



## The Use of Swearing Words of Young Multicultural Students: A Sociolinguistics Study

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### Abstract

*In today's modern era, it has become a common phenomenon to hear swearing words that are often spoken by people around us, as well as UNAKI students who live in dormitories and come from various regions. Lack of education about the use of swearing words, makes them quite often use these swearing words in daily conversation with their friends because they are young and vulnerable. Therefore, educating them about the dangers of swearing words is very much needed for the sake of the better quality of the younger generation. The aim is to analyze the use of swearing words that are often spoken by UNAKI students living in dormitories and to analyze the function of swearing words used by UNAKI students living in dormitories. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research design. The population in this study was all students who lived in dormitories. 20 teenagers were sampled with 5 people from each area consisting of Lampung, Kalimantan, Medan, and Papua. The research data were obtained by observation, interviews, note-taking, and simak methods. The result of this research is that there are five types of swearing words used by UNAKI students who live in dormitories: obscenity, abusive, blasphemy, expletive, and humorous. They use swearing words to express their indescribable feelings such as anger, annoyance, and show intimacy in a friendship relationship. The conclusion is that the swearing words used by UNAKI students who live in dormitories have five types and three functions.*

**Keywords:** Sociolinguistics, Swearing Words, Young, Students, Multicultural

### Introduction

Communication has a significant impact on human lives. Without communication, every human being in this world will never be able to interact with each other. Every human being is essentially a social entity, which means that we cannot all thrive without social interaction. Humans cannot live alone in this world.

Language is the most important communication tool in interaction with everyone in this world. Language is also the main communicative, creative, and fast tool for humans to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Language cannot be separated from human life, because language is used by humans in interacting. According to Chaer (2003), language is a verbal tool for



communication, where language is used as an arbitrary sound symbol used by the community to interact and identify themselves. It can be concluded that language and society are inseparable units. The relationship between language and people in social life can be studied in sociolinguistics. According to Sari (2015), sociolinguistics is the study of language related to the use of language in society, and in its use sociolinguistics provides knowledge of how to use language.

In studying linguistics many parts can be learned such as language levels, language variation, and so on. Everyone has their way of choosing the language variation that defines their identity. For example, people sometimes use certain types of words that are considered bad language, which is inappropriate to use to express their feelings, these words are called swearing words.

Swearing words are part of sociolinguistics related to language and society Kasih (2021). Swearing words are harsh and dirty words that are inappropriate to be spoken as an outlet for anger or annoyance. According to Sudaryanto in Nurdiyanto (2018), swearing words are types of affective words whose effectiveness is used in communication. This means that the swearing words arise as a result of someone's actions in an event that causes a response from others in the form of an outlet so that the swear word appears.

In today's modern era, it is a common phenomenon to hear swearing words that are often spoken by people around us, especially teenagers. For teenagers, swearing words are commonplace. They say swearing words not only to release feelings of anger and irritation but also as a joke between peers to show the intimacy that exists between them. According to Wahyuni et al. (2020) argued that the use of swearing words does not mean to offend or hurt other people. But not everyone can accept the swearing that people say even though it doesn't mean anything. In addition, swearing words are straightforward to find in various media such as television, books, movies, music, or videos.

Some people think that an uneducated person is a person who often utters swearing words. But in reality, even educated people still say swearing words. Some people commit not to use swearing words because they are considered rude and disrespectful. But, some argue that there is a certain reason why they say swearing words, namely to express the feelings they are experiencing. Same, when the researcher lives in a dormitory to continue her education at the university level, the researcher meets many people with various languages and cultures. Therefore, the researcher often hears various kinds of swearing words that vary from various regions such as Kalimantan, Lampung, Medan, and Papua. It motivates the researcher to research the use of swearing words by students in the UNAKI dormitory. Swearing words among teenagers are getting out of control day by day. Therefore, the use of swearing words by students in the UNAKI dormitory is interesting to be analyzed. Based on the explanation above the researcher is interested to make it into a thesis with the title "The Use of Swearing Words of Young Multicultural Students: A Sociolinguistics Study".



## Literature Review

### Sociolinguistics

Society and language are two things that are related and cannot be separated, because with language humans can interact with other people. Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society, language use, and social structures in everyday language use. In everyday language use, it is necessary to understand sociolinguistics to avoid errors in the problem of inappropriate use of language in social contexts Isnaniah (2015). It can be concluded that sociolinguistics discusses the function of language in society and how to know about people their communication using language to communicate with each other.

Holmes in Aini (2015), argued that sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society through the identification of language's social functions and how it is used to communicate social meaning. It means people that communicate in society related to sociolinguistics knowledge. Communication will appear in sociolinguistics because people in society always use language to communicate in the community. When people communicate in society, they used language depending on their social context. They can use a new language in a new place or people can use the other language depending on the society that they stay in. In addition, Sakti (2020) also argued that sociolinguistics is the study of how the qualities of language types, their functions, and the characteristics of the speaker interact and change within a speech community.

From some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that sociolinguistics is the study of language and society. Sociolinguistics can arise in social interactions and sociolinguistics in society will find language variations.

### Swearing Words

Swearing words can be a collection of foul words used to show emotion. It is usually rude and unpleasant to hear, but using these words cannot be avoided because they emerge naturally from one's mouth as an expression of unsatisfactory human feelings. According to Trimadona (2016), swearing is an obscene, abusive, and particularly insulting word or phrase. Swearing is frequently associated with genitals and sexual activity, as well as dirt, and can include elements from all areas, such as fucking shit, fucking hell. According to Heriyanto (2020), swearing words are dirty words from a language spoken by language users that are insulting, disrespectful, homophobic, racist, and dirty, and that causes a violation of decency.

Even though some people view swearing words as forbidden, they are not the same as taboo words. Karjalainen in Ulan Sari (2018), claims that not all taboo words are swearing words although those words are taboo. For example, although cannibalism is taboo, there are no swearing words derived from it. In addition, according to Ljung (2011), taboo words and swearing words are two different things. He defines the use of swearing words by stating that all instances of swearing must meet four conditions. First, using phrases that are banned is considered to be swearing words. Swearing words emphasize the point the speaker wants to make by using taboo words. Meanwhile, swearing words frequently transgress societal norms.



Second, even though these taboo words are employed in profanity in their literal sense, this does not matter. Third, because of its restrictions on vocabulary, phrasing, and syntactic structure, swearing words are categorized as formulaic language. Last but not least, swearing words is an example of reflective language use that conveys the speaker's emotions and views.

According to Fajri et al. (2018), swearing words and taboo words are different things. Swearing words are the forceful language used by people to communicate their intense emotions. It demonstrates that a person uses swearing words to express their emotions to another person. While taboo words are the restriction or avoidance of behavior in any community that is thought to be damaging to its members by causing embarrassment or shame.

Swearing words are part of the culture. Generally, swearing is considered something that should not be said freely due to avoidance or prohibition. Swearing words mean words that are insulting, shocking, or disrespectful. However, the cultural aspect is one of the things that influence the origin and development of swearing words. Because swearing words can be employed to attain several positive and negative personal and impersonal results, someone who is swearing may perceive the world differently. So, there is some reason why someone uses swearing words, according to Jay (2009), the major use of swearing is for emotional connotation, which manifests itself in the form of epithets or insults directed at others. In addition to emotional benefits, He claims that utilizing prohibited words in jokes or humor, social commentary, sex discourse, and narrative can have positive social consequences.

There are many types of swearing which are usually used in people's communication. Each type of swearing has distinctive characteristics that make it different from others. According to Montagu in Triadi (2017), swearing words are divided into six types, namely: 1) abusive swearing: swearing words directed to other people that refer to racist nicknames, offensive and insulting, 2) blasphemy: swearing words directed to others people that refer to ugliness or bad qualities. Besides, blasphemy has stronger qualities than swearing words than abusive, 3) cursing: swearing words that refer to begging for something bad to happen to someone, 4) swearing: a word used for swearing, 5) obscenity: swearing words that refer to the organs of sexuality and vulgarity, and 6) expletive: swearing words that are not intended for other people but are used to express personal emotions. In addition, according to Jay in Jdetawy (2019), swearing words are divided into four. They are expletive swearing (swearing that is used to express personal emotions such as anger, surprise, and disappointment Examples of expletive swearing are "hell, shit, goddamn". Next is abusive swearing (an insult intended to call someone else's name that is offensive and insulting. Examples of abusive swearing are "go to hell" and "you, bastard!". Other is humorous swearing (a swearing word used for jokes, usually used in a peer environment because it is playful and not serious. An example of humorous swearing is "getting your ass in gear!". The last is auxiliary swearing (a swearing word that is not intended for a particular person or situation. But usually, the auxiliary is known as lazy speaking or not empathetic. An example of auxiliary swearing is "this fucking shit!").



Talking about the functions of swearing words, according to Saptomo in Cahyani & Setiawan (2019), swearing has a function and purpose which is used to communicate anger, annoyance, disappointment, regret, wonder, insult, and characterize intimacy in a relationship. Swearing is a way of expressing anger. A person will say swearing words when that person is angry at someone else or at something that has happened that made someone angry. Usually, someone will say in a high tone and that person will feel relieved after saying the word because that person has expressed their feelings. Example: Goddamn it! I failed the math test again! Next is swearing is a way of expressing annoyance. A person will say swearing words when that person is upset at someone else or at something that has happened that made someone annoyed. Usually, someone will say in a high tone and that person will feel relieved after saying the word because that person has expressed their feelings. Example: shut up your mouth!

Swearing is a way of expressing disappointment. Disappointment is the sense of being disappointed with something because it does not meet your expectations. Someone who frequently expresses displeasure will use swearing words that express disappointment. Example: fuck this shit! I'm out! Next is swearing is a means to express regrets. Usually, people will say swearing words when they feel regretful about something they have done. Example: bitch, it's better if I don't have to go!.

Swearing is a means to express wonder. Someone will say swearing words if someone sees something new or beautiful that is interesting to continue to see. Example: damn that building is so cool!. Next is swearing is a means to express insult or humiliation. Someone will say swearing words to insult. Usually, people say these words to insult other people because the person does not like their attitude or appearance. It could also be something like a bad taste in food. Example: bitch, don't do that!. The last is swearing is a means to express characterize intimacy in a relationship. Someone will say swear words to show intimacy. Usually, speaking to peers who have been in a close relationship for fun and have no intention of insulting or hurting other people's feelings. Example: hey bitch, where do you want to go!

## Methodology

This study uses a descriptive qualitative research design. The population in this study was all students who lived in dormitories. 20 teenagers were sampled with 5 people from each area consisting of Lampung, Kalimantan, Medan, and Papua.

The data-collecting technique is a very important part of the research because to conduct research the researcher needs to get the data as accurate as possible. In this research, the researcher used observation, interview, the *simak* method, and note-taking techniques to collect the data.

According to Rijali (2019), data analysis is an effort to systematically search for and organize notes from observations, interviews, and others to increase researchers understanding of the case being studied. This method is used by the researcher to analyze data from interview results and analyze observation result data.



## Findings and Discussion

### Types of Swearing Words

Based on the data we got in the field, there are 5 types of swearing words that are often used by young multicultural students, including the following:

#### a. Obscenity

Words	Pronunciation	Meaning	Language
<i>Teling</i>	/təliŋ/	Penis	Lampung
<i>Kacuk</i>	/kʌtʃu:k/	To have sex	Lampung
<i>Bujang Inam</i>	/bu:ɟʌŋ ɪnʌm/	Your Mother's Pussy	Medan
<i>Baba Ni Amang</i>	/bʌbʌ ni ʌmʌŋ/	Your Father's Mouth	Medan
<i>Butuh</i>	/bu:tu:h/	Penis	Kalimantan
<i>Gosi</i>	/gosi/	Penis	Papua
<i>Bikon</i>	/bikɔn/	Testicles	Papua
<i>Konak</i>	/kɔnʌk/	Vagina	Papua
<i>Feli</i>	/feli:/	Vagina	Papua
<i>Pantolob</i>	/pʌntɔləb/	Ass hole	Papua

The table above is an example of obscenity because obscenity is the swearing words that are being used to express annoyance and anger, by using their explicit meaning. Obscenity is related to sexual intercourse and vulgarity.

#### b. Abusive

Words	Pronunciation	Meaning	Language
<i>Kampang</i>	/kʌmpʌŋ/	Son of a bitch	Lampung
<i>Lawang</i>	/lʌwʌŋ/	Crazy	Lampung
<i>Lugor</i>	/lugɔr/	Stupid	Lampung
<i>Banga</i>	/bʌŋgʌ/	Stupid	Kalimantan
<i>Loak</i>	/louwʌ?/	Stupid	Medan



<i>Heang</i>	/hɛʌŋ/	Penis	Medan
<i>Borjong</i>	/bɔrdʒɔŋ/	Insolent	Medan
<i>Cukimai</i>	/ʃu:ki:mai/	To have sex	Papua

The table above is an example of abusive because abusive is a swearing word directed at other people which refers to nicknames that are racist, offensive, and insulting.

### c. Blasphemy

Words	Pronunciation	Meaning	Language
<i>Sunal</i>	/su:nʌl/	Bitch	Kalimantan
<i>Ukui</i>	/ʊkui/	Dog	Kalimantan
<i>Antu</i>	/ʌntu:/	Devil	Kalimantan
<i>Kalera</i>	/kʌlɛrʌ/	Bitch	Medan

The table above is an example of blasphemy because blasphemy is swearing words directed at other people which refers to badness or bad qualities. Besides, blasphemy has stronger qualities of swearing words than abuse.

### d. Expletive

Words	Pronunciation	Meaning	Language
<i>Kampang</i>	/kʌmpʌŋ/	Bastard	Kalimantan
<i>Tundun</i>	/tu:ndu:n/	Vagina	Kalimantan
<i>Kimbek</i>	/kimbɛ?/	Vagina	Medan

The table above is an example of expletives because expletive is a swearing word that is not intended for other people but is used to express personal emotions such as anger, annoyance, surprise, and frustration.

### e. Humorous

Words	Pronunciation	Meaning	Language
<i>Bodat</i>	/bɔdʌt/	Monkey	Medan
<i>Pinahan</i>	/pɪnʌhʌn/	Pig	Medan
<i>Puki</i>	/pu:ki:/	Vagina	Papua

The table above is an example of humorous because humorous is swearing words that are intended for other people but not rude which tends to be funny, playful, and joking.



## The function of Swearing Words

### a. Swearing is a way of expressing anger

#### *Data 1*

*Indonesian language: Teling kamu itu nyontek!.*

*English: Your dick is cheating!*

The word *teling* is a swearing word that comes from Lampung. The word *teling* in the example sentence above is used as an expression of someone's anger because someone does not accept being accused of cheating during an exam by a friend.

#### *Data 2*

*Indonesian language: Tau saya kampang! Gak usah kamu ajarin!.*

*English: I know son of a bitch! You don't have to teach!*

The word *kampang* is a swearing word that comes from Lampung. In the example sentence above, the word *kampang* is used to express anger at a person who pretends to teach but that person can't because we are just asking, not asking to be taught.

#### *Data 3*

*Indonesian language: Ukui nar sidak yak!*

*English: They're so fucking shit!*

The word *ukui* is a swear word that comes from Kalimantan. The word *ukui* in the example sentence above is used to express anger at someone who likes to divide and conquer. Although the word *ukui* has the meaning of a dog, in the example sentences the word *ukui* refers to the bad nature of someone who is described as a dog.

#### *Data 4*

*Indonesian language: Woy borjong, kalau jalan pakai mata!.*

*English: Hey damn, proceed with eyes!*

The word *borjong* is a swear word that comes from Medan. In the example sentence above, the word *borjong* is used to express anger because someone is walking and doesn't see, so they bumped into us who were eating ice cream, and caused the ice cream to fall.

#### *Data 5*

*Indonesian language: Baba ni amam mah, makanya kalau ngomong itu dipikir dulu!.*

*English: Your father's mouth is you, that's why when you say it, think about it!*



The word *baba ni amang* is a swearing word that comes from Medan. In the example sentence above, the word *baba ni amang* is used to express anger at someone because the person we are talking to is just talking about not thinking about other people's feelings.

*Data 6*

*Indonesian language: Minggir kau heang, kau pikir ini jalan oppungmu!.*

*English: Move aside your dick, you think this is your grandfather's way!*

The word *heang* is a swearing word that comes from Medan. In the example sentence above, the word *heang* is used to express anger at someone sitting in front of the door so that it disturbs people who will pass by.

*Data 7*

*Indonesian language: Cukimai! Bisa diam ka tidak!.*

*English: Fucking shit! Shut up!*

The word *cukimai* is a swearing word that comes from Papua. In the example sentence above, the word *cukimai* is used to express anger at people who are noisy and shout because they disturb people who are sleeping.

*Data 8*

*Indonesian language: Tau diri sedikit gosi, jang terlalu lancang!.*

*English: You have no shame dick don't be too presumptuous!*

The word *gosi* is a swearing word that comes from Papua. In the example sentence above, the word *gosi* is used to express feelings of anger at a man who suddenly comes and pokes at him, just like the bastard's behavior.

*Data 9*

*Indonesian language: Ko pu konak di bawah itu dijaga!.*

*English: Your pussy under it is guarded!*

The word *konak* is a swearing word that comes from Papua. In the example sentence above, the word *konak* is used to scold someone who likes to change boyfriends while at the same time reminding them to take care of themselves.

*Data 10*

*Indonesian language: Jadi perempuan itu tahan nafsu, supaya feli tidak singgah sana sini!.*



*English: So the woman is resistant to lust so that the vagina does not stop here and there!*

The word *feli* is a swear word that comes from Papua. In the example sentence above, the word *feli* is used to express feelings of anger at a woman who is mad at a guy.

*Data 11*

*Indonesian language: Pantolob! ko pikir tra sakit ka.*

*English: Shit you don't think it hurts!*

The word *pantolob* is a swearing word that comes from Papua. In the example sentence above, the word *pantolob* is used to express feelings of anger to someone who suddenly comes and keeps hitting the person's head.

## **b. Swearing is a Way of Expressing Annoyance**

*Data 1*

*Indonesian language: Jangan rusak barang saya, sanak lawang nikeu!*

*English: Don't break my stuff, are you crazy!*

The word *lawang* is a swearing word that comes from Lampung. In the example sentence above, the word *lawang* is used to express annoyance at someone for destroying something we have.

*Data 2*

*Indonesian language: Kacuk benar sendal ini putus pas saya pakai!*

*English: Fuck this sandal broke when I put it on!*

The word *kacuk* is a swearing word that comes from Lampung. In the example sentence above, the word *kacuk* is used to express annoyance because the sandals that people wear suddenly break. From the example above, the word *kacuk* is used to express personal emotions, not to curse others.

*Data 3*

*Indonesian language: Woy alangkah lugor anak ini! Lagi nuwoh saya liat muka kamu ini anjing!*

*English: Hey how stupid this child! I'm sick of seeing his face, fuck!*

The word *lugor* is a swearing word that comes from Lampung. In the example sentence above the word, *lugor* is used to express annoyance towards someone who doesn't understand easily when being taught so that the speaker is annoyed by seeing that person's face.



*Data 4*

*Indonesian language: Bangke, make barang orang tapi gak bilang-bilang kampanglah!.*

*English: Use things without permission, fucking shit!*

The word *kampang* is a swearing word that comes from Kalimantan. In the example sentence above, the word *kampang* is used to express annoyance towards someone who uses something that people don't ask for permission to just use it.

*Data 5*

*Indonesian language: Udah ditolongin gak tau terima kasih, dasar banga!*

*English: I've been helped without saying thank you, idiot!*

The word *banga* is a swearing word that comes from Kalimantan. In the example sentence above, the word *banga* is used to express annoyance towards someone who has been helped but does not say thank you.

*Data 6*

*Indonesian language: Sunal benar perempuan itu!.*

*English: Bitch that girl!*

The word *sunal* is a swearing word that comes from Kalimantan. In the example sentence above, the word *sunal* is used to express annoyance when seeing a girl who is coquettish to a boy. The word *sunal* was chosen in this sentence because it describes the bad nature of someone who looks like a bitch.

*Data 7*

*Indonesian language: Baka antu kian yak!*

*English: You all are devils!*

The word *antu* is a swearing word that comes from Kalimantan. In the example sentence above, the word *antu* is used to express annoyance because it is disturbed while playing a game. The word *antu* was chosen in this sentence because it describes the nature of someone similar to a devil who likes to jail humans.

*Data 8*

*Indonesian language: Butuh meh yak!*

*English: Your dick!*



The word *butuh* is a swearing word that comes from Kalimantan. In the example sentence above, the word *butuh* used to express annoyance because the person you are talking to is annoying and doesn't connect.

*Data 9*

*Indonesian language: Ih tundun nar!.*

*English: Holy shit!*

The word *tundun* is a swearing word that comes from Kalimantan. In the example sentence above, the word *tundun* is used to express annoyance for working on a difficult problem. It can be seen that the word *tundun* is used to express personal emotions not to curse others.

*Data 10*

*Indonesian language: Berani pula si bujang inam ini duduk disini!.*

*English: How dare this bastard sit here!*

The word *bujang inam* is a swearing word that comes from Medan. In the example sentence above the word, *bujang inam* is used to express annoyance because people take someone's seat.

*Data 11*

*Indonesian language: Kimbeklah! Jelek kali wifi ini!*

*English: Fuck! this wifi is so bad!*

The word *kimbek* is a swear word that comes from Medan. In the example sentence above, the word *kimbek* is used to express annoyance because the wifi suddenly goes bad while working on an assignment and the deadline is coming soon. It can be seen that the word *kimbek* is used to express personal emotions not to curse others.

*Data 12*

*Indonesian language: Memang macam kalera kulihat gayamu itu bah!.*

*English: I see your style is like a bitch!.*

The word *kalera* is a swearing word that comes from Medan. In the example sentence above, the word *kalera* is used to express annoyance because you see someone wearing impolite clothes and wearing excessive makeup. The word *kalera* was chosen in the example sentence because it shows the appearance of someone who looks like a bitch.

*Data 13*



*Indonesian language: Eh loak, gitu aja gak bisa!*

*English: Hey stupid, you can't do that!*

The word *loak* is a swearing word that comes from Medan. In the example sentence above, the word *loak* is used to express annoyance because someone cannot open the lid of a drink bottle.

*Data 14*

*Indonesian language: Eh bikon ko stop sudah, jang bikin aneh-aneh sa lihat!*

*English: Fuck, don't act too much!*

The word *bikon* is a swearing word that comes from Papua. In the example sentence above, the word *bikon* is used to express annoyance because someone has a lot of behavior that can't be quiet and makes them dizzy.

### **c. Swearing is a means to express characterize intimacy in a relationship**

*Data 1*

*Indonesian language: Woy bodat, mau kemana kau?*

*English: Hey monkey, where are you going?*

The word *bodat* is a swearing word that comes from Medan. The word *bodat* is one of the swearing words used to joke by changing nicknames. In the example sentence above, the word *bodat* is spoken to a close friend to show characterize intimacy in a relationship without the intention of hurting, insulting, or upsetting.

*Data 2*

*Indonesian language: Bohim pe songon pinahan!*

*English: Your face is like a pig!*

The word *pinahan* is a swearing word that comes from Medan. The word *pinahan* is one of the swearing words used to joke by mocking someone. In the example sentence above, the word *pinahan* is spoken to a close friend to show characterize intimacy in a relationship without the intention of hurting, insulting, or upsetting.

*Data 3*

*Indonesian language: Hey puki, dari mana ko?*

*English: Hey bitch, where are you from?*



The word *puki* is a swearing word that comes from Papua. The word *puki* means vagina. Although the word *puki* refers to a vital organ, in the example sentence above the word *puki* is used to make a joke by changing the nickname. In the example sentence above, the word *puki* is spoken to a close friend to show characterize intimacy in a relationship without the intention of hurting, insulting, or upsetting.

## Conclusion

Based on the description and analysis, it can be concluded that there are five types of swearing words used by young multicultural students, namely obscenity, abusive, blasphemy, expletive, and humorous. And there are three functions of swearing words. They are used to express anger and annoyance and characterize intimacy in a relationship.

Based on the conclusion above, the writer advises the readers to be very careful with their choice of language because it can hurt someone's feelings and will cause social offense. Expressing expressions is a normal thing for humans, but that doesn't mean we can use swearing words as the only way to express our feelings. Most people use this as an excuse for them to continue swearing in public. Therefore, swearing words should be avoided and should not be used for any reason.

As educated individuals, we should be the next generation of our beloved country. Therefore, teenagers need to behave like educated people and stop acting like uneducated people. Start small, be wise in your choice of words, and start speaking a good language in public to maintain social relations.

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