

Swear Word Found in We Have a Ghost Movie

Frina Diniarta Nur

frinadiniarta@gmail.com

English Language Department, Institut Bisnis Nusantara Jakarta

Rini Adriati

rini_adriati@yahoo.com

English Language Department, Institut Bisnis Nusantara Jakarta

Aulul Miftahurizki Akbar

aululakbar076@gmail.com

English Language Department, Institut Bisnis Nusantara, Jakarta

Nur, F.D., Adriati, R. and Akbar, A.M. (2025). Swear Word Found in We Have a Ghost Movie. *Journal of English Language and Literature*, 10(2), 397-404. doi: 10.37110/jell.v10i2.305

Received: 10-07-2025

Accepted: 15-08-2025

Published: 02-09-2025

Abstract: Swear words are commonly used in movies to convey emotions, create humor, or express conflict. The purpose of this research is to identify the swear words, their types, and the motives for swearing in *We Have a Ghost*, a movie directed by Christopher B. Landon. This study uses a qualitative method to analyze the collected data. The analysis reveals 58 occurrences of swear words categorized into four types: expletive (30), abusive (6), humorous (9), and auxiliary (13). The findings also show three motives for swearing: psychological (42), social (10), and linguistic (6). These results highlight how swearing functions as a linguistic tool for character expression and audience engagement in the movie.

Keywords: Swear Words, Types, Motives, *We Have a Ghost Movie*

INTRODUCTION

Swear words, also known as bad words, obscenities, or expletives, are words or phrases that are considered vulgar, offensive, or blasphemous. They can express a range of emotions, such as anger, annoyance, or surprise, and can also be used to emphasize emotion or as a stylistic expression. Swearing among school-age children and pre-teens is usually a way to express negative feelings, as a response to something painful, upsetting, or frustrating. It can also be a way to fit in socially, be part of the group, stand out by being funny or adding shock value to their talk. While parents' language habits are the biggest influence on a child's swearing, the internet, television, and other media may also make adolescents more comfortable with swearing.

Schweinberger and Burrige's (2025) research on Vulgarities in Online Discourse Around the English-speaking World states that the use of vulgar language is a widespread global phenomenon, but it is heavily influenced by local cultural nuances. The use of vulgar

words is closely linked to values such as individualism and informality, although a lexical approach alone does not adequately capture contextual meanings and non-English forms. Overall, vulgar language in online discourse serves as a means of cultural expression and identity formation amidst the dynamics of global digital communication. This research takes a corpus-based approach to study vulgar language in online communication across 20 English-speaking regions based on the Global Web-Based English Corpus (GloWbE).

Swearing is more than just offensive language. As Jay (2008) states, swearing is used to indicate an emotional state and convey information, similar to the use of car horn to signal the driver's state. Likewise, Ljung (in Nur and Septiani, 2023) states that swearing is used to emphasize speech, and often works alongside other emphasizing techniques, such as stress, intonation, tone of voice, gestures, and facial expression. In addition, Horan (2011, in Permadi, 2017) views swearing as a variation in

communication, using specific lexical units.

Studying swear words is important because it reveals social norms, emotional expression, and cultural values. Previous research on swear words has explored various contexts and approaches. Yusuf (2024) in his research entitled “An Analysis of the Swear Words Used in Facebook Fan Page ‘Jancok Kata Kata Kota Kita’ (JK4)” analyzed swear words on the Facebook fan page *Jancok Kata Kata Kota Kita* (JK4), focusing on their types and functions using Anderson and Trudgill's (1990) theory. He identified six types of swear words, which function more as communication styles than negative expressions.

Similarly, Permata (2021) in her research entitled “An Analysis of Swear Words in *Death Race* Movie: Sociolinguistics Approach” examined types and functions of swear words in *Death Race* movie using Pinker's (2007) theory. She identified four types and four functions of swear words.

In addition, Sinaga (2021) in her research entitled “The Strategies in Translating Swearing Words in Mark Manson's ‘The Subtle Art of Not Giving A Fuck’ into Indonesian ‘Sebuah Seni Untuk Bersikap Bodo Amat’ by F. Wicaksono” examined translation strategies and categories of swear words. She identified five translation strategies and eight categories of swear words.

Previous studies have largely examined swear words by focusing on their types, functions, or translation strategies. While these studies have contributed to understanding swearing as a communication tool, they often stop at describing functions without exploring the underlying reasons for their use. This study addresses this gap by combining Jay's (2008) typology of swearing with Karjalainen's (2002, in Permadi, 2017) motive framework—psychological, social, and linguistic. By examining both types and motives, this study provides a more nuanced understanding of why individuals swear in certain contexts, going beyond a superficial description of function. This dual approach offers a deeper interpretation of the relationship between linguistic forms, emotional expressions, and social dynamics, extending previous research and emphasizing the study's originality in language and pragmatics research.

Types of Swear Words

Jay (2008) offers four types of swearing: expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary swearing. Expletive swearing is not directed to other people. It is used to express personal emotions, such as anger, shock, and frustration. The examples of expletive swear words can be seen in Example (1).

Example (1)

Fuck, damn, hell, shit
(<https://www.jumpspeak.com/blog/english-swear-words>, Accessed: 21 October 2024)

Abusive swear words are often uttered to show anger when someone is very irritated, having an argument, getting carried away, and feeling insulted. This type of swearing is additionally directed towards others, and it consists of name-calling and different types of curses. The examples of abusive swear words can be seen in Example (2).

Example (2)

You asshole, Fuck you, You son of a bitch
(The Writers, 2024)

Humorous swear words usually use abusive words but it has a different function. The reason people use these swear words is to ease the surroundings or for fun. Humorous swear words are usually used by people who have close relationships with each other, such as best friends and family members. The examples of humorous swear words can be seen in Example (3).

Example (3)

Hey fat ass, You dickhead (The Writers, 2024)

Auxiliary swear words are different from the other types of swear words because they do not have any significant meaning or are not directed to a person or situation. This type is also called “lazy word”. The examples of auxiliary swear words can be seen in Example (4).

Example (4)

I fucking know it, What the hell was that?
(The Writers, 2024)

Motives of Swearing

Karjalainen (2002, in Permadi, 2017) identifies three motives of swearing: psychological, social, and linguistic. Psychological motives arise when someone uses swear words to express strong emotions such as anger, frustration, or joy. Swearing

serves as a harmless outlet, replacing physical aggression or other negative reactions. Social motives relate to the use of swear words as a tool to build or strengthen social bonds, attract attention, or create a sense of solidarity within a group. Swear words can also be used humorously, provocatively, or to express intimacy in certain social contexts. Linguistic motives occur when swear words are used solely for emphasis or to strengthen the meaning of an utterance. In this case, the swear words are not directed at a specific individual, but rather serve as a linguistic device to add intensity or emphasis to the communication.

METHOD

Creswell (2018) states that descriptive qualitative is a method that explores and understands the meaning that is contained in people and organizations related to social problems. This method is used by the writers to analyze the type of swear word and the motive for swearing uttered by the character in *We Have a Ghost*. The source of the data is *We Have a Ghost* movie by Christopher Landon. The movie was published in 2023, and the duration of the movie is two hours and seven minutes.

In collecting the data, the writers took several steps. First, the writers watched the entire movie. Then the writers identified the data using the theory of Horan (2011, in Permadi, 2017). After that, the writers wrote down the data using a note-taking technique. Finally, the writers classified the data according to the theories.

The technique of data analysis that the writers used is based on three research questions that have been formulated in Chapter One and their related theories. First, the writers collected and identified the swear words that the characters say in *We Have a Ghost* movie using the theory of Horan (2011, in Permadi, 2017). Second, the writers analyzed the types of swear words used by the characters in *We Have a Ghost* movie using the theory of Jay (2008). Finally, the writers analyzed the kinds of motives that cause the characters in *We Have a Ghost* movie to swear using the theory of Karjalainen (2002, in Permadi, 2017).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings

Regarding research question 1, which is what swear words the characters say in *We*

Have a Ghost movie directed by Christopher Landon, the writers found 58 pieces of data.

Regarding research question 2, which is types of swear words, the writers found all types of swear words in these 58 data. The writers found 30 (thirty) data that belong to expletive swear words type. The swear words that belong to the type of expletive swear words are *what the hell* in data 3 and 4; *shit* in data 5, 12, 16, 17, 26, 31, 32, 36, 38, 41, 42, 45, and 55; *holy shit* in data 6, 15, 20, 30, 43, and 51; *bullshit* in data 9 and 29; *oh my God* in data 18, 27, 46, and 48; *asshole* in data 37; *dick* in data 28; and *lapdog* in data 22.

The writers also found 6 (six) data that belong to abusive swear words type. The swear words that belong to the type of abusive swear words are *bitch* in data 52; *douchebag* in data 7; *dumbass* in data 40; *stupid* in data 19 and 24; and *roach* in data 25.

Next, the writers found 9 (nine) data that belong to humorous swear words type. The swear words that belong to the type of humorous swear words are *bitch* in data 1, 10, and 58; *shitty* in data 57; *fool* in data 13; *dog face* in data 14; *ass* in data 23; and *stupid* in data 49,50.

Finally, the writers found 13 (thirteen) data that belong to auxiliary swear words type. The swear words that belong to the type of auxiliary swear words are *hell* in data 2, 34, and 53; *the hell* in data 33, 35, 39, and 56; *shit* in data 8, 11, and 21; *goddamn* in data 54; *ass* in data 44; and *damn* in data 47.

Regarding research question 3, which is motives of swear word, the writers found 42 (forty-two) data that have psychological motives for swearing. The swear words that have psychological motives for swearing are *what the hell* in data 3 and 4; *shit* in data 5, 12, 16, 17, 26, 31, 32, 36, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 55; *holy shit* in data 6, 15, 20, 30, 43, and 51; *douchebag* in data 7; *bullshit* in data 9 and 29; *oh my God* in data 18, 27, 46, and 48; *stupid* in data 19 and 24; *lapdog* in data 22; *roach* in data 25; *dick* in data 28; *the hell* in data 33, 35, and 39; *asshole* in data 37; *dumbass* in data 40; *hell* in data 34 and 53; and *bitch* in data 52.

The writers also found 10 (ten) data that have social motives for swearing. The swear words that have social motives are *bitch* in data 1, 10, and 58; *shit* in data 1; *fool* in data 13; *dog face* in data 14; *ass* in data 23; *stupid* in data 49 and 50; and *shitty* in data 57.

Finally, the writers found 6 (six) data that have linguistic motives for swearing. The swear

words that have linguistic motives are *hell* in data 2; *shit* in data 8 and 21; *damn* in data 47; *goddamn* in data 54; and *the hell* in data 56.

Discussions

The following is a sample analysis of ten data.

Data 1

06:08-06:12

Fulton: “(Roar) Got ya, **bitch**.”

Kevin: “Ha, ha, ha. You got me. Ha.”

Situation

The scene takes place during the day as the Presley family—Frank, Melanie, and their two sons, Fulton and Kevin—are touring an abandoned old house with a real estate agent named Barbara. The family, who are African-American, is considering moving into the house. While Frank, Melanie, and Barbara are checking out the first-floor rooms, Kevin remains in the car, wearing earphones, and shows no interest in the property. Knowing his brother was still outside in the car, Fulton got out and forced his younger brother to come inside. Kevin then got out of the car and went inside the house. He went up to the second floor of the house and found the entrance to the attic. Kevin was checking the attic when Fulton suddenly appeared and playfully surprised Kevin.

Analysis

The word “bitch” is a swear word because it is an offensive word for a woman who is considered to be unpleasant or unkind (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/bitch>). However, in this context, its use is not offensive. Rather, it reflects humorous swearing, one of the four types of swearing identified by Jay (2008), whose purpose is to entertain rather than insult. Fulton's word choice underscores the informal and playful nature of the interaction, common in close family relationships.

The motive behind Fulton's swearing is primarily social motive, as defined by Karjalainen (2002, in Permadi, 2017), where swearing serves to strengthen relationships or demonstrate familiarity. Rather than being intended to hurt, Fulton's joking tone and Kevin's subsequent laughter suggest that the use of the word “bitch” is a sign of friendship and closeness between siblings. This finding supports previous observations that swearing, when used among friends or family, can

enhance social bonding and express solidarity rather than hostility.

Data 2

06:31-06:35

Kevin: “Think we're gonna move here?”

Fulton: “**Hell** no, man. This place is a dump.”

Situation

This scene takes place shortly after Fulton playfully scares Kevin in the attic. The two brothers remain upstairs, standing by the attic window, observing their parents and real estate agent Barbara in the front yard discussing the property. As they evaluate the house, Kevin casually asks if the family is moving in. Fulton, who is deeply displeased with the condition of the house, expresses his disapproval of the idea of living there.

The word “hell” is a swear word, and refers to a place considered by various religions to be a spiritual realm filled with evil and suffering. “Hell” can also refer to a place, situation, or experience that is extremely unpleasant or difficult

(<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hell>). However, in this context, its use is not intended to insult anyone, but rather to intensify Fulton's rejection. According to Jay's (2008) classification, this example is an auxiliary swearing, which serves to add emotional weight to a statement without being directed at a specific person. Fulton's use of the phrase “Hell no” strongly reinforces his rejection of the idea of moving into the house.

The motive behind this use aligns with the linguistic motives described by Karjalainen (2002, in Permadi, 2017), where expletives serve to emphasize or strengthen the meaning of an utterance. Fulton's use of the word “hell” reinforces his negative sentiment, transforming a simple “no” into a powerful and emotionally charged response. This aligns with the previous finding that stresses how auxiliary swearing intensifies the speaker's stance without targeting another person.

Data 7

13:17-13:39

Joy: “Hey! Yeah, you. Can you come in and guard the door for a sec? Come on.”

Kevin: “Um...I don't think you're supposed to be doing that.”

Joy: "Some racist **douchebag** wrote my number down. I keep getting text messages asking for free rice.

This scene takes place in the school hallway where Kevin is sitting and reading about ghosts on his laptop. Joy, a Chinese student from the same school, calls him from the restroom and asked him to guard the door so no one could come in. Inside, Joy is covering up graffiti on the wall where someone has written her phone number, leading to her receiving offensive text messages. Her frustration stems not only from the harassment but also from the racial stereotypes implied in the message about "free rice."

The word "douchebag" is a swear word and the meaning is a small syringe having detachable nozzles for fluid injections, primarily used for vaginal washing and for enemas. It can also refer to a despicable person or an unpleasant person (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/douchebag>). According to Jay's (2008) framework, the word "douchebag" in this dialogue is considered an abusive swearing because it is directed toward a specific group of people, in this case, the people who wrote down Joy's cell phone number on the toilet's wall. Joy was very irritated receiving text messages from unknown numbers asking for free rice. Many people still think that Chinese people like Joy only eat rice.

The motive behind Joy's swearing is psychological (Karjalainen, 2002, in Permadi, 2017), as it serves as an outlet for her anger and frustration. By using the word "douchebag", Joy expresses her emotional reaction to the harassment and racial stereotyping she has experienced. This aligns with previous findings that swearing can serve as an emotional outlet, allowing speakers to vent strong negative feelings in socially stressful situations.

Data 11

20:26-20:33

Kevin: "What are you doing with my phone? Fulton!"

Fulton: "Oh, you sneaky little bitch. Why you keeping this **shit** a secret?"

The scene takes place in Kevin's bedroom, where he is watching YouTube on his laptop. Without Kevin noticing, Fulton enters the room, takes Kevin's phone, and discovers a video of the ghost that Kevin secretly recorded.

Fulton then asks Kevin why he hid the ghost's existence from him.

The word "shit" is a swear word, and its meaning refers to vulgar terms for feces or excrement. It can also refer to the act of defecation

(<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/shit>).

However, in this context, the word "shit" function as an auxiliary swear word (Jay, 2008) because it is not directed at a specific person and has no literal meaning. It was just Fulton's way of saying 'Why are you keeping this thing a secret?'

The motive behind this use of swear words is social (Karjalainen, 2002, in Permadi, 2017). The informal tone and use of swear words convey a sense of familiarity and closeness between siblings. By using the word "shit," Fulton emphasizes his curiosity while maintaining a cheerful atmosphere in the sibling interaction. This aligns with findings which highlight how swear words, when used in close relationships, often strengthen social bonds rather than offend.

Data 14

26:30-26:35

Kevin: (Playing guitar)

Fulton: "Oh, look at this fool."

Kevin: "Shut up, **dog face**."

Fulton: "I actually have a pretty attractive face. Ask anybody."

This scene takes place in the attic after Fulton shows their father, Frank, a video of the ghost on Kevin's phone. Together, the three of them go to the attic and try to summon the ghost, but to no avail. Kevin then picks up a guitar and begins singing to lure the ghost out. Fulton teases Kevin about his singing, prompting Kevin to jokingly call him "dog face," which Fulton cheerfully denies. This conversation reflects the playful dynamic between the two brothers.

The phrase dog face is a form of swearing which, informally, is used to mock someone by implying they are unattractive (<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/dogface>).

However, in this context, the swearing falls into the category of humorous swearing as defined by Jay (2008), because Kevin uses it jokingly, rather than offensively.

The motive behind this use is social (Karjalainen, 2002, in Permadi, 2017). Kevin's witty remark, followed by Fulton's equally lighthearted response, demonstrates how

swearing can serve as a bonding tool between siblings. Rather than indicating hostility, this exchange reflects familiarity and closeness, supporting the idea that swearing in both intimate and casual relationships can foster friendship and shared humor.

Data 23

47:12-47:27

Fulton: "We're getting tons of views on the new video."

Frank: "You posted it without my permission?"

Fulton: "Yeah, so?"

Frank: "I'mma get sued, man!" (Watched the video)

Frank: "Three million views in six minutes. That's gotta be a record, right?"

Fulton: "Mm."

Frank: "Good work, man! Hey, **kiss my ass, PewDiePie!**"

This scene takes place after the show hosted by Judy Romano ended in chaos because Ernest the ghost scared the entire crew at Kevin's command. Fulton records the entire chaotic situation and uploads the video. Frank is complaining to Kevin about the chaos caused by the ghost when suddenly Fulton enters the room and informs them that their latest chaotic video has gone viral. Feeling proud and humorous, Frank jokingly compares their success to that of *PewDiePie*, a popular YouTuber with gaming content who has around 110 million subscribers. Each video that he makes can reach around 6.1 million views.

The phrase "kiss my ass" is swear words and the meaning is a rude word for the part of the body that you sit on or buttocks (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ass>). However, in this context, the phrase is used in a funny and boastful manner. Frank implied that the number of views of their videos could beat the number of views of *PewDiePie*'s videos. According to Jay's (2008) classification, this word falls into the humorous swearing category, as Frank uses it to express excitement and confidence, rather than insult.

The motive for this swearing is social (Karjalainen, 2002, cited in Permadi, 2017), as Frank's use of the humorous swearing strengthens his bond with Fulton, sharing a moment of pride and humor over the viral success of their video. This aligns with findings that show swearing can increase social solidarity when used in lighthearted or

celebratory contexts.

Data 25

48:17-48:21

A person in a football jersey: "You can't be in here."

Joy: "Says who? Your stupid gender norms? Beat it, **roach!**"

The scene takes place in the boys' bathroom at Kevin and Joy's school. Kevin, uncomfortable with the attention he receives from other students, is suddenly pulled into the bathroom by Joy. Inside, a boy wearing a soccer jersey confronts Joy, telling her she shouldn't be there. In response, Joy challenges him and dismisses his remarks with the insult, demonstrating her rejection of the boy's comments about gender norms.

The word "roach" is a swear word and it is a short form of cockroach. Its meaning refers to a person or group of people regarded as undesirable

(<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/roach>). In this context, this word is used by Joy as an insult to humiliate the boy, portraying him as undesirable. According to Jay's typology (2008), this is classified as abusive swearing, as it directly targets and demeans another person.

The motive for using this insult is psychological (Karjalainen, 2002, in Permadi, 2017), as Joy's insult stems from her irritation and rejection of the boy's comments. By using this derogatory term, Joy vents her frustration and asserts her independence in the situation. This aligns with the view that swearing can serve as an emotional outlet, particularly in confrontational or stressful interactions.

Data 27

55:31-55:32

Random person: "**Oh my God!** It's him! It's Ernest!"

The scene takes place outside the Presley family home, where a crowd gathers daily after the family's ghost video went viral. These people gather around the Presley family home every day in hopes of catching a glimpse of the ghost. Kevin and Joy, convinced that the answers to Ernest's past were not in the house but outside the house, try to persuade Ernest to come out of the house to find answers to Ernest's past. Ernest, who has been in the house for too long, is reluctant to come out. As the three finally sneak out through the backyard, a

passerby dressed as Jesus spots Ernest and exclaims in shock, "Oh my God! It's him! It's Ernest!"

Although the meaning of the word "God" is the highest being, in informal situations, the phrase "oh my God" is often not used to praise God, but rather to emphasize how surprised, angry, or amazed someone is (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/oh-my-god>). According to the bible, people do not use the Lord's name in vain as stated in Exodus 20:7, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain". In other words, God's name can only be used in the appropriate context or when praising His glory. Thus, the phrase "oh my God" functions as an expletive swear word, a common form of swearing that is not directed at anyone but is used to express intense emotion (Jay, 2008). Although the word "God" refers to a supreme divine being, its use here is secular and primarily serves as an emotional reaction to the sudden appearance of a ghost. This aligns with Jay's (2008) idea that expletive swearing is often a spontaneous response to surprising or unexpected situations. In this case, the passerby is shocked because he sees Ernest the ghost coming out of the house.

The motive behind the utterance is psychological (Karjalainen, 2002, in Permadi, 2017), as the passerby's swearing reflects an outburst of shock and astonishment. This example illustrates how swearing can serve as an emotional outlet, a theme also observed in previous research highlighting the function of swear words as a means of emotional release during times of heightened emotion.

Data 28

56:26

Kevin: (Ernest running through walls) **Dick** move!"

This scene takes place during a tense moment when Kevin, Joy, and Ernest are escaping from a crowd. Because of panicked, Ernest runs through the walls of an office building, leaving Kevin both stunned and impressed by his supernatural ability.

The term "dick move" functions as expletive swear word, as defined by Jay (2008), because it is an emotional reaction, rather than an intentional insult. Although "dick" literally refers to male genitalia

(https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/dick#google_vignette), in this context, the term is not used literally, but rather as an expression of surprise and admiration for Ernest's actions.

The motive behind this swearing is psychological, following Karjalainen's (2002, in Permadi, 2017) classification, as Kevin's utterance stems from a spontaneous outburst of amazement and joy. This supports Jay's view that swearing can be a direct outlet for strong emotions, serving as an emotional outlet for unexpected or extraordinary events.

Data 47

1:21:08-01:21:26

Real Ernest: "I was in a bowling league ages ago. One day, I can't find my shirt. I looked high and low. Ramona said I was always losing things, even the **damn** shirt off my own back, but, uh..."

In this scene, Kevin and Joy visit the real Ernest's house, hoping to uncover details about the past of Ernest the ghost. While Joy waits in the car, Kevin is inside the house, talking with the real Ernest, who tells him a personal story about losing his bowling suit—the one that Ernest the ghost has always worn.

The literal meaning of the word "damn" is being sent to hell by a supreme being (<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-meaning-of-damn>). However, in this context, the word "damn" in "even the damn shirt off my own back" is an auxiliary swear word, which, according to Jay (2008), provides emphasis but does not contain a literal offensive intent. The real Ernest uses the word "damn" to underscore his frustration and disbelief at losing the shirt.

The motive for swearing is linguistic (Karjalainen, 2002, in Permadi, 2017), as it is used purely to intensify the meaning of a statement, in this case, the shirt, rather than to target an individual. This aligns with previous research findings that auxiliary swearing often serves as a stylistic device to enhance expression without being offensive.

CONCLUSION

The writers conducted research titled *Swear Words Found in 'We Have a Ghost' Movie*. The data were taken from the dialogues and utterances by the characters in *We Have a Ghost* movie. To analyze the data, the writers used the theory of Horan (in Permadi, 2017) to identify the swear words, the theory of Jay (2008) to analyze the types of swear words, and the

theory of Karjalainen (2002, in Permadi, 2017) to analyze the kinds of motives for swearing.

The writer found 58 pieces of data. The writers found all types of swear words in these 58 data. The writers found 30 (thirty) data that belong to expletive swear words type, 6 (six) data that belong to abusive swear words type, 9 (nine) data that belong to humorous swear words type, and 13 (thirteen) data that belong to auxiliary swear words type.

Regarding the motives for swearing, the writers found all motives for swearing in the 58 data. The writers found 42 (forty-two) data that have psychological motives for swearing, 10 (ten) data that have social motives for swearing, and 6 (six) data that have linguistic motives for swearing.

Swear words are impolite words that people use to express their feelings. For example, when they are angry, upset, or annoyed, they frequently utter swear words that tend to be rude and cause others to feel insulted. It means that people use swear words to express their emotive feelings. By understanding the types and motives of swear words, the writers hopes that this research will help other people understand swear words and how to deal with them in daily conversation.

This study only focuses on words that indicate swearing, their types, and their motives in *We Have a Ghost movie*. There are many other aspects related to swearing that are worth studying, such as swearing expressions, body language for swearing, and also taboo words. The writers hopes that other researchers can use this study as a reference to complete research on various aspects of swear words.

REFERENCES

Allan, K., & Burridge, K. (2006). *Forbidden words: Taboo and the censoring of language*. Cambridge University Press.

Andersson, L., & Trudgill, P. (1990). *Bad language*. Basil Blackwell.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). SAGE.

Holmes, J. (2013). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (4th ed.). Routledge.

Horan, G. (2011). Aapkat, Ramfotzn,

Zierlabbe: What does the *Schimpfwörterbuch*

tell us about the role of swearing in modern German? *gfl-journal*, (1), 14–39.

Jay, T., & Janschewitz, K. (2008). The pragmatics of swearing. *Journal of Politeness Research*, 4(2), 267–288.

<https://doi.org/10.1515/JPLR.2008.013>

Jay, T. (2009). The utility and ubiquity of taboo words. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 4(2), 153–161.

Karjalainen, M. (2002). *Where have all the swearwords gone? An analysis of the loss of swearwords in two Swedish translations of J. D. Salinger's Catcher in the Rye* [Master's thesis, University of Helsinki]. University of Helsinki.

Ljung, M. (2011). *Swearing: A cross-cultural linguistic study*. Palgrave Macmillan.

<https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230292376>

Maulana, M. B. (2020). *An analysis of types of taboo words and its function in Sex Education TV series script*. Gunadarma Library.

Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2014). *Qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook* (3rd ed.). SAGE Publications.

Nur, F. D., & Septiani, D. (2023). Swear words used in animated situational comedy *Family Guy*, season 15, episodes 15 and 17. *Esensi Lingua*, 5(1), 13–23.

Permadi. (2017). *The analysis of swearing uttered by the main character in the Terence Winter's movie "The Wolf of Wall Street"*. Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar.

Pinker, S. (2007). The evolutionary social psychology of off-record indirect speech acts. *Intercultural Pragmatics*, 4(4), 437–461.

Spolsky, B. (2010). *Sociolinguistics*. Oxford University Press.

Wulandari, I. S. (2020). *An analysis of gender stereotypes in Brave movie*. IAIN Tulungagung.

Schweinberger, M., & Burridge, K. (2025). *Vulgarity in online discourse around the English-speaking world*. *Lingua*, 321, 103946. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2025.103946>