

AN ANALYSIS OF SWEAR WORDS USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN BLACK SUMMER MINI SERIES SEASON 1

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Abstract

Swear words serve as a means of linguistic communication that effectively conveys the emotions felt by individuals in specific circumstances. This study aims to elaborate on the types and functions of swear words by referring to Andersson and Trudgill (1990) and Ljung (2011). The research object is an American television miniseries titled Black Summer Season One. The data were obtained from the utterances of ten main characters in the miniseries, namely Rose, Patrick, William, Lance, Manny, Barbara, Ben, Carmen, Spears, and Phil. This research used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the utterances produced by the characters. The results showed that there are 125 data containing swear words. The characters in episodes 1 to 8 uttered expletive swearing 47 times, abusive swearing 60 times, and auxiliary swearing 18 times. Thus, abusive swearing was the most dominant type, while auxiliary swearing was the least used. Furthermore, the results revealed that each type of swear word has nine functions, consisting of seven single functions and two mixed functions, namely: (1) Expletive interjections function to express intense positive or negative emotions. (2) Curses are used to curse the bad behavior of other individuals, hoping that other individuals will have bad luck. (3) Adjective intensifiers serve to strengthen emotional content through the modification of nouns or adjectives in an utterance. (4) Dislike adjectives are used to express dislike for animate or inanimate objects (5) Emphasis serves to emphasize the noun to strengthen the statement. (6) Modals highlight the statement that comes before the verb. (7) Anaphoric epithets refer to a previously mentioned individual or group. (8) Unfriendly advice and anaphoric epithets are used to convey strong anger using unfriendly advice as well as giving negative names to other characters. (9) Curses and anaphoric use of epithets serve to curse an individual's behavior as well as give the individual a bad name. The findings indicated that the ten characters in the Black Summer miniseries season one endure mental turmoil as a result of perilous and hazardous circumstances. This condition prompts individuals to utilize swear words as a method of emotional expression and efficient communication of their thoughts and feelings.

Keywords: Swear words, type, function, Black Summer miniseries.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Humans utilize language as a systematic tool for communication, enabling the conveyance of ideas, information, emotions, and feelings through agreed signs, sounds, gestures, or signals that hold shared meanings (Tseng, 2018, p. 83). For communication to be effective, both the speaker and the listener must understand the meaning of the utterance. Therefore, speakers need to be familiar with a range of expressions, both formal and informal, to facilitate successful interaction (Muslimawati, 2022, p. 12). In this context, individuals frequently employ various forms of informal language, such as swear words, which are highly context-dependent. Swear words are often regarded as offensive and impolite, are restricted in many cultures and specific social contexts (Hunt et al., 2023, p. 137).

In addition, swear words as the use of words that are potentially offensive, inappropriate, or unacceptable in a particular social context (Stapleton et al., 2022, p. 2). Similarly, Setyaningtias (2023, p. 2) describe swear words as harsh and dirty words that are not commonly used as an outlet for anger or annoyance. On the other hand, swear words can also be used to express admiration or camaraderie, even playfully, rather than offensively. For social purposes, swear words can serve as a tool for communication that fosters solidarity and kinship within a group or community (Jdetawy, 2019, p.285).

In addition, In the modern era, the use of swear words has been increasingly normalized across various media platforms. These words appear frequently in television programs, music, films, interviews, podcasts, and online streaming services, including the *Black Summer* Season 1 mini-series, which is exclusively available on Netflix. Set in an apocalyptic world, the series portrays a society in collapse, grappling with extreme survival challenges and the breakdown of established norms. This setting offers a rich context for exploring how individuals and groups adapt to unprecedented crises, including shifts in behavior, communication, and social structures. Within this narrative, characters often use swear words—considered taboo and offensive in ordinary circumstances—both in their interactions with other characters and in their encounters with zombies, often as markers of danger. Some characters explicitly employ these words to attack others or to express heightened emotional tensions. By incorporating swear words into the dialogue, the series enhances the realism of its characters, effectively conveying emotions such as anger, surprise, frustration, and even moments of happiness or relief in the midst of intense situations.

This study aims to analyze the types and functions of swear words used by characters in television series. A television series is defined as a series of episodes written to be broadcast on television or released on a streaming platform. *Black Summer* Season 1 is an American television series released on Netflix that depicts the story of a zombie apocalypse and the struggle of surviving humans to reach a sanctuary: the stadium. By investigating the use of swear words, this study seeks to enhance readers' knowledge and understanding of the functions of swear words in communication. Additionally, this study highlights the importance of considering the social and cultural context in the use of swear words, as they are highly context-dependent. Furthermore, selecting *Black Summer* Season 1 as the focus of this study allows for an in-depth exploration of the diverse range of swear words employed by characters in specific contexts, particularly within the apocalyptic setting. The types and functions of swear words used by characters in such a setting serve as reflections of their emotional states and psychological experiences. Examining the functions of swear words in informal contexts is essential, as their

usage varies according to situational factors and communicative intent. This variability significantly influences the interpretation of the narrative's underlying message and enhances the understanding of how language operates in extreme social and emotional conditions

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sociolinguistics, as a branch of macro linguistic studies, extends its focus beyond the structural aspects of language to include broader social elements that shape and are shaped by linguistic practices (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015, p. 13). Among these elements is sociology, which provides a critical lens for understanding the interplay between language and society. Sociolinguistics, therefore, represents an intersection between two distinct yet complementary fields: sociology and linguistics. While sociology is the scientific study of humans in society, encompassing institutions and social processes, linguistics centers on language as its primary subject.

Furthermore, In the context of extreme scenarios, such as those depicted in the *Black Summer* Season 1 mini-series, sociolinguistic dynamics become even more pronounced. Set in an apocalyptic environment, the series offers a unique opportunity to analyze how social groups adapt their language use, particularly through the use of swear words, as a response to unprecedented challenges. The apocalyptic setting fundamentally alters linguistic norms and patterns of interactions, as characters face survival crises that demand rapid adaptation.

Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 61) explained that the use of swear words serves various purposes. Although often associated with negative emotions such as anger, distress, or danger, swear words can also be employed in contexts that evoke positive emotions. They can function as an alternative means of expressing admiration or other intense feelings experienced by an individual. Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 61) further identified four distinct categories swear words: expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary. Each category is characterized by unique features and functions within communication.

a. Expletive Swear Words

Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 61) suggest that the first type of swear word is called expletive swear word and has the function of expressing strong emotions, feelings of anger, danger, frustration, and even pleasure and sadness experienced by someone who is not directed at other people. This type of swear word is uttered by someone without having the purpose of insulting and cursing other people or groups but rather to vent the internal feelings of the speaker. Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 61) also added there are examples of expletive swear words are **Hell!, Shit!, Goddamn it!**.

b. Abusive Swear Words

This type of swear words are used by individuals with the intention of being directed at others. Abusive swear words are also used to insult or abuse others; including the use of name-calling and various types of curse words (Andersson and Trudgill, 1990, p. 61). These words are often aimed directly at a specific individual or group and serve to express hatred, contempt, or hostility. Examples of abusive swear words are **You asshole!, You bastard!, Go to hell!**. (Andersson and Trudgill, 1990, p. 61).

c. Humorous Swear Words

These humorous swear words are used to refer to others, but not to insult or abuse them. Humorous swear words are often rude but function differently from abusive swear words. Humorous swear words are more playful and less likely to be offensive (Andersson and Trudgill, 1990, p. 61). The example is **Get your ass in gear!** (Andersson and Trudgill, 1990, p. 61).

d. Auxiliary Swear Word

According to Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 61) the fourth type of swear word is called auxiliary swear words. Auxiliary swear words have several characteristics. First, these words are not directed at any specific person or situation, meaning their use is not intended to attack or insult individuals or circumstances. Second, auxiliary swear words are often employed as part of everyday communication styles without any strong emotional intent or purpose. This habitual use has led to their being labeled as *lazy swearing*, as they are not aimed at conveying explicit emotions or meanings. Lastly, auxiliary swear words are typically non-emphatic, indicating that their usage does not serve to provide emotional or rhetorical emphasis in conversation. Auxiliary swear words are generally used without the intention of providing emphasis or strong expression in conversation. Examples: this **fucking** X, **bloody** Y (Andersson and Trudgill, p. 61, 1990).

According to Ljung (2011, p. 9) has a number of distinct functions. Swear words are multifunctional, meaning they serve different functions within an utterance in specific communicative contexts. The function of these swear words should reflect the speaker's intentions and thoughts (Ljung, 2011, p. 14). Ljung (2011, p. 30) categorizes the functions of swear words into two main types: the *stand-alone function* and the *slot filler function*. *Stand-alone* swearing refers to expressions that function as independent utterances. These include speech acts, such as *expletive interjections*, *curses*, and *unfriendly suggestions*. On the other hand, the *slot filler function* involves swear words used as adverbial or adjectival intensifiers, adjectives of dislike, emphasis, Modal adverbial, and anaphoric use of epithets (Ljung, 2011, p. 22). The *slot filler function* of swear words, as described by Ljung (2011, p. 22), refers to their role in filling grammatical positions in a sentence where a word or phrase is expected, but without adding specific meaning to the content.

In the narrative context of *Black Summer Season 1*, swear words are used in diverse ways, reflecting the extreme situations faced by the characters. Sub-functions offer a framework to identify and differentiate the various functions of swear words in enhancing narrative realism, intensifying emotions, and portraying apocalyptic challenges. This study examines the sub-functions of swear words within Ljung's framework to provide a deeper and more context-specific understanding of their role in *Black Summer Season 1*. Adopting a sub-function analysis offers valuable insights, enhances narrative interpretation, and establishes a more relevant analytical framework aligned with the complexity of swear word usage in apocalyptic settings. As Ljung (2011, p. 30) emphasizes, the use of swear words varies significantly based on the speaker's emotional state and the situational context. This is consistent with the findings of Setyaningtias (2023), who highlights that individual employ swear words for various purposes and functions. However, the study does not elaborate on swear words that serve dual or mixed functions within an utterance. In contrast, the present study focuses on analyzing the functions

of swear words used by several characters in Season 1 of the *Black Summer* mini-series. This study explores the various types and functions of swear words that appear in the context of the mini-series, especially those uttered by several characters in the mini-series *Black Summer* Season 1. In addition, this study uses the theory proposed by Andersson and Trudgill (1990) to analyze the types of swear words, as well as the theory proposed by Ljung (2011) to deeply analyze the functions of swear words used by several characters.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method. qualitative methods aim to describe, explore, and explain phenomena, events, circumstances, or objects in a natural context by focusing on the meaning of behavior or actions conveyed through words or utterances. This study employs a descriptive qualitative method because it seeks to investigate and explain the phenomenon of swear words used by the characters in the mini-series *Black Summer* Season 1. The data for this study consist of words, phrases, or sentences containing swear words.

The object of this study is the *Black Summer* mini-series, an American mini-series created for Netflix by John Hyams and Karl Schaefer. The *Black Summer* mini-series was produced by The Asylum, the same production company behind *Z Nation*, and was released on April 1, 2019. The data for this study were obtained from the speech of ten characters in *Black Summer* Season 1, namely Rose, Spears, Manny, Barbara, Patrick, Ben, William, Lance, Carmen, and Phil. This object was chosen for analysis due to the prevalence of swear words in the characters' utterances, both in monologues and dialogues between characters. This study collected the utterances containing swear words produced by the ten characters throughout the series, as well as transcripts of their dialogue. The utterances produced by the ten characters were conversations they had with other characters in all episodes of the mini-series.

This study conducted in depth and comprehensively the phenomenon of language use in society, especially the use of swear words. The data in this study were collected from the utterances of characters in the mini-series *Black Summer* Season 1, all episodes. There are several steps to be taken in this study, as follows.

1. Downloading the *Black Summer* Season 1 mini-series through the official streaming media platform, i.e. Netflix's website.
2. Watching all episodes of the mini-series *Black Summer* Season 1 using the English subtitles provided by Netflix. This activity was repeated to gain a deeper understanding of the storyline. To ensure accuracy and avoid mistakes, the subtitles and transcripts were carefully matched with the spoken dialogue in the mini-series.
3. Identifying speech uttered by some of the characters in the mini-series using the English text and transcript to identify typical swear words
4. Making notes on utterances identified as containing swear words.
5. Classifying the collected data based on the types of swear words proposed by Andersson and Trudgill (1990) and the functions of swear words proposed by Ljung (2011).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data is taken from all of episodes of the mini-series, namely from Episode 1 to Episode 8, where a total of 125 swear words were identified in the mini-series. In this study the ten characters in all episodes of Black Summer Season 1 mini-series uttered forty-seven expletives swear words, sixty abusive swear words, and eighteen auxiliary swear words. Moreover, the number of data that are being analyzed in this chapter are 31 data. These consist of 9 data of expletives swear words, 16 data of abusive swear words, and 6 data of auxiliary swear words. In addition, the second section includes the analysis of the second problem formulation, where the swear words are categorized based on their functions. In this study, seven independent functions and two mixed functions were identified in *Black Summer* Season 1 mini-series.

A. Types of Swear Words in The *Black Summer* Season 1 Mini-Series

1. Expletives Swear Words

Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 61) state that expletive swear words are used by someone to express their strong emotions and feelings, such as anger, fear, surprise, sadness, frustration, or even pleasure experienced by them. Without having a specific literal meaning in the context of the sentence. Below is an analysis of the use of expletive swear words by the characters in Season 1 of the mini-series *Black Summer*:

Datum 2 / Minute 00:09:08

Rose : ...They don't know anything..

Patrick : ...Exactly, Rose. They don't.

You realize that They don't

know **what the hell** is going

on and everything is falling apart, babe..

Datum 2 is taken from episode 1 entitled *Human Flow*. This utterance is found at minute 00:09:08. The setting is inside the house. In this situation, Rose and Patrick enter an empty house to escape the chaotic situation outside. They were scared, frustrated, and confused by the uncontrollable zombie outbreak. They had to leave the danger zone and they had to save themselves to a safer place. In Datum 2, the phrase *What the hell* in the utterance '*What the hell is going on*' uttered by Patrick, is identified as *expletive swear words* because Patrick uses it spontaneously to express his strong emotions of confusion, and frustration. However, the phrase is not intended to insult others but rather to describe his reaction to the chaotic and dangerous situation he is facing. The swear words are used to convey his chaotic thoughts, as the zombie outbreak is uncontrollable and poses a significant danger to many people. The phrase *What the hell* has no literal meaning, but Patrick uses it to express his strong feelings and emotions. The emergence of the zombie outbreak caused uncertainty and frustration among the public, creating a very chaotic situation and threatening the safety of many individuals, including Rose and Patrick

2. Abusive Swear Words

According to Andersson and Trudgill (1990, p. 61), abusive swear words are used to directly insult others, with the intent to harm, insult, or degrade. These words express hostility, anger, or contempt and are often targeted at individuals or groups, carrying a significant negative social impact. In this study there are sixty data of abusive swear words were found. However, only sixteen data are described in this section. Below is an analysis of the use of abusive swear words by the characters in *Black Summer* Season 1 miniseries:

Datum 1 / Minute 00:08:49

Patrick : ...I'm not going, baby...

Rose : ..**Fuck You!**, You 're going..

Datum 1 above is an utterance taken from episode one, titled *Human Flow*. This utterance is found at minute 00:08:49. The setting is inside the house. Two characters, Rose and her husband Patrick, are trying to escape into an empty house. They are very frustrated and sad because the soldiers do not allow them to go to the stadium by taking the rescue car because Patrick was identified as having bite marks on his stomach. They had a daughter whom they loved very much, but they had to part with her, as she was taken by the soldiers in a rescue car to the stadium. Rose argued with Patrick and tried to convince Patrick that Patrick could survive despite being bitten by a zombie.

In datum 1, the swear words *Fuck you!* uttered by Rose is identified as an *abusive swear word*, as it functions as a personal insult directed at Patrick, reflecting Rose's anger and frustration. Rose expressed this swear words firmly and rudely, directly addressing her husband. Her hostility stemmed from her dissatisfaction with Patrick's response. Patrick, who was feeling desperate due to his imminent transformation into a zombie after being infected by the virus, expressed reluctance to act. Despite this, Rose made significant efforts to persuade Patrick that they could still stay together and visit their daughter. The primary purpose of the phrase was to convey anger, frustration, and hostility toward Patrick.

3. Auxiliary Swear Words

According to Andersson and Trudgill (1990), auxiliary swear words have the following characteristics: not directed at a specific person or situation, as a way of speaking ('lazy swearing') and often non-emphatic. The following are data that contain auxiliary swear words in the *Black Summer* season 1 mini-series.

Datum 10 / Minute 00:35:24

Spears : I gotta piss. I'll piss my **damn pants** if you don't believe me.

The data is taken from episode 1, entitled *Human Flow*, with the utterance occurring at minute 00:35:24. In this scene, a soldier captures Spears, who then experiences frustration and anger due to the soldier's attempts to detain him. Spears is held under the soldier's watchful eye in a house, with his hands tied to prevent him from escaping, significantly restricting his freedom of movement, making it difficult for him when he wants to pee.

In datum 10, the utterance *my damn pants* by Spears is identified as an auxiliary swear word because Spears uses this phrase not directly addressed to a specific individual or situation. It reflects one of the characteristics of “lazy swearing”, which refers to the use of swear words as intensifier or exclamation without strong emotional involvement. The word *damn* is used casually and without a significant emotional charge. Spears is not expressing deep anger but rather using *damn* as a form of emphasis to convey urgency in a somewhat nonchalant way. This is a hallmark of lazy swearing—where the swear word serves more as a linguistic tool for emphasis rather than an emotional release. It is not intended to shock or offend but to make the statement more colorful or forceful in a non-aggressive way, which aligns with the concept of lazy swearing. In this context, *damn* acts as a habitual intensifier without strong emotional or emphatic intent.

B. Functions of Swear Words in Black Summer Season 1 Mini-Series

Swear words are usually spoken for specific reasons. According to Ljung (2011, p. 9), swear words serve several distinct functions. The findings of this study reveal nine sub-functions used by several characters, consisting of seven independent functions and two mixed functions. The seven independent functions include *expletive interjections*, *curses*, *adjectival intensifiers*, *adjectives of dislike*, *emphasis*, *modal adverbials*, and *anaphoric use of epithets*. The two mixed functions identified are: first, *unfriendly suggestions* combined with *anaphoric use of epithets*, and second, *curses* combined with *anaphoric use of epithets*.

1. Expletives Interjections

Ljung (2011, p. 82). stated that expletive interjections are expressions that convey strong emotions, often involving joy, pleasure, frustration, anger, surprise, or other negative feelings. The swear words as expletives interjections. usually carry a significant emotional charge but are not always intended to convey a literal meaning. They function to release emotional tension. The following section presents data on swear words functioning as expletive interjections in Season 1 of the *Black Summer* miniseries:

Datum 11 / Minute 00 : 36 : 26

Spears : **Shit...**I can't go...

The scene takes place inside a house, where Spears is captured by three soldiers and taken indoors. His hands are handcuffed, and he is kept under close surveillance. Feeling frustrated and threatened by his loss of freedom, Spears desperately thinks of a way to escape.

The phrase *Shit* in datum 11, which is uttered by the character Spears, has a function as *expletive interjections* because the word is used by Spears as a spontaneous expression to intensify his emotional reaction. the word *Shit* uttered by Spears helps him convey strong emotions, namely frustration. He pondered intensely and felt frustrated at being unable to escape due to his bound hands. In addition, the word *shit* in this utterance has no literal meaning, as it does not contribute directly to the sentence's meaning but instead helps Spears express a strong emotional response.

2. Curses

Ljung (2011, p. 31) explains that swear words functioning as curses are utterances intended to invoke supernatural powers with the aim of causing harm or punishment to someone or something. In a technical context, a *curse* refers to an utterance meant to bring about misfortune or negative consequences through supernatural forces, rather than simply being a vulgar expression used in everyday conversation. A curse is more than just a casual insult; it involves a

deliberate wish or intention for bad things to happen to the target. This use of language is often fueled by strong emotions such as anger, frustration, or a desire to express ill will. The following section presents data containing swear words that function as curses in the *Black Summer* Season 1 mini-series.

Datum 1 / Minute 00:08:49

Patrick :...I'm not going, baby...

Rose : ..**Fuck You!**, You 're going..

In this scene, Rose tries to convince her husband to go to the stadium which is a safer place and they can meet their daughter there. However, Patrick is really desperate as he has been infected by the zombie virus. Rose is really experiencing unstable thoughts and intense emotions of frustration, sadness, anger because of the chaotic and dangerous situation she is facing due to the zombie outbreak. They can't be together anymore because her husband will soon become a dangerous zombie.

In Datum 1, the swear words *Fuck you!* uttered by Rose functions as a curse, used to express intense anger or frustration. When Rose says this to Patrick, the phrase is not intended to physically insult or harm him but is meant as an emotional reaction. The phrase is a strong, vulgar exclamation directed at Patrick, dismissing or rejecting him and indicating her strong negative feelings toward his refusal to go. The use of this curse highlights Rose's heightened emotional state and emphasizes how strongly she feels about the situation (Patrick's refusal). The curse can be interpreted as a way for Rose to assert control in the conversation or force Patrick to comply, making it both an emotional expression and a rejection of his decision.

In this situation, Rose uses *Fuck you!* to convey her anger and frustration toward Patrick, who refuses to leave. This utterance reflects Rose's displeasure with Patrick's response. Patrick, feeling desperate due to being infected by the virus and on the verge of turning into a zombie, rejects Rose's plea to stay together and visit their daughter. Despite her efforts to convince him, Rose ultimately expresses her frustration through this swear word. The conflict between the two characters highlights emotional tension, with *Fuck you!* serving as a sharp, emotion-laden response.

Furthermore, the phrase *Fuck you!* has no literal meaning but functions as a verbal expression to assert Rose's dominance in the conversation and release her negative emotions. According to Ljung (2011), *Fuck you!* fulfills the function of a curse because it is a verbal expression aimed directly at the addressee with the intent to attack or emotionally insult. It is used in a conflict situation to express deep frustration or anger. Thus, *Fuck you!* serves not only as an outlet for Rose's emotions but also reinforces the dynamics of the conflict between Rose and Patrick.

3. Unfriendly Suggestion and Anaphoric Use of Epithets

The function of unfriendly suggestion, as discussed by Magnus Ljung (2011) in *Swearing: A Cross-Cultural Linguistic Study*, Unfriendly suggestions are linguistic expressions used to convey aggression or anger directed at an individual. They function as a means of expressing displeasure, insult, or other negative emotions toward others. These expressions typically emerge in conversations as a reaction to the words or actions of another person. Although these expressions may appear to be genuine suggestions based on their literal meaning, their actual

intent is often far from literal. On the other hand, *Anaphoric Use of Epithets* refers to the use of swear words as a means of referring back (anaphora) to something or someone previously mentioned in the utterance. In this case, the swear word acts as a substitute for a reference to the person or object in question, usually with an emotional or expressive tone. The data below contains utterances with mixed functions, namely *unfriendly suggestion* and *anaphoric use of epithets*:

Datum 30 / Minute 00:13:37

William: ... You are the craziest I've ever seen, motherfuckers!
...**Kiss my ass, Motherfucker!**

In Datum 30, the phrase *Kiss my ass, Motherfucker* uttered by William functions as both an aggressive and offensive statement with two primary functions: as an *unfriendly suggestion* and as an *anaphoric use of an epithet*. The swear words '*Kiss my ass*' uttered by William function as an *unfriendly suggestion* because the expression contains a hostile and aggressive suggestion directed at the zombies. Although it is not a genuine suggestion, this utterance symbolically reflects the intensity of William's negative emotions. William is experiencing tension and urgency due to the sudden and brutal attack by the zombies. This expression not only highlights William's urgency and concern in dealing with the immediate threat but also illustrates the strong emotional pressure he is under in such a dangerous situation.

Furthermore, the swear word *motherfucker* in the utterance '*Kiss my ass, Motherfucker!*' functions as an anaphoric use of epithet. The epithet *motherfucker*, employed by William as a label, refers anaphorically to the pronoun *you* mentioned earlier at the beginning of the sentence. Specifically, *motherfucker* is directly addressed to the zombies, replacing the pronoun *you*. In this context, *motherfucker* is used explicitly as a label to describe the vicious and dangerous nature of the zombies.

4. Adjectival Intensifier

According to Ljung (2011, p.35), swear words that function as adjectival intensifiers are used to strengthen the meaning or provide emotional emphasis to the noun or adjective being modified. This function does not alter the basic meaning of the modified word but adds emotional intensity or a subjective expression of the speaker. In this function, the swear word does not necessarily carry its literal meaning but serves as a linguistic tool to strengthen the emotional impact or express strong feelings. In accordance with this, Ljung (2011) stated that adjectival intensifier is one of the functions of swear words. The following section presents data on swear words functioning as adjectival intensifier in Season 1 of the *Black Summer* miniseries:

Datum 10 / Minute 00:35:24

Spears : I gotta piss. I'll piss my **damn pants** if you don't believe me.

The setting of this scene takes place in a house, where an adult male character, Spears, is restrained with his hands bound under the supervision of a soldier. Spears expresses the need to urinate, but his movements are restricted due to his tied hands. Spears was captured by several

other soldiers. He seeks to escape the pressure imposed by the soldiers. He is deeply frustrated by the soldiers' actions. He thinks intensely and tries to come up with an idea on how to escape.

Furthermore, the utterance in datum 10 "I gotta piss. I'll piss my damn pants if you don't believe me," uttered by Spears, contains the swear word *damn*, which functions as an adjectival intensifier. The word *damn* in the utterance serves to modify and intensify the noun *pants* that it precedes. In this context, *damn* is used to intensify the meaning of the noun *pants*. However, the word 'damn' has no literal meaning in this context, but it is used to add emotional weight.

Adjective of Dislike

Ljung (2011, p. 67) states that individuals who use swear words that function as adjectives of dislike use them to express their disapproval or dislike, with these swear words modifying the referent of the noun they accompany. This usage demonstrates how swear words function in expressing strong emotions or attitudes toward the object or person being discussed. The following below presents data containing swear words that function as adjective of dislike:

Datum 19 / Minute 00:09:04

William : This road sucks, we gotta get off this road. Look this road is **shit**

The setting of this scene is a street within a complex residential area with numerous forks. William, Barbara, and a Korean girl travel along this road on their way to the stadium. William experiences significant frustration and confusion in deciding the correct path, ultimately hindering their progress toward their destination.

In datum 19, the swear word *shit* in the utterance '*this road is shit*' spoken by William functions as an *adjective of dislike*. The word *Shit* refers to the inanimate object *road* and modifies the noun to convey a strong negative judgment. In this context, *shit* reflects William's emotional response to the branching roads in the residential area, which cause confusion and frustration. William explicitly expresses his dislike for the road, as it hinders their journey and exacerbates his frustration. By using the word *shit*, William communicates a strong negative opinion directly. Unlike intensifiers that merely amplify intensity, *shit* serves to express a direct judgment of dislike toward the modified referent. The use of *shit* demonstrates the speaker's negative attitude toward the road, effectively conveying William's frustration and critical assessment of the challenging conditions they are facing.

5. Emphasis

Ljung (2011) argues that individuals who use swear words functioning as emphasis employ them to amplify the emotional impact of the following noun. Swear words functioning as *emphasis* are employed to intensify the overall meaning or context of a statement, enhancing the emotional weight or significance of the message being conveyed. This usage strengthens the expression, making it more vivid and forceful. The following presents data containing swear words that function as emphasis:

Datum 2 / Minute 00:09:08

Rose : ...They don't know anything..

Patrick : ...Exactly, Rose. They don't.

You realize that They don't
know **what the hell** is going

The location of the dialogue between Rose and Patrick is inside a house. Both enter the empty house in an attempt to escape the chaotic situation outside. The feelings of fear, frustration, and confusion they experience are fueled by the uncontrollable zombie outbreak. In this condition, they try to get out of the danger zone and find a safer place to save themselves.

In datum 2, the swear words *hell* in the utterance *what the hell is going on*, as used by William, primarily functions as an *emphasis*. The word *hell* is used to give stronger emotional weight to Patrick's statement, reflecting his frustration and despair over the chaos of the situation. By adding this swear word, Patrick makes his emotions more intense and clearly communicates the seriousness of the situation. Moreover, William employs the phrase *what the hell* to underscore the chaotic and dangerous situation, as the presence of numerous zombies renders the area unsafe to inhabit. However, the addition of the swear word *hell* in *what the hell is going on* does not carry its literal meaning but instead intensifies William's heightened emotional state. Consequently, this phrase conveys stronger feelings of confusion or frustration, demonstrating how swear words can amplify the emotional impact of the speaker's message without altering the core informational content.

6. Modal Adverbial

Ljung (2011, p. 34) asserts that swear words functioning as modal adverbials are typically employed as emphatic exclamations and are positioned before the main verbs in an utterance. This positioning serves to intensify the meaning of the verb, thereby amplifying the emotional tone or attitude expressed by the speaker. As modal adverbials, these swear words modify the entire clause or sentence, serving to convey the speaker's attitude, emotional intensity, or degree of certainty.

Datum 119 / Minute 00:17:29

An another troop : ...This man killed our member squad. He's killed others...
Spears :.. **Don't fucking believe them.** Rose, there is no more law. There is no more order...

In datum 119, the swear word *fucking* in the utterance '*Don't fucking believe them*', spoken spontaneously by Spears, functions as a modal adverbial. This is because the word *fucking* is placed before the verb *believe* in the utterance, modifying and intensifying its meaning. Spears uses the word *fucking* to strengthen the meaning of the verb *believe*, aiming to emphasize his disbelief in the false information conveyed by the two manipulative soldiers. The word *fucking* is added to the utterance to express the intensity of his feelings, which he wants to convey to Rose.

7. Anaphoric Use of Epithets

Ljung (2011, p.34) argues that swear words functioning as anaphoric use of epithets means that they are used to refer back entity or person that has been mentioned earlier in the conversation or text, in a derogatory or demeaning way. The following below presents data containing swear words that function as anaphoric use of epithets:

Datum 35 / Minute 00:29:21

William : ..You know, that was the first zombie
I ever seen so close. **Those fuckers**
are worse than I heard, huh?
Barbara : ...I remember the first one I saw....

In datum 35, The conversation occurs in a car, where Barbara, William, and a Korean girl try to save themselves by heading to a stadium, which is considered a safer place. They manage to escape the pursuit and brutal zombie attacks that nearly threatened their lives. In datum 35, the swear word *those fuckers* in the utterance '*Those fuckers are worse than I heard*', spoken by William, functions as an anaphoric use of epithet. This is because William uses the phrase *those fuckers* to refer back to the previously mentioned object, namely zombies. The word *fuckers* serve as an epithet used by William to describe zombies as vicious entities. Although this word has no literal meaning, its use reflects a strong emotional response to the chaos caused by the spread of the zombie outbreak, which makes the situation dangerous and unsafe. This anaphoric use of epithets involves the application of swear words as derogatory labels for individuals or groups already introduced in the utterance, which is fitting in this context. With such offensive and aggressive statements, William insults the actions of the zombies, reflecting his annoyance and anger. This type of epithet often serves to demean or insult particular individuals or groups.

8. Curses and Anaphoric Use of Epithets

Ljung (2011, p. 34) argues that swear words functioning as anaphoric epithets are used to refer back to an entity or person previously mentioned in the conversation or text, often in a derogatory or demeaning manner. On the other hand, Ljung (2011) states that curses can also function as a wish directed at someone, wishing them harm. The data below contain utterances with mixed functions, namely curses and anaphoric use of epithets:

Datum 7 / Minute 00:24:19

Barbara : ..**You're going to hell, Fucker!**

Ben :...Whatever, Lady!

In datum 7, Barbara feels deeply frustrated with a manipulative man named Ben because he asked her to leave the car, despite having previously requested her help to be allowed into the car. Ben's behavior provokes a strong sense of hatred in Barbara. In datum 7, the phrase *You're going to hell, fucker!* spoken by Barbara functions as both *a curse* and an *anaphoric use of epithet*. The phrase *You're going to hell* functions as a curse, through which Barbara emotionally expresses her hatred, wishing negative consequences for Ben's behavior. Barbara hopes that Ben ends up in a place as bad as hell. Additionally, the word *fucker* serves as an anaphoric epithet, replacing the personal pronoun *you* from the previous utterance. The epithet *fucker* does not carry a literal meaning but conveys a negative opinion or emotional attitude—specifically, Barbara's intense emotions toward Ben. The strong negative emotions felt by Barbara include hatred, frustration, and anger, as Ben forced her to leave the car. Barbara feels deceived by Ben's earlier pleading behavior. The word *fucker* is used harshly and emphatically by Barbara as a derogatory label or epithet for Ben, reflecting her deep disdain for him and the intensity of her feelings.

5. CONCLUSION

In this study, it was found that ten characters who appeared in episodes 1 to 8 of the mini-series *Black Summer* Season 1—namely Rose, Patrick, Spears, Lance, William, Phil, Barbara, Manny, Carmen, and Ben—often used utterances containing swear words, in accordance with Andersson and Trudgill's theory. A total of 125 data were identified as containing swear words. The most dominant type of swear word used by some of the characters in this mini-series is

abusive swear words. Meanwhile, the least frequently used type is *auxiliary swear words*. Based on the results, *abusive swear words* used 60 times, *expletive swear words* is used 47 times, and *auxiliary swear words* is used 18 times. Moreover, the amount of data described in this study is 31 data. These consists of 9 data of *expletive swear words*, 16 data of *abusive swear words* and 6 data of *auxiliary swear words*.

The second point shows that all functions of swear words are used by ten characters, in accordance with Ljung's theory. Each type of swear word serves a distinct function. Notably, in expletive swear words, 44 data function as *expletive interjections*, 1 data as *adjective of dislike*, and 2 data as *emphasis*. In the auxiliary swear words type, there are 5 data function as *adjectival intensifier*, 1 data function as *adjective of dislike* and 12 data function as *emphasis*. Meanwhile, In the abusive swear words type, there 5 data as *curses*, 4 data as *adjectival intensifier*, 4 data as *adjective of dislike*, 18 data as *emphasis*, 4 data as *modal adverbial*, 22 data that functions as *anaphoric use of epithets*, 1 data as *Unfriendly Suggestion and Anaphoric use of epithet* and 2 data as *Curses and Anaphoric Use of Epithets*. In addition, there are seven independent functions and two mixed functions, namely: first, Unfriendly Suggestions combined with Anaphoric Use of Epithets; and second, Curses combined with Anaphoric Use of Epithets.

The third point shows that in an apocalyptic setting, emotions run high due to the constant danger, loss, and uncertainty. Swear words, which carry significant emotional weight, are used as a form of emotional release or expression. As pointed by Ljung (2011), swear words serve to intensify emotional reactions and are often used as a way to cope with stress or trauma. The characters in *Black Summer* are immersed in high-stakes survival situations where their emotional responses might override the need for formal linguistic politeness, making swear words a natural part of their dialogue without violating any social norms that no longer hold sway. The use of swear words by characters in *Black Summer* Season 1, without violating cultural norms, can be attributed to the unique social dynamics in an apocalyptic setting. The breakdown of traditional social structures, the shift in communicative purposes, the emotional intensity of survival, and the need for group solidarity all contribute to a recontextualization of what is considered acceptable language. In this extreme situation, swear words take on new social functions and are integrated into the communication of the characters without infringing upon cultural norms, as those norms themselves have been dramatically altered. In addition, in apocalyptic situations, linguistic and social norms tend to shift significantly. Swear words are no longer merely perceived as violations of norms but become essential tools for communication under extreme pressure. This highlights that the idiolects and sociolects of the characters in *Black Summer* not only reflect their individual and group identities but also illustrate their linguistic adaptation to highly challenging social contexts.

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