intended to be playful, rather than aggressive or offensive. The complementary aspect of these swear words is evident in their use to express camaraderie or shared experience among the characters, while the spoofing/joke-like factor is demonstrated through their use in a manner that is ironic or exaggerated, often to diffuse tension or create humor. This nuanced understanding of the role of swearing in human communication highlights the complex interplay between language, social context, and emotional expression, underscoring the multifaceted nature of human interaction.

Auxiliary swearing is a type of linguistic expression that is not directed towards a specific individual or situation. This form of swearing is often referred to as "lazy speaking" because it is used as a filler or a way to add emphasis to a statement without necessarily conveying a specific meaning or intent. In the context of the "End of Watch" movie, two words are included in this category: "fucking cock" and "blood." These words are used in a way that is not necessarily addressed to anyone or any particular situation, but rather serve to add a sense of intensity or emphasis to the conversation.

Based on the analysis, these swear words including in the type of auxiliary swearing were observed to be used in a manner that is devoid of any emotional or reactive response from the characters. This lack of reaction suggests that these swear words function primarily as a linguistic device to add flavor or emphasis to the expression, rather than being directed at a specific person or situation. Furthermore, the absence of any referential meaning or target for these swear words implies that they are used solely for their rhetorical or stylistic effect, serving to enhance the overall tone or atmosphere of the conversation. This finding highlights the complex and multifaceted nature of swearing in human communication, where linguistic forms can be employed to convey a range of emotional and social cues.

## DISCUSSION

This section provides a comprehensive discussion to address the research question by drawing upon theoretical frameworks from Andersson and Trudgill, who categorized swearing into four types: expletive swearing, abusive swearing, humorous swearing, and auxiliary swearing. This classification is significant in understanding the diverse ways in which characters employ swear words to convey emotions and social cues. For instance, expletive swearing is often used to express strong emotions, while

abusive swearing is employed to convey aggression or hostility. Humorous swearing, on the other hand, is used to diffuse tension or create humor, and auxiliary swearing serves to add emphasis or flavor to an expression.

Staley's theory on the nineteen reasons people use swear words offers valuable insights into the motivations behind this linguistic behavior. These reasons include fear and apprehension, bewilderment, panic and nervousness, defensiveness, pain, surprise, embarrassment, happiness and excitement, happiness for good fortune or another, shock and horror, annoyance, intimacy, complementary, indignity, furiousness, spoofing and jokes, curiosity, confidence, and sarcasm. By considering these motivations, this study aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the swearing patterns observed in the film, highlighting the complex emotional and social dynamics at play.

The classification of swearing types by Andersson and Trudgill is particularly relevant in the context of this film, as it highlights the diverse ways in which characters employ swear words to convey emotions and social cues. For instance, expletive swearing is often used to express strong emotions, while abusive swearing is employed to convey aggression or hostility. Humorous swearing, on the other hand, is used to diffuse tension or create humor, and auxiliary swearing serves to add emphasis or flavor to an expression. By examining these different types of swearing, this study aims to shed light on the complex interplay between language, emotion, and social context.

Furthermore, the conversations in the film involve three distinct groups: white groups, black groups, and multiple races. This diversity is significant, as each group has its own social caste and cultural norms, which can influence the way characters use language. For instance, the use of certain swear words or phrases may be more common in one group than another, reflecting the unique cultural and social dynamics of each group. By examining the swearing patterns across these different groups, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how language is used to convey social identity and cultural affiliation.

The intersection of swearing patterns and social group dynamics is particularly noteworthy in the context of this film. The different groups in the film, each with their own distinct social caste and cultural norms, use swearing in ways that reflect their unique cultural and social contexts. For instance, the use of certain swear words or phrases may be more common in one group than another, reflecting the unique cultural and social dynamics of each group. By examining the swearing patterns across these different groups, this study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how language is used to convey social identity and cultural affiliation, highlighting the complex interplay between language, emotion, and social context.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this research has provided a comprehensive analysis of the types of swear words employed by characters in the movie "End of Watch" and the factors influencing their use. The findings suggest that the majority of the data belonged to the expletive swearing type, which is used to express personal emotions and is not addressed to anyone. The abusive swearing type was the second most common, characterized by name calling and insults directed at other people. Humorous swearing was less prevalent, used to playfully insult or tease others, while auxiliary swearing was used as an additional word to add emphasis or flavor to an expression.

The factors influencing the use of swear words were found to be diverse and complex, with characters using swear words for various reasons including annoyance, confidence, happiness for good fortune, bewilderment, surprise, happiness and excitement, fury, shock and horror, panic and nervousness, spoofing and jokes, indignity, complementary, sarcasm, fear and apprehension, curiosity, and embarrassment. The findings highlight the importance of considering the social and emotional context in which swear words are used, as well as the individual motivations and intentions of the speaker. Overall, this research provides valuable insights into the linguistic and social dynamics of swearing in a movie, shedding light on the complex interplay between language, emotion, and social context.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the findings of this research, it is recommended that future studies on swearing in movies consider the diverse and complex factors that influence the use of swear words, including the social and emotional context in which they are used, as well as the individual motivations and intentions of the speaker. Additionally, researchers should continue to explore the various types of swearing, including expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary swearing, to gain a deeper understanding of the linguistic and social dynamics of swearing in movies.

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