

PROFANITY IN JOKO ANWAR'S FILM PENGEPUNGAN DI BUKIT DURI: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This study is motivated by the use of vulgar language specifically swear words in film dialogue, which not only serves as an expression of emotion but also fulfills specific communicative functions depending on the context of the utterance. This study aims to describe the types and functions of vulgar swear words in Joko Anwar's film *Pengepungan di Bukit Duri*. The study employs a qualitative approach using descriptive methods. The research data consists of utterances containing vulgar language in the form of swear words in Joko Anwar's film *Pengepungan di Bukit Duri*. Data collection was conducted using the observation method with recording and note-taking techniques, while data analysis employed the pragmatic correspondence method using the Determinant Element Sorting (PUP) technique. The results of the study indicate that there are 35 instances of vulgar language in the form of swear words. Based on the analysis of language functions according to Chaer and Agustina (2014), 22 instances (38%) served a personal function, 9 instances (15%) served a directive function, 3 instances (5.1%) served a referential function, and 1 instance (1.7%) served a phatic function. The personal function was the most dominant because vulgar swear words were used more frequently to express anger, disappointment, and frustration, as well as to depict conflicts between characters in the films. The findings of this study are expected to enrich sociolinguistic research, particularly regarding the use of vulgar language in film media.

Keywords: vulgar language; insults; language functions; sociolinguistics; the film *Pengepungan di Bukit Duri*;

1 INTRODUCTION

Language is an important part of human life because it is used to convey information, express feelings, and build social relationships. According to Suhardi (2020), language and humans grow and develop together, so the existence of language cannot be separated from society. As evidenced by the arbitrary nature of language, this connection is not the result of a natural relationship between sound and meaning, but rather a convention agreed upon by its speakers (Acmad HP & Alek Abdullah, 2013:7). Language serves different functions depending on the purpose of communication. This demonstrates that the use of language in society is highly diverse.

Language diversity is influenced by a speaker's social background, education, age, occupation, and environment. Chaer and Agustina (2014) state that these differences give rise to various language variations, one of which is vulgar language as a form of sociolect. Sociolects are a type of language variation commonly referred to as social dialects—that is, language variations related to the social status and class of the speakers (Sumarlam, 2012:129). Vulgar language refers to language use that is considered coarse or impolite in certain situations. Nevertheless, the meaning of vulgar language still depends on the context in which it is used.

One type of vulgar language that is frequently used is profanity. Profanity is used to express anger, disappointment, contempt, or other emotions in speech. Soeparno (2013) explains that vulgar language is generally used by social groups considered less educated. However, in certain contexts, profanity can also serve as a form of familiarity or to emphasize meaning.

The use of vulgar language, particularly swear words, is not only found in everyday life but can also be found in works of art, one of which is film. Film is a mass communication medium used as a means of entertainment and art (Aldrian, W., & Azeharie, S., 2022). Joko Anwar's film **Pengepungan di Bukit Duri** features various dialogues containing profanity as a result of social conflicts among the characters.

The use of profanity in the film not only reflects an outpouring of emotion but also illustrates the characters' social relationships and communicative intentions. These factors make the film an interesting subject for sociolinguistic analysis.

Much research has been conducted on vulgar language, but studies focusing on the types of vulgar swear words and their functions remain limited. Thus, this study aims to describe the types of vulgar swear words and their functions as found in Joko Anwar's film **Pengepungan di Bukit Duri**. The results of this study are expected to enrich sociolinguistic research on the use of swear words in film. Furthermore, this study is expected to serve as a reference for future research examining language variation.

2 METHODOLOGY

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze vulgar language and profanity in Joko Anwar's film *Pengepungan di Bukit Duri*. This approach was chosen because it allows for an in-depth exploration of linguistic phenomena based on the context and meaning of utterances in natural communicative situations (Sugiyono, 2023:6).

The data for this study were obtained from a single source: the film *Pengepungan di Bukit Duri* by Joko Anwar. The data consist of speech excerpts containing vulgar swear words from the film *Pengepungan di Bukit Duri* by Joko Anwar. Data collection was conducted using the observation method, specifically recording and note-taking techniques, which involved observing the film under study, then systematically recording and noting relevant data (Zaim, 2014:89).

Data analysis employed the pragmatic correspondence method using the Determinant Element Sorting (PUP) technique to identify, classify, and interpret the types and functions of vulgar swear words based on the communicative context. The research results are presented descriptively using an informal method in the form of a systematic narrative description to ensure ease of understanding.

3 RESULTS

The results of this study indicate the use of vulgar language and profanity in Joko Anwar's film *Pengepungan di Bukit Duri*. Data analysis was conducted based on the types of vulgar language as defined by Sa'adah et al. (2025) and the functions of language as defined by Chaer & Agusstina (2014:15–17). The results of the data classification are presented in the following table.

Table 1. Types and Functions of Vulgar Language

	Types of Vulgar Language	Functions of Vulgar Language	Total	Percentage
1	Insults	Personal Function	21	38%
		Directive Function	10	17%
		Phatic Function	1	1,7%
		Referential Function	3	5,1%
	Total Insults		35	59,8%

3.1 Types and Functions of Vulgar Language Swearing

Insults refer to words or phrases used to express anger, frustration, or contempt toward others, such as 'Bodoh', 'Anjing', 'Bangsat', 'Brensek'. This includes insults, as it is used as a means of venting negative emotions or to belittle the person being addressed. The key defining characteristic of profanity lies in the choice of words that are coarse, insulting, or verbally aggressive, whether directed directly at someone or uttered in response to a specific situation. The main characteristic of profanity is that it is usually expressed spontaneously with the aim of venting emotions or conveying a negative judgment or belittlement, and it often arises in situations of conflict, anger, or frustration. This includes profanity because it is used as a means of venting negative emotions or to belittle the person being addressed. The defining characteristic of profanity lies in the use of words that are coarse, insulting, or verbally aggressive, whether directed at a specific person or uttered in response to a particular situation. Profanity is typically expressed spontaneously to vent emotions or convey negative judgments and belittle others, and it often arises in situations involving conflict, anger, or frustration.

3.1.1 Personal Function

Personal Function: The speaker conveys their attitude toward the topic being discussed. In addition, the speaker not only expresses emotions but also determines how those emotions are conveyed in their speech.

Data example (1)

Context: Jefri said this directly to Khristo in class to express his feelings about wanting to retaliate against the Chinese bullies.

Bajingan. Iya nggak bisa. Kita harus bales Anjing. (PDBD 2025, menit 26:07)

The speech includes vulgar language, swearing. According to KBBI VI 6.1.0 (2025), the word *bajingan* means "kurang ajar" while the word *anjing* is "a mammal that is usually kept to guard the house, hunt, and so on". The use of the word bastard is understood as an outpouring of anger towards the bullies, while the word dog is understood as an affirmation of emotions in the conversation. Based on its function, the speech includes a personal function because the speaker is venting his anger, upset, and emotions after finding out that his friend was beaten by another gang. The speaker felt unacceptable to the incident, so his speech showed a strong emotional reaction to the treatment received by his friend.

Data example (2)

Context: Jefri spoke these words directly to Nandi in an empty building in response to Nandi's question.

Salah satu *babi* lo tuh ngebukin orang gua, *Anjing*. (PDBD 2025, minute 31:42)

The speech is a type of vulgar swearing. The use of the word *babi* is understood as a rude term that refers to the perpetrator of violence from the opposing party, while the word *anjing* is understood as an expression of Jefri's anger in responding to Nandi's question. The reaction of speech partners involved in the conflict shows that the speech is understood as an explanation delivered with high emotions. Based on its function, the speech includes a personal function because the speaker is showing his anger and annoyance directly to Nandi. The speech arose because the speaker felt unacceptable after finding out that his friend was beaten by the Nandi gang.

Data example (3)

Context: Anto's speech was spoken to Raihan directly to express his frustration with Raihan who wanted to get out of the car.

Entar kita yang kena, *Tolol!*. (PDBD 2025, menit 31:42)

The speech is a type of vulgar swearing. According to KBBI VI 6.1.0 (2025), the word *tolol* is a derivative of the word stupidity which means "sangat bodoh". The use of the word *tolol* is understood by Raihan as an expression of Anto's frustration and disapproval of the actions he wants to take. The reaction of speech partners who listen to or respond to the warning shows that speech is understood as a form of protest that is conveyed with high emotions. Based on its function, the speech includes a personal function because the speaker expresses his annoyance and worry to Raihan directly.

3.1.2 Functions of the Directive

A directive function, language is used to encourage listeners to do something. This is usually seen in sentences that influence, command, or request.

Data example (4)

Context: The speech spoken by Garry to Nandi in the empty building directly to order Nandi to walk properly.

Yang bener jalannya *Anjing!* (PDBD 2025, minute 31:23)

The speech includes vulgar language, such as swearing. According to KBBI VI 6.1.0 (2025), the word *anjing* means "mammals that are usually kept to guard the house, hunt, and so on". The use of the word *anjing* is understood by Nandi as a harsh rebuke delivered with high emotions so that he improves the way he walks. The reaction of speech partners who obey or pay attention to the command shows that

speech is understood as a form of command that is delivered roughly. Based on its function, the speech is a directive function because the speaker is reprimanding and telling the interlocutor to walk correctly.

Data example (5)

Context: Speech spoken by Garry and Raihan to Nandi in the empty building directly to order Nandi to walk.

Jalan *Bego*! Ini apa? Bau *babi bangsat*! (2025 PDBD, minute 31:37)

The speech includes vulgar language, such as swearing. According to KBBI VI 6.1.0 (2025), the word *bego* means "sangat bodoh", the word *babi* means "an even hoofed mammal, has four middle fingers that are larger, a large head with a long mocong", while the word *bangsat* means "kutu busuk". The use of the word *bego* is used to scolding speech partners while the words pig and bastard are understood as an overflow of negative emotions of the speaker that shows frustration and humiliation. The reaction of the speech partner who obeys or responds to the command shows that speech is understood as a command that is delivered in a harsh and emotional tone. Based on its function, the speech includes a directive function because the speaker is telling Nandi to walk when Nandi refuses to move because of fear.

3.1.3 Phatic Function

This fatigue function is used to maintain and strengthen contact in communication. In addition, the fatigue function also shows a sense of familiarity, togetherness, and friendly relationships.

Data example (6)

Context: Jefri spoke to his friends in the empty building directly to respond to his friend's questions. Yey

bayarin orang terus lo, Woi! *Anjing*! cuci tangan, cuci tangan! (2025 PDBD, minute 33:28)

The speech includes vulgar language, such as swearing. According to KBBI VI 6.1.0 (2025), the word *anjing* means "a mammal that is usually kept for grazing, hunting, and so on". Vera's response to turning her head and laughing at the speaker shows that she understands the meaning of the speech as a joke because Vera has finished Edwin's drink. Based on its function, the speech is a phatic function because the speaker mocks Vera with a joke that has treated Edwin to drink.

3.1.4 Referential Function

Referential Function Referential function, language is used to talk about objects or events that exist around the speaker and in cultural life in general. Additionally, this function indicates that language is used to convey thoughts and explain events that occur around the speaker.

Data example (7)

Context: Raihan spoke to his friends in the car in front of the school to provide information that there was a riot in the city.

Anjing, ada kerusuhan, *Anjing* (PDBD 2025, minute 51:04)

The speech was subjected to vulgar swearing. According to KBBI VI 6.1.0 (2025), the word *anjing* means "a mammal that is usually kept for grazing, hunting, and so on". The use of the word dog is understood by his friends as an expression of surprise, panic, and concern of the speaker after learning of the riot. The reaction of the speech partner who then notices the information or shows the same concern indicates that speech is understood as a notification of a dangerous situation, not just the use of swearing. Based on its function, it includes a referential function because the speaker uses vulgar language when conveying information about the ongoing riots.

Data example (8)

Context: Raihan spoke to his friends in the car in front of the school to inform about the attack on ethnic Chinese.

Liat-liat *babi-babi* pada dihabisin. (PDBD 2025, minute 51:07)

The speech includes vulgar language, such as swearing. According to KBBI VI 6.1.0 (2025), the word *babi* means "an even hoofed mammal, has four larger middle fingers, a large head with a long mocong.

The use of the word *babi-babi* is understood by Raihan's friends as a designation aimed at the Chinese ethnic group who are victims of attacks. The reaction of speech partners who pay attention to the information and show the same surprise shows that speech is understood as conveying information about the situation that is happening. Based on its function, it includes a referential function because the speaker uses vulgar language when conveying information about the ongoing attacks on ethnic Chinese.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the research, 35 vulgar language data were found in the film *Siege* in Bukit Duri by Joko Anwar. Vulgar language of the type of swearing is marked by the use of harsh words that aim to express the emotions of insulting, or verbally attacking opponents. Based on the function analysis, the vulgar language type of swear was most used for personal functions as many as 22 data (38%), followed by directive functions as many as 9 data (15%), referential functions as many as 3 data (5.1%), and fatigue functions as much as 1 data (1.7%). These findings show that vulgar language of the type of swear in film is more predominantly used to express feelings, such as anger, disappointment, and frustration, as well as showing conflicts between people through the use of language with emotional value.

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