Detailed Table of Contents

Chapter 1 - What are "Dirty" Words?

Cursing

Profanity

Blasphemy

Taboo

Obscenity

Vulgarity

Slang

Epithets

Insults and Slurs

Scatology

What is the Value of Classification?

Connotative and Denotative Use

Colorful Metaphors

Context is Critical

Time Perspective Summary

Chapter 2 - When Children Use Dirty Words

17

1

Language Development

The Language of Infancy (Birth to Two Years)

Anger and Dirty Words in Infancy

The Origins of Humor

Pre School Humor

Final Thoughts About Infants

The Language of Childhood (Two to Eleven Years)

Childhood Humor

Elementary School Humor

Childhood Name Calling and Insulting

Object Naming

Childhood Story Telling

From Childhood to Adolescence: Final Thoughts

Two General Issues of Sex Talk and Language at School

The "Etiquette" of Dirty Words and Sex Talk

Conclusions About Sex Talk

The Issue of Dirty Language at School

The Emergence of an Obscene Lexicon

Field Study One

Field Study Two: Summer Camp

Summary of Field Studies

Conclusion

Chapter 3 - Anger and Dirty Words

Anger Expressed Through Cursing or Blasphemy

Anger Expressed Through Reference to Subnormal Thought

Anger Expressed Through Reference to Obscenity

Anger Expressed Through Reference to a Sex Organ

Anger Expressed Through Reference to a Deviant Sex Act

Anger Expressed Through Reference to Being Sexually Violated

Anger Expressed Through Reference to Social-Sexual Deviation

Anger Expressed Through Racial Ethnic Reference

Anger Expressed Through Scatology

Anger Expressed Through References to Body Product or Process

Anger Expressed Through Items Associated With Body Products

Anger Expressed Through References to Animal Feces

Anger Expressed Through References to Animals

The Context of Anger Expression

Social-Physical Setting

Speaker-Listener Variable

Discussion

The Etiquette of Anger Expression

The Five Stage Model of Anger

Stage 1: The Offending Event

Stage 2: The Degree of Anger

Stage 3: Attempts to Control Anger

Stage 4: Loss of Control

Stage 5: Retribution

The Value of Expressing Anger

Summary

73

Why Word Frequency?

The Frequency Estimation Problem

Counting Oral Frequency

A Frequency Count of Students' Colloquial English

College Sample

Elementary School Dirty Words

Discussion

Field Studies Versus Laboratory Studies

A Field Study of Offensive Speech

The Contextual Approach

Method

Results

Discussion

Laboratory Studies of Offensive Speech

Jay 1977 Ratings

Method

Results

The Massachusetts Study (1978)

Word List

Method

Results

A Matter of Semantics

Of Words and Deeds

Conclusion

Chapter 5 - The Offensiveness of Words: Sex and Semantics

159

Purpose of the Chapter

Offensiveness Versus Offendedness

The Massachusetts Ratings

Aggressive Content

Sexual Content

Body Functions and Products

Racial Slurs

Is God Dead? Have Religious Terms Lost Their Clout?

Validity of the Ratings

The Relation between Frequency and Offensiveness

Gender, Research and Word Ratings

Conclusions About the Semantics of Offensiveness

Offendedness

Perceptual Defense and Gender

Physiological Reactions

Personality, Gender and Dirty Word Reactions

Sexual Repression

Religion

Offendedness: A Few Conclusions

Gender-Related Insults

Of Friends and Strangers

A Short Dictionary of Gender-Specific Insults

Words That Will Insult Males

Words That Will Insult Females

Conclusions

Other Studies Reporting Gender Differences

Jokes

Story Telling

The Dozens

Hostile and Aggressive Vocabulary

Taboo Vocabulary

Attitudes About Using Taboo Words

Sex Roles, Sex Differences and Dirty Word Usage

Procedure

Results

Discussion

Verbal Sexual Harassment

Harassment and Power

Harassing the Boss

Protected Speech

Unprotected Speech

Summary and Conclusion

Chapter 6 - Free Speech and Censorship

The First Amendment

Imminent Danger

195

Defaming Speech and Libel

Fighting Words

Obscene Speech

A Case of "Fighting Words"

The Doctrine of Fighting Words

The Buffkins Case

Previous Federal Court Cases

The Laws of the City of Omaha and the State of Nebraska

Psychological and Psycholinguistic Background

Final Notes

Restrictions on Media

Cable Television

Dial-a-porn

The Party Line

Obscene Phone Calls

Computer Networks

Audio Recordings

Conclusion

The Evolution of Cursing in American Film

Language Restrictions in American Films

The Church

The Film Industry

Video Movies

A Study of Cursing in American Films 1939-1989

Experimental Hypotheses

Method

Results and Discussion

Analysis Two

Results

General Discussion

Methodological Issues

Chapter 7 - Unfinished Business and Future Research with Dirty Words 235

Some Unfinished Business

Verbal Sexual Harassment

Fighting Words and Disorderly Conduct

Media Content, Restrictions and Regulation

ALERICOSION AND DOVIANO	Aggression	and	Deviance
-------------------------	------------	-----	----------

Humor and Comic Strips

The Relation between Spoken Language and Other Forms of Expression

Graffiti

Nonverbal Gestures

Race and Ethnicity

Language of the Elderly

Neurological and Physiological Issues

Health and Communication

Cognitive Psychology and Linguistic Disciplines

Social Forces

Improved Methodology

Sampling

Materials

Setting

Conclusion

Chapter 8 - Bibliography

245

Summary

References