



Research Paper

The use of English swear words among male and female students in University of Selangor

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ABSTRACT

The current study explored the use of English swear words among male and female students in University of Selangor. Swear words are still viewed as taboo and socially unacceptable by many people. However, it is widely used by people, especially young adults, in their day-to-day conversations. This captured many people's attention and sparked their curiosity as to why these words are articulated casually without fear of offending others and are gradually becoming an integral part of communication. Therefore, the study aimed to find out the most frequently used English swear words by male and female students, the situations that trigger them to use the English swear words, as well as the reasons for swearing. A questionnaire was distributed to 25 male and 25 female students. Following that, 5 male and 5 female students were randomly selected for an interview session. The findings revealed that "fuck" is the most frequently used English swear word among both male and female students. It was also found that both genders primarily used English swear words when they are angry. They also swore, mainly for negative reasons. Overall, it is believed that the study provides fruitful insights into male and female students' attitudes and perceptions towards English swear words and swearing.

Keywords: English swear words, swearing behaviour, male and female students

Received 06 Aug., 2024; Revised 15 Aug., 2024; Accepted 17 Aug., 2024 © The author(s) 2024.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Politeness, ethics, and proper use of language in communication are crucial in today's society, especially in a pluralistic society. In Malaysia, swear words are regarded as taboo words in every culture (Zainal, 2021). However, there is no denying that swear words are commonly practiced in day-to-day communication by people regardless of their age, gender, culture, social class, and educational status. Today, the use of English swear words in everyday conversations is widespread, particularly among university students. According to Zainal (2021), English swear words are frequently used by university students, as they are from Generation Y who enjoy exploring and learning new things. Meanwhile, it's interesting to note that students are proficient in using English swear words, although they may not be proficient in speaking the language as a whole.

Most of the students are aware of the fact that uttering English swear words is often socially unacceptable, but both male and female students tend to practice these words for various reasons. Interestingly, females appear to be equally good swearers as males. This is because it helps both male and female students express their emotion, whether it is positive or negative in various circumstances. These students feel that using English swear words is appropriate as it helps them to express their emotions, which makes them feel better or more relaxed and eventually heals their pain. Hence, it eventually becomes the norm for English swear words to appear in their daily lives and in everyday conversations. Comparatively, students also feel that using English swear words is inappropriate, as it might hurt a person's feelings and sometimes lead to an unpleasant event. Husna (2020) revealed that most of the students felt guilty about using swear words because they were offensive and hurt people's feelings. As a result, both male and female students are criticized for using swear words and despised for their offensiveness. Moreover, they are regarded as being bad, harsh, and impolite.

It's not surprising that swear words can be heard and seen every day and everywhere these days. English swear words are not typically taught in school or university, but the students learned them from their parents, friends, and the media. Nowadays, friends influence each other to swear, and they swear to display solidarity as well as to fit in with their circle of friends. Besides, parents also unconsciously impart swear words to their children when they swear around them. Furthermore, they are greatly influenced by media like television programmes or series, movies, games, social media, and the internet to use swear words on a day-to-day basis. Consequently, this leads both male and female students to swear in their daily lives although swear words are seen as profane and offensive by society.

Even though society condemns the use of English swear words by the students, many of them admit that they still utter the words and it is undeniable that every student swears at least occasionally, despite the fact that they try their level best to avoid them. Both male and female students tend to utter English swear words since they perceive swearing as normal for expressing or conveying their feelings. This is because swear words are considered a common part of one's language, and they are unquestionably one of the most effective ways to express emotions in various situations, such as anger, happiness, surprise, humour and so forth. As stated by Jay (2009), there is no other language as efficient or effective as swearing in conveying one's feelings.

Recently, the usage of English swear words among male and female students has become one of the most popular societal issues in Malaysia, which may break away Malaysian students' norms of politeness as those swear words can be heard more often in students' daily conversations. So, the question is, "Why do students still use English swear words regardless of the negative stigma that is attached to them?" Therefore, it is necessary to find out the reasons why the students use English swear words frequently and openly, as well as what are the students' viewpoint towards swearing. Hence, the current study is carried out to explore the following research questions:

1. What are the most frequently used English swear words by male and female students?
2. What are the situations that trigger male and female students to use English swear words?
3. Why do the male and female students swear?

This study is essential to identify the potential motivations behind swearing behaviour among male and female students while implementing necessary measures accordingly. It is believed that the study will provide some valuable insights into the usage of English swear words in the Malaysian context, considering that there are still not many studies conducted.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous Studies

Husna (2020) conducted a study to investigate university students' perceptions of using English swear words in Jakarta. The study revealed that students use swear words to express their emotions, especially anger, despite being aware that those words are offensive. Moreover, the students stated that movies have influenced them to use swear words. Ibrahim (2020), on the other hand, conducted a study to identify male and female students' perceptions toward the use of vulgar words in Malaysia. The study found that female students use vulgar words more freely than male students. Female students use those words for humour and to show intimacy, whereas male students use them to express frustration.

In 2021, Zainal conducted a study to explore the reasons and frequency of using English swear words among the students from the faculty of English Language Studies. The results revealed that students use swear words primarily to express their emotions, particularly anger. They also swear due to the influence of their peers and the media. Interestingly, these students always use English swear words in their communication. This aligns with Awoonor-Aziaku's (2023) study, which investigated the use of swear words among the undergraduate students at the University of Cape Coast. The study showed that the students use "damn," "fuck," "shit," "motherfucker," "bullshit," "bitch," and "asshole" most frequently. They use these words to express their emotions like happiness, excitement, frustration, shock, and pain. Furthermore, the students learned swear words from their friends and movies. Besides, the study found that the male students swear more frequently than the female students.

Recently, Farihan et al. (2024) conducted a study on university students of the English Literature programme at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung to find out the factors influencing them to use swear words as well as their feelings after using those words. The findings revealed that negative emotions, culture, entertainment media, and video game environments are the factors that influence them to use swear words. Additionally, the students' feelings after using the swear words ranged from relief to regret, depending on the context. In short, the findings of the previous studies illustrate and provide insights into the usage of swear

words among students in various contexts. The present study aims to further explore the use of English swear words among male and female students in University of Selangor.

English Swear Words

English swear words, also known as curse or vulgar words, are defined as taboo, rude, and offensive words used to express one's positive or negative feelings, which are considered inappropriate and impolite in certain cultures and societies. For instance, when a person experiences an intense emotion, be it joy, shock, anger or happiness, he or she tends to swear. Hence, this act is seen as impolite and unacceptable by society. As stated by Prayuda et al. (2019) and Setyaningtiyas et al. (2023), swear words refer to rude, harsh, impolite, and dirty words that are inappropriate, uttered by an individual to release his or her anger or annoyance.

Nowadays, English swear words are perceived as normal and have become popular in everyday language among male and female students due to its crucial role in releasing one's intense feelings. These words are mostly acquired from their peers, television programmes or series, films, songs, and social media. Setyaningtiyas et al. (2023) also stated that swear words can be found on television, movies, videos, music, and books. It's not surprising that at least one English swear word can be heard in most of the students' conversations today. Therefore, the current study will explore the categories of English swear words used by the male and female at University of Selangor students and how frequently they swear in the context of Malaysia.

Categories of English Swear Words

English swear words can be divided into various categories. Jay (2009) divided swear words into nine different categories. As stated by Jay (2009), swear words are made in reference to animal names (*dirty dog*), sexual references (*dickhead*), vulgar terms (*shit face*), offensive slang (*big tit*), ancestral allusions (*bastard*), ethnic, racial or gender slurs (*nigger*), psychological, physical or social deviation (*fat ass*), scatological referents and disgusting objects (*piss*), and profane or blasphemous (*holy shit*). Conversely, Andersson and Trudgill (1990) in Afrilya et al. (2021) cited that swear words are categorized into four different groups, which are humorous, expletive, auxiliary, and abusive. Despite that, swear words are categorized into five categories according to their level of offensiveness with the scale of offence created by the British Board of Film Classification (McEnery, 2006:30, as cited in Williamsson, 2009). The table below shows the list of swear words and its categories.

Table 1: Scale of Offense

Categories	Swear Words
Very mild	<i>bird, bloody, crap, damn, god, hell, hussy, idiot, pig, pillock, sod, son of a bitch, tart</i>
Mild	<i>arse, balls, bitch, bugger, christ, cow, dickhead, git, jesus, jew, moron, pissed off, screw, shit, slag, slut, sod, tit, tits, tosser</i>
Moderate	<i>asshole/arsehole, bastard, bollocks, gay, nigger, piss, paki, poofter, prick, shag, spastic, twat, wanker, whore</i>
Strong	<i>Fuck</i>
Very strong	<i>cunt, motherfucker</i>

Situations Trigger Swearing

Swearing depends on a range of situations that trigger a person to deliver English swear words. According to Nasser and Al-Tamimi (2021), the usage of swear words depends on the individual and the situation. It is used by an individual to express his or her emotions in various situations such as anger, surprise, sadness, humour, and joy (Nasser and Al-Tamimi, 2021). Likewise, Setiawan and Fatimatuzzahroh (2018) stated that swear words express people's feelings, conveying different meanings depending on the situation and context. Irrefutably, English swear words are commonly used in negative situations such as anger, in which a person lets off his or her frustration, irritation, outrage, and so forth. Nevertheless, these words are also used in positive situations such as happiness, in which a person expresses his or her joy, excitement, and so forth. In other words, both positive and negative situations could trigger a person to swear for various reasons or purposes. Several studies in various contexts have found that positive or negative situations lead a person to swear (Setiawan and Farihan, et al., 2024; Fatimatuzzahroh, 2018; Amrullah 2016). Hence, it is essential to discover the situations that trigger the use of English swear words among male and female University of Selangor students.

Reasons for Swearing

The most popular question here is why people still use swear words despite knowing those words are perceived as taboo, especially in a multiracial country like Malaysia. To address this, one must probe into the underlying reasons driving this swearing behaviour. As stated by Finn (2017), in order to understand why people swear, one needs to better understand the context and respond appropriately. Moreover, swearing can be intentional or unintentional, also referred to as conscious or unconscious. Jay and Janschewitz (2008) differentiate between unconscious (reflexive or automatic) swearing and conscious (controlled) swearing. Unconscious or unintentional swearing occurs when someone, for instance, cuts their finger with a knife and spontaneously says “fuck” due to unbearable pain. Conscious or intentional swearing, on the other hand, occurs when someone deliberately insults a person by calling him or her “dumbass.”

There are several reasons why people swear. However, this section focuses on three main reasons. Firstly, most of the people swear to express their strong emotions. It acts as a way of releasing negative emotions such as anger, frustration, fear, pain disappointment, and stress as well as positive emotions like joy, excitement, happiness, humour, and surprise. According to Jay and Janschewitz (2008), swearing mainly serves to express emotions, particularly frustration and anger. Additionally, Stapleton et al. (2022) asserted that swearing can express both negative and positive emotions, including excitement, anticipation, and joy. Therefore, swearing plays a significant role in expressing emotions, whether negative or positive, providing a sense of relief to a person.

Besides, some people swear to intimidate, insult, abuse or humiliate someone. Jdetawy (2019) stated that people usually swear to shock, amuse, and insult a person. They engage in verbal abuse rather than physical abuse, whereby attacking a person by calling him or her using swear words such as “bitch,” “asshole,” “bastard,” and so forth (Jdetawy, 2019). Although verbal abuse may be considered less harmful than physical abuse, this form of abusive swearing is widely regarded as rude, offensive, and hurtful, causing insults and emotional harm. Hence, swearing is used as a weapon to verbally attack someone, as it can help alleviate the particular person’s pain or intense feelings.

Last but not least, people swear to express social bonding or distance, display intimacy or friendship, affirm group membership, strengthen group identity as well as to display or enhance solidarity (Locher & Graham, 2010; Jdetawy, 2019; Setyaningtias et al., 2023). It can be said that swearing provides various social functions in different contexts, groups, and relationships, depending on where and with whom it is used. As stated by Jdetawy (2019) and Setyaningtias et al. (2023), swearing exchanges such as in conversations or jokes among friends or peers, display the intimacy between them. This indicates their closeness in friendship, where swearing is merely for fun or joking purposes as well as for emphasising something in their conversations without intending to hurt one another’s feelings.

Clearly, people swear for various reasons. A few studies revealed the reasons why students swear in various contexts. Babushko and Solovei (2019) found that swearing provides an opportunity for both male and female students to express both negative and positive feelings. Awoonor-Aziaku in 2023 found out that students mainly swear due to frustration, shock, pain, happiness, and excitement. Meanwhile, Setyaningtias et al. (2023) found that students swear to express annoyance, anger as well as to show intimacy in friendship. Hence, the current study aims to identify the reasons behind swearing among male and female students in University of Selangor.

III. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

A mixed-methods research design was used to collect data for the study. This design combines both quantitative and qualitative methods to gather the necessary data. The quantitative method adds breadth to the study by facilitating the collection of numerical data from a larger number of participants, while the qualitative method adds depth by providing a deeper understanding of the problem or issue and capturing participants' responses, thoughts, or opinions (Dawadi et al., 2021). Moreover, the quantitative data can potentially support the qualitative data, and vice versa. Therefore, a mixed-methods research design is the most suitable for this study, as it allows for a comprehensive understanding of the current issue through data triangulation.

Instruments

Two instruments, namely, a questionnaire and a follow-up interview, were used to collect the data for this study. A questionnaire was chosen as the instrument because it helps to obtain wide data, whereas an interview was chosen because it helps to obtain more in-depth data. The questionnaire and interview questions were adapted and adopted from the previous studies on swear words and swearing. Both instruments were used

to identify the most frequently used English swear words by the male and female students, the situations that trigger them to use the English swear words, and the reasons for swearing.

Data Collection & Analysis Procedures

The questionnaire was distributed to 25 male and 25 female students from the Faculty of Education and Social Science in University of Selangor. Following that, 5 male and 5 female students were selected from the sample randomly for the interview. Despite the fact that the sample of the study was more accessible to the researcher, the major reason for selecting university students as a sample was motivated by previous swearing studies that showed swearing behaviour occurs within this type of speech community. The data collected from the questionnaires was analysed using a numerical formula of frequency and percentage counts based on the sample size of the respondents. On the other hand, the data collected from the interview sessions was analysed using a thematic analysis. The themes were developed according to the students’ responses in the interview sessions. The findings of the questionnaires were triangulated with the findings of the interview sessions.

IV. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The findings of the study about the use of English swear words among male and female University of Selangor students were presented and discussed in this section. Following that, comparisons between male and female students’ usage of English swear words were also discussed in this section. In other words, this section answered the research questions of the study.

Table 2: Respondent’s Gender

Demographic Variable	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	25	50
Female	25	50
Total	50	100

Table 1 presents the demographic information of the respondents. The table shows the number of respondents who participated in this study. It also shows that out of 50 students, 25 respondents are female, whereas 25 respondents are male.

R1: What are the most frequently used English swear words by male and female students?

The respondents were asked to state five English swear words that they use frequently. They were also asked to state their frequency of swearing. The table below presents the findings obtained from the respondents.

Table 3: Most Frequently Used English Swear Words by Male and Female Students

No.	List of English Swear Words	N=125 (25 Respondents x 5 English swear words)			
		Male		Female	
		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Fuck	27	21.6	30	24
2	Shit	19	15.2	22	17.6
3	Asshole	13	10.4	11	8.8
4	Bitch	12	9.6	16	12.8
5	Motherfucker	7	5.6	7	5.6
6	Damn	7	5.6	7	5.6
7	Bullshit	5	4	3	2.4
8	Dickhead	5	4	3	2.4
9	Idiot	4	3.2	5	4
10	Hell	4	3.2	5	4
11	Bastard	4	3.2	5	4
12	Pussy	4	3.2	-	-
13	Cunt	3	2.4	2	1.6
14	Son of a bitch	2	1.6	-	-
15	Pig	2	1.6	-	-
16	Penis	1	0.8	-	-
17	Cuck	1	0.8	-	-
18	Piss off	1	0.8	-	-

19	Bloody	1	0.8	4	3.2
20	Holy shit	1	0.8	3	2.4
21	Ass	1	0.8	-	-
22	Dog	1	0.8	2	1.6
Total		125	100	125	100

Table 2 shows a list of English swear words used by male and female students most frequently. Based on the table above, the top five English swear words used by both male and female students are “fuck” (21.6%) and (24%), “shit” (15.2%) and (17.2%), “asshole” (10.4%) and (8.8%), “bitch” (9.6%) and (12.8%), “motherfucker” (5.6%) and “damn” (5.6%). Therefore, it can be said that both genders use the same English swear words, except for the differences in percentages. Nevertheless, “fuck” is the most frequently used swear word among them. Furthermore, the students used swear words in the categories of sexual references, scatological and disgusting objects, profane or blasphemous, gender slurs, and animals.

According to the scale of offense created by the British Board of Film Classification (McEnery, 2006:30, as cited in Williamsson, 2009), both male and female students in this study used very mild, mild, moderate, strong, and very strong English swear words. For example, motherfucker is categorised as a very strong swear word, whereas fuck is a strong swear word. Meanwhile, asshole and bitch are the moderate swear words. Besides, shit is a mild swear word, and damn is a very mild swear word. Hence, both male and female students can be considered strong swearers, given that “fuck” hit the top of the list of swear words.

Table 4: Frequency of Swearing by Male and Female Students

No.	Frequency of Swearing	Male		Female	
		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Whenever I am talking	14	56	10	40
2	Daily	5	20	8	32
3	Weekly	4	16	4	16
4	Hourly	2	8	2	8
5	Monthly	0	0	1	4
6	Yearly	0	0	0	0
7	Less often than yearly	0	0	0	0
8	Never	0	0	0	0
Total		25	100	25	100

Table 3 presents the frequency of swearing among male and female students. The findings revealed that the majority of the male students (56%) tend to swear whenever they are talking, whereas majority of the female students (40%) tend to swear daily. It can be deduced that male students tend to swear more as compared to female students. However, both genders are considered to be frequent swearers.

R2: What are the situations that trigger male and female students to use English swear words?

The respondents were asked to choose the situations that trigger them to use English swear words. The tables below present the findings obtained from the respondents. The findings from the questionnaire were triangulated with the findings from the interview.

Table 5: Situations that Triggers Male and Female Students to use English Swear Words

No.	Situations	Male		Female	
		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
1	Anger	8	32	9	36
2	Frustration	6	24	6	24
3	Shock	5	20	6	24
4	Pain	2	8	3	12
5	Happiness	4	16	1	4
Total		25	100	25	100

Table 6: Situations that Triggers Male and Female Students to use English Swear Words

Gender	Situations		Responses
Male	Negative	Anger/ Frustration	<i>"Because, I was very anger very well. I...I have no idea who hit me. "So, I said this fucking bloody stupid guy." "I lost my purse and that I swear oh god damn, why this happen, shit"</i>
	Positive	Happiness	<i>"I swear for the fun and happiness. I swear to see the emotion that they will express to me"</i>
Female	Negative	Anger/ Frustration &	<i>"I play Free Fire. So, every time I don't shoot someone or someone shoot me, I will say all those kinds of words because I am angry that time." "I studied for, not even one question came out. All was like I don't know anything. "I swear all, I used all the swear words to swear."</i>
		Shock	<i>"I shouted like what the fuck is wrong with the lizard. I curse all along the way before flush it into the toilet bowl. Yeah, I really swear because you know it left me with the shock."</i>

Swearing depends on certain situations that stimulate a person to use swear words. The situation can be positive or negative, depending on the extent to which it triggers a person to utter swear words. Based on the tables above, it's clearly indicated that situations of anger predominantly trigger both male and female students to use English swear words, with 32% of male and 36% of female students swearing primarily in such situations. Additionally, 24% of both male and female students use swear words in situations of frustration. Meanwhile, 20% of male and 24% of female students use swear words in situations of shock. Conversely, a smaller percentage of students use swear words in positive situations. Only 8% of male and 12% of female students use swear words in painful situations, while just 16% of male and 4% of female students use swear words in happy situations. The findings also identified a few situations where English swear words are used by the students, and they are most frequently used in situations of anger and frustration (refer to Table 5). Thus, it can be inferred that both male and female students use English swear words mostly in negative situations to express their negative emotions rather than in positive situations.

R3: Why do the male and female students swear?

Respondents were asked to state three reasons for swearing. Table 6 presents the findings obtained from the respondents. The findings from the questionnaire were triangulated with the findings from the interview.

Table 7: Reasons for Swearing by Male and Female Respondents

Gender	Reasons	N=75 (25 Respondents x 3 Reasons)		Responses
		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	
Male	Positive (Happy, excitement, to joke, emphasize a point and show intimacy)	22	29.4	<i>"I am happy." "Just for joke." "Be excited" "I'm used to that person already." "I swear when I try to say something in terms of emphasizing over it."</i>
	Negative (Anger, shock, frustration mad, annoyance, sad and influence of people - parents, siblings, friends/peers, etc.)	43	57.3	<i>"When I am angry." "I am shock." "When my internet connection is slow." "People around me use it." "I'm mad." "I get annoyed." "We're not meant to be together." "Mostly frustrating and then anger."</i>
	Behaviour (Habit and accidental or	10	13.3	<i>"Since high school that I can't get rid." "My way of speaking." "Spontaneous or in rush."</i>

	impulsive reaction)			
	Total	75	100	
Female	Positive (Happy, excitement, to joke, emphasize a point and show intimacy)	18	24	<i>"Joke with my friends."</i> <i>"I'm happy because all my friends do stupid things."</i> <i>"I'm extremely excited"</i> <i>"Compliment the sentence."</i> <i>"I am comfortable with the person."</i>
	Negative (Anger, shock, frustration mad, annoyance, sad and influence of people - parents, siblings, friends/peers, etc.)	44	58.6	<i>"I'm angry or pissed off with people."</i> <i>"I was annoyed with people's behaviour."</i> <i>"I'm shocked when hear any news by all of sudden."</i> <i>"I'm sad (when my heart is broken)."</i> <i>"I was frustrated with something."</i> <i>"I get mad and I don't want to throw rampage at others."</i> <i>"When people started to use it to me first."</i> <i>"When I am fighting."</i>
	Behaviour (Habit and accidental or impulsive reaction)	13	17.4	<i>"I am used to it."</i> <i>"It is in me."</i> <i>"Slip of tongue."</i> <i>"I get shock and the words automatically come out from my mouth."</i>
	Total	75	100	

Table 6 illustrates various reasons that cause male and female students to swear. The reasons are categorized into three main groups, namely, positive, negative, and behaviour. It is revealed that 57.3% of male students swear due to negative reasons. These students swear when they experience the emotions of anger, shock, frustration, madness, annoyance, and sadness. They also swear due to the influence of other people like parents, siblings, friends or peers and more. Moreover, 29.4% of male students swear for positive reasons. They swear when they are happy and excited, as well as to joke, emphasize a point, and show intimacy. Apart from that, 13.3% of them swear because of their own behaviour. They swear due to their habit and accidental or impulsive reactions. The findings cited various reasons stated by the male students for swearing (refer to Table 6). Similarly, 58.6% of female students swear to vent out their negative emotions, such as anger, annoyance, shock, sadness, frustration, and madness, as well as due to the influence of other people like parents, siblings, friends or peers and more. Meanwhile, 24% of the students swear to joke, emphasize a point, show intimacy, and express happiness and excitement. Despite that, 17.4% of them swear because of their habits and accidental or impulsive reactions. The findings cited various reasons given by the female students for swearing (refer to Table 6). In short, both male and female students swear mainly due to the negative reasons as compared to other reasons.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In a nutshell, both male and female students in University of Selangor use English swear words more frequently to express shock, anger, pain, happiness, and frustration, whereby males use them whenever they are talking while females use them daily. Additionally, they use English swear words mainly in situations of anger. They also swear due to negative reasons such as anger, annoyance, shock, sadness, frustration, and madness, and are often influenced by people. Notably, there is no significant difference between the male and female students in their swearing habits. Many students use English swear words as a channel for releasing their emotions, which helps them feel better, relaxed, and happier. It is important to realize that the use of English swear words is not solely for abusing or insulting a person. In fact, it can have positive impacts on an individual. On the other hand, it can also have negative impacts if the intention is to offend or harm an individual. Swearing is acceptable among the male and female students, as they don't find it offensive among their group of friends. However, it is still unacceptable for certain groups of people, as they find it offensive, rude, and impolite. In fact, swearing in public areas leads to negative judgements by society. Thus, students need to be mindful of

when, where, and with whom they use English swear words to reduce or avoid potential consequences. In short, swear words have undoubtedly become a significant aspect of human language, and it depends on how a person perceives those words.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

English swear words have gained a place in everyday communication among male and female university students due to their vital role in expressing and relieving one's intense emotions. Students tend to swear no matter what the occasion is, no matter who is with them, no matter where they are, they always swear. Thus, it is recommended that the students be aware of the context, whether it's formal or informal, and consider sociolinguistic factors such as age, gender, and ethnicity before using swear words. This awareness is important to avoid several consequences, like social and interpersonal conflicts. Likewise, listeners should understand the students' underlying reasons for swearing as a mode of expression. Furthermore, parents and teachers should play a pivotal role in educating children on the appropriateness and inappropriateness of the usage of English swear words. This will enhance students' understanding of swear words and swearing and allow them to be more conscious of their utterances in their conversations. Further studies are necessary in order to explore the factors influencing swearing behaviour among both genders across various age groups, with larger and more diverse samples, in various contexts and by employing different methods or instruments to gain valuable insights into swearing and its implications.

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