

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY**

Language is a multifaceted tool that extends beyond mere communication, embodying a profound connection to human emotions and societal dynamics. Based on the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, language not only mirrors but also shapes our thoughts and feelings (as cited in Ali 2023). This concept suggests that the vocabulary and structure of a language can influence the way individuals perceive and experience emotions. Swear words, as potent linguistic expressions, align with this theory by vividly conveying the intensity of emotions in the immediate context. Allehaibi (2020) posits that language is not solely a means of relaying information but also a tool for performing actions. Swear words exemplify this concept as they function not just as words but as powerful expressions that can influence social dynamics and interactions.

Moreover, Erving Goffman's theory of 'face' in sociolinguistics sheds light on the social and cultural dimensions of swearing. Goffman suggests that individuals strive to maintain a positive social identity or 'face' during interactions (as cited in Blitvich, 2013). Swearing, therefore, becomes a complex linguistic act that challenges social norms and etiquette, potentially threatening one's social identity.

The societal acceptance of swear words varies across cultures, shaping the social implications of their use. In the cinematic realm, the incorporation of taboo language, including swear words, reflects and, to some extent, influences societal attitudes toward language. In essence, language, including the use of swear words, serves as a rich tapestry woven with emotional expression, societal conventions, and linguistic intricacies.

Translators utilize various approaches to ensure the approval of their translations. Molina and Albir stated that translation techniques are methods for examining and categorizing the equivalence of translation results. Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Discursive creation, Established equivalent, Generalization, Linguistic amplification, Linguistic compression, Literal translation, Modulation, Particularization, Reduction, Substitution, Transposition, and Variation are some of the techniques they propose in (Molina & Albir, 2002). To analyze swear words in movies, the researcher incorporates theories from Pinker. Pinker (2007) stated five categories to scrutinize subtitles based on types, including Dysphemism, Abusive, Idiomatic, Emphatic, and Cathartic. Subsequently, the researcher identifies the techniques used based on Molina and Albir's theory.

Previous experts have studied the various meanings of swear words. According to Oesterheld (2011), swear words are also utilized in advantageous contexts such as jokes and humor, sexual conversations, storytelling, self-criticism, or even addressing social issues. Meanwhile, Prayuda et al., (2019) stated that "swear words are the most widely used form of expressing feelings, especially when

someone is angry.” In the past, the use of swear words indicated a person's social standing, and the speaker was frequently penalized legally. Sembiring et al., (2020) suggests that swearing is akin to honking a car horn, as it can be employed to convey a spectrum of emotions, including anger, dissatisfaction, delight, and surprise. The modern use of swear words is more comprehensive and varied. The researcher concludes that swear words are used to express feelings of both pleasure and displeasure. However, translators should exercise caution when translating swear words because direct translation to the target language is disrespectful. The translator must respect cultural and norm values while delivering the material effectively.

The use of swear words extends beyond expressing displeasure or cursing the listener; they can serve various purposes. Unfortunately, there are instances where dialogues are translated incorrectly, leading to a false concept or impression of the dialogue's genuine meaning. When a speaker uses swear words to address someone, it doesn't necessarily imply displeasure or a poor temper. Swear words can potentially mislead the listener.

Swear words are commonly found in various forms of media, including television, radio, novels, and movies. Swearing has become so commonplace that the media demonstrates it can be used at any time and for any reason. Furthermore, the functions, purposes, and impact of swearing depend on the situations in which it occurs.

The researcher observed the movie *The Gray Man* (2022), which contains forbidden and swear words. Throughout the movie, several characters use swear words in their dialogue, which may be deemed inappropriate. Nevertheless, these words add color, friendliness, and convenience to the discourse. Swear words are a natural part of our language and are undoubtedly one of the most efficient ways to convey strong emotions.

Some researchers have conducted the use of swear words in movies. One of the studies is based on a sociolinguistic approach by Sadewa and Nugroho. Sadewa and Nugroho (2015) explored various swear words using Pinker's theories and analyze swear word translation techniques in the subtitles of the movie 'Limitless' based on Gottlieb's translation procedures (as cited in Taylor, 2000). Pinker's hypotheses encompass dysphemistic, abusive, idiomatic, emphatic, and cathartic swear words, and the study identifies 25 curse words in the data. Emphatic swearing has the highest frequency in the movie, accounting for 8 words or 32%, while abusive swearing and cathartic swearing have the lowest occurrences, each with 2 words or 8%. Applying Gottlieb's translation theories, the translator employs nine strategies for interpreting English swearing: expansion, paraphrasing, transfer, imitation, dislocation, condensation, decimation, deletion, and resignation. The most prevalent translation strategy is deletion, constituting nine words or 37.5% of the total. Following deletion, imitation, decimation, and resignation each account for 1 word or 4%. The researchers also identified three patterns in the data: swear words that were not translated, swear words translated into other swear words (non-swear words), and swear words translated into swear words.

Garaga et al., (2022), focuses on the types and functions of taboo and swear words used by characters in the movie 'Ted 2,' employing Huberman and Miles' theory (1994). The researchers initially selected and categorized the data based on the types of taboo words and swear words, considering the purpose for which the words were used. Subsequently, Michael Swan and Rothwell's (1995) theory was applied to examine the various sorts of taboo words and swear words, along with the reasons why characters used swear words. The study identifies two types of swear words: strong and weak. In this context, religion emerged as the most common type of taboo word used by the main character, while 'lavatory' was the least common type of taboo word found in the movie. The research findings indicate that strong swear words, intensified to emphasize emotions, are frequently used in movies. The study uncovered approximately 13 instances where intensifying language was used to emphasize an emotion. Additionally, the researcher identified four reasons why the main character used curse words. According to the study, there are four types of taboo words, six types of swear words, and four reasons why the characters used swear words.

In their study, Andini and Amilia (2022) utilize Molina and Albier's theory (2002) as the technique and Pinker's theory (2007) to categorize swear words in a movie. The researchers identified a total of 61 swear words in the movie, with idiomatic swearing being the most prevalent, representing 26 data points (42%). Emphatic swearing is a less frequent type, with only a few instances among the 61 (3%). Abusive swearing is used in 20 data points (33%), while cathartic swearing is found in 13 data points (22%). The study also reveals three translation techniques:

amplification, reduction, and adaptation. Amplification is the most used technique, accounting for 38 data points (63%), followed by reduction with 13 data points (21%) and adaptation with 10 data points (16%). Below, there is an explanation of the translation technique as well as the different types of swear words.

Drawing on similarities with previous studies, the current research also delves into the translation of swearing words. It focuses on uncovering the types employed in their translation. However, what sets this current research apart from its previous studies are the choice of theories. In analyzing the types of swearing words, the present study relies on Pinker's swearing word theory.

The researcher envisions that this research is beneficial to the audience, enabling them to comprehend swear words in sentences and assisting in understanding and analyzing expressions by observing the words, including swear words, and the emotions conveyed in the dialogue. Based on the preceding explanation, the use of swear words exists within specific language contexts. This study focuses on swear words by employing various approaches, particularly studying swear words in *The Gray Man* movie.

In essence, these research questions guide the investigation into the multifaceted nature of swear words in *The Gray Man* movie, addressing their types and the techniques used in their translation across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

## **1.2 STATEMENTS OF PROBLEMS**

The problems of this study based on previous explanations are formulated in the form of research questions as the following.

1. What are the types of swear words in The Gray Man movie?
2. What technique was used to translate swear words in The Gray Man movie?

## **1.3 PURPOSE OF STUDY**

1. To categories the types of swear words used in The Gray Man movie.
2. To identify the technique of swear words used in The Gray Man movie.

## **1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS**

In this study, the researcher focuses on the types of swear words in The Gray Man movie, as well as the techniques of translation approaches. There are 22 out of 50 data found in the movie. Pinker's theory is to categorize the types of swear words and Molina and Albir subtitling techniques theory are used to analyze the data.

## **1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The researcher intends to discuss in complete the topic of the usage of swear words through conversation in *The Gray Man* movie. The researcher used a descriptive qualitative method to examine the data relevant to this movie. Descriptive qualitative research is a method that produces open-ended, non-numerical data, which is analyzed using approaches that are not related to numbers.

According to Kumar and Cavallaro (2018), a descriptive qualitative method is research that defines a condition or phenomena using qualitative scales, and the analysis is conducted to produce variety in the environment without quantifying it.

It can be assumed that the descriptive qualitative method from this expert is a condition using qualitative scales and analysis without quantifying and data source of the researcher obtains the data source as research data in the form of conversation fragments.

### **1. Data source**

The *Gray Man* movie tells the story of a prisoner who has special abilities such as fighting and thinking critically. Ryan Gosling plays Court Gentry. He is a convict recruited by Donald Fitzroy to become a spy for the CIA. Gentry is given the nickname "Sierra Six". After years as a CIA confidant, Court Gentry was given a mission to kill an informant who wanted to sell state secrets to dangerous people, but he failed and accidentally learned about the secrets of a dark agency carried out by several people in the CIA. This caused Gentry to be label as a traitor and become the main target being hunted by the CIA agency and the whole world. One of Gentry's former colleagues, played by Chris Evans, Lloyd Hansen, who is known as an international killer and psychopath, joins in hunting Gentry to the end.

### **2. Data collection**

The data are collected through these steps:

- a) Watching *The Gray Man* movie from Netflix
- b) Searching the swear words in the movie
- c) Identifying the swear words translation in the subtitle

### **3. Data Analysis**

In analyzing data, the techniques used are through the following steps:

- a) Identifying the meaning of the swear words



- b) Compare the message of swear words in SL to TL
- c) Analyzing types in translating swear words
- d) Analyzing the translation techniques of swear words translation

## **1.6 ORGANIZATION OF WRITING**

The organization of writing is given to make the audience understand the content of the research. This research consists of four chapters. Chapter I consists of background of the research, statement of problem, the research of objective, the scope limitations, and the research of methodology. Chapter II consists of the theories that support the research and the framework that is used as a guidance in this research proposal. Chapter III is the analysis of the data using theory from Steven Arthur Pinker, Molina and Albir and also used dictionaries. Chapter IV consists of conclusions of the research.