



**SESHISKI**

**SOUTHEAST JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE  
AND LITERARY STUDIES**

Volume 2 Issue 1 June 2022

E-ISSN 2797-8117

## **PROFANITY LANGUAGE IN MEGAN THEE STALLION'S SONG LYRICS**

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### **Abstract**

This research aimed to analyze the types and the function of profanity language in Megan Thee Stallion's song lyrics; *Thot Shit*, *Savage*, and *Hot Girl Summer*. This research uses two theories, to analyze for types using the theory of Andersson and Trudgill (1990) and function using the theory of Pinker (2007). The data was collected through listening the song while reading the lyrics as whole part, identifying the profanity language to the song, taking notes from the lyrics that show of profanity language in *Thot Shit*, *Savage*, and *Hot girl Summer* song, identifying and classifying. This research is analyzed by presenting the data that contain of profanity language in *Thot Shit*, *Savage*, and *Hot Girl Summer* song lyrics, describing the context of situation of the data, interpreting the data based on the types and function of profanity language in Megan Thee Stallion's song lyrics. The result of this research shows that the types of profanity language the researcher found namely expletive profanity, abusive profanity, humorous profanity, and auxiliary profanity. Meanwhile, the function the profanity language on the song's lyrics are to express anger through abusive, dysphemistic, cathartic, and emphatic functions.

**Keywords:** *Language, Profanity, Song Lyrics*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Profanity refers to obscene language including taboo and swears words, that in regular social settings are considered inappropriate and in some situations unacceptable. It often includes sexual references, blasphemy, objects eliciting disgust, ethnic-racial-gender slurs, vulgar terms, or offensive slang (Mabry, 1974). These words types are utilized to express emotions be it happy, sad or angry (Amdan & Shaari, 2017).

Profanity in the present day is heard in many different songs across the globe. However, it mostly expressed through Rap songs. Some people complain to the lyric of language contained in the song, some are considered as "freedom of speech" (Kreten,

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2003). Kreten, so far, stated that many people agree that freedom of speech has a huge impact on this situation. "Not only does it violate the first amendment of freedom of speech, but censoring lyrics also violates your freedom of thoughts." A singer is writing from their mind and their feelings. Censoring lyrics takes away their feelings in the song (Kreten, 2003). Hence, profanity in song could be also considered as the expression of sense of art

Megan Thee Stallion is one of the singers who used profanity language in his rap song. She is an American rapper, singer, and songwriter born in Bexar Country, Texas and raised in South Park, Houston. Megan Thee Stallion began writing and rapping as a teenager. She first gained attention when her free-styling videos became popular on social media platforms, Instagram. Megan mostly uses swear word in her song lyrics for using that word she felt relieving from the problem that passed in her life without considering that she can solve it or not. Surprisingly, every album that she released to the audience became controversial and commercially welcomed as well.

This research intended to describe the profanity language used in Megan Thee Stallion song lyrics. The three songs are *Thot Shit*, *Savage*, and *Hot Girl Summer*. These three songs are either popular or controversial in society.

Analysis of profanity language in song lyrics is included in socio-linguistic study, because it concerns with the the way of people use language in a certain circumstances. Andersson and Trudgill (1990:02) argued that sociolinguists have various classification systems for "*bad language*" since profanity is considered as a kind of bad language. Each is somewhat different, though, sociolinguists who have studied "*bad language*" agree in general about the need for various classes and also agree that the relative "*badness*" of language is constantly changing like what is previously thought to be "*bad language*" may become as "*standard language*".

In the categorization of profanity words, Anderson (1990: 4) classifies four types of profane words, those are; Expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary profane words. Expletive profane is not direct to other people, but used to express personal emotions, such as anger, shock, and frustration. Some examples of expletive swearing are *Hell*, *Shit*, *fuck* and *God damn it!*. Abusive profane is directed towards others. This type of swearing includes name-calling and other cursing offensive expression and causing insult. Some

examples of swearing in this type are *Go to hell!*, *you bastard!*, *idiot!* and *your asshole!*. While, humorous profane is swearing that directed towards others but it is not abusive. It tends to be idiomatic, playful, humorous, and not serious rather than offensive. An example of this type is *Get your ass in gear!*, *suck this guy off!*, *compared to your shit*, and *like you'd give a shit*. The last, auxiliary profane is the swear words that is not addressed to other people or situations. However, it is a way of speaking that is sometimes known as "lazy speaking" and often or always non emphatic". Some examples are *this is fucking great!*, *what the hell!*, *he is a bloody fool!*, and *that was fucking awesome!*. Historically, swearing-in western society has undergone major changes in the types of swearing employed, the types of words used, the actual of words used and the social conventions about the social contexts in which swearing is acceptable.

Steven Pinker (2007) identified five functions of profanity language, namely; the first is abusive swearing. it is coordinated towards another person in a deprecatory manner, whether in the discussion, argument exchange, a way to express a discourteous behavior, or the utilization for insults, intimidation, or offending of others. The second one is dysphemistic swearing, it is the accurate inverse of euphemism that compels the audience to consider things in a negative or provocative matter. The third one is cathartic swearing, it gives receivers some mental alleviation through the open articulation of compelling feelings or a provisional escape from a distressing circumstance (i.e. swearing when coffee spills). The fourth one is idiomatic swearing, it is the use of profane words without truly referring to the matter. Individuals who utilize this sort of swearing are simply using words to stimulate enthusiasm, or to express to people around them that the setting is not formal. The last one is emphatic swearing intended to draw additional attention to what is considered to be worth pay attention to. So, this article elaborates the profane language and its function in three Megan's Song Lyrics; *Thot Shit*, *Savage*, and *Hot Girl Summer*.

## **TYPES OF PROFANITY LANGUAGE IN MEGAN'S SONG LYRICS**

### **Thot Shit Song**

*Thot Shit* song is identified having the four type of profanity language; Expletive, abusive, humorous and auxiliary profanity language. The finding is listed and explained in

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the following table.

Tabel 1. Profanity Language in Thot Shit Song Lyrics

No.	Types of Profanity Language	Data
1.	Expletive	Fuck, Shit, genie
2	Abusive	Nigga, Damn, Top Shit, Fucking on a nigga, bitch
3	Humorous	Hot box
4	Auxiliary	Motherfuckin', Sayin'' shit tomy face, and My chain ain''t hittin'' ifa bitch ain''t hurtin''

Based on the table, expletive profanity language consists of three data; fuck, shit, and genie. *Fuck* is a word in English that has a negative connotation and has the basic meaning of sexual intercourse to express annoyance or the like. This word is usually pronounced when someone is unhappy or dissatisfied with something. **Shit** is a word used by Megan to express disappointment and fury towards the other. **Genie** in this song is a word that describes an unlucky women who is none other that a sex worker. Megan spotlighted them because she felt humiliated by the behavior of women swaying in revealing clothes with no self-respect in public.

Abusive profanity language consists of 5 data; Nigga, Damn, Top Shit, Fucking on a nigga, bitch. **Nigga** is a term with negative connotation in a derogatory context to discredit of African- americans or black people in general living in U.S.A. **Damn** is a word to give a very low curse and the word is closely related to one's anger towards the other person. **Top-shit** is the word that refers to the talk something dirty and very unreasonable and only describes a mockery to the other person and is considered as bad luck. **Fuckin' on a Nigga** is a racial slur in those sentence. It matched with Anderson theory that slur may be racial, ethnic, or social in nature and indicate the stereotyping or prejudice of the speaker, meanwhile, may denote the physical, mental, or the psychological qualities of the target and are commonly heard on the school playground. **Thot shit** is a word that refers to the frustration and anger of singer because she feels they have no honor in front of mashers who want their bodies. Megan expresses her hatred towards women who insult her as black people. **Bitch** are women who like to prostitute themselves or those who are called prostitutes. This word is used by Megan to highlight American women, most of

whom are fighting each other for men who are not their right. Seducing without thinking about self-respect.

Humorous profanity language identified one data; hot box. It is a word that describes a wardrobe for American women that features naked clothes. This word is used by Megan to criticize a seductive woman who also dresses openly like a bitch.

Auxiliary profanity consists of three data; Motherfuckin', Sayin' "shit to my face", and My chain ain't hittin' if a bitch ain't hurtin'. It is a word that described the parents who was a bad woman who works as a naughty woman. **Sayin' shit to my face**, the sentence explains that Megan criticized her haters for daring herself to challenge herself to sing a very popular rap song in public. the sentence is actually a mockery to haters when they can only hear songs without being able to become a rapper. **My chain ain't hittin' if a bitch ain't hurtin'** is the vulgar sentence and seemed only Megan The Stallion expresses a bitch who has to maintain their honor without being too revealing about their body parts to men. The sentence seems to highlight American women when they are hurt they must continue to think not to easily accept men in their lives.

### Savage

*Savage* song is identified having the four type of profanity language; Expletive, abusive, humorous and auxiliary profanity language. The finding is listed and explained in the following table.

Tabel 2. Profanity Language in *Savage* Song Lyrics

No.	Types of Profanity Language	Data
1.	Expletive	Shit,
2	Abusive	Nigga, Shit sweet, Savage
3	Humorous	Bad bitch
4	Auxiliary	But ain't shit sweet

The table shows expletive profanity language consists of 1 data that is *Shit*, it is an expression when someone sees or is feeling something which she thinks is very touching in the heart, it can be in the form of shock, surprise, angry, annoyed about something. Abusive Profanity language consists of three data they are Nigga, Shit Sweet, Savage. Nigga is a word that refers to a nickname for black people who are basically mocking their very sassy appearance. Meanwhile, humorous Profanity language consists of 1 data it is **Bad**

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**Bitch. Bad Bitch** means being a strong woman and having it all in life. He gets everything by any means necessary. Auxiliary Profanity Language consists of 1 data it is **But ain't shit sweet**. It is The sentence describes Megan's feelings when she saw directly the female pole dancer who only focused on men without seeing that they were only used as entertainment by many men.

### Hot Girl Summer

*Hot Girl Summer* song is identified having the four types of profanity language; Expletive, abusive, humorous and auxiliary profanity language. The finding is listed and explained in the following table.

Tabel 3. Profanity Language in *Savage* Song Lyrics

No.	Types of Profanity Language	Data
1.	Expletive	Shit
2	Abusive	Nigga
3	Humorous	Hot girlshit, Shut the fuck up, Bout abitch, Bitch poppin'
4	Auxiliary	I'm a hot girl, so you know ain't shit stoppin', Cause you know a bitch poppin' <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

Expletive Profanity language consists of 1 data : Fuck and Shit. **Shit** is an expression when someone sees or is feeling something which she thinks is very touching in the heart, it can be in the form of shock, surprise, angry, annoyed about something. Abusive Profanity language consists of 1 data it is Nigga. **Nigga** is a word that refers to a nickname for black people who are basically mocking their very sassy appearance.

Humorous Profanity language consists of 4 data namely; Hot girl shit, Shut the fuck up, Boutabitch, Bitch poppin'. **Hot girl shit** is a clean and fragrant woman that to be sexy must wear clothes that are completely open and show curves. The word Hot literally means Sexy which could mean the clean, fragrant and neat clothes that the comfort women wear in this song and are almost perfect. Sexy also means that they know how to bring a dress that looks attractive when worn. **Shut the fuck up** describes an order to Megan's haters who don't like the song but she still gives her best by creating the song so that it becomes a very wide public consumption in America. Megan doesn't care about people who can only

judge without thinking about the advantages that black women have. ***Bout a bitch*** assumes that Megan Thee Stallion explained to music listeners that public display of body shape and only selfishness is a bad thing and as a woman should not completely flaunt their body even as an entertainer. ***Bitch poppin'*** Megan criticizes for not having high hopes for American women who are unfaithful to one man and they still welcome other men as a place to get the satisfaction they want.

Auxiliary Profanity language consists of 2 data it is ***I'm a hotgirl, so you know ain't shit stoppin'*** and ***Cause you know a bitch poppin'. I'm a hotgirl, so you know ain't shit stoppin'***. The lyrics of the song describe Megan who is a sexy woman who can also produce the best work, but with her very open appearance also makes listeners of her music attracted to her. Many music lovers in America enjoy the song Megan Thee Stallion whose entire lyrics bring all the minds of listeners and haters into fantasy.

***Cause you know a bitch poppin' Error! Bookmark not defined.***

### THE FUNCTION OF PROFANITY LANGUAGE IN MEGAN THEE STALLION'S THREE SONG LYRICS

Table 4 The Function of Profanity language in *Thot Shit* Song

NO	Function of Profanity Language	Data
1	Abusive	motherfuckin' shit
2	Emphatic	fuck
3	Dysphemistic	bitch
4	Abusive, dysphemistic, cathartic	Fuckin' on a nigga,

The table displays the four function of profanity language in *Thot Shit* song namely; abusive, emphatic, dysphemistic, and cathartic. Abusive, dysphemistic and Abusive Function of Profanity language consists of 1 data namely motherfuckin. word ***motherfuckin'*** and ***shit'*** in sentence ***Drinkin' out the motherfuckin' bottle on my thot shit*** above, emphasize the situation that parents who work as comfort women and serve many men so that their children following the footsteps of another. This is about mother in law. This term is addressed to women who are described as mischievous women who

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always changes couples and also women who often interfere with other couples. This term also has relation with a woman who has sex outside of marriage, especially if she is used to doing this to get wages. Mother in law often used in a derogatory sense to refer to someone whose behavior is improper. This could include shamelessness or lack of restraint, lack of hospitality, lack of loyalty, and indiscriminate or excessive violence.

Emphatic function of profanity language consists of 1 data it is **fuck**. Word of fuck in *I don't give a **fuck** who talk behind my back* serve to criticize if no one can match Megan Thee Stallion's rap then she won't blame anyone for blaspheming her. It is about sex. This type of profane word is related to the biological activities that contain about sex. Sex is a term that refers to the act of sexual intercourse but is also commonly used as an intensifier or to denote disdain. While, its origins are obscure.

Dysphemistic function of profanity language consists of 1 data it is **bitch**. **Bitch** in *Cause the **bitch** knew better than to let me hear her* serves to criticize American women who seem to place too much importance on intimate relationships with many men so that they are seen as women whose work is considered not to reflect kindness. This is about mother in law. This term is addressed to women who are described as mischievous women who always changes couples and also women who often interfere with other couples. This term also has relation with a woman who has sex outside of marriage, especially if she is used to doing this to get wages. Mother in law often used in a derogatory sense to refer to someone whose behavior is improper. This could include shamelessness or lack of restraint, lack of hospitality, lack of loyalty, and indiscriminate or excessive violence.

Abusive, dysphemistic, chatartic Function of Profanity language consists of 1 data it is **Fuckin' on a nigga**. **Fuckin' on a nigga** in *Fuckin' on a nigga, make him sing, on some pop shit* is used to express a speaker's feelings to recruit people who will become rap-rockstars. It is about sex. This type of profane word is related to the biological activities that contain about sex. Sex is a term that refers to the act of sexual intercourse but is also commonly used as an intensifier or to denote disdain. While, its origins are obscure. This word has always been considered vulgar when it first comes to be used to describe (often in an extremely angry, hostile or belligerent manner).

Table 5. Function of profanity language in Savage song lyrics

NO	Function of Provanity Language	Data
1	Cathartic	<b>Shit, nigga</b>

Based on the table, *Savage* song only shows cathartic function. It consists of two data **Shit and nigga**. Word of *shit* in sentence “*I’m the shit, ooh (ayy)*” serves to explain Megan's feelings that criticize how stupid American women are who only care about an intimate relationship without thinking about the losses they get when undergoing a romantic relationship with a man. *Shit* in this song categorized as excretion. Excretion is a term referring to human excretion. Excretion is an action to waste useful substance from the blood, tissues, or organs. The examples of excretions of human are urine, feces, or sweat. In this type of swear word people usually use swear word such as “*shit*”, and “*piss*”.

Word of *nigga* in The sentence “*Don't let that nigga gas you up and get you whacked, ooh*” above refers to the black woman who became the object of the song *Savage*. Megan felt they were insulted by her haters when they sang the song and it became popular in America. The sentence expresses the feelings of the singer who tells his music listeners not to judge them despite their different skin color. This bodily function refers to sexual organ of human. If one person swears another person with this type, he or she thinks that the person is extremely stupid, irritating, and ridiculous and has behaved in a stupid way. Usually, People use this type of swear words such as, “*cunt*”, “*ass*”, and “*asshole*”.

Table 6. Function of profanity language in *Hot Girl Summer* song lyrics

NO	Function of Provanity Language	Data
1.	Cathartic	shit
2.	Dysphemistic	fuck

From above table Cathartic Function of Provanity Language consists of 1 data it is **shit**. Word of **shit** in sentence “*And honestly I’m honored 'cause that shit be comedy*” above serves to explain Megan, who calls by the association herself a hot woman, feels very

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disturbed of many American women who decide to be at a party venue by relying on the sexiness of their bodies to make men more fascinated. Shit in this song categorized as excretion. Excretion is a term referring to humans excretion. Excretion is an action to waste useful substance from the blood, tissues, or organs. The examples of excretions of human are urine, feces, or sweat. In this type of swear word people usually use swear word such as "shit", and "piss".

Dysphemistic function of profanity language consists of 1 data that is **fuck**. Word of fuck in The sentence "I'm just a real ass bitch, give a **fuck** about a trick" above serves to represent Megan's feelings that in fact she called herself a hot woman and became the main guide in the song and she really wanted to come to invite her to a party and by making her a summer comforter. It is about sex. This type of profanity word is related to the biological activities that contain about sex. Sex is a term that refers to the act of sexual intercourse but is also commonly used as an intensifier or to denote disdain. While, its origins are obscure.

Profanity language in Megan's three songs lyrics is to express anger. Expression of anger is categorized as expletive types of profanity based on Anderson's concept. Most of the data show that Megan is angry because a group of women who without regrets do whatever they want. Megan's feelings of anger are just a form of emotional expression which is basically a subtle satire so that women don't show their sexiness too much in public in first song lyrics. Megan feels annoyed when she saw American women who sacrifice herself for money in second song lyrics. Megan feels annoyed when she saw women competing to be more attractive or sexy in front of men in third song lyrics. This study reveals that Megan's feelings critique how black American women have a low self-concept which only care about an intimate relationship without thinking about the losses they get when undergoing a romantic relationship with a man.

### CONCLUSION

This study concluded that profanity language expressed in Megan's lyric songs is a language expression that is socially offensive, insulting, or demeaning to others. In this case, swearing is language that is culturally highly disrespectful, abusive, or offensive.

Generally associated with contempt for others, or associated with strong feelings towards something. In its older and more literal sense, “*profanity*” sometimes also refers to a term of a sacred nature, implying something worthy of respect, but which is used to deprive the speech of the sanctity of the speech or cause religious blasphemy. In its development, profanity language are not only used to express the emotion of anger, but are also used as other expressions, such as when amazed, surprised. Profanity words also function as a form of greeting and joking to people who have close relationships. However, Megan Thee Stallion’s song lyrics performs the function of this profanity language to interpret of anger, surprised, and joking about a cheeky touch with the lyrics of the song created by Megan in which the whole song contains ridicule, insults, and joking which is intentionally made just as entertainment because in her life she sees various kinds of women who only rely on intimate relationships, alcohol parties, and want a man to be seduced.

The difference from the profanity language types in Megan Thee Stallion’s song lyrics is found in *Thot Shit*, *Savage*, and *Hot Girl Summer* lyrics such as expletive profanity, abusive profanity, humorous profanity, and auxiliary profanity. The researcher concluded that according to Anderson’s theory in the 43 profanity types which has been presented above. The result of the analysis shows that most or almost all of the profanity expressions in Megan Thee Stallion’s song lyrics are dominated in the profanity type. The types of profanity words includes curses and scorn conveyed on the other person, here the interlocutor who hears the words of Megan can feel insulted because they humble themselves and defame someone. As evidence that the words *motherfucking*, *fuck*, *bitches*, *damn*, *shit*, *sassy*, *nasty* and *nigga*, are the types of profanity that dominates the list of profanity word in Megan Thee Stallion’s song list, entitled *Thot Shit*, *Savage*, and *Hot Girl summer* in her album of 2020 about how Megan gives of her emotion and feelings of anger, emotions, and joking which are expressed by using the profanity words in a vulgar and free manner so that it can lead to misunderstanding from the listener.

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