

# ***Corpus Based Analysis of Swearing Speech of ‘Ngapak Tegalan’ Language in Tegal Movies***

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**Abstract**—The *Ngapak Tegalan* language is deemed as a unique language in Indonesia. The *Ngapak Tegalan* language has special prosody, dialect (gruff) and various vocabularies (from the mild, moderate, and rude to the offensive). By the gruff prosody and dialect identically, the used diction become as if swearing speech and cause the view that Tegal people like swearing. Reflecting on the movies produced by the Tegal city government, entitled *Dalim D'Tegal Maritim* (2013), *NIK* (2014), *Meniti Senja* (2015) and *Senyum Niki* (2016), the actors often used swearing speech in their dialogues. Those movies told about social lives and the facts in Tegal, such as the maritime which forms the identity of Tegal, the socialization of electronic ID card creating, the socialization of a health service post for the elderly and the socialization of a complaint service center for household problems. The collected data were the conversations in those movies using AntConc (Corpus analysis based application). There were some categories of swear words based on some situations such as expressing annoyance, insulting, ridiculing, asking to go away, asking confirmation and so forth. One of them was “*Sikah! Badeg, anak kurang ajar! Merad!*” included to the swearing speech of expressing the annoyance. From this analysis, it can extend our knowledge about the one of indigenous people language varieties and the classification of function and at what state the swearing speech is expressed.

**Keywords**—swearing speech; *Ngapak Tegalan* language; Tegal movies

## I. INTRODUCTION

Tegal is one of regencies located in Central Java, Indonesia. The society of Tegal uses the *Ngapak Tegalan* language as a means of communication in daily conversation and interaction. The *Ngapak Tegalan* language has prominent features of its prosody. A native speaker of this language has steady, firm and loose intonation, making the listeners surmise that they are wrangling. Sometimes, they are not reticent to use words that are considered harsh by others, not only when expressing an anger or disappointment, but to intimate themselves with friends or to simply make a joke. For example, “Ora kayak kuwe carane, Prul, Semprul.” (Not like that, Prul, Semprul.) That utterance is usually used informally between two close friends, whereas *Semprul* means ‘inconsequential’. On the other hand, the word *Semprul* might be deemed as offensive if it is expressed to the older or unknown people, namely swearing speech.

In fact, the swearing speech does not only occur in daily conversation, but also in the movies produced by the Tegal government. The state when those swearing words are expressed are also diverse. For example, “*Sikah! Badeg, anak kurang ajar! Merad!*” (Shut up! Stink, scallywag! Go away!) Listening to this utterance which is one of conversation in those movies, the diction is improper to use. However, this topic is intriguing to be discuss concerning the use of swearing speech, whether it is included to offensive swearing speech or simply to show the intimacy between the speaker and the speech partner. It is also to clarify whether the gruff prosody of the Tegal people’s dialect is meant to be swearing speech. On the other hand, the analysis aims to introduce the wider community about *Ngapak Tegalan* language. This paper analyzes using Corpus Linguistics with corpora the actors’ utterances using those swearing speech, what the functions and the references are.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. *Ngapak Tegalan* Language

Indonesia has various languages, and one of them is the Javanese language. The Java language has several dialects that can be distinguished according to its characteristics. It has 4 dialects (Banyumas, Pesisir Utara, Surakarta and Jawa Timur) and 13 subdialects (Purwokerto, Kebumen, Pemalang, Banten Utara, Tegal, Semarang, Rembang, Yogyakarta, Madiun, Surabaya, and Banyuwangi) [1]. Tegal is located between the border of Central and West Java in which they have two different dialects influencing the Tegal language. Hence, the Tegal location is surrounded by the regencies using *Ngapak* language, making Tegal also have the same dialect.

Initially, the *Ngapak Tegalan* language was deemed as rude and a language from lower social level or the proletariat [2]. On the other hand, the *Ngapak Tegalan* language also has a soft language version. For example, “*Kuve badogen sisan ben wadukmu njeblug*” –rude/gruff version- (Eat it, let your stomach full), and “*Kuve panganen sisan ben wareg*” –soft/moderate version-. This language is considered to be expressive language used by the Tegal society. The quote created by Eko Tunas, “*Because of the expressiveness of this mother language it is deemed as the soul’s eye. As Blakasuta, Tegal language is more able to bring out the most honest feelings and thoughts without being covered. Having a*

*character like Bima in this puppet soul tongue brings people together Tegal has a bold character. Like Bima who was told to go into the ocean to dive till they met Dewa Ruci."*

### B. Swearing Speech

By definition, swearing speech/swearing words are produced with the purpose to convey one's emotional state to the listeners [3] and contain offensive and obscene language [4]. In line with that, swearing speech is an intriguing phenomenon as speakers use curse words to express their emotional states and it is therefore worth examining the issue of who the users of 'bad language' are in relation to their social identities and roles in society [5]. Furthermore, [6] swearing speech can be divided into two kinds of swearing: (a) annoyance swearing, where the swearer stressing the words with great transgression, and (b) social swearing, where the swearer is relaxed in expressing those words.

Subsequently, [7] stated that the difference between taboo words might be emphasized on the context when using it. *Fuck you!* has strong emotional loading, and might be different from when used in conversational and hostile contexts. Applied in *Ngapak Tegalan*, the word "*Badeg!*" with "*Badeg*" might have different meaning. The first one refers to bluster another, while the second one is said to tell another about the bad smell of something. Reactions to offensive words were explained in terms of an 'offensive threshold' based on the individual's sensitivity towards profane language [4]. Ergo, if the offensiveness score of the word was higher than the individual's offensiveness threshold, that word might be considered as offensive or improper; otherwise, if one's tolerance against those words is high, it was not likely to be perceived as offensive. If those words are expressed with the company of friends or colleagues, the offensive threshold might be lowered such as when they are swearing in a casual circumstance. Different from in formal settings, swearing speech might be a kind of violation.

The previous study carried out by Kapoor was entitled *Swears in Context: The Difference between Casual and Abusive Swearing* with 254 participants (103 Indians, 159 women). The result showed that the contextual appropriateness of swearwords was linked to swear severity and moderate swears were the preferred words of choice in abusive contexts. Subsequently, the study carried out by Wijana & Rohmadi entitled '*Makian dalam Bahasa Indonesia: Studi Tentang Bentuk dan Referensinya (Swearing Words in Indonesian Language: Studies on its Form and References)*' showed that the forms of swearing speech in Indonesian are word, phrase and clause swearing speech forms. Meanwhile, the functions included to state, animals, things, parts of body, kinship, ghost, certain activity, profession and appeals. In line with that, Saptomo also carried out the study entitled '*Makian dalam Bahasa Jawa (Swearings in Javanese Language)*'. There were 3 kinds of swearing speech forms such as word, phrase, and clause with the references such as animals, parts of body, profession, meals, things, human or animal waste, one's state, ethnic, kinship, ghost, origin, and certain activity.

### C. Tegal Movies

In the last five years, the Tegal city government has intensively produced movies to socialize and appeal to the society to be able to comply with the regulations, use integrated services to facilitate and solve existing problems, fully encourage the success of school children, the maritime which forms the identity of Tegal and so forth. Likewise, these movies would be objects of this study. These movies are created by the indigenous people of Tegal, with a Tegal setting, and created as folksy as possible in accordance with the daily life of Tegal society.

## III. RESEARCH DESIGN

### A. Objectives of the Research Questions

The objectives of the research questions are to identify the forms, functions and references of swearing speeches expressed by the actors of Tegal movies. Likewise, this research is to clarify whether there is relationship between the *Ngapak Tegalan* language with the habit of swearing of people within.

### B. Data Resources

The data are obtained from Tegal movies produced by the Tegal government such as *Dalim D'Tegal Maritim* (2013), *NIK* (2014), *Meniti Senja* (2015) and *Senyum Niki* (2016). Those movies were played by indigenous Tegal actors and created to socialize and facilitate the information for the society. The data forms are conversations among the actors.

### C. Data Analysis

Those data are analyzed using Corpus Linguistics with AntConc application to obtain and classify based on the forms, functions and references of swearing speech commonly used by the actors within the movies.

## IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After the data were analyzed, 1,311 corpus data from those four movies were found and identified with the result of 137 swearing words expressed by the actors during the movies played. They showed various kinds of state, things, parts of the body, asking someone to shut up, asking someone to go away, characteristics and others. The most dominant swearing speech expressed are Sikah (8 units), Waduk/Waduke (4 units), Mejugag (4 units), Goblog (3 units), Bangsat/Bangset (2 units), Merad (5 units), Kurang Ajar (3 units), Raimu (3 units), Badeg (3 units), Semblotongan/Mblotongan (2 units), Berisik (2 units), Puas, ladas (1 unit), Ndasmu Peang (1 unit) and the others have one unit. Swearing speech is also used in the term of address, such as Nyad (1 unit), Pleng (1 unit), and Gundhul (1 unit). On the other hand, those swearwords are used by male actors often and dominantly, while female actors rarely expressed those kinds of swearing speech if they were not in the state of urgency.

Generally, Sikah means 'shut up!' in the way of swearing, and it is used to rebuke someone who annoys another and tells

them to shut their mouth and to not say anything. This word is expressed in the state of annoyance. The users of this word are mostly male actors. For example, "Sikah! Badeg, anak kurang ajar!" Subsequently, Waduk/Waduke means one of the body parts, the stomach. One expresses this word to convey annoyance to other, for example "Ana gempa waduke!" This was expressed when an actor shocked another actor awake by shaking his pedicab and he thought there was an earthquake. Spontaneously, he swore.

Further, Mejugag is often expressed by the old actor to the younger actor making him annoyed. Mejugag is a characteristic, naughty/stubborn/asshole. For example, "Dasar bocah mejugag kiye, diundang ka ngeluyur bae! – Asshole, you are called! Goblog is also expressed in these movies which means stupid and related to the intelligence of someone. He expressed this kind of swearing to curse or mock because of annoyance/anger. Not only male actors, but there was a female actor saying this to her close friend in this movie. Next is Bangsat/Bangset, which means thieves/pickpockets and are included in kinds of professions. They are deemed as rude and profane words to be expressed by civilians. The example of the use of this word is, "Bangset, gawa mene duite!" – Bangset, leave the money to me!

Furthermore, Merad means go away with a rude word. This word is expressed by both male and female actors. They expressed this to: 1) ask to go away (e.g. a wife who drove out her husband because he had gambled), 2) wonder where other people are (e.g. "Pada merad maring ndi sih?"), and 3) grumble why they did not go (e.g. "...gedang gari siji lagi enak-enak ka ora merad-merad.). Subsequently, the word Kurang Ajar means impolite. This word is used to curse others who are impolite, e.g. "Oh dasar anak kurang ajar!...." The next word is Raimu which means your face in a rude way. It is one of the body parts. However, there are three kinds of usage of this word, which are to: 1) point out/emphasize other who are hard to tell (e.g. "Raimu kiye anggere diomongi angel nemen..."), 2) curse others (e.g. "Compong, Raimu!"), and 3) underestimate others (e.g. "Alah wis lah, kanggo ora raimu kuwe!").

Subsequently, the word is Badeg, which means stink. This word is to be used to mention the smell of things, such as fish or even carrion. It is expressed when someone is annoyed or angry at others, for example "Badeg ndean ente! Bocah semblotongan!" – You stink! Obdurate!, "Badeg anak kurang ajar!" – Stink, scallywag! The word Semblotongan/Mblotongan means the same as Badeg, but it is sugar mill waste. This word emphasizes to mention the naughty/obdurate one. In these movies, the actor saying this word is one, who is the old man and saying this to the younger one. For example, "Dasar semblotongan kiye bocah! – You are obdurate! The man saying this refers to show his annoyance to the younger one.

Furthermore, the word Berisik means to ask to shut up. Contextually, there were kinds of ways to use this word, the gruff/offensive and moderate ways. In these movies, the actors often used it in the gruff way, for example "Berisik! Raffi Ahmad ireng nggeteng waduke!" – Shut up! The jet-black

Raffi Ahmad! and "Berisik!" – Shut up! Next, the word Puas ladas from word Puas and added by Ladas which means being grateful for bad things happening to others. The addition of Ladas showed the emphasis of quipping or even cussing. This word is used for quipping or cussing others and deemed as one of the swearing speeches in these movies because the actor said this to his father, which is impolite. At that time, his mother asked his father to go out because of a mistake and he said this word, "Puas, ladas! Bapane nyong wanine karo anak-anake tok...." – Damn, feel it! My father dares only with this child. Then, the words Ndasmu Peang which mean one of body parts, the head leaning backward. These words are used to show one's annoyance to other because he thought the other did not use his brain when talking. For example in these movies, "Komisi, komisi, Ndasmu Peang!", it was used because his brother asked for an honorarium, but his brother did not deserve it.

Expressing the emotions which built up tension at a time when one feels wronged or angry in some way, may help them avoid immediate physical violence [7]. Swearing may be the way to release a negative emotion that cannot be exhibited in other forms at the present occasion. In addition, in certain social gatherings, individuals may use euphemisms in place of profanity or use profanity in a joking manner [8] or in the way of being intimate with friends.

On the other hand, the swearing speech is not only in the form of cursing, but also in the form of term of address. In these movies, there are three kinds of term of address: Nyad, Pleng and Gundhul. The first form is Nyad from the word Wanyad, which means crazy people. This word is commonly used in the conversation with a close friend or a younger one. For example, "Hahaha...ya ora kayak kuwe, Nyad!" – Not like that, Nyad! In these movies, someone expressed this word to his friend with the same profession, the pedicab drivers. This word refers to denote a denial by ending with mentioning the close address term to the close friend. In line with that, the other word is Pleng from Kampleng, which means the skinny body shape of people. This word is commonly used to call the skinny people because of one of body parts (hand) which can be sounded 'Kampleng-kampleng' in accordance to Tegal people. The function of the word is just to call someone as a close friend or to the younger one. For example, "... Maksude kiye manuk jenis apa, Pleng?" – I mean, what is kind of bird, Pleng? It can be said that this kind of swearing speech is not offensive, based on the context. Meanwhile, the last one is the word Gundhul which means a head with no hair at all/bare. This word is pretty common to be used by people to call their close friends or younger people whose bare hair. Same as other address terms, Gundhul is used for calling only, even though it is not common to be used in other place because it is thought to ridicule others based on their state. For example, "Daning jelek nemen, gundhul.", This word is expressed by the old woman in the movie to her son because she thought that she has lost her son. The use of improper swearing speech related to the body parts might make others feel humiliated, and it also refers to the head which is the higher body part [9].

Moreover, the swearing speech is used by male actors dominantly, instead of female actors. This can be seen from the chart below showing the users from the data collected and analyzed:

TABLE I. THE NUMBERS OF SWEARING SPEECH USE IN TEGAL MOVIES

Sex	Kinds of Swearing Speech		
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Male	30	27	47
Female	11	18	4

There are 104 words of swearing used by male actors, and 33 others used by female actors. The swearing speech was referred to show their annoyance to their close friends, family parts, and/or to the younger people. Based on the common characteristics of extroverts, [7] concluded profanity had a positive correlation with the extroverted characteristics. It is related with Tegal people's characteristics who are mostly open people. Furthermore, basically there is not relationship between the gruff dialect of the *Ngapak Tegalan* language with the habit of swearing of people within, it is based on the context. Even though the *Ngapak Tegalan* language has various rude words, it is used aligned with the state and situation.

## V. CONCLUSION

This particular study highlighted the use of swearing speech among the actors in Tegal movies produced by the Tegal city government. Specifically, it focused on the findings of the forms, functions and references when they express those kinds of swearing. This study was held because of the stigma about the *Ngapak Tegalan* language of being a rude/gruff language with dominantly rude vocabulary. Swearing speech is deemed as profane language which contains offensiveness (moderate, casual or severe). Profanity can be used when expressing anger or frustration or in social situations among peers, as well as in a joke manner or in a way to be intimate

with friends. So, the swearing words can be said as a reaction of one towards the unpleasant treatment or words from others in a serious way or not. Additionally, this swearing speech is expressed based on the context and the state of one.

As an additional conclusion, the swearing speech in these movies is dominantly used by the male actors instead of female ones. Foote and Woodward (cited in [4]) found that the males produced more swearwords than females. For the following study, the analysis might be from the direct conversation among the Tegal community to obtain the real facts of swearing speech used commonly in detail.

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