THE USE OF SWEAR WORDS IN TWITTER

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ABSTRACT

The *f*-word is a popular swear word used on social media and it is used in different forms and functions. This study investigates the uses of the *f*-word on a social media platform, Twitter. This study was carried out to address the following questions: (1) What are the syntactic forms of the *f*-word found on Twitter? (2) What are the functions of the *f*-word on Twitter? (3) What are the differences and similarities of the findings of this study with McEnery and Xiao’s (2004) study of the *f*-word in the British National Corpus (BNC)? The data comprised a corpus of 12,000-word from Twitter. Holster’s (2005) classification was used in this study to examine the syntactic forms of the *f*-word. This study employed McEnery et al. (2000) and Ljung (2011) typologies to analyze the functions of the *f*-word. The findings showed that the *f*-word is highly used as a verb, and it is used mainly to curse on Twitter. The results obtained in this study show some similarities to McEnery and Xiao’s (2004 findings in the BNC.

Keywords: *f*-word, Twitter, syntactic forms, functions
ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: perkataan $f$, Twitter, sintaktik, fungsi
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“Through difficulties and problems, God gives us the opportunity to grow. So when your hopes, dreams and goals are dashed, search among the wreckage, you may find a golden opportunity hidden in the ruins”

-APJ Abdul Kalam-
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