

## **Translation techniques of swear words in “After We Collided” by Roger Kumbler**

**Intan Adelia Rahmah Wati<sup>1</sup>, Anisa Larassati<sup>2</sup>**

(1311201902052@mhs.dsn.dinus.ac.id, 2 anisa.larassati@dsn.dinus.ac.id)

<sup>1,2</sup> Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Indonesia

### **Abstract**

This research aims to find out the types of swear words, translation techniques, and the changes in meaning in the After We Collided movie. A descriptive-qualitative approach is used in this research. Based on the findings and discussion, there were 50 data on swear words and translation techniques. Shift in meaning, as many as 16 data had found. There are 4 types of swear words: abusive (42%), cathartic (30%), idiomatic (24%), and emphatic (4%). There are 6 translation techniques used: adaptation (60%), amplification (4%), reduction (20%), modulation (2%), established equivalence (6%), and literal translation (8%). Shift in the meaning of eufimia as many as 12 data are found in 4 translation techniques: reduction, adaptation, modulation, and amplification. Loss of information as many as 4 data found in reduction techniques. The reason why abusive swearing becomes the most frequently found data is because it shows the use of language intended to harass, intimidate, and humiliate the interlocutor. The adaptation technique is the most used because swear words are translated with equivalents that are often used in Indonesian culture. Eufimia found in this data because swear words in the target language become more refined. Loss of information occurs when words in the source language are not translated into the target language.

*Keywords: Movie, Swear Words, Shift in The Meaning, Translation Techniques*

### **INTRODUCTION**

In today's modern era, many people are familiar with swear words. This is due to the use of language that continues to grow and has a significant difference compared to ancient times. Basically, language has a dynamic nature, that is, it can change over time and the development of the times. The development of this language can affect the speech of each person. Nowadays people are used to hearing words that contain taboo elements. In fact, many people in various circles, especially teenagers, use that word. This is because they often hear harsh words that are considered taboo in their daily conversations so that they can easily imitate and apply them in everyday life.

Swear words are known as the type of language used to express our feelings, especially when we feel angry, emotional, annoyed, or frustrated with something. Swear words are words or phrases that are generally considered blasphemous, obscene, vulgar, or offensive. According to McEnergy (2006), “swear words are one example of bad language that can lead to violations” (p.2). Ljung in Yuwono (2010) defines swear words as an expression that can be seen as a channel for the emotions and attitudes of speakers who use taboo words in a non-technical and emotive way. According to Purnama, 2008: 171, swearing is one of the tools needed by speakers to express emotions including feelings of displeasure. An example is the use of the word "Piss Off". This phrase means when you are angry and tell someone to leave you alone. In this case you can use that word.

However, there are some cases in the use of swear words that do not always have a negative meaning. There are some words that sound harsh but do not necessarily have a bad meaning. The use of swear words does not always result in harm, and the loss depends on the context in which the swear word appears (Jay, 2009a). Like the use of the word "Fuck". In general, the word has a meaning that refers to the act of sexual intercourse. But globally, the word is used to express anger and disgust, sometimes surprise, and even amazement.

Other examples are found in sentences such as "You are so fucking beautiful". The word "fucking" is a form of expression of amazement for someone. Based on this phenomenon, it can be concluded that swear words do not always have a bad meaning because it depends on the intended context. Pinker (2007) classifies the use of swear words into five categories based on why people swear: (a) Dysphemism Swearing, (b) Abusive Swearing, (c) Idiomatic Swearing, (d) Emphatic Swearing, (e) Cathartic Swearing. To know this, the role of translation is needed so that the message conveyed can be well received and in accordance with the context.

Translation is a process or activity of transferring language from the source language to the target language. According to Galibert in Ordudari (2008), explaining that translation is understanding the target language users so that the target language text can produce the same effect as the source language text. One of the most prominent definitions of translation is put forward by Newmark (1988: 5), who defines translation as “rendering the meaning of one text to another, language in the manner intended by the author of the text”. So, a translation will produce an equivalence of meaning between the source language and the target language. A translation can be said to be a good translation if a message or meaning can be received and conveyed properly. According to J.C. Catford, a good translation is a translation that does not sound like the result of a translation, but the message can be conveyed correctly or can be maintained despite changes in structure or form (words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs).

In the translation process, there must be many difficulties encountered. One of them is the cultural differences that exist in the source language and the target language. This cultural difference makes translators must have reliable skills. Because if it is misinterpreted, it will confuse the reader and harm many parties. Translation and culture are basically closely related. Translating text is basically translating culture, because language is a product of a particular culture. Translation is a complex process, involving linguistics in culture. Language cannot be seen as a separate phenomenon in a vacuum, but is an integral part of a culture. And translation is intercultural communication. From some of the explanations above, we can see that through language we can communicate and get to know other people's cultures. Because language has a close relationship with culture. Levi-Strauss in Siberani (1992: 104), states that language is the result of culture. This means that the language used by the community is a reflection of the overall culture of the community. In addition to the difficulties in the cultural aspect, in translating a text a translator must also understand the existing context. In translating a word, phrase, or sentence, a translator cannot translate it word for word. Because a translation must know the meaning according to the context.

A translator is required to understand the context in a text. In addition, translation techniques are also needed so that a text from the source language has the appropriate meaning when translated into the target language and the message conveyed can be well received by the reader. According to Molina and Albir (2002), translation techniques as a procedure for analyzing and classifying translation equivalents can be applied to various language units. In addition, in translating a word, phrase or sentence, a translator must know whether there is a change in the meaning of the previous word. In this case, in translating words and phrases that contain swear words, are there a change in meaning from the source language to the target language. Therefore, research on swear words is important to do. Chaer (2009: 140: 144) categorizes there are 5 types of changes in meaning, namely: broadening, narrowing, total changes, euphonia, coarsening.

There are so many literary works that we can enjoy. The forms and results of literary works also vary, including novels, books, songs, prose, films, and others. This research will take data from a film. Film is a literary work that can be analyzed through speech and the message to be conveyed. Palapah and Syamsudin (1986), explained that film is an entertainment medium that combines storyline, moving images, and sound in one artistic frame. These three elements are found in the elements of every film making, therefore films are often used as an element of learning media. In the field of translation, film is a very helpful medium to learn about translation techniques and procedures through the subtitles displayed. As in a previous study entitled "The Analysis of Swearing Word Translation in Joker Movie Subtitle" by Hasibuah (2021). Based on this explanation, both discuss translation and swear words. However, in this research will present a more complex discussion using different theories and data sources, so that this research is still feasible and can be accounted for its authenticity.

This research will take source data on a movie entitled *After We Collided*. It is the sequel to the previous movie which was released in 2020. This movie is directed by Roger Kumble, and stars Josephine Langford as Tessa Young, and Hero Fiennes Tiffin as Hardin Scott. The reason why this research chose the source data from the movie was because of the fact that there were conversations that contained many swear words spoken by the actors. In this case, movie is a work that is in great demand by many people. There are lots of movies that use swear words that require translation due to cultural and language differences so that when translated these words can be conveyed properly by the target readers. Furthermore, swear words that have been translated from the source language, whether there is a shift in the meaning of the swear words after being translated. Hence, research on swear words in a movie is important to do. Based on this phenomenon, the researcher is interested in

researching the translation of swear words. Therefore, this research chose the source data movie as research material to examine what type of swear words that exist in the movie "After We Collided" according to Pinker's theory (2007) based on why they swear, then what translation techniques are used to translated swear words using the theory proposed by Molina and Albir (2002), and also are there any meaning shift in the target language using the theory proposed by Chaer (2009) and Nida's (1975).

## METHODS

This study uses qualitative and descriptive methods to analyze the data. Qualitative research is a descriptive research and tends to use analysis. Moleong (2007: 6) which defines qualitative research as research that aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects. It is more appropriate and suitable to be used for researching matters relating to the research of behavior, attitudes, motivations, perceptions and actions of the subject. Qualitative methods help provide rich descriptions of phenomena. Qualitative encourages understanding of the substance of an event. Based on the explanation of the reasons for this research to apply the type of qualitative research because qualitative research is very suitable to be used in observing a social phenomenon. This study examines social problems in the use of swear words found in a movie. This study analyzes the types of swear words based on the context in an utterance in a movie and describe them in detail along with their translation techniques. The purpose of qualitative research is to explain a phenomenon in depth on the basis of obtaining in-depth and complete data (Rahmat Priantoro). The unit of analysis for this research is from utterance that contain swear words from the movie After We Collided. The swear words spoken by the all characters will be analyzed and categorized based on their function according to the theory purposed by Pinker (2007), translation techniques used to translate swear words according to Molina and Albir (2002), and shift in meaning according to Chaer's (2009) and Nida's (1975) theory. The data were obtained from a movie entitled After We Collided. The data collection methods used in this study are as follows: looking for a movie as a research medium, watching After We Collided movie on Netflix, reading the scripts comprehensively, writing swear words both in English and Indonesian movie scripts. After the data is collected, the data analysis method carried out in this study is as follows: categorizing swear words based on Pinker's (2007) typologies, analyze what translation techniques are used to translate swear word based on the theory proposed by Molina dan Albir (2002), analyze shift in the meaning according to Chaer's (2009) and Nida's (1975) theory, make a conclusion.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The following is a description of research findings regarding types of swear words according to Pinker's (2007), translation techniques Molina and Albir (2002), and meaning shift by Chaer (2009) and Nida's (1975) theory. Based on the results, there are 4 categories of swear words: abusive swearing, idiomatic swearing, cathartic swearing, emphatic swearing. In the translation technique, there are 6 techniques used; these include: adaptation, amplification, reduction, modulation, established equivalence, and literal translation. Then, shift in the meaning on the type of eupimia as many as 12 data found in 4 translation techniques namely: reduction, adaptation, modulation, and amplification. In addition, there were 4 data loss of information found in the reduction translation technique. The findings can be seen in the table below.

### Finding 1 Types of Swear Words

Table 1. Type of swear words and translation techniques in after we collided movie

No.	Types of swear words	Freq.	%	Translation Techniques					
				Adapt- ation	Amplifi- cation	Reduction	Modulation	Established Equivalence	Literal Translation
1	Abusive Swearing	21	42%	12	-	3	1	2	3
2	Cathartic Swearing	15	30%	10	-	3	-	1	1

3	Idiomatic Swearing	12	24%	7	2	3	-	-	-
4	Emphatic swearing	2	4%	1	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Percentage</b>			<b>100 %</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>

Based on the table above, it can be seen that as many as 21 swear words in abusive swearing were translated using several translation techniques such as: adaptation, reduction, modulation, established equivalence, and literal translation. In cathartic swearing, there are 15 swear words which are translated using adaptation, reduction, established equivalence, and literal translation. Furthermore, in idiomatic swearing there are 12 swear words which are translated using several techniques such as: adaptation, amplification, and reduction. In emphatic swearing, there are 2 swear words which are translated using two translation techniques: adaptation and reduction.

## Finding 2 Meaning Shift in Target Language

Table 2. Meaning shift in target language

No.	Types of Shifts in Meaning	Frequency	Translation Techniques	Frequency
1.	Semantic broadening	-	-	-
2.	Semantic narrowing	-	-	-
3.	Total change	-	-	-
4.	Eufimia	12	Reduction	4
			Adaptation	5
			Modulation	1
			Amplification	2
5.	Coarsening	-	-	-
6.	Loss of Information	4	Reduction	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>100%</b>		<b>100%</b>

It can be seen that there are 12 data found on change in meaning in eufimia. In eufimia were found in 4 translation techniques: reduction, adaptation, modulation, and amplification. In the reduction technique found as many as 4 data changes in meaning. Furthermore, on the adaptation technique as much as 5 data. Then, the modulation technique found as much as 1 data. Then, in the amplification technique there are 2 data changes in meaning were found. In addition, there were 4 data loss of information found in the reduction technique.

## Translation Techniques of Abusive Swearing

In this section, there are 21 types of abusive swearing data and 5 translation techniques used to translate swear words, namely: adaptation, reduction, modulation, established equivalence, and literal translation. The analysis are as follows:

Excerpt 1. Example of adaptation techniques for abusive swearing

SL	TL	Translation Techniques
T: Hardin, I think this is a miss...	T: Hardin, kurasa ini salah paham...	
H: Fuck off!	H: Enyahlah!	Adaptation

The conversation above shows the situation when Hardin, who knew Tessa and Trevor, were in the hotel together. Trevor who tried to convince that what really happened was not what he thought. Because Hardin, who was already carried away by emotion when he saw Tessa and Trevor were in the hotel together, he could no longer accept any reasons from Trevor so Hardin just wanted Trevor to leave the room by saying "Fuck off" to Trevor. According to the Indonesian translation of the Big English Dictionary, the phrase "fuck off" means "pergi".

Based on Pinker's (2007), the phrase "fuck off" is included in the type of abusive swearing. This type of swear word is used to harass, intimidate, or humiliate someone by using harsh words. This phenomenon can be seen when Trevor tries to provide clarity to Hardin but is ignored by him because Hardin is in an angry situation so he refused Trevor's explanation by intimidating him using harsh words aimed at telling him to leave by saying "fuck off".

Based on the theory from Molina and Albir (2002) regarding translation techniques, translators use adaptation techniques. This technique is used by changing the cultural elements of the source language and translated into a language that is familiar to the target language. In the source language, the phrase "fuck off" is translated as "enyahlah" because it has the similar equivalent in the source language using word choices that are familiar to the target readers.

### Translation Techniques of Cathartic Swearing

In this section, there are 15 types of cathartic swearing data and 4 translation techniques used to translate swear words, namely: adaptation, reduction, established equivalence, and literal translation techniques.

Excerpt 2. Example of established equivalence for cathartic swearing

SL	TL	Translation Techniques
T : Hey, Hardin, didn't see ya. How ya been?	T : Hei, Hardin, aku tak melihatmu. Bagaimana kabarmu?	
H : Fucking Trevor?!	H : Si Trevor keparat?!	Established Equivalence
T : Time to go, I think.	T : Kurasa waktunya untuk pergi.	

The conversation above shows the situation when Hardin caught Tessa and Trevor who were in the hotel. Hardin, who was surprised to see Tessa with Trevor, made him emotional. Trevor, who was trying to say hello to Hardin, because what he saw was actually not what he thought. But Hardin, who was consumed by emotion and out of control, was no longer able to think straight, so he said harsh words to Trevor like "Fucking Trevor?!".

Based on Pinker's theory, the word fucking belongs to the cathartic swearing type of swear word. According to [oxfordlearnonlinedictionaries.com](http://oxfordlearnonlinedictionaries.com), the word fuck means a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry or annoyed. Cathartic is used for emotional release. This is when things get out of control and you can't hold back the emotions. In this context, the word fucking is used by Hardin to release his emotions towards Trevor's presence in the hotel with Tessa.

Based on the theory from Molina and Albir regarding translation, a translator uses established equivalence techniques. Menurut The Free Dictionary by Farlex, the word "fucking" memiliki arti: Used to express intense contempt, disdain, or disregard for someone or something". The word "fucking" in English is used to swear. In Indonesia, the word "keparat" means: "bangsat; jahanam; terkutuk (kata makian): engkau ini anak---". Based on its meaning, the word is generally used to swear and is directed at someone. So that the word is included in the type of swearing that is common in the target language.

### Translation Techniques of Idiomatic Swearing

In this section, there are 12 types of idiomatic swearing data and 3 translation techniques used to translate swear words, namely: adaptation, amplification, and reduction.

Excerpt 3. Example of reduction techniques for cathartic swearing

SL	TL	Translation Techniques
V: Shut the fuck up and listen to me!	V: Diam dan dengarkan aku!	Reduction
K: This not might be the best time for introduction	K: Ini mungkin bukan waktu yang tepat untuk perkenalan	

The conversation above describes a situation where Kimberly wants to introduce Tessa to her boss. However, Vance looks very angry with someone he was talking to by uttering the “Shut the fuck up...”. Seeing this situation, Kimberly discouraged from introducing Tessa to Vance because the situation was not quite right.

Based on Pinker’s theory (2007), the word "Shut the fuck up" is included in Idiomatic Swearing. Based on The Free Dictionary by Farlex, the phrase “shut the fuck up” is included in the idiom. Idiomatic swearing is the use of swear words as idioms, where the idioms refer to expressions contained in phrases that have different meanings when translated as individual words. Therefore, an idiom cannot be translated word for word because it will change the actual meaning. According to Free Dictionary by Farlex, the phrase “shut the fuck up” means: Be quiet; stop speaking. The phrase “shut the fuck up” is used to tell someone to be quiet and is also a form of being annoyed at something that he is going through so that someone says that.

Based on the theory from Molina and Albir (2002) regarding translation techniques, translators use reduction techniques. Reduction is a translation technique that is used by condensing information. "Shut the fuck up" in the source language is translated into "*Diam*" in the target language using a reduction technique. The phrase “the fuck up” does not have function to express annoyance, anger, or swearing but only as emphasizing. The translation technique for the phrase above is reduction because the phrase in the source language is shortened to a minimum such as eliminating the phrase "the fuck up" as seen in the data above, which means that even though the phrase in the source language get shortened in the target language is still can deliver the message accurately.

### Translation Techniques of Emphatic Swearing

In this section, there are 2 data of emphatic swearing and 2 translation techniques used: adaptation, and reduction techniques.

Excerpt 4. Example of reduction techniques for emphatic swearing

SL	TL	Translation Techniques
H : You’re too damn good for me, and I know it.	H : Kau terlalu baik untukku, dan aku tahu itu.	Reduction

The conversation above shows the situation when Hardin was expressing his feelings for Tessa. Hardin realized that Tessa meant a lot to his life. Since Tessa's came, Hardin's life has been much different. He could feel the love present in his life. Many things made Hardin appreciate what true affection and love are and it's all thanks to Tessa's presence. When Hardin made a mistake and ended up hurting Tessa, he always thought that he wasn't good enough for her so he said “You’re too damn good for me, and I know it”.

Based on Pinker's theory (2007), the word "damn" is included in emphatic swearing. Pinker (2007), states that emphatic swearing is a type of swearing that shows the use of swear words in a

relaxed atmosphere, to emphasize the emotion of gratitude without the intention of offending. The word "damn" in the source language is used as a positive form of expression that flatters Tessa's attitude because she is so kind to Hardin. Although using harsh words, these words have no intention to offend the other person. Therefore, the word "damn" is included in the emphatic swearing category.

Based on the theory of Molina and Albir (2002) regarding translation, a translator uses reduction techniques in translating the word "damn". In the source language the word "damn" is not translated in the target language. This is because the word does not have a function as an expression that contains elements of swearing. Therefore the translator does not translate the word "damn" in the source language using reduction techniques. Even so, the meaning in the source language is still well conveyed.

### Shift in Meaning in Target Language

This section discusses some shift in the meaning in the target language. There is 2 meaning shift found: euphymia and loss of information. In the type of euphymia found in 12 data. Euphymia occur in 4 translation techniques: reduction, adaptation, modulation, and amplification. In addition, there were 4 data loss of information found in the reduction translation technique. The analysis are as follows:

Excerpt 5. Example of euphymia in adaptation techniques

SL	TL	Translation Techniques	Shift in the Meaning
M: You know you miss me.	M: Kau tahu kau merindukanku.	Adaptation	Euphymia
H: Now get the fuck off me.	H: Sekarang menjauh dariku.		

The table above shows that there is a change in the meaning of euphymia contained in the adaptation translation technique. According to The Free Dictionary by Farlex, the word "fuck off" is included in a harsh word which means go away. Then it is translated into the source language as "menjauh". In Indonesian, the word "menjauh" is not a harsh word. So that in this case there is a change in the meaning of smoothing, which was originally the word "fuck off" in the source language which shows the swear word has changed its meaning because it is translated into "menjauh" which in Indonesian the word is not a harsh word so that the meaning of swearing in the source language is lost.

Excerpt 6. Example of loss of information in reduction techniques

SL	TL	Translation Techniques	Shift in the Meaning
H : Don't fuckin' tell about her, okay?!	H : Jangan bicara tentang dia, okay?!	Reduction	Loss of Information

The table above shows that there is a shift in the meaning in loss of information. According to oxfordlearnonlinedictionaries.com, the word fuck means a swear word that many people find offensive, used to show that you are angry or annoyed. In this case, the word "fucking" in the source language is not translated in the target language. So that the meaning of swearing in the source

language which previously had a rough meaning changes to be subtle in the source language or it can be said that the meaning of swearing is lost. In this case, because the word "fucking" is not translated into the target language, the data is included in the loss of information.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the result and discussion above, it can be concluded that there are as many as 50 research analysis data regarding swear words using the theory from Pinker (2007) and translation techniques according to the theory of Molina and Albir (2002). Then, as many as 16 data were found regarding shift in the meaning using techniques from Chaer (2009) and Nida's (1975). There are four types of swear words in the film "After We Collided" including: abusive, cathartic, idiomatic, and emphatic. In abusive swearing there are 21 data, cathartic there are 15 data, idiomatic there are 12 data, and emphatic there are 2 data. The type of swear words most often found in the movie "After We Collided" is abusive swearing. The reason why abusive swearing is often found in the film is because the film "After We Collided" is included in the films that have an "R" rating. An "R" rating indicates that the film contains adult content such as: adult activities, intense graphic violence, drug abuse, nudity, and strong language. The use of this harsh language is often spoken by the actors because in the film they often show scenes of fighting that aim to harass, intimidate and humiliate the interlocutor for something that is happening. This is the reason why many types of abusive swearing are found.

The analysis above also shows that there are six translation techniques used, such as: adaptation, amplification, reduction, modulation, established equivalence, and literal translation. There are 30 data for adaptation techniques, reduction has 10 data, literal has 4 data, established equivalence has 3 data, amplification has 2 data, and modulation has 1 data. The adaptation translation technique is the technique most often used because many cultural words are found that are translated into the target language by looking for meanings that have similar equivalents in the source language. Then, the

reduction technique ranks second with the discovery of 10 data. Based on the analysis above, this is because many words are omitted or not translated in the target language.

The final analysis stage is on the shift in the meaning which shows that there are as many as 12 euphemism found and 4 data in loss of information. Shift in the meaning of euphemism are found in 4 translation techniques including: reduction, adaptation, modulation, and amplification. In the reduction technique there are 8 data, then 5 data for adaptation, 1 data for modulation, and 2 data for amplification. Euphemism occurs because it shows a meaning that was initially rude or originally the word contained dirty elements or swearing, then the meaning of swearing is lost in the target language because it is translated with a choice of words that do not contain swearing elements in the target language, so the word becomes more subtle than the previous meaning of the word. In conclusion, the translation techniques used in the data of this research affect the meaning in the target language. The swear words in the source language become more refined as they went through euphemism. In addition, loss of information occurs when words in the source language are not translated in the target language.

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