

## NEGATIVE IMPACT OF USING ABUSIVE LANGUAGE IN DAILY COMMUNICATION

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the negative impact of using abusive language in daily communication among university students, focusing on self-image and social interaction. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data was collected through a questionnaire involving 30 student respondents at Insan Budi Utomo University. The results showed that the use of abusive language can damage social relationships, create emotional distance, and trigger conflict. In addition, abusive language has the potential to harm an individual's reputation and create an unhealthy work atmosphere. In terms of mental health, the use of abusive language can increase stress and anxiety, and normalize harmful behaviors among adolescents. This study emphasizes the importance of awareness of the negative impact of abusive language and the need for more polite communication to create a more harmonious social and academic environment.

**Keywords:** Abusive Language, Daily Communication, College Students, Self-Image, Social Interaction, Negative Impact.

### INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential communication tool in social interaction, but the use of abusive language in everyday communication can have significant negative impacts. In the context of university students, who are supposed to be agents of change and protectors of society, the use of abusive language as an expression of emotion is often taken for granted, even though this can create a bad impression of their character. Previous research shows that the use of abusive language not only has the potential to damage an individual's image, but can also affect social relationships and the academic atmosphere, which in turn detracts from the educational experience. While there is a view that abusive language can serve as a means of humor and provide calmness for some, this still does not change the fact that offensive language can lead to misunderstandings and conflict. In the past decade, research on the impact of abusive language in social and academic contexts has increased, but there is still a lack in the understanding of how the use of this language affects public perception and social interaction among university students. Therefore, this study aims to explore the relationship between the use of abusive language and its impact on college students' self-image and their social interactions, hypothesizing that the use of abusive language is negatively related to public perception and the quality of social relationships. As such, this study is expected to provide new insights into the importance of using more polite language in academic and social contexts, as well as fill an existing research gap.

## METHODS

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach using a questionnaire containing 10 questions to several students on the campus of Universitas Insan Budi Utomo, with a total of 30 student respondents aged 19-25 who are on campus. The purpose of this research is to find out how big the impact of the phenomenon of abusive words that often occurs among students or young people, and to find out whether abusive words are spoken or inserted in the daily lives of young people today. The questions given aim to collect information directly from the subject/respondent regarding their experiences, opinions or perceptions, and provide an opportunity for the subject to express their thoughts in depth and detail. Katz, J. (2016) in his research states that the use of abusive language can create tension in social interactions and damage interpersonal relationships. He emphasized that the language used in daily communication greatly affects other people's perceptions of the individual.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that the use of abusive language in daily communication among students has a significant negative impact, both on social relationships, self-image, and individual mental health. Based on the analysis of data obtained from questionnaires filled out by 30 student respondents at Insan Budi Utomo University, researchers were able to explore information in more depth and gain more insight.

List of questionnaire questions:

| No | Question                                                                       |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | What are the adverse effects of using abusive language in daily communication? |
| 2  | How can abusive language affect our relationships with family and friends?     |
| 3  | Can abusive language damage our self-image in the eyes of others?              |
| 4  | What impact does abusive language have on workplace communication?             |
| 5  | How does abusive language affect our and others' mental health?                |
| 6  | What are the consequences of using abusive language on social media?           |
| 7  | Is the use of abusive language more harmful to teenagers than adults?          |
| 8  | How can we avoid using abusive language in our daily conversations?            |
| 9  | Why can abusive language cause conflict or arguments?                          |
| 10 | Does our culture or surroundings affect how we perceive abusive language?      |

The use of abusive language in everyday communication has significant negative impacts, as expressed by respondents in this study. Firstly, many respondents noted that abusive language can damage social relationships. They stated that the use of disrespectful language can lead to feelings of offense and hurt, which in turn creates emotional distance between individuals. This is particularly noticeable in the context of family and friendships, where what should be loving communication can be disrupted by hurtful rants. Respondents

also highlighted that abusive language often leads to conflict and arguments, which can worsen existing relationships.

Furthermore, the impact of abusive language use on self-image was also a major concern. Respondents agreed that individuals who frequently use abusive language tend to be viewed as unethical and unprofessional. This can be detrimental to one's reputation, both in social and professional contexts. In a work environment, the use of abusive language can create an unhealthy atmosphere, reduce productivity, and trigger tension between coworkers. Respondents emphasized that abusive language can disrupt effective communication and undermine trust among employees.

In terms of mental health, the use of abusive language also has serious consequences. Respondents reported that abusive language can increase stress and anxiety, both for the user and for the person hearing it. An environment filled with abusive language can create a negative emotional atmosphere, which impacts an individual's psychological well-being. In addition, respondents pointed out that adolescents and children are more vulnerable to these negative impacts, as they tend to mimic the behaviors they see and hear. The use of abusive language can normalize such behavior, potentially damaging their social and emotional development. This study is in line with the findings of Kowalski (2011) who emphasized that abusive language can normalize harmful behaviors among adolescents.

Finally, respondents provided some suggestions to avoid using abusive language in daily communication. They emphasized the importance of thinking before speaking and using polite and respectful language. Avoiding environments that support the use of abusive language was also considered important to form more positive communication habits. Thus, awareness of the negative impact of abusive language and efforts to communicate in a better way can help create more harmonious relationships and a healthier environment.

## CONCLUSION

This study shows that the use of abusive language in daily communication among university students has a significant negative impact on social relationships, self-image, and mental health. Respondents revealed that abusive language can damage interpersonal relationships, create emotional distance, and trigger conflicts that can worsen existing relationships. In addition, the use of abusive language has the potential to harm an individual's reputation, both in social and professional contexts, as well as create an unhealthy work atmosphere. In terms of mental health, abusive language can increase stress and anxiety, and normalize harmful behaviors among adolescents and children. Therefore, it is important for individuals to be aware of the negative impact of abusive language and strive to communicate in a more polite and courteous manner, in order to create a more positive social and academic environment.

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