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### A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF SWEAR WORDS IN ENGLISH AND IRAQI ARABIC

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<p><b>Keywords:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Sociolinguistics</li><li>-Swear words</li><li>-Culture</li><li>-Taboo</li><li>-Gender</li><li>-Structure and Offensive</li></ul> <p><b>Article Info</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Article history:</b> Received: 1- 12-2021 Accepted: 29-1-2022 Available online</p>	<p><b>Abstract</b></p> <p>Language is used by humans to carry out a wide range of social activities that reflect the social standards that have been established during various periods of time. Swearing is a linguistic device that serves both personal and interpersonal functions in almost all languages. As a result, linguists and anyone interested in language should pay attention to this linguistic phenomenon, which is also accompanied by a certain amount of taboo.</p> <p>The current study focuses on English and Iraqi Arabic societies because they are wealthy in the use of swear words. Its aims is to define, classify, state functions, and identify the history of swear words in language and culture. Also, it highlights and analyzes the most important swear words in English and Iraqi Arabic, and concludes the most essential findings.</p> <p>To fulfil the above aims, it is hypothesized that swear words come in a variety of forms, some of which are more widely used than others, culture influences the use of swear words, and the connotative meaning is determined by the context in which swear words are used.</p> <p>To sum, a range of elements influence the</p>
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communicative act of swear words, including age, gender, social and economic status, as well as the speaker-listener relationship.

## دراسة لغوية اجتماعية لكلمات الشتام في اللغة الانكليزية والعربية العراقية

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مؤده عمر رؤوف - المديرية العامه للتربية في محافظة كركوك

<p><b>الخلاصة :</b> يستخدم البشر اللغة للقيام بمجموعة واسعة من الأنشطة الاجتماعية. حيث يجب أن يختاروا من بين عدد كبير من المصطلحات الصحيحة نحوياً تلك التي تعكس بشكل أفضل المعايير الاجتماعية التي تم وضعها خلال فترات زمنية مختلفة. تعد الشتام أداة لغوية تخدم كلاً من الوظائف الشخصية واللاشخصية في جميع اللغات تقريباً. نتيجة لذلك ، يجب على اللغويين وكل من يهتم باللغة أن ينتبهوا لهذه الظاهرة اللغوية التي يصابها أيضاً قدر معين من المحضورات.</p> <p>تركز الدراسة الحالية على المجتمعات الإنجليزية و العربية العراقية لأنها غنية في استخدام هذه الكلمات. أن هدف البحث هو تعريف وتصنيف وظائف الشتام وتدرس تاريخ الكلمات البذيئة في اللغة والثقافة وتسلط الضوء على أهم الكلمات البذيئة في اللغة الإنجليزية والعربية العراقية وتحليلها واستنتاج أهم النتائج.</p> <p>تحقيقاً للأهداف المذكورة أعلاه ، يُفترض أن الكلمات البذيئة تأتي في أشكال متنوعة بعضها يستخدم على نطاق أوسع من البعض الآخر وتؤثر الثقافة على استخدام الكلمات البذيئة ويتم تحديد المعنى الضمني من خلال السياق الذي تكون فيه الكلمات البذيئة مستخدمة.</p> <p>باختصار : تؤثر مجموعة من العناصر على استخدام الكلمات البذيئة ، بما في ذلك العمر والجنس والوضع الاجتماعي والاقتصادي بالإضافة إلى علاقة المتحدث بالمستمع.</p>	<p><b>الكلمات الدالة:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- اللسانيات</li><li>- الاجتماعية</li><li>- الكلمات البذيئة</li><li>- الثقافة</li><li>- المحضورات</li><li>- الجنس</li><li>-التركيب والشتام</li></ul> <p><b>معلومات البحث</b> <b>تاريخ البحث:</b></p> <p>الاستلام: 2021_12_1</p> <p>القبول: 2022_1_29</p> <p>التوفر على النت</p>
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## **1. Introduction**

The use of swearing is primarily spread through social interactions. According to Jay (2000:67), children can acquire swear words in their vocabulary as soon as they begin to speak. Children pick up swear words from their surroundings and learn to employ them through social interaction. People pick up swear words through everyday conversations or other forms of media, such as movies, and mimic them in their speech.

To define swear words, Swan (1995:574) states that swear words, as strong language, are used by people to convey strong emotions, so the term refers to language used by people when they experience strong emotions. The term is usually derived from taboo words, but it has a different literal meaning.

Föggersten (2012:3) says that swear words are a collection of terms encompassed by these labels which are still elusive. It refers to the use of words that have to be offensive, objectionable, inappropriate, or unacceptable in social context.

Finally, Mesthrie (2001:284) states that swear words are those invoke damnation, destruction or unhappiness of individual or target object and they reflect users frustration or wrath towards an object or a person so using them leads to vent strong emotion.

Looking at swearing among the Greeks and Romans there was no indication that speakers of classical Greek and Latin used bad language' in their swearing. This should not be taken to mean that there were no 'dirty words' in Ancient Greek and Latin: in fact, there was a number of them. but it was not recorded due to the fact that such swearing was not part of the linguistic repertory (Ljung,2011:50).

So, English swear words are first recorded in Anglo Saxon period. It was used to mean 'four letter' and first they express religious ideas as swearing (**hell!, fart!, damn!....etc.**).At the same time, the word '**shit**' appears as purely dirty word and it means 'poop' or 'to poop' same as Dutch and German (Hughes,2006:10).

## **2. Taboo terms**

In the head of these terms taboo words which is borrowed from Tongan, a language spoken through Polynesians within the Pacific archipelago, wherein any sacred or humble matters are forbidden to the touch or maybe to speak approximately (Gu, 2002:264). "**Taboo**" does consult with this phenomenon, and means "**holy**" or "**untouchable**". For an extended time, English and American accept as true with that fending off linguistic taboo is the image in their civilization. They refuse to speak approximately positive gadgets or movements and refuse to apply the language relating to them. So, taboo is sincerely related with something which is prevented and forbidden to speak about.

Since it is far ensuing in uneasiness, damage, and injury, humans within the society are alleged to keep away from taboo which has a vulgar sense. To supply a clearer explanation, Wardhaugh (2000, 234) mentions that **taboo** is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behaviour believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them **anxiety, embarrassment, or shame**. Consequently, as far as language is concerned, certain things are not to be said or certain objects can be referred to only in certain circumstances, for example, only by certain people, or through deliberate circumlocution, i.e., euphemistically. ...Tabooed subjects can vary widely: **sex, death, illness, excretion, bodily functions, religious matters, and the supernatural**. But quite often they extend to other aspects of social life. Allan and Burridge (2006: 1) assert that taboo originates from social restriction on one's conduct that can result in **uneasiness, damage and injury**.

To be more elaborated, supporting the idea, Fairman (2009:27) states that each society has its personal precise taboo act and taboo phrases. Taboo acts are associated with any activities that ought to be avoided, even as taboo phrases associated with any phrases that must now no longer be uttered. Taboo acts and taboo phrases are diagnosed with each other seeing that numerous taboo acts related to taboo phrases at the same time as others do now no longer. The famous case of this phenomenon is the act of incest. Incest is taboo as it refers back to the sexual pastime that is strongly forbidden in a society.

Finally, Ljung (2011:35) states that there are important taboo themes used in swearing in the language included

- **The religious/supernatural theme**
- **The scatological theme**
- **The (mother)family theme**
- **The sexual activities theme**
- **The sex organ theme**

### **3. Swear word and Gender**

First of all, we will draw a distinction between gender and sex according to Nanda and Richard (2009:172), the term sex is often used to refer to the physiological or biological features of females and males. However, gender refers to the social and cultural elaboration of the gender distinction that delineates their social roles.

In swearing, It is criticized that the supposed differences between male and female speech are stereotypical and not supported by empirical evidence. These critics stress that other factors such as social networks, social status, age, and education influence the use of female language as much as male and older linguistic studies involving women are challenged to be biased, and that the results obtained from them have been distorted as male forms are taken as normal and female forms as deviant forms (Lakoff,1975:14)

The differences in gender have been highlighted, men use more expletives, and stronger, more offensive than women. But that women use milder swear words than men. It has also been found that in same-sex groups, both sexes are more comfortable with expletive use, but men are more likely to swear in public than women (Jay & Janschewitz, 2008:274).

Gender plays a very important role. Obviously, man and woman express themselves differently in conversation, and many linguists relate this to the existence of gender convention and assumptions in their speech community (Babou-Sekkal,2012:80).

While it is normal to view swearing as a male domain, among female respondents, researchers have found an increasing awareness and usage of swearwords. Due to the social-physical context of contact, whether public or private, in which women make offensive decisions, swearing among women has been found to increase in frequency (Mukuni,2016)

### **4. The Structure**

The words are annotated with the following information in the dictionary: how to write the word, how to pronounce the word, the meaning of the word, the nuance of the word, whether the word is vague in the sense that it also has vague meanings, what language the word comes from, and the part of speech. The field of ambiguity indicates whether a word has taboo meanings as well as non-dirty meanings. It can only be noted that both are possible (e.g., "**pussy**") or if a word is always dirty (e.g.

"**fuck**"), and it can also be specified in more detail if the taboo meaning is much more common than any non-taboo meaning (e.g. "**cock**"). So, each swear word has all these features that include structure which is an important part for clear understanding (Sjobergh and Araki,2014).

Also, Salih (2013:31) states that swear words like ‘**ass**’, ‘**shit**’ and ‘**butt**’ are good examples. They can place in the position of adjective (like **bloody, pussy, and potty**) which means "the main set of items which specifies the attributers of noun." The place of verbs can be filled out by a taboo word too like **die, shit, fart ...etc.** They can occupy the position of adverb as in **bloody sick and fucking soon.** The following tables can help understand the structure of swear words:

Table (1) The Structure of Swear Words

No.	Type of word	Example
1	Simple	Breast, prick, fuck
2	Compound	Motherfucker, asshole

Swear words occupy certain grammatical classes in English as shown in table (2):

Table (2) The Grammatical Positions Swear Words Occupy

No.	Position	Example
1	Verb	Piss, shit, die
2	Noun	Fuck, death, damn
3	Adjective	Bloody, pussy
4	Adverb	Bloody

Andersson and Hirsch (1985:1.35-49) outline the syntactic and morphological patterns of swearing, using the following grammatical hierarchy over the various elements in which swearing will appear:

1. *As separate utterances,*
2. *As "a sentences",*
3. *As major constituents of a sentence,*
4. *As part of a constituent of a sentence, or*
5. *As part of a word.*

## 5. The Classification of Swear Words

classification is based on the meaning of the words, such as McEnery (2006:25) who classifies swear words into five groups. They are elaborated as follows:

### 1. *Animal terms of abuse*

These animal terms are used as a swear words to refer to other people description  
For example: pig, cow, haisha (cow) and chalb (dog)

### 2. *Sexist terms of abuse*

Sexual activities cannot be talked obviously in any community. So, they are used as swear word when it is uttered

For example: bitch and slut

### 3. *Intellect-based term of abuse*

These words are neutral based words. They can be existing in each society.

For example: idiot, prat and stupid

### 4. *Racist terms of abuse*

We can find these types of swear words in a community which are suffered from apartheid in colour, religion, nationality.

For example: nigger and chink

*5. Homophobic terms of abuse*

Wardhaugh (cited in Dewi, 2017:14) also divides swear words into six categories, including the sex based swear words which are mentioned above as well as five more types termed

*6. Religious Matter*

Swearing is not necessarily associated to bad business. Originally intended to be nice and respectful terms, religious matters are often used to swear. Then the words are known to be bad terms. Generally, religious words used in swearing demonstrates shock or amazement. For example: For God's sake! Ylaan mathabak (cursed your sec).

*7. Mother-in-Law*

Mother-in-law is the term to describe the relationship between women and many men or partners. The examples are slut, bitch, and motherfucker for this kind. The words slut and bitch are considered as the dirty job or activity of women.

*8. Excretion*

Swear words in the form of excretion are swear words that derive from the human mechanism or excretion system. Human excretion is known to be dirty and impolite. There are examples of this type: 'shit' and 'piss' in English while 'khara' 'Bool' in Arabic.

*9. Death*

The words used or uttered to swear are related to places related to the death. The words are represented by a place like go to hell or something that might happen when someone dies like 'damn it' or 'damned' and Mut yakhethak' (death takes you) in Arabic.

*10. Body Function Term*

Hidden body parts are also used to insult or to convey other individuals. Hidden body parts are commonly considered embarrassing or used for sexual activity, as in 'ass' in America and 'khasham' (nose) in Arabic.

This form is the same as the anatomical terms in Hughes' swear-word categorization (Hughes 2006:195). Hughes also mentions six other sorts of swear words, five of which are classed by Wardhaugh's swear words except for sex terms, and Hughes adds a new one.

*11. General terms*

In this type, swear words are collected in general form also they are functioned to add a strong emphasis to the following or former words. The example of general terms are fucking crazy! and bloody hell! (ibid: 512).

**6. Denotation and connotation**

*a. Denotative Meaning*

The denotative sense is the data usually presented in a dictionary, the mental representation of a collection of objects, characteristics, or events to which a term refers. Denotation involves truth, analysis, intention, significance or synonymity (Jay, 1981:30)

Salih (2013:34) states that this kind of terms are used with logical and cognitive sense interchangeably. An expression denotation is an eternal part of the truth to which the expression is related. The term 'blue, for instance,' signifies the colour blue. This implies that what the term really refers to is a denotative or conceptual meaning, or it is the lexical meaning in dictionaries. This kind of meaning is stable and constant regardless of ages and societies.

*b. Connotative Meaning*

Connotative meaning is defined by Leech (1981:12) as "the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to over and above purely conceptual content.". Connotation is conveyed meaning involved in irony, sarcasm, understatement, overstatement, humour, idiomatic usage and implied requests. Connotative reference can occur with both taboo and nontaboo words, just as both can be used denotatively (Jay,1992:10).

But in using swear words, connotative meaning is dominant over denotative meaning, and it is easy to distinguish these two aspects of meaning. Usually, dirty-word expressions are interpreted connotatively (Jay and Danks, 1977).

Since people want to express emotional feelings or have an emotional effect on listeners, speakers choose dirty words for this message. So, when we call somebody a bastard, for instance, we do not question the legitimacy of his birth, but express dislike for him. Connotation is usually related to emotional expression, not to a specific characteristic of the person in question (ibid).

## **7. Swearing and Religion**

Arabic societies are usually influenced by Islamic thought. The command of preserving us from injuring others by our speech, and to be keen on preserving it from indecency, is one of the most important things. Abuses and vices contradict the morals of Islam in every respect.

Islamic manners prevent any person from talking badly in others religion, ancestry, money, body, and mind. Al-subab is one of the uglier attributes, reprehensible qualities, and despicable values that certain people hold, and this is a characteristic that no Muslim should be identified by, since it is one of the types of sins, and there is no question that sins reduce rewards and through which the right of good deeds and the set of bad deeds are both diminished (Al-zahrani,2005).

Here, the light will go to the important role that religion plays in preventing and inhibiting swear words.

[سورة الأنعام، 108] (وَلَا تَسُبُّوا الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَيَسُبُّوا اللَّهَ عَدْوًا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ)

Surah Al-An'âm (6:108)

[And insult not those whom they (disbelievers) worship besides Allah, lest they insult Allah Wrongfully without knowledge.]( Al-Hilâlî and Khân,1404;187\_188)

Since Allah forbade believers from cursing idols because of the corruption that this entails, he said: "ولا تسبوا الذين يدعون من دون الله"، which means: do not insult the polytheists gods and their idols. "فيسبوا الله عدوا" that is, they accuse Allah "بغير علم"، because of their ignorance and transgression of Allah without knowing Allah greatness(Al- Tabari,1981:410-411).

Also, prophet Mohammed says many Hadiths which deal with preventing swearing as:

عن عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

" سَبَابُ الْمُسْلِمِ فُسُوقٌ، وَقِتَالُهُ كُفْرٌ " (Sahih Al\_Bukhari,20:48)

Narrated 'Abdullah رضي الله عنه: That Prophet (ﷺ) said:

‘Abusing a Muslim is Fusuq (an evil doing)and killing him is Kufer (disbelief)’ (Khan,80:48)

It was said: The subab is more serious than the sab, so the subab is when a man says what's in him and what's not in him, so he wants his defect. As for the Sab, it's not just what's in it.

As far as immorality is concerned, it is in the language of exodus and in the law: departing from obedience to Allah and His Messenger, and in the customs of Sharia, it is more serious than disobedience.

As for fighting, it's fighting as for the disbelief mentioned here, it's unbelief without disbelief, and what it means is disbelief that gets the way out of religion(<https://www.islamweb.net>).

At the end, swearing by all means is prohibited in Holly Quran and Sunnah because if someone insults others by anything that leads to hatred between people and immoral society.

## **8. Methodology**

It clarifies the way of selecting data, corpus, models, analytical instruments, and procedures used in this study.

### **8.1 Source of Data**

The current research focuses on the analysis of common swear words in both English and Iraqi Arabic. Data gathering is recognized as a necessary component for conducting and directing objective analysis. Nonetheless, deciding which data gathering strategy is optimal to use in a given study can be tricky. O'Leary (2004, 150) observes that collecting reliable data is a difficult task, and it is important to realize that one method of data collection is still not necessarily superior to another. As a result, data collection strategy would be determined by the research aims as well as the benefits and disadvantages of each method.

For this study, English swear words has been taken from various of sources, including encyclopedias of swear words, slang dictionaries, news, celebrator comments, movies, and novels. Variety is required for gathering the required number of swear words for the study.

Meanwhile, Arabic swears words have been collected from experts in language, friends, and comments on social media pages. And I am familiar with many of the words to be studied.

### **8.2 Method of Analysis**

The current study uses the quantitative method. A qualitative investigation focuses on the details that 'collecting primarily textual data and examining it using interpretive analysis' (Heigman and Croker 2009: 5). Here, the information gathered in this type of study is frequently presented in the form of explanations, stories, and events. In practice, controlling and organizing the findings analysis is difficult. It is also not categorized into finite numbers. Objectivity is essential in order to make the qualitative data gathered more experimental and scientific.

At this stage, the study first presents a clear and full image of the swear words as a linguistic phenomenon under investigation, since we need to be aware of what is going on because the informant's answers can occasionally mislead us. Data availability and the avoidance of subjective judgments are equal key factors to be considered when investigating an issue then read out with numerical results.

### **8.3 The Suggested Model**

Two different sub-models are used in this investigation: Ljung (2011) introduced several types of swear words, as well as how to formulate the meaning, and also the class and structure of each word. McEnery (2006), on the other hand, has clarified more types of swear words as well as the gender to which they are directed.

## **9. Data Analysis**

### **9.1 Swearwords in English**

In this section, we look at the more common swear words types that are used as swear words in English

#### **9.1.1 Animal-based swear words**



This section discusses common animal terms in English that are used connotatively for swearing.

**Ass /donkey**

These two expressions are used as synonyms each one used in an area or situation. These terms indicate both male and female to refer connotatively to a person who is being or acting like an idiot/ass. They are usually looked in the form of noun as in

**1. Man, that kid is such a donkey**

‘Donkey’ here is a simple single word which is a part of the sentence.

**Bird**

Generally, this expression is used to refer to girl or young woman. So, it directed to female only when connotatively she comes across as vain, ditzy, stupid or useless. It is formed as a noun as in

**2. you dumb bird.**

Here, ‘bird’ is structured as simple single word which is a major part of the sentence.

**Cow**

It is an offensive word which connotatively refers to a female who is stupid, annoying, or fat. This expression is usually formed as a noun as in

**3. You cow!**

Here ‘cow’ syntactically is a simple single word which is a major constituent of the sentence.

Table (3) Animal-based swear words in English

Words	Meaning	Structure	Class	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
Ass/donkey	an idiot	Simple word	noun			√
Bird	vain, ditzy, stupid or useless	Simple word	noun		√	
Cow	stupid, annoying, or fat	Simple word	noun		√	

**9.1.2 Body parts based swear words**

In this sub-section, we deal with human body parts that are used connotatively for swearing in English

**Arsehole/ arse**

When someone calls another person as an arsehole, connotatively, it implies that the person is extremely stupid or has acted foolishly and someone who makes you feel disgusted and angry. It is directed at both males and females. It is a compound word which takes the position of a noun, as in

**4. An arsehole had parked so I couldn't get out**

Arsehole here is a major constituent of the sentence.

**Bloody**

It is used connotatively to emphasize meaning whether good, sarcastic, or bad and it simply means absolutely, wholly, purely, extremely, truly, and has nothing to do with blood or murder, except in the sense that the term has been corrupted. It is placed before or in the middle of words/sentences. This expression is addressed to male and female. It is an adverbial intensifier as in

**5. A bloody fool**

‘bloody’ is the major constituents of the sentence.

Table (4) Body parts based swear words in English

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
<b>asshole</b>	stupid or fool	Compound word	Noun			√
<b>bloody</b>	emphasize meaning whether good, sarcastic, or bad	Simple word	adverbial intensifier			√

### 9.1.3 Excretion-based swear words

This section is used in the excretory system of animals or humans to connote swear words in English.

#### **Bullshit**

When somebody utters this swear word, s/he connotatively describes stupid things people do as nonsense, lies or false information. This term is used to direct both gender male and female. The structure of this word is a compound word which can be used as full sentence, as in

#### **5. Bullshit!**

Which is a noun that gives a full meaning of swearing.

#### **Fart**

This word connotatively indicates an irritable, unpleasant person or foolish people who annoy others. It is usually directed at both genders, males and females. It can be formed as verb, as in:

#### **6. Fart around, to spend time foolishly or aimlessly.**

Which is a separate verb phrase

Table (5) Excretion-based swear words in English

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
<b>Bullshit!</b>	stupid things people do as nonsense, lies or false information	Compound word	noun			√
<b>Fart around</b>	irritable, unpleasant person or foolish people who are annoying others	Phrase	verb			√

### 9.1.4 Intellect-based Swear words

The following swear words have a neutral base. They can be found throughout English society.

**Dumb**

It is a slang word which denotatively refers to a person who isn't very intelligent or is lacking intelligence. It is directed to both males and females. Generally, it is an adjective as in:

**7. He is asking a dumb question.**

Which is a single word that intensifies the noun.

**Fool**

This phrase is denotatively directed to someone who makes rash or imprudent acts; a silly person. It indicates males and females in the same degree. In most examples, it is formed as a simple word which is a major part of the sentence, as in:

**8. You are such a fool!**

Which could be considered as a noun.

**Idiot**

It is a more common synonyms of 'fool' or 'moron' which is used to refer to a person who is foolish and stupid. This expression is usually directed to any person whether male or female. In the normal cases it is a simple word which takes a major place in the sentence, as in:

**9. Don't be such an idiot!**

Also, here the class of 'idiot' is a noun.

Table (6) Intellect-based Swear words in English

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
<b>dumb</b>	a person who isn't very intelligent or	Simple word	Adjective			√
<b>Fool</b>	someone who makes rash or imprudent acts; a silly person	Simple word	Noun			√
<b>idiot</b>	foolish and stupid	Simple word	Noun			√

**9.1.5 Death and disease based Swear words**

In this section, we analyse swear words in English that are related to death and disease.

**Pox**

This term is connotatively used to indicate someone or something bad, awful, or crappy. It is usually directed to both males and females. This expression is commonly used in literature as in

**10. A pox on both your houses!**

It is used as a simple word in the form of a noun which is taking the major role in the sentence.

**Damn**

This expression is used in unexpected, anger and irritation situations. It means 'go to hell' or things that might happen after something passes away, as in:

**11. Damn you!**

Here, 'damn' is a simple word formed as a verb which is a major part in the sentence.

Table (7) Death and disease based Swear words in English

words	meaning	structure	form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
<b>pox</b>	someone or something bad, awful, or crappy.	Simple word	noun			√
<b>damn</b>	go to hell or things that might happen after something passes away	Simple word	verb			√

#### 4.2.8 General terms

This section collects and explains all other terms used in English that are not covered in the preceding sections.

##### **Bum**

This expression connotatively refers to disreputable associations, namely idleness, dishonesty, and promiscuity although it denotatively refers to a homeless person. It is directed to both male and female in the same degree. This word is formed as a simple word which structures an important part of the sentence, as in:

##### **12. Gave me bum advice.**

Here ‘bum’ is formed as an adjective.

##### **Fat**

It is possibly one of the most uncreative yet incredibly effective insults in the English language, requiring little thought. It indicates a stupid, worthless or slowly move person who acts like a child. It is given to both genders. This expression is structured as a simple word that holds the major meaning of the sentence, as in:

##### **13. My nice little fat Rosie.**

Here ‘fat’ is classed as an adjective which describes the noun.

##### **ugly**

Denotatively, this expression is directed to anything that is very unattractive or unpleasant to look at. It is offensive to the sense of beauty and displeasing in appearance. It is directed at both genders, male and female. But as a personal appearance it addresses females more. It could be an adjective that describe the noun, as in:

##### **14. You're so ugly.**

‘Ugly’ here is structured as a simple word that has the major part in the sentence.

Table (8) Other swear words in English

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
<b>bum</b>	disreputable associations, namely idleness, dishonesty, and	Simple word	Adjective			√

	promiscuity					
<b>fat</b>	stupid, worthless or slowly move person who acts like a child	Simple word	adjective			√
<b>ugly</b>	A person who is unattractive or unpleasant to look at.	Simple word	Adjective			√

## 9.2 Swear words in Iraqi Arabic

In this section, we look at some of the more popular types of swear words used in Iraqi Arabic.

### 9.2.1 Animal-based swear words

In this section, we look at the more common swear words that are used as swear words in Iraqi Arabic.

#### بكرة 'Begarrah' (cow)

It is a common swear word with connotations of fat, unintelligent, and pure-hearted females. In some Iraqi areas, هاشية 'haysha' is used as a synonym for 'bagarah'. It is always a simple single noun as in

#### 15. بكرة! 'Begarrah!' (cow)

Which is full sentence.

The same semantic meaning word is ثور 'thor' (ox) is used to refer to male with different connotative meaning which is directed to a person who becomes angry without understanding. It is also a simple single noun, as in:

#### chnah thor wahayij 'as a nervy ox' (چنه ثور وهايچ)

And it is a major constituent of the sentence.

#### بومة 'Buma' (owl)

It is the most commonly used animal-based swear word when referring to females. It connotes an ominous woman who, upon her arrival, causes all evil things to happen, it also refers to a woman with a frown on her face. It is a simple single noun, as in:

#### 16. ايا بومة! 'A ya buma!' (O owl!)

It is a major constituent of the sentence.

#### حية 'hayih' (snake)

This word is used connotatively to refer to female-directed wickedness or duplicity or when she acts as a very good person but in fact she is the reverse. In the example below, its structure is more obvious.

#### 17. kafi talafiyn wadwrin mithl alhayih 'Enough to change and adore like a snake' (كافي تلفين وادورين مثل الحيه)

Syntactically, (Al\_hayih) is a simple single noun which is part of a constituent of the sentence. People use compound swear words ( hayih safrah "حية صفرة" ) in some areas and (hayih sudih "حية سودة" ) in others to refer to stronger swear words. It is possible to find a stronger word than these two, which is sil (صل). This type of snakes is more dangerous, for that it is a more effective in swearing.

Table (9) Animal-based swear words in Iraqi Arabic

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
بكرة	fat, unintelligent, and pure-hearted females	Simple word	noun		√	
بومة	ominous woman	Simple word	noun		√	
حية	wickedness or duplicity person	Simple word	noun		√	

#### 4.3.2 Body parts based swear words

In this section, we shall look at the more common body parts terms that are used as swear words in Iraqi Arabic.

##### ابو اذان 'Abu Adhan' (father of ears)

It is an expression that is directed at a stupid person. This idea comes from the fact that the donkey has big ears, so a stupid person is viewed as a donkey. It is usually directed at a male and it is structured as a phrase consisting of two nouns which are mixed together to make a compound word. In swearing, it is used as a full sentence that holds a swearing meaning, as in

##### 18. ابو اذان! 'Abu Adhan!' (father of ears!)

##### ابو حلك اعوج 'abu halg aewj' (father of a crooked mouth)

These words are used in common to indicate a talkative and useless person. Also, it could be used to decrease the beauty of the addressee. It is directed at both genders. With the female, it is 'أم' (um) used instead of 'أبو' (abu). As a swear word, it is structured as a phrase which consists of a noun (أبو) and another noun (حلك) with an adjective (اعوج). All this is formed as a full sentence that indicates swearing, as in

##### 19. ابو حلك اعوج! 'abw halk aewj!' (father for crooked mouth!)

Table (10) Body parts based swear words in Iraqi Arabic

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
ابو اذان	stupid person	phrase	noun	√		
ابو حلك اعوج	talkative and useless person	phrase	Noun+ noun+ adjective			√

#### 4.3.3 Intellect-based swear words

The following swear words have a neutral base. They can be found throughout Iraqi Arabic society.

##### اثول 'Athwal' (idiot)

Athol is an idiot who is easily fooled by others. This expression is a swear word in its basic meaning. It is directed to both gender male and female. This expression is formed as a noun as in

**20. أثول مايفاتهم! 'athul mayafatihum!' (an idiot does not understand!)**

In the above example 'أثول' is a simple word which holds the major constituent of a sentence.

**خبيل 'khebal' (insane)**

This swear word is used denotatively to indicate someone who cannot behave wisely and behave as a mad person. It usually refers to those who behave childly. This expression is directed to both gender male and female, it becomes 'خبيلة' when used with female. It takes the form of a noun which is structured as a simple word that holds the important meaning in the sentence, as in:

**21. چنه خبل! 'chnuh khabal!' (like insane!)**

Table (11) intellect-based swear words in Iraqi Arabic

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
اثول	an idiot who is easily fooled by others	Simple word	noun			√
خبيل	someone who cannot behave wisely and behave as a mad person	Simple word	noun			√

**4.3.4 Death and disease based swear words**

In this section, we analyse swear words in Iraqi Arabic society that are related to death and disease.

**الله ياخذك 'Allah yakhudhuk!' (May Allah take you!)**

These expressions موت الكرفك/سليمه الكرفتك/ كبر لفك can be used as synonyms. These expressions are commonly heard in any group of people in the street, in café, .... etc. The meaning of these words a 'may Allah take you' is connotated to be as damn to pass away from this world. These words is directed to both genders males and females. It is structured as a compound word the noun 'الله' comes with the verb 'ياخذك' to make a full sentence, as in:

**22. الله ياخذك! 'Allah yakhudhuk!' (May Allah take you!)**

**تبيك مرض 'tibak marad' (to get sick)**

These two words is commonly used to indicate that you deserve what had happened to you. It is denotatively meant that to have a heavy sickness and the same meaning is connotatively used as swear word. This expression is directed to both genders. The verb 'تبيك' collocates with the noun 'مرض' and make a compound word that is structured to be a full sentence, as in:

**23. تبيك مرض! 'tibak marad!' (to get sick!)**

Table (12) Death and disease based swear words in Iraqi Arabic

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
الله ياخذك	damn to go pass away from this world	sentence	Noun+verb			√

طبك مرض	to have a heavy sickness	sentence	Verb+ noun			√
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#### 4.3.5 General terms

##### اجکم 'ajkam' (ugly)

This expression is widely used in Iraqi Arabic society, and it denotes an ugly person. This expression is directed at both genders, with female it becomes 'جکمة'. It is structured as a simple word which holds the major constituents of the sentence, as in:

##### 24. شکد اجکم هالولد! 'shakad ajkum halwld!' (how an ugly boy!)

In the above example 'شکد' is occupied the position of the adjective.

##### انچب 'anjib' (shut up)

It is the most commonly used swear word everywhere. When someone wants to say shut up but in a swearing way s/he says أنجب. It is directed to both genders, with females it is formed as أنجبي. the structure of this word is a simple word which has the major constituent of the sentence, as in:

##### 25. أنجب وأسکت! 'anjib wa'uskit wa'uskit!' (shut up and keep silent!)

In the above example, 'أنجب' occupies the position of the verb

##### تزز 'tuzz'

This term is used to express sarcasm and indifference. It is used when someone says something that annoys the addressor and he or she is indifferent in the subject. It is directed to both genders with the same word shape. It is structured as a simple word which builds the major constituent of a sentence, as in:

In the above example, 'تزز' is formed as a verb.

##### 26. تزز بيج! 'tuzz bich!'

Table (13) Other Swear Words in Iraqi Arabic

Words	Meaning	Structure	Form	Gender directed		
				male	female	Both
اجکم	ugly person.	Simple word	adjective			√
انچب	shut up	Simple word	verb			√
تزز	express sarcasm and indifference	Simple word	verb			√

## 10. Conclusions

The linguistic landscapes of English and Iraqi Arabic are complex, making them interesting societies that deserve to be studied linguistically. The purpose of this study is to investigate the use and perception of swear words in these societies, as well as their relationship to the social context in which they are employed and the factors that influence them to arrive at the following conclusions:

1. A variety of factors, including age, gender, social and economic standing, as well as the speaker-listener relationship, influence the communicative act. Nonetheless, an analysis of the motivations that lead to the usage of swear words has revealed that shame and causing injury are the primary goals that lead the speaker to use swear words.
2. The use of swear words is highly influenced by culture. Both cultures (English and Iraqi Arabic) prohibit swearing from religious standpoints. Sexual phrases can also be offensive and taboo. As a result, swear words are becoming more limited; otherwise, they are instilled everywhere and at all times.



3. The context in which swear words are used is the most essential factor in determining whether an ordinary word becomes a swear word
4. The number of swear words directed at men and women is the highest in both languages, followed by male-directed swear words. As a result, men use swear words more frequently than women.

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