

Profanity Words Origin and Development

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### Introduction

Profanity is described as an offensive word or language. Profanity is defined as a bad, strong, foul, coarse, vulgar, lewd among many other languages. The phrase profane originated from the profanus word in classical Latin word that literally meant outside the temple. Thus, in classical Latin it had the meaning of vandalizing what is sacred with an earthly drive from the early 1450s. Profanity is open through the earthly indifference to spiritual figures or faith while sacrilege was a more violent outbreak on religious conviction and religious figures reflected wicked and direct defilement of the Ten Commandments. Profanities in the early days were perceived as ancient traditions that scoffed and laughed at deities (Bakhtin & Iswolski, 1941). In English profanity words appear in terminologies that embrace swearing words and cursing languages such as shit in English defined as defecate in Latin language among other words. Shit was a word that was used by the ancient people to describe when cattle's among other livestock had diarrhea. When the people in the community started doing things that were considered low, the people used the word to describe such characteristics in humans. Thus, profanity words are not recent words but have originated from ancient traditions leading to their development in the current dominant English words among others.

Profanity words have been defined as words that reflect blasphemy, violence among any other offensive word or language. Profanity words appear in verbal language and non-verbal language such as flipping the middle finger to mean "fuck" in a verbal expression, which originated from the Latin word that means to fornicate. Thus, the profanity word of "fuck" originated from the Latin word fornicate. The word developed and increased its profanity as it developed into a social word that the society perceived as vulgar, insulting, foul, desecrating,

rude and obnoxious among other desecrating words. Profanity words are perceived as the words that carry meanings of religious words or offensive words to display that one does not respect holy things nor respect God. It is the behavior that displays disrespect to another human being.

In psychological science the development and origin of profanity words occurs as a mystery since it has little familiarity on the reason the indecent speech inclines to cluster around the body correlated subject matter (Beck, 2009). However, the disgust psychology and the terror management theory propose that the offense perceived in the profanity words and languages derives from the animal nature that lies within each human being. Both terror management theory and disgust psychology recommend that profanity is an outcome of the animal nature of human beings that implicates the remainder of using the profanity as a mortality or death reminder (Beck, 2009). Terror management theory (TMT) is a theoretical paradigm in social psychology that is focused on understanding the psychological mechanics that human beings employ in coping with the existential terrors such as fear of death or defeat among other fears.

Psychology science perceives that if the disgust psychology and terror management theory are true, profanity may occur in different ways among the Christian populations considering the point to which the body is regarded shadily, a lasting effect of Gnostic thought inside the Christian custom. Thus, the psychology science alleges that profanity may purpose, predominantly in some Christian populations, as a Gnostic insult, as an offence to a being wishful to be more than an animal (Beck, 2009). The animal instinct led to the origin of the profanity words and languages but occurs differently in the diverse Christian populations available. Language is perceived as an omnipresent feature in the life of all human beings whether it is taboo language, obscene, vulgarity, swearing or profanity.

Profanity is linked to the Gnostic influences of Christianity through the psychology of religious belief. Profanity values vary within the Christian society's available leading to the different perceptions of profanity (Bakhtin & Iswolski, 1941). Thus, the relation communicates that the profanity understanding relies on the theologically experience within the different faith communities (Beck, 2009). The ancient tradition considers that profanity words are the key words that display disrespect for God and everything else that the church considers holy. As such, one perceives that the profanity words in the earlier churches included the words that displayed blasphemy such as talking bad concerning God and other deities (Bakhtin & Iswolski, 1941). Many of the Christian cultures believe that swearing is a profanity words since it acts against the Ten Commandments given to Christians. More importantly, profanity today, occurs in the church through other factors such as the desire of flesh and the sexuality of humans including their human nature that leads them to establishing the animal nature leading to the development of profanity expressions verbally, non-verbally and physically. Thus, the development of profanity words also originates from the different Christian populations (Beck, 2009).

Swearing is a key word that is considered as profanity. Currently, swear words have developed significantly and spoken each day at a rate of 3.4%. Swearing has been perceived to conduct some psychological functions that uses some particular linguistic and neurological mechanisms, where the same behavior is perceived in chimpanzees (Angier, 2009). Conversely, the finding links to the research presented by Beck, where the presentation presents that profanity words and language derive from the animal instinct and nature that exists among all human beings. Swearing and cursing words/ languages are words that children are taught to avoid at any cost.

However, as they grow the profanity of swearing and cursing catches up with them. The key origin of cursing and swearing is thus linked to the environment in which the children and other people find themselves in. The swearing words mainly develop from hearing the words been repeated over and over by parents, friends, neighbors and the media dominantly. Through hearing the profanity words significantly leads to the words been repeated as children grow up leading to the development of the profanity words (Huber, 2004). However, the origin of profanity words in the media and the environment originated from many different phases that led to the development of the words. The word swear is itself considered a profanity word since it is regarded as a word that offences and desecrates holy names.

The swear words are connected to sacred words and taboos mainly from the earlier ages. The early migrations and mingling of people from different cultures and origins conveyed words that meant different meanings to the people leading to the connection of words and interpreting it in understandable languages. Some of the profanity words that originated from German include the words such as bitch and Dirne. In Germany bitch was a name that reflect some portion of the animal part mainly the dog. In American, the name bitch was translated to refer to a woman that was on heat like a dog. Thus, the two different meanings in German and America led to the development of the profanity word bitch while depicting the origin of the word from the German words (Hughes, 2006).

Dirne on the other hand, in standard German was meant to refer to a whore while in Northern dialects, the word meant a girl both in the same German history. Consequently, through the migrations as people mingled each word was embraced and translated into the meaning that best suited the occasion. As a result, the Dirne word established and developed in many parts of the world where many embraced the profanity word of Dirne to refer to women who were

considered loose in the society. Thus, the mingling of different cultures steered to the development of many profanity words. Each society and culture presented a word with a meaning that once explored could refer to some characteristics that were linked to the behavior of some people in the society.

Additionally, the profanity words that refer to women as prostitutes were developed as many men during the German history gave up their statuses for the purpose of economic purposes. Consequently, their children and wives become unfree leading to the lords and generals in those eras taking advantage of the children to fulfill all their desires including sexual desires. In certain regions, the word prostitution and words to explain the characteristics of the girl's behavior developed and became identical with their economic rank (Huber, 2004). Eventually, the notion of prostitution itself became normal and girls that were unfree and satisfied the desires of the lords were considered as Dirnes meaning prostitutes. However, in some areas the meaning of Dirne as a girl still remains prevalent.

In the current era the usage of swearing and foul words has developed as a portion of the English environment, where the words seldom invade all the societies in the environment such as the low and upper-social classes. It is challenging to find a society where profane words and language have not developed significantly. As depicted earlier, profanity are the words, and expressions that once directed to someone or something have the purpose of insulting and are regarded as rude and present disrespect. In many cultures and societies including the different Christian populations one perceives that profanity has developed and originated from the taboo words.

As such, they should not be used in a public life as the taboo communicates that the use of such profane words is punishable. However, when people identify the profane words of other

cultures they use them leading to the development of the profanity words and language. Many of the profane words have developed from the media where some media programs are not controlled and use any profane word leading to the exposure of the word to the world and its development. Additionally, the origin of the profanity words occurs in that some people use alternative words to the profane words avoiding the usage of the profane word but still influences the use of the profane word leading to the development of the profane word. Swear words including other words considered as profane derive from the vernaculars used by people as alternative words to the profane words (Huber, 2004).

The antiquity of swearing plainly displays fluctuations amid periods of suppression and offsetting responses of authorization and surplus. The primitive period was noticeable through the unexpected independence in the usage of religious vows, which authorities in the Rebirth required to decrease by many legal bans and penalties. The severe suppression of the Puritan Nationality was shadowed by the dangerous corruption of the Refurbishment, which in turn steered to the controlled rational style of the initial eighteenth century (Hughes, 2006). Curse terminologies were initially just usual words, however individuals started expending them a convinced technique, they developed into swear words.

According to some statistics, it is discovered that tape-recorded conversations have proofed that out of eighty words spoken per day, 0.5 percent words are profanity, cursing and swearing words (Jay, 2009). The statistics found that swearing words have been used dominantly from 1986 to the 2006 in America where almost seventy words are used and implicated in the profanity words. The statistics present that about 8 words make up 80% percent of the profanity words that are used in conversations such as bitch, shit, fuck, goddamn, hell and boner among others (Jay, 2009). One of the key profanity language and phrase linked to the religious words

occurs in that 24% of the populations swears using the word of God “Oh my God.” Thus, the profanity words originated from the taboos that people have, the different mixture of cultures among others that led to the mixture and usage of words that are translated to interpret the characteristics that people have.