

## Hughes' Types of Swear Words in the Comment Section of Harry Styles' Instagram Post

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**Abstract:** Swear word refers to a term or expression that is typically seen as offensive, rude, impolite, vulgar, or profane. In this research, the researcher chose to analyze swear words found in the comment section of Harry Styles' Instagram post, uploaded on July 15, 2023, which is used as the data source. This research aims to deepen the understanding of swear words and contribute to linguistic studies, particularly in non-standard language, by examining the types of swear words used in social media comments. This research used a descriptive qualitative method. The researcher used Hughes' theory to find out the types of swear words. The results of this research showed six types of swear words, with a total of 31 swear words and 203 occurrences due to repetition. 3 swear words related to excrement (29 occurrences). 3 swear words related to animals (3 occurrences). 2 swear words related to personal background (4 occurrences). 7 swear words related to sex (104 occurrences). 7 swear words related to religion or oath (47 occurrences). 9 swear words related to mental illness (16 occurrences). Swear words related to mental illness are the largest in number. Meanwhile, swear words related to sex are the most dominant in terms of repetition.

**Keywords:** *swear words, types of swear words, hughes's theory, instagram comment, harry styles.*

## INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role in human life, as it is the primary tool people use to communicate with one another in a wide range of daily activities, such as giving instructions, asking questions, sharing experiences, or simply building social relationships. Through language, people are able to share their thoughts and emotions clearly, whether in a formal setting or in everyday situations. One of the interesting language phenomena that appears in everyday communication is the use of swear words. The use of swear words can stem from a range of emotions, including stress, sadness, anger, joy, surprise, confusion, or the desire to express strong feelings. This makes swearing not only a form of emotional release, but also a meaningful aspect of how people interact and respond to various situations in their daily lives.

In today's digital era, social media has become one of the most prominent platforms for language use, where people communicate through texts, comments, posts, and even emojis. Social media is a tool used by people to interact with each other by creating, sharing, and exchanging information and ideas in a virtual network and community. Moreover, social media is not only a communication tool, but also a space for self-expression. One form of expression that is often found is the use of swear words. One of the most widely used social media platforms today is the Instagram application.

Harry Styles is an influential public figure with a massive presence on social media. He has over 48 million followers on Instagram, making his account one of the most-followed in the United Kingdom. His posts often attract a high level of engagement, with

thousands of comments from users around the world, making his Instagram account an interesting and relevant source for this research. On July 15, 2023 Harry Styles uploaded a instagram post in which he is seen holding a rainbow flag during his concert in Vienna, Austria. This action provoked debate and controversy, with some people supporting it and others criticizing it, as it became a topic of intense discussion among fans and the general public.

The phenomenon of swear word usage on social media is not only becoming more widespread, but also closely related to complex social, cultural, and ideological dynamics. In the context of comments directed at Harry Styles, particularly when he expressed support for the LGBTQ+ community, the use of swear word by some users was not merely a spontaneous emotional reaction. Instead, these swear words often served as a form of response or rejection toward certain values or social identities that the users disagreed with. This topic is important to discuss because there is still a lack of research specifically mapping the typology of swear words in digital contexts, especially those related to social issues such as support for the LGBTQ+ community.

There are researches related to this topic. The first one is the research entitled *An Analysis of Swear words in the Novel the Maze Runner by James Dashner* by Irma Gayatri (2016). The aim of this research was to identify the types of swear words found in the novel and to determine the most frequently used type of swear word. In this research, the researcher used Michael Swan's theory. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method in doing the research. From the analysis, the researcher found that there are two types of swear words, strong swear word (41,6%) and weak swear word (58,3%). Second, the researcher finds that the most frequent swear word that is used in the novel is weak swear word.

The recond research entitled *The Use of Swear Words in PewDiePie's YouTube Videos* written by Octavia Wulandari Titis Timur (2017). The aim of the research was to identify the types of swear words and to find out the dominant types based on meaningful and meaningless swearing found the YouTube content. In this research, the researcher used Pinker's theory. Descriptive qualitative method used in this research. The researcher showed that there were five types of swear words that used in five PewDiePie's videos, those were 14 data of dysphemistics, 34 data of idiomatically, 6 data of abusively, 23 data of emphatically, and 27 data of carthartically. Based on the data, the dominant type of swearing used by PewDiePie is idiomatic swearing, with a total of 34 occurrences out of 104.

The third previous research entitled *Swear Words in the Comment Column of X Application About the 2024 Presidential Election in Indonesia* written by Ketut Budi Aryani (2024). This research aims to identify the types of swear words and find the dominant types of swear words found in the X Application's comments about the 2024 presidential election in Indonesia. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method. The source data were taken from comments of posts that exposed the 2024 presidential election on X Application. Data collection was carried out by analyzing content about the presidential election with the help of an observation sheet. The researcher uses Hughes's theory to find out the types of swear words. The results of this research show six types of swear words from 52 data; there are types of swear words related to religion 4 data, types of swear words related to excrement 3 data, types of swear words related to animals 10 data, types of swear words related to mental illness 21 data, types of swear words related to the sex 7 data, and the types of swear words related to the personal background 7 data. The dominant type used for swearing in the Comment X Application is Mental Illness, with 21 number occurrences and 40.38%.

According to Edward Sapir (1921), language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols. These symbols are primarily auditory and created by the organs of speech. However, language is not only a tool for expressing internal thoughts. As Peter Trudgill (2000) states in his book *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*, language is not just for sharing information, but also an important means of building and maintaining relationship with others. This view aligns with Wardhaugh and Fuller (2010) that knowing a language involves more than just forming grammatically correct sentences, it also requires knowing how to use those sentences appropriately. These perspectives show that language is both a structured system of symbols and a socially embedded practice that reflects and shapes human interaction.

The development of information technology in the current era of globalization plays a key role in simplifying communication and enhancing human access to information. In today's digital age, language continues to evolve rapidly, especially through social media platforms where new forms of expression emerge and reshape the way people communicate. This development highlights the adaptability and richness of human language. Social media has significantly transformed modern communication by providing platforms like Instagram, X, Facebook, and TikTok, where users can share ideas, opinions, and experiences through short messages. Varindel Taprial and Priya Kanwar (2012, p.8) stated in *Understanding Social Media*, "Social media is the media that allows one to be social, or get social online by sharing content, news, photos with other people".

A swear word refers to language that is perceived as rude or offensive. Jay (2000) explains that swear words typically involve emotionally powerful and offensive language that can cause discomfort or offense to others. This is highly relevant to the current state of communication, in which people tend to express their thoughts and emotions more openly. Pinker (2007) also adds that people use swear words in many different situations. For example, someone might swear when they accidentally hurt themselves (cathartic swearing), or when they are angry at another person, like being cut off in traffic (imprecations). This shows that swearing is not only used to insult, but also as a natural reaction to pain, stress, or frustration. Hughes (2006) states that swearing is related to the sacred idea of word power, the belief that words can actually change things in the world. This belief was especially strong in early human societies, where people used language in the form of spells, charms, or curses. Because of that, certain words were seen as dangerous and started to be avoided or even forbidden. So, swear words aren't just rude or offensive language; they are part of taboo expressions that have strong social and emotional meaning. People often use them to show anger, disappointment, or to hurt others through speech.

According to Hughes (2006), swearing draws upon very strong but sometimes mismatched emotional triggers, which he calls resonators. These resonators are what make swear words feel powerful and meaningful to speakers. Based on this idea, he classifies English swear words into six main types: those related to sex, excrement, animals, personal background, mental illness, and religion or oaths.

- 1. Swear words related to sex**

Swear words related to sex refer to words connected to sexual organs or private parts of the human body. These words often describe sexual acts or body parts involved in human reproduction. Examples of this type of swear words include prick and tit. Additionally, other common swear words in this category are fuck, ass, dick, pussy, etc.

- 2. Swear words related to excrement**

It generally refers to words associated with things considered dirty, disgusting, and inappropriate to mention in public. Examples of this category include words like turd, crap and shit. These words are used to express strong emotions such as anger or frustration but are not suitable for polite conversation.

**3. Swear words related to animals**

Swear words related to animals are not rude by themselves because animal names are normal words. However, they become swear words when people use them to insult or mock someone's personality or behavior. People use them to criticize or insult someone's character. Examples are cow and pig, which often mean someone is lazy, dirty, or unpleasant.

**4. Swear words related to personal background**

These expressions are used to insult or degrade someone based on their family, social status, or profession. The words are meant to make people feel small or ashamed. Some examples are son of a bitch and whorson, which attack a person's family or how they were born.

**5. Swear words related to mental illness**

Swear words related to mental illness are often used to insult or mock someone's intelligence or behavior. These words usually refer to people with mental or intellectual disabilities, even though they're used casually in daily language to offend others. Common examples include crazy, stupid, and idiot.

**6. Swear words related to religion or oaths**

Swear words related to religion are words or expressions that refer to sacred or spiritual matters in a disrespectful way, and are considered rude or offensive by many people. Taboo words are usually not said because they are either very sacred, like the name of God, or very offensive, like topics such as cannibalism or incest. A taboo word is one that people avoid saying because it is seen as inappropriate or disrespectful. However, when people use religious swear words, they do not intend to disrespect God or religion. Instead, they use these words to show strong emotions, such as anger or surprise. Swear words related to religion often mention sacred or powerful things like God, the devil, death, and damnation. Examples of common religious swear words include Goddamn, Jesus, Christ, and Jeez. Hughes also points out the use of religious reinforcers such as phrases like "by God!" or "the devil take it!" and sacred references like "by my father's soul" or "on my mother's grave" that are often used in swearing to express strong feelings.

## RESEARCH METHOD

According to Tracy (2013), qualitative methods can be used to produce knowledge that is relevant to social issues, questions or problems, so that it has a meaningful contribution to human life. These methods focus on understanding human experiences, behaviors, and interactions in their natural context, allowing researchers to explore phenomena in depth and detail. In this research, the researcher uses a descriptive qualitative approach because it is suitable for identifying and describing the types of swear words found in social media interactions.

According to Sandelowski (2000), a descriptive qualitative study is the method of choice when trying to describe a phenomenon of interest. The purpose of using a qualitative descriptive approach in this research is to provide a detailed and accurate description of the phenomenon. This approach is used because it contributes to a deeper understanding and knowledge of the phenomenon, thus offering valuable insights into its various aspects.

Supporting this idea, Merriam (2009) explains that qualitative research is descriptive in nature. It means that the data collected are in the form of words rather than numbers. The results of qualitative research often include direct quotations from the data to illustrate and support the presentation of findings.

The researcher used English comments from a photo posted on Harry Styles' Instagram account on July 15, 2023 as the data source for this research. This post was chosen because it went viral, attracting a large number of comments, making it a relevant and rich source for analysis. The data for this research are the swear words found in the English comments of Harry Styles' Instagram post on July 15, 2023 with the data collected up April 10, 2025.

The data collected for this research through several steps. First, the researcher chose a photo posted by Harry Styles on Instagram on July 15, 2023, as the data source. Then, the researcher selected the comments containing swear words from the post, with data collected up until April 10, 2025. After that, the researcher took screenshots of the selected comments. The last, the researcher collected the data and writing it in a table.

After the data have been collected, the researcher analyzed the data. The first step is by classifying the existing data based on Hughes' (2006) theory of swear words. The second step is by analyzing the swear words by their types according to Hughes' (2006) theory. The third step is by drawing conclusions based on the analysis.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The table below presents the types of swear words found in the comment section of Harry Styles' Instagram post (July 15, 2023 – April 10, 2025). **These swear words are classified into six types based on Hughes' (2006) theory.** The detailed data can be seen in the table below.

**Table 1. Types of Swear Words in Comments on Harry Styles' Instagram Post**

No	Types of swear words	Total words	Swear Words	Repetition
1	Swear words related to sex	7	Ass	11
			Bitching	1
			Buttsex	1
			Dick	2
			Fuck	86
			Pervert	1
			Suck	2
2	Swear words related to excrement	3	Crap	1
			Filth	1
			Shit	27
3	Swear words related to animals	3	Bitches	1
			Dog	1
			Rat	1
4	Swear words related to personal background	2	Faggots	3
			Sodomitas	1
5	Swear words related to mental illness	9	Brainless	1
			Crazy	1
			Dumb	2
			Insane	1



6	Swear words related to religion or oaths	7	Mad	2
			Mentally sick	1
			Morons	1
			Pathological brain disorder	1
			Stupid	6
			Bloody	1
			Damn	24
			Fucking dear lord	1
			Hell	16
			Jesus Christ	1
			God	3
			Nasty religion	1
			<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>

Based on the table above, the researcher found six types of swear words in the comment section of Harry Styles' Instagram post. The most dominant type is swear words related to mental illness, with a total of 9 words. This is followed by **7 swear words related to sex and religion or oaths**. Then, 3 swear words are related to excrement and animals. The type with the fewest words is **2 swear words related to personal background**. The most frequently repeated swear word is “*fuck*”, which appears 86 times and is classified as a swear word related to sex.

### Swear word related to sex

Swear words related to sex in this study include terms that refer to sexual organs, private parts of the body, or sexual acts. These words are often used to express anger, frustration, or surprise, but they may also appear in sexually explicit contexts or be directed as insults. Their usage is generally considered vulgar or offensive. In the comment section analyzed, several words were found in this type, including *ass*, *bitching*, *buttssex*, *dick*, *fuck*, *pervert*, and *suck*.



### Comment:

*Good for everyone child, I'm glad I never dealt with things like you.. soft “ass” person living in a bubble.*

### Analysis:

According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, the word “*ass*” is a rude term for the part of the body that you sit on. In the comment, the word “*ass*” is used as an insult

directed at a person, or more specifically, at Harry Styles. In this case, the word “*ass*” does not refer to the body part literally, but is used as a strong, rude way to make the insult more powerful. The phrase “*soft person*” means someone who is gentle or sensitive. However, when the word “*ass*” is added, it changes the meaning to “*a very soft person*”, but in a sarcastic, mocking, or disrespectful way.

According to the theory of swearing by Hughes (2006), using a word in a way that does not align with its literal meaning, especially when it is meant to offend or express feelings of dislike or anger, can be considered a swear word. **This is because such language is generally considered rude, offensive, or impolite.**



**Comment:**

Freedom of what? Satanist “buttsex”?

**Analysis:**

The first comment by the account *@larry\_says\_read* expresses support for Harry Styles’ action in expressing his freedom. However, the statement was replied to by the account *@antilib22* with a sarcastic and offensive comment. The term “*satanist*” in the sentence is not used in its literal meaning as someone who follows Satanism, but rather as a negative label to compare that freedom with moral or religious deviance.

If it is combined with the word “*buttsex*”, then this phrase constructs a meaning that the person being referred to is part of a sexually deviant group that goes against social values. According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, “*buttsex*” is a vulgar term combining *butt* (a person’s bottom) and *sex* (the activity of sexual intercourse), it refers to anal sex. As explained by Hughes (2006), words that contain explicit sexual meaning and refer to sexual activities considered taboo or deviant by society fall into the category of swear words related to sex.

**Swear words related to excrement**

Swear words related to excrement are words that come from things considered dirty or disgusting, especially related to human waste. These words are often used to express strong emotions like anger, frustration, or disappointment. Because they are connected with something that is seen as impure or unpleasant, they are considered rude and not suitable for polite or formal situations. Even though people may use them casually in daily conversation or online, they still carry a sense of vulgarity and are often avoided in respectful settings. In this research, several examples of this type were found in the comment section, including *crap*, *filth*, and *shit*. These words were used to attack others, express annoyance, or to strongly criticize something. The use of such terms reflects how taboo language can become a tool to convey emotion and negativity in online interactions.



### Comment:

Kind of sucks that he let it go for the fans but it should have been a strong stance so people stop throwing “crap” to the artists.

### Analysis:

According to Cambridge Online Dictionary, the word “crap” is a disrespectful or offensive term used to describe something that is worthless, useless, nonsense, or of bad quality. Meanwhile, according to Hughes (2006) in *An Encyclopedia of Swearing: The Social History of Oaths, Profanity, Foul Language, and Ethnic Slurs in the English-speaking World*, “crap” is “a less vulgar synonym for shit” (p. 105), which is a less rude or less vulgar synonym of shit. However, the word still has a similar meaning, which is related to dirt, nonsense, or something that is considered as valueless. Even though it sounds softer, it can still be categorized as a swear word related to excrement. The word “crap” is used to express dislike, mock someone, or say something negative.

The context of this comment, the word “crap” serves an emotional function to criticize the inappropriate behavior of fans toward Harry Styles. Specifically, it is used as a more expressive and emotionally intense substitute for terms like “trash” or “unimportant things.” The word “crap” in this case refers to objects such as bottles or other items thrown by the audience at Harry Styles during the concert. This is an act that is considered inappropriate, dangerous, and needs to be stopped.



### Comment:

It's not love, it's “filth”

### Analysis:

According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, the word “filth” can describe something that is very dirty in a thick or unpleasant way, or it can refer to language, images, or behavior that is considered morally offensive or inappropriate. In the comment, the word



“filth” is not used to describe literal dirt, but rather to insult or criticize what is shown in Harry Styles’ post. The phrase **“It’s not love, it’s filth”** suggests that the commenter rejects the expression of love in the post and instead views it as something dirty or offensive, possibly due to how it looks or what it represents. According to Hughes’ (2006) theory of swearing, when a word is used to express a strong emotional judgment, especially one involving disgust or to insult, it can be categorized as a swear word. Therefore, this term can be categorized into swear words related to excrement.

### Swear words related to animals

**Swear words related to animals** are not rude by themselves because animal names are normal words. However, they become swear words when people use them to insult or mock someone’s personality or behavior. These words often compare people to animals seen as lazy, dirty, or unpleasant such as *cow* or *pig*. When used this way, the words are no longer neutral, but become offensive and are considered swear words. In this research, the swear words related to animals found in the comments include **bitches**, **dog**, and **rat**.

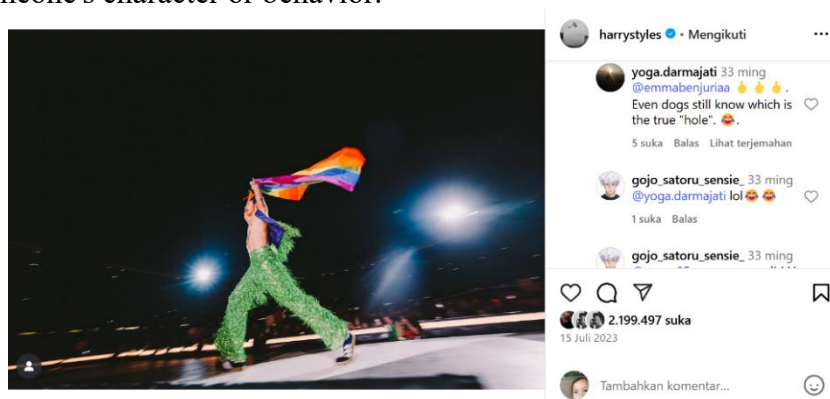


#### Comment:

Now apologize you spoiled “bitches”

#### Analysis:

According to Hughes (2006), the word “researchers” originally comes from the Old English word *bicche*, which referred to a female dog. In the comment **“now apologize you spoiled bitches,”** the word **“bitches”** used as an insult to attack someone in a rude and offensive way. In this context, it does not refer to a female dog, but is directed at **Harry Styles** to make him look bad. The word is considered a swear word related to animals because its origin is based on an animal term, and over time, it has developed into a strong insult. According to Hughes, words that come from animal names are often used to dehumanize or degrade people, and **“bitch”** is one example where an animal term is used to insult someone's character or behavior.



**Comment:**

Even “dogs” still know which is the true “hole”.

**Analysis:**

According to Hughes (2006), insulting words related to “dogs” are the most common type of animal-based insults. This shows that “dogs” are often used as a source of negative comparisons when people want to mock or attack someone with strong language. In the comment, the word “dogs” used to insult **Harry Styles** by comparing him to an animal. The comment implies that even animals like “dogs” are smarter than him, which is meant to mock and embarrass him. This comment can be categorized as a swear word related to animals because it uses an animal reference to **insult someone**.

**Swear words related to personal background**

**Swear words related to personal background** are used to insult someone based on their family, job, social status, or sexual identity. These words are meant to make people feel bad, embarrassed, or looked down on. For example, *son of a bitch* or *whoreson* are used to attack someone by bringing up their family background. In this research, the swear words found in this category include **faggots** and **sodomitas**.



**Comment:**

You are a bad person for supporting “fagots” who follow stupid fashions against God..

**Analysis:**

According to the **Cambridge Online Dictionary**, the word “**faggot**” is defined as **a very offensive word for a gay man. It is a slur that carries strong hate and is often used to attack someone’s sexual orientation in a highly disrespectful way.** In the comment directed at Harry Styles, this term is used to insult the LGBT community and attack Harry for showing support. According to **Hughes (2006)**, swear words related to **personal background** often attack aspects such as **race, religion, gender, or sexual**

identity, and are used to express **strong disapproval, prejudice, or social rejection**. Therefore, the term “*faggot*” can be classified as a swear word.



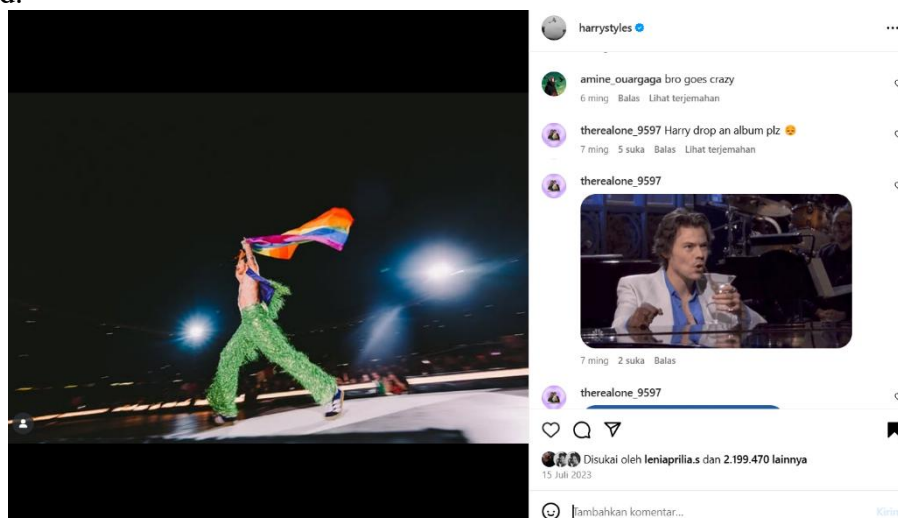
**Comment:**  
“Sodomitas”

#### **Analysis:**

According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, sodomy is a sexual act that usually involves two men and includes anal intercourse. The term “sodomitas” is used to insult Harry Styles by linking him with a group that is traditionally condemned for their sexual behavior. According to **Hughes (2006)**, the concept of **perversion** was originally a religious term in medieval times, referring to **a change to error in religious belief**. Then, this term took on a **psychosexual meaning**, and began to be used to label non-heteronormative sexualities as abnormal. The use of “**sodomitas**” today still carries that legacy of religious disapproval. Therefore, the term “*sodomitas*” can be categorized as a swear word related to personal background.

#### **Swear words related to mental illness**

Swear words related to mental illness are used to insult someone’s intelligence, behavior, or way of thinking. These words often come from terms related to mental or intellectual conditions, but people use them casually to mock or hurt others. Even though they are common in everyday speech, they can still be offensive and are considered swear words when used to insult someone. In this research, the words found in this category are: brainless, crazy, dumb, insane, mad, mentally sick, morons, pathological brain disorder, and stupid.



### Comment:

Bro goes “crazy”

### Analysis:

According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, the word “*crazy*” is used to describe someone who is stupid or not reasonable, or someone whose behavior is wild and uncontrolled. In the comment, the word “*crazy*” here is not meant literally, but rather used to **mock or criticize** Harry’s support for the LGBT community. It functions similarly to words like *stupid* or *insane*, which are often used to make someone’s actions or ideas look foolish or wrong. Hughes (2006) classifies it as swear words related to mental illness. As explained by Hughes, using a word in a way that does not align with its literal meaning, especially when it is meant to offend or express feelings of dislike or anger, can be considered a swear word. This is because such usage is generally perceived as rude, offensive, or impolite in social interaction.



### Comment:

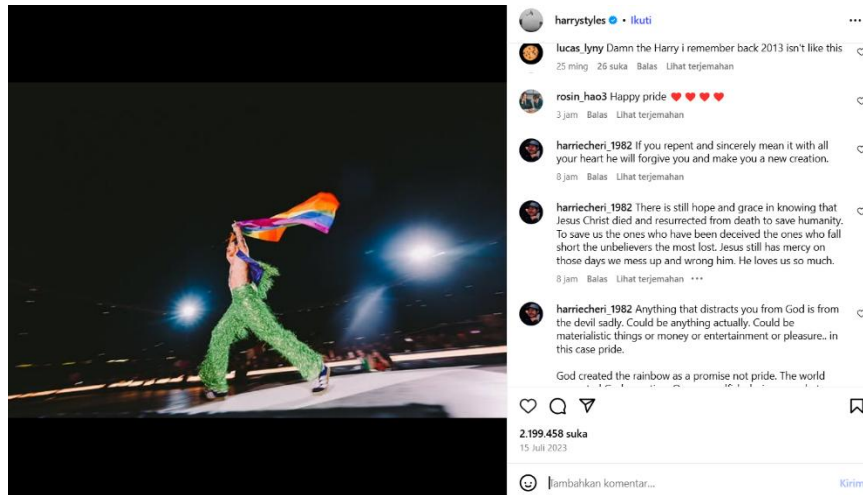
He’s “dumb” as a log, that’s why he’s dancing with the flag.

### Analysis:

According to the **Cambridge Online Dictionary**, the word “dumb” is used to describe someone who is **stupid or not intelligent**, and is often used in expressions such as *act dumb* or *play dumb* to indicate that a person is pretending to be unaware or foolish. The word “dumb” is clearly not being used figuratively or playfully. Instead, it functions as an insult aimed to mocking Harry Styles' action of holding the LGBT flag. The phrase “as a log” makes the insult even stronger, by saying that he is as stupid and thoughtless as a lifeless object. The sentence, “*that’s why he’s dancing with the flag,*” implies that supporting the LGBT community is a consequence of being unintelligent. Hughes (2006) explains that using such words to express contempt or to attack someone’s value as a person is a typical feature of **swear words**.

### Swear words related to religion or oaths

Swear words related to religion are words that mention spiritual things, such as God, the devil, heaven or hell. A taboo word is one that people often avoid because it is seen as rude or disrespectful. However, when people use religious swear words, they usually do not mean to insult God or religion directly. Instead, they say them to express strong emotions like anger, surprise, or frustration. According to Hughes, these words can include names like “God,” “Jesus,” or phrases like “by God” or “the devil take it.” They are often used as emotional expressions, not in a serious religious way. In this research, the religious swear words found include: bloody, damn, fucking dear lord, hell, Jesus Christ, my god, nasty religion, and omg (oh my god).



**Comment:**

“Damn” the Harry I remember back 2013 isn’t like this

**Analysis:**

According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, the word “damn” is commonly used to express anger, annoyance, or surprise. In this comment, the word “damn” is used to underline the commenter’s shock or disappointment about how Harry Styles has changed since 2013. Harry's image in the past may have been perceived as more masculine or neutral, while now he looks more expressive and openly supports the LGBT community. This big change is seen negatively from the commenter’s perspective.

According to **Hughes**, the word “damn” is classified as a **swear words related to religion or oaths**. This word comes from the Latin word “**damnare**,” which originally had a legal meaning: **to punish, to condemn, or to cause harm**. At the beginning, the word was not religious, but over time, it became strongly connected to religion, especially the idea of **being condemned to hell**. Hughes also explains that “damn” was thought to be so strong and powerful that people avoided saying it in public. Later on, as language became more casual, people started using *damn* in everyday speech. Even though the word seems more casual now, it still counts as a swear word because of its emotional impact like in the comment toward Harry Styles.



**Comment:**

Fuck you styles..... I mean just go to “hell” or whatever because people like you who support this LGBTQ shit and are even a part of don’t deserve to live on this earth

**Analysis:**

According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary, “hell” is believed in some religions to be a place where people are punished forever for the bad things they did during their



lives. In this comment, the phrase “go to hell” is not used in a literal religious sense, but rather as a cursing of Harry Styles. This comment was written with the intention of hatred towards Harry's support of LGBTQ people, and the phrase “go to hell” was used as a crude way to verbally condemn him.

The use of “hell” in this comment can be categorized as a swear words related to religion or oaths, as it is taken from a religious concept and used here as an insult to express anger and hatred. The overall comment also falls under the use of **swear words** because it contains strong and offensive language aimed at attacking someone personally.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the results of the research and the classification of swear words in the comment section of Harry Styles' Instagram posts, which follows Hughes' (2006) theory, the researcher found that swear words were used in the data collected from July 15, 2023, to April 10, 2025. In total, 31 swear words were identified, with a combined total of 203 occurrences due to repetition. These consist of 7 swear words related to sex (ass, bitching, buttsex, dick, fuck, pervert, suck) with 104 occurrences. 3 swear words related to excrement (crap, filth, shit) with 29 occurrences. 3 swear words related to animals (bitches, dog, rat) with 3 occurrences. 2 swear words related to personal background (faggots, sodomitas) with 4 occurrences. 9 swear words related to mental illness (brainless, crazy, dumb, insane, mad, mentally sick, morons, pathological brain disorder, stupid) with 16 occurrences. The last is 7 swear words related to religion or oaths (bloody, damn, fucking dear lord, god, hell, jesus christ, nasty religion) with 47 occurrences. Swear words related to mental illness are the largest in number. Meanwhile, swear words related to sex are the most dominant in terms of repetition. People commonly use swear words to express their anger, disappointment, or to hurt others through speech.

The researcher would like to give several suggestions for future researchers who are interested in researching swear words as the main topic. First, future researchers are encouraged to explore this topic more deeply by expanding the data sources, such as examining other social media platforms or analyzing different types of public figures to gain broader insight. Future researchers may also consider using alternative sources such as novels, movies, or other forms of media to be analyzed in order to understand how swear words are used in various contexts. Second, future researchers could look into how the use of swear words is related to how people express emotions during online interactions. This could help us better understand how people use language when communicating digitally.

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