

**A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SWEARING BY THE MAIN
CHARACTERS IN QUENTIN TARANTINO'S *PULP FICTION* MOVIE**

A THESIS

**Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Attainment of the
Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Literature Study Program**



By:

Hairil Akbar Arifin

11211141007

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
YOGYAKARTA STATE UNIVERSITY
2017**

**A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SWEARING BY THE MAIN
CHARACTERS IN QUENTIN TARANTINO'S *PULP FICTION* MOVIE**

A THESIS

**Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Attainment of the
Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Literature Study Program**



By:

Hairil Akbar Arifin

11211141007

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
YOGYAKARTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

2017

APPROVAL

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SWEARING BY THE MAIN
CHARACTERS IN QUENTIN TARANTINO'S *PULP FICTION* MOVIE

A THESIS



Approved by the supervisors on March 01, 2017

First Supervisor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suhaini Ms", is written over the printed name of the first supervisor.

Drs. Suhaini M. Shaleh, M.A.
NIP. 19540120 197903 1 002

Second Supervisor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachmat Nurcahvo", is written over the printed name of the second supervisor.

Rachmat Nurcahvo, S. S, M. A.
NIP. 19800224 200312 1 001

RATIFICATION SHEET

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SWEARING BY THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN QUENTIN TARANTINO'S *PULP FICTION* MOVIE


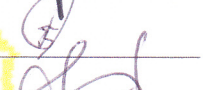
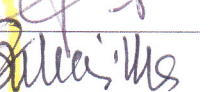

A Thesis

Hairil Akbar Arifin

11211141007

Accepted by the Board of Thesis Examiners of Faculty of Languages and Arts, Yogyakarta State University on April 4th 2017 and declared to have fulfilled the requirement for the attainment of *Sarjana Sastra* Degree in English Language and Literature.

Board of Examiners

Position	Name	Signature
Chairperson	: Andy Bayu Nugroho, S.S., M.Hum	
Secretary	: Rachmat Nurcahyo, S.S., M.A	
First Examiner	: Titik Sudartinah, S.S., M.A	
Second Examiner	: Drs. Suhaini M. Saleh., M.A,	

Yogyakarta, April 4th, 2017

Faculty of Languages and Arts

Yogyakarta State University

Dean,



Dr. Widyastuti Purbani, M.A.

NIP 19610524 199001 2 001

PERNYATAAN

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Hairil Akbar Arifin

NIM : 11211141007

Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni


Judul : A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Swearing by the Main Characters in
Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* Movie

menyatakan bahwa karya ilmiah ini adalah hasil pekerjaan saya sendiri dan sepanjang pengetahuan saya, karya ilmiah ini tidak berisi materi yang ditulis oleh orang lain, kecuali pada bagian-bagian tertentu yang saya ambil sebagai acuan atau kutipan dengan mengikuti kaidah dan etika penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

Apabila ternyata terbukti bahwa pernyataan ini tidak benar, sepenuhnya menjadi tanggung jawab saya.

Yogyakarta, 1 Maret 2017

Yang membuat pernyataan



Hairil Akbar Arifin

11211141007

MOTTOS

“The trouble is, you think you have the time”

(Buddha)

**“もし、お前がリスクを恐れるなら、未来を切り開く事は
できない”**

-If you don't risk yourself, you cannot create future-

(Monkey D. Luffy)

DEDICATION

I contentedly and happily dedicate this thesis:

to my beloved parents:

Mama and Bapak

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

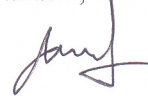
Alhamdulillahirobbil 'alamin, may all praise go to Allah SWT, the Lord of this world, the Almighty, and the Most Merciful, for the best blessing, love, opportunity, and health that have been given to me. I devote my utmost and sincere gratitude for His assistance and guidance during the writing of this thesis. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of individuals and the following groups for their helps and support, without which I would not have any strength to finish this thesis. Hence, I owe my deepest gratitude to:

1. Drs. Suhaini M. Saleh, M.A. my first supervisor, and Rachmat Nurcahyo, M.A. my second supervisor, who have given their priceless time and knowledge, not to mention their patience in order to guide me to complete this thesis;
2. Titik Sudartinah, M. A. my academic supervisor, who guided me during my study in this university;
3. my precious parents: Ach. Rifai and Dewi Murtasia who always love, motivate, support, and pray for me tirelessly;
4. my brother and sister: Fatahillah Zulfikar Muhammad and Nur Rohmah Kusuma Dewi who always give me inspiration during the writing process;
5. my housemates: Kholis, Sigit, Wisnu, and Iton for the funny times we have spent together; and

6. my beloved friends in Elit A: Dion, Efa, Fahma, Nia, Ocik, Farid, Sinta, Dwiss, Ntak, Nanda, and many others that I cannot mention one by one, for their kindness, togetherness, and moral support during these college years.

Finally, I cannot expect this thesis to be flawless. Therefore, I highly appreciate those who want to give any constructive comment and criticism for the betterment of the thesis.

Yogyakarta, March 23th, 2017



Hairil Akbar Arifin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
RATIFICATION SHEET	iii
<i>PERNYATAAN</i>	iv
MOTTOS	v
DEDICATION	vi
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
A. Background of the Study	1
B. Research Focus	5
C. Objectives of the Study	6
D. Research Significances	7
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	8
A. Sociolinguistics	8
B. Bad Language	11
C. Taboo	13
D. Swearing	16
1. Characteristic of swearwords	16
2. Types of Swearing	18
3. Reasons for Swearing	22
E. <i>Pulp Fiction</i> Movie	24
1. Summary of the Movie	24
2. The Main Characters of <i>Pulp Fiction</i> Movie	26
F. Previous Studies	26
G. Conceptual Framework	27
H. Analytical Construct	29
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD	30
A. Type of Research	30
B. Forms, Contexts and Source of the Data	31
C. Research Instruments	31

D. Technique of Data Collection.....	32
E. Technique of Data Analysis	33
F. Data Trustworthiness	34
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	36
A. Findings	36
B. Discussion.....	40
1. Type of Swearing.....	40
a. Emphatic Swearing.....	41
b. Dysphemistic Swearing	43
c. Idiomatic Swearing.....	45
d. Cathartic Swearing	48
e. Abusive Swearing.....	51
2. Reasons for Swearing	54
a. Psychological Motives.....	54
b. Social Motives	57
c. Linguistic Motives.....	61
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS.....	64
A. Conclusion.....	64
B. Suggestions.....	65
REFERENCES.....	67
APPENDICES	
APPENDIX A. Data sheet of Types and Reasons for Swearing in Quentin Tarantino's <i>Pulp Fiction</i> Movie	69
APPENDIX B. <i>Surat Peryataan Triangulasi</i>	85

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure 1	: <i>Pulp Fiction</i> Movie Poster	24
Figure 2	: Analytical Construct.....	29
Table 1	: Format Data of the Sheet of the Types of Swearing and Reasons for Swearing in the Movie <i>Pulp Fiction</i>	32
Table 2	:The Data Findings of Types of Swearing and Reasons for Swearing.....	37

A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Swearing by the Main Characters in Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* Movie

By
Hairil Akbar Arifin
11211141007

ABSTRACT

This research aims to (1) find out the types of swearing uttered by the main characters in *Pulp Fiction* movie, and to (2) observe the reasons for swearing uttered by the main characters in *Pulp Fiction* movie. In order to analyze swearwords which emerge within the movie, sociolinguistic approach is employed by the researcher.

This research used descriptive qualitative method in order to describe the findings of swearing phenomena and the discussion deeply. Moreover, quantitative method was also employed to support the interpretation of the data by displaying fixed percentages in numerical form. The data were in the form of utterances uttered by the two main characters, *Vincent Vega* and *Butch Coolidge*, while the contexts of the data were the dialogues between them which contain swearwords. The sources of data were the transcripts of each scene which involve the main characters in it. The data were collected and analyzed by categorizing the utterances which contain swearwords based on the objectives of the research and matching the transcripts within the movie carefully. The primary instrument of this research was the researcher, supported by the data sheet as the secondary instrument. The trustworthiness of the data was gained by triangulation.

The results of this research are stated as follows. Firstly, five types of swearing uttered by the main characters in *Pulp Fiction* are dysphemistic, abusive, idiomatic, emphatic, and cathartic swearing. From sixty three data found in the movie, emphatic swearing becomes the most frequently used type of swearing. Emphatic swearing is mostly used by the main characters because it is considered as mild swearing in which it is not really provoking the listeners while hear it. Moreover, emphatic swearing is used in order to emphasize the statement of the main characters. The least frequently used type of swearing is abusive swearing. Abusive swearing becomes the least used swearing uttered by the main characters since employing it is considered as inefficient in which it totally intimidates or downgrades the pride of the listeners. Secondly, three reasons for swearing are found in the movie, i.e. psychological motives, social motives, and linguistic motives. Social motives become the most frequently used reason for swearing since mostly the main characters employ swearwords triggered by the people in their surroundings. Psychological motives become the least motive used by the main characters since their use only occurs when the characters employ swearwords for themselves.

Keywords: *Pulp Fiction* movie, sociolinguistics, swearing