

# THE LINGUISTIC FORMS OF ENGLISH SEXUAL EUPHEMISTIC EXPRESSIONS IN "LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVERS"

Ovira Nurdina

Gunadarma University  
Jl. Margonda Raya 100  
ovira\_n@staff.gunadarma.ac.id

## ABSTRACT

Sex is something that is taboo to discuss. It will make the listener and speaker who are the participants of a conversation will feel embarrassed. Euphemisms are used to replace those words considered taboo. As a part of language, euphemisms has its own linguistics forms. Using Warren's model of linguistic forms of euphemisms, this study tries to find out the forms of sexual euphemistic expression that exist in novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D.H Lawrence. This study is a descriptive qualitative study. The result of the study shows that From 50 euphemistic expressions found in the novel, there 14 data included into implication, 11 data into metaphors, 7 data into particularization, 5 into metonymy, 5 into derivation, 3 into compounding, 4 into French, and 1 into Latin.

**Keywords:** English, Euphemism, Linguistic form, Sex, Warren

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

Taboo is expression usually avoided to utter in daily conversation. Taboo will hurt the feeling the second person in the conversation. To avoid hurting other people, taboo words are replaced by euphemistic expressions.

Euphemisms originally came from greek which means talk in a nice way. According to Webster Euphemism is "the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant. The origin of this word is Greek *euphēsmos*, from *euphēmos* auspicious,

sounding good, from *eu-* + *phēmē* speech, from *phanai* to speak." Euphemism can be used when we talk about taboo or sensitive subject.

Euphemisms are almost always longer than taboo utterances—they consist of more sounds, more syllables, even more words—and therefore represent more effort to choose and then produce. They are longer than taboo words Partly because the tabooed Anglo-saxon words tend to be short and partly because it almost always takes more words to evade an idea than to state it directly and honestly." (Rawson, 1981).

Euphemisms is used in many topic such as politic, death, and sex. Sex is one of the topic that is potential for euphemisms. Accor-

ding to Nash (1995), sexual euphemisms has broader scopes compared to other topic using euphemisms. Sexual euphemisms consists of body parts, or even the clothes related to the body parts, underwear for example. There are 1200 terms in English that replace the word vagina, 1000 terms to replace the word penis, 800 terms to replace the word copulation and about 2000 terms to replace the word whore. (Allan & Burridge, 1991).

Sagarin (1962) classified the sexual term into four categories. The first category is called "the official and accepted language". Sagarin (1962) used this name "because there are other forms of speech at hand, they somehow to be prudish, clumsy, or long, even when they are easy to say rather short." The sexual terms included into this category usually used in medical circles, for example, copulation, cohabitation, and fornication.

The second one is "longer but less technical words and phrases". Sexual terms such as sexual intercourse. Sagarin (1962) felt that sexual terms in this category is clumsier than the first category if used in daiy conversation.

The third is called "euphemisms and evasion". "The concept is implied, but the harshness is somewhat alleviated by the linguistic form. Euphemism seems to be an almost universal phenornenon." (Sagarin, 1962). Sexual terms included in this group is used to avoid uttering the word that considered taboo. The words and phrases such as *sleep with, make love, to do it*, are included into this group.

The last category is called "dirty words". Sexual terms included in this group considered as taboo words. Sagarin (1962) stated Dirty words Qre necessary to the vocabulary of those whose total range of word power measures only a few hundred, and those for whom the number soars to tens of thousands." (Sagarin, 1962). Two examples from

this category are *screw* and *fuck*. This study will discuss sexual terms included in the third category. This study will categorized the linguistic forms based on the work of Warren (1992).

**Warren** (1992) devides the linguistic forms into four categories, namely word formation, phonemic modification, loan words and semantic innovation.

## 1.2 Problem Formulation

Based on the research background, the writer formulates the problem of the study are:

1. What are linguistic form of English sexual euphemisms used in a novel particularly romance novel?
2. How to categorized the linguistic forms based on the work of Warren?
3. What is the most frequent Warren's categories and Loan words that use in this novel?

## 1.3 Aims of the Research

The aims of the study are:

1. To find out the linguistic form of English sexual euphemisms used in a novel particularly romance novel.
2. To categorized the linguistic forms based on the work of Warren.
3. To find out most frequent Warren's categories and Loan words that use in this novel.

## 1.4 Scope of The Study

By using the classification made by Warren (1992), this study tries to find out the linguistic form of English sexual euphemistic expressions in a novel.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Word Formation Devices

Warren gives five ways to form:

1. Compounding:  
Example: 'hand job' [masturbation], the combining of two individually innocuous words forms

a euphemism for an otherwise unacceptable term.

## 2. Derivation

Example: 'fellatio' [oral sex], the modification of a Latin term ('fellare', to suck) to form a printable modern English word (Rawson, 1981).

## 3. Blends

Warren gives no examples of what she means by this term, or of how a blend is formed.

## 4. Acronyms

Example: SNAFU ['Situation Normal All Fucked Up'], a military euphemism for a possibly catastrophic event.

## 5. Onomatopoeia

Example: 'bonk' [sexual intercourse], here the sound of 'things' hitting together during the sexual act is employed to refer to the act itself.

### 2.2 Phonemic Modification

According to Warren (1992, p.133), "The form of an offensive word is modified or altered", for example:

#### 1. Back slang

Example: 'enob' [bone/erect penis], Rawson (1981:88) and 'epar' [rape] (Warren, 1992:333). The words are reversed to avoid explicit mention.

#### 2. Rhyming slang

Example: 'Bristols' [breasts], a shortened, and further euphemized, version of 'Bristol cities' [titties] which becomes a "semiconcealing device," (Burchfield, 1985:19).

#### 3. Phonemic replacement

Example: 'shoot' [shit], which Rawson terms "a euphemistic mispronunciation," (1981:254), i.e. one sound of the offensive term is replaced.

#### 4. Abbreviation

Example: 'eff' (as in "eff off!") [fuck (off)].

### 2.3 Loan Words

According to Durrell (1968: ix), "...it has always struck me as

curious that most, if not all, the banned words seem to be of Saxon provenance, while the euphemisms constructed to convey the same meaning are of Latin French," (Durrell, 1968:ix). Some examples of this include:

#### 1. French:

Example: 'mot' [cunt] (Allen and Burridge, 1991:95), 'affair(e)' [extramarital engagement] and 'lingerie' [underwear], (Stern, 1931).

2. Latin: 'faeces' [excrement] and 'anus' [ass-hole]. Aside from typical motivations for euphemism, Latin is often favoured as the uneducated and the young cannot interpret the meanings (Allen and Burridge, *ibid.*:19). However, "often such substitutions are just as vulgar if one understood the meaning of the Latinate," (Liszka, 1990:421).

#### 3. Other languages

Example: 'cojones' [testicles], is Spanish (Nash, 1995), and 'schmuck' [penis] in Yiddish literally means 'pendant' (M. Adams, 1999).

### 2.4 Semantic Innovation

In this case, a "novel sense for some established word or word combination is created," (Warren, 1992:133). Examples of Warren's seven categories of semantic innovation are:

#### 1. Particularization

A general term is used, which is required to be 'particularized' within the context to make sense, e.g. 'satisfaction' [orgasm] and 'innocent' [virginal], both of which require contextually based inference by the reader/listener to be comprehensible.

#### 2. Implication

In this case, several steps are required to reach the intended meaning, e.g. 'loose', which implies 'unattached', which leads to the interpretation [sexually easy/available]. Warren warns against possible misinterpretation

tion of this type of euphemism, though it seems this could occur with many examples of 'semantic innovation'.

### 3. Metaphor

A multitude of colorful metaphorical euphemisms surround menstruation, centring around 'red', e.g. 'the cavalry has come'- a reference to the red coats of the British cavalry, 'it's a red letter day' and 'flying the red flag,' (Allen and Burridge, 1991:82).

### 4. Metonym

Otherwise called 'general-for-specific', this category includes the maximally general 'it' [sex] and the contextually dependent 'thing' [male/female sexual organs, etc.].

### 5. Reversal

Or 'irony'. Including 'blessed' [damned] (Stern, 1931) and 'enviable disease' [syphilis], both of which enable reference to something 'bad' by using opposites.

### 6. Understatement

Or 'litotes'. Examples like 'sleep' [die], 'deed' [act of murder/rape] and 'not very bright' [thick/stupid] fall into this category.

### 7. Overstatement:

Or 'hyperbole'. Instances include 'fight to glory' [death] and those falling under Rawson's (1981:11)

By using the classification made by Warren (1992), this study tries to find out the linguistic form of English sexual euphemistic expressions in a novel. The novel used in this study is *Lady Chatterley's Lover* that is written by D.H. Lawrence.

## 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Research Design

This study is using a qualitative descriptive approach that emphasizes data based on the words,

sentences, or pictures which has more meaning than numbers and frequency (Sutopo, 2002). This study is started by collecting the data in the form of sexual euphemism. After collecting the data, the collected data is categorized based on the linguistic form proposed by Warren (1992). After they are classified, the data will be analyzed.

### 3.2 Source of The Data

The source of data of this study is *Lady Chatterley's Lover* which is written by D.H. Lawrence. The novel is published in 1928 by Penguin Group. This novel is chosen because the theme of the story and it contains many of euphemistic expressions.

### 3.3 Data Collection Procedure

The data of this study were collected through qualitative observation method. Researcher find out the linguistic form of English that contain sexual euphemistic expressions in a novel.

### 3.4 Data Analysis Procedure

The procedure of analyzing the data follow these steps. First, note the sentences that the linguistic form of English sexual euphemistic expressions in a novel. Second, classified the data using classification made by Warren (1992). The last, in order to answer the problems those problems were analyzed.

## 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Introduction

From 50 euphemistic expressions found in the novel, there 14 data included into implication, 11 data into metaphors, 7 data into particularization, 5 into metonymy, 5 data into derivation, 3 into compounding, and 4 into French, 1 into Latin, The data can be described in the Table 1.

**Table 1. Linguistics form of English Sexual Euphemistic Expression in Lady Chatterley's Lover**

	Lingustic Forms	Number
Word Formation	Compounding	3
	Derivation	5
Phonemic Modification	Blends	-
	Acronyms	-
	Onomatopoeia	-
	Black slang	-
	Rhyming slang	-
Loan Words	Phonemic replacement	-
	abreviation	-
	French	1
Semantic Innovation	Latin	4
	Others	-
	particularization	7
	Metaphor	11
	implication	14
	metonymy	5
	Reversal	-
	understatement	-
overstatement	-	

It can be seen from the table, sexual euphemistic expressions are dominated by semantic innovation form, meanwhile, there are no sexual euphemistic expression that are in the form of phonemic modification.

#### 4.2 Sexual Euphemistic Expressions in the Form of Semantic Innovation

There are 37 data belong to this group. 14 data are implication, 11 data are metaphors, 7 data is particularization, 5 data into metonymy. There is no data for reversal, understatement, and overstatement.

##### Implication:

1. *I can't see I do a woman any more harm by **sleeping with** her than by dancing with her... or even talking to her about the weather. (45)*

In data 1, *sleeping with* is a euphemism to replace the word copulation. This euphemism commonly used in English. The linguistic form of this euphemism is implication. *Sleep with*, implied an activity that is done in a bed.

2. *It was the moment of pure peace for him, **the entry** into the body of the woman. (169)*

In data 2, the word *the entry* is used to replace the word *vagina*. It is in the form of implication. The word *the entry* implies the place that welcomes a thing to enter.

3. *She still refused to go to the wood and **open her thighs** once more to the man. (187)*

In data 3, the phrase *open her thighs* is used to replace the word copulation. It is in the form of implication. The phrase *open her thighs* implies that copulation needs to open the thigh or legs of the woman. It will not do if the legs or thighs are closed.

4. *And when **he came into her**, with an intensification of relief and consummation that was pure peace to him, still she was waiting (p.183).*

In data 4, the clause *he came into her* is used to replace the word penetration. The clause is in the form of implication. The clause implies the activity of sex is done with entering the body.

5. *And Connie exulted a little in this intimacy which was beyond sex, and beyond a man's '**satisfaction**' (13)*

In data 5, the word *satisfaction* is used to replace the word *orgasm*. It is in the form of implication. The word *satisfaction* implies to a man feeling when he has an orgasm.

##### Metaphors:

6. *The man heard it beneath him with a kind of awe, as **his life** sprang out into her. (195)*

In data 6, the phrase *his life* is used to replace the word *sperm*. *Sperm* is considered as important as life in this sentence.

7. *And the strange weight of **the balls** between his legs! What a mystery! (257)*

In data 7, the word *balls* is used to replace the word *testicles*. It is in the form of metaphor. Testicles are considered the same with balls because of the shape

8. *He was the trembling excited sort of lover, whose **crisis** soon came, and was finished.* (39)

In data 8, the word *crisis* is used to replace the word *orgasm*. It is in the form of metaphor. Orgasm is considered the same with crisis because the situation that a man has to face when he has ejaculation.

9. *And now **he's tiny, and soft like a little bud of life.*** (309)

10. *And now **he's tiny, and soft like a little bud of life.*** (309)

In data 9, the clause *he's tiny and soft like a little bud of life* is used to replace a condition after ejaculation. He refers to the penis which is compared to something soft and tiny as if the penis is only a little bud of life.

11. ***Rippling, rippling, and rippling, like a flapping overlapping of soft flames, soft as feathers, running to points of brilliance, exquisite, exquisite and melting her all molten inside.*** (194)

In data 10, the author of the novel used many metaphors to explain the orgasm. The metaphors above are used to describe the feeling that the woman felt when she reached the orgasm.

#### Particularization:

12. *'Quite, Hammond, quite! But if someone starts **making love** to Julia, you begin to simmer; and if he goes on, you are soon at boiling point.'*...Julia was Hammond's wife. (43)

13. *He didn't take **the love-making** altogether personally.* (38)

In data 11 and 12 *making love* and *the love making* are used to replace the word copulation. It is in the form of parti-

cularization. "Make love" once had a more general meaning and, in fact, seems to have evolved from euphuism into a euphemism. As euphuism, it was the flowery equivalent of "to pay court" or "to woo," and the oldest example of the phrase in the Oxford English Dictionary comes from the progenitor of all euphuisms.

14. *And there his hand softly, softly, stroked the curve of **her flank**, in the blind instinctive caress.* (168)

In data 12, the word *flank* is used to replace the word *ass*. The flank has denotative meaning which is the right or left side of a body of people such as an army, a naval force, or a soccer team.

15. *So they **had given** the gift of themselves, each to the youth with whom she had the most subtle and intimate arguments.* (5)

In data 13, the word *given* is used to replace the word *sex*. The linguistic form of this euphemistic expression is particularization. The denotative meaning of the word *give* is freely transfer the possession of (something) to someone.

16. *He stepped into his short **drawers**, and unbuttoned them around the waist.* (337)

In data 15, the word *drawers* is used to replace the word *underwear*. This euphemistic expression is in the form of particularization. The denotative meaning of the word *drawer* is a box like storage compartment without a lid, made to slide horizontally in and out of a desk, chest or other piece of furniture.

#### Metonymy:

17. *She watched his face, and the passion for him moved in **her bowels.*** (196)

In data 16, *her bowels* is used to replace the word *ass*. *Her*

bowels is a metonymy which represent the whole genital area which belong to a woman.

18. *She looked down at the milky odd little flowers among the brown hair at the lower tip of her body.* (329)

In data 17, the phrase at the lower tip of her body is used to replace the word vagina. The phrase is a metonymy which represents a vagina as the sexual organ of a woman.

19. *"Tha' got such a nice tail on thee" he said, in the throaty caressive dialect.* (328)

In data 17 tail is used to replace the word ass. Tail is a metonymy that represents a woman looked by a man sexually.

20. *"Anyhow, the future's going to have more sense, and a woman needn't be dragged down by her FUNCTIONS"* (105)

In data 19, her functions is used to describes the ability of a woman to bear a child. The phrase is in the form of metonymy that represents fertility.

21. *By God, you think a woman's soft down there, like a fig.* (297)

In data 20, the phrase down there is used to replace the word vagina. Down there is a metonymy that represents the whole area of woman's genital.

#### 4.3 Sexual Euphemistic Expression in the Form of Word Formation

There are 8 data that included into word compounding. 5 data belong to derivation and 3 data to compounding.

##### Derivation:

1. And softly, he laid his hand over her mound of Venus, on the soft brown maiden-hair, and himself-sat still and naked on the bed, his face motionless in physical abstraction, almost like the face of Buddha. (312)  
The phrase her mound of Venus is used to replace the word va-

gina. It is derived from the Latin's phrase mons veneris.

2. The phallos alone could explore it. And how he had pressed in on her. (365)

In data 22, the word phallos is used to replace the word penis. It is derived from Latin phallus.

3. But Connie was preoccupied with her affair with the keeper. (187)

In data 23, the word affair is used to describe a sexual activity outside the marriage. It is derived from the French word affaire.

4. He laid his hand on her shoulder, and softly, gently, it began to travel down the curve of her back, blindly, with a blind stroking motion, to the curve of her crouching loins. (168)

In data 24, the word loins is used to describe the sexual organs (the inside thighs before the genital). It is derived from French loingne or Latin lumbus.

5. I love the chastity now that it flows between us. (446)

In data 25, the word chastity is used to describe a status of a woman that has not had a sexual intercourse. The word chastity is derived from the old French word chastete.

##### Compounding:

6. And however one might sentimentalize it, this sex business was one of the most ancient, sordid connexions and subject-tions. (5)

In data 26, sex business is used to replace sexual intercourse. Sex business is compound word.

7. Have you come off like that with other women? (196)

In data 27, come off is used to replace the word ejaculate or orgasm. It is a compound word that has idiomatic meaning.

8. And the bounders who pretended they did, and started working

the **sex game**, they were worse than ever (82)

In data 28, sex game is used to replace the word sexual intercourse. It is a compound word that has idiomatic meaning.

#### 4.4 Sexual Euphemistic Expression in the Form of Loan Words

There are 5 data, 4 data belong to French, and 1 data belongs to Latin.

##### French:

1. L'AMOUR AVAIT POSS PAR L, as somebody puts it. (6)

In data 29, the word L'Amour is used to replace the word sexual intercourse. The word is borrowed from French. The meaning of L'amour is to make love.

2. It was in her second winter at Wragby her father said to her: 'I hope, Connie, you won't let circumstances force you into being a **demi-vierge.**' (22)

In data 30, the phrase demi verge is used to describe a condition of woman which is not virgin and does not have a partner to have sex. The phrase is borrowed from French. The meaning of the phrase is half virgin.

3. Her father warned her again: 'Why don't you get yourself a **beau**, Connie? Do you all the good in the world.' (27)

In data 31, beau is used to replace sex partner. It is borrowed from French. The meaning of beau is lover.

4. After this, for some days she went round loudly saying that my paramour was no less a person than Lady Chatterley herself. (399)

In data 32, paramour is used to describe the illicit sexual partner. It is borrowed from French. It has meaning a lover outside marriage.

##### Latin:

IN PURIS NATURALIBUS; or one should say in IMPURIS NATURA-LIBUS. (386)

In data 33, puris naturalibus is used to replace the word naked. It is borrowed from latin. The meaning of the phrase is completely naked.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

### 5.1 Conclusion

It can be concluded that English sexual euphemism are mostly in the form of semantic innovation and there is no phonemic modification form in this novel, which it is probably because the novel used as the source of data is a novel from 1930. Loan words mostly come from French, it is also probably because the theme of the novel.

### 5.2 Suggestion

For further research it is suggested to take other approach for example from pragmatic approach. Functions and motivations of the usage of sexual euphemistic expressions will be interesting to discuss.

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