

# The Use of Dysphemism in the Comments Column on the Instagram Account @stateofisrael

Faradila Awalia Fasa <sup>a,1\*</sup>, I Dewa Putu Wijana <sup>b,2</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup> \*[faradilaawaliafasa@mail.ugm.ac.id](mailto:faradilaawaliafasa@mail.ugm.ac.id), <sup>2</sup>[putu.wijana@ugm.ac.id](mailto:putu.wijana@ugm.ac.id)

\* Corresponding Author



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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine more deeply the expression of dysphemism in the comment column on one of the social media. The purpose of this study is to describe the linguistic form of dysphemism and the function of using dysphemism. The method used in this study is a qualitative method. The data in this study were the terms of dysphemism in the comment column of the Instagram account @stateofisrael, and the data sources of this study were the linguistic form and function of using dysphemism. Data collection techniques were carried out using documentation techniques (screenshots) and note-taking techniques. The results of the study were found three linguistic forms, there are words, phrases, and clauses. The functions of using dysphemism expressions were identified as follows: 1) expressing anger or irritation, 2) criticizing, 3) insinuating, 4) insulting, mocking, or sharpening insults, 5) accusing or blaming, 6) complaining, 7) conveying information, 8) showing disagreement, and 9) showing dislike. Thus, dysphemism expressions express thoughts and emotions towards someone or something by choosing words or terms that can hurt the feelings of the person they are talking to.

## KEYWORDS

Dysphemism  
Lingual form  
Function  
Comment column  
Instagram

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## 1. Introduction

Language is an essential element in social life because language is a tool or media that can make it easier for humans to communicate. Language is used to understand the intent, content, and message conveyed when communicating (Mailani et al., 2022). Humans cannot convey intent and receive various kinds of information when interacting without language. Kridalaksana (2001), stated that language is a symbol of sound, and language is used in social society to socialize, interact, and show identity. However, in the context of using language in social media, language can be used between individuals and communities. It can be a medium for broader and more intense interaction than direct communication. According to Sutanto and Assidik (2022), the use of language on social media is an important aspect, especially in communication, because it can trigger the development or change of language, both verbally and in writing, which sometimes does not have a good impact because the information conveyed uses taboo terms that are often used by people in communicating. Kusumastuti et al. (2021), stated that the development of technology impacts language changes, one of which is in the use of language on Instagram. Instagram is one of the social media with the largest number of users in the world. This is because the rapid development of technology can impact the use of language, especially in social media, which provides freedom of language to trigger the use of dirty and impolite language or expressions (Saadillah et al., 2023). This aligns with the view of Ramadhani et al. (2021), stated that Instagram is a social media used for insulting, mocking, cursing, ridiculing, and also speaking negatively about individuals or groups. The freedom to express criticism and opinions has led social media users to misuse that platform.

The language used on social media, particularly in the Instagram comments column, frequently includes dysphemistic expressions. Dysphemism is a linguistic phenomenon involving words or phrases with negative connotations that can be harmful, offensive, belittling, or upsetting to the listener, the speaker, and others who hear the expression (Allan & Burrige, 1991:26). Thus, the use

of dysphemism expressions by social media users can be caused by several factors, such as the tendency to communicate impulsively in social media, the existence of language supervision and moderation, and culture which is one of the factors in the use of rude and impolite language. Dysphemism is employed to belittle or insult an individual or group through the use of harsh, offensive, and impolite language. This is in line with Garner (2000) stated that the use of dysphemism expressions is a form of someone's effort to replace words or phrases that have a connotation meaning that is considered more neutral or positive with words that have a negative, unpleasant, and impolite connotation meaning. Wijana (2004: 244-246), stated that the form of using dysphemism, or words that have dirty connotations, is a form of language used by speakers as a means or media to express their dissatisfaction and as a tool to respond to the phenomenon that is happening. The form of dysphemism language can be divided into three types, namely: 1) word form, where the word form is the most diminutive linguistic form that has meaning; 2) phrase form, this type of dysphemism is a grammatical unit consisting of two or more words that can be used as one of the functions of syntax in the form of subject, object, predicate, or adverb; and 3) clause form, this form of dysphemism is a form of grammatical unit that contains a predicate and can potentially become a sentence. Furthermore, one of the functions of using dysphemistic expressions is to talk about something that can make the speaker feel angry, annoyed, disappointed and at odds with the speaker so that the speaker can use dysphemistic expressions to insult and embarrass the person being addressed and the person being addressed will feel cornered (Allan & Burridge, 2006:78). Dysphemism expressions are generally related to the linguistic form used and its function. Therefore, there have been many studies on the use of dysphemism conducted by Siti Chaerunisyah and I Dewa Putu Wijana (2023) with the research title "Disfemisme dalam Kolom Komentar YouTube pada Akun "Narasi Newsroom 2022" with the focus of the research examining linguistic problems found in the comments' column on YouTube social media. The findings of this study indicate that there are three types of linguistic forms: words, phrases, and clauses. Dysphemism appears in linguistic forms such as base words, derived words, reduplications, and compound words. It also takes the form of noun phrases, adjective phrases, and verb phrases. The functions of using dysphemism include nine purposes: expressing anger or frustration, criticizing, insinuating, accusing or blaming, complaining, sharing information, insulting and mocking, expressing disagreement, and showing dislike. Then, a study conducted by Widya Ayu, Anisa Nur Aziza, Amalia Kusuma and Ika Nurul (2021) with the research title "Disfemisme pada Kolom Komentar Akun Instagram @rahmawatikeyiputricantikka23" with the aim of the study to describe the forms and functions of dysphemism in the comments' column of the Instagram account @rahmawatikeyiputricantikka23. The study identified 279 instances of dysphemism. The forms of dysphemism found were categorized as words, phrases, and sentences, with 90 instances as words, 100 as phrases, and 89 as expressions. There are seven functions of dysphemism were identified in this study, including (a) as a way to convey taboo or inappropriate topics, (b) as an expression of dislike, hatred, or disrespect, (c) as a means to express anger or irritation, (d) to portray something negatively, (e) as a way to insult and mock, (f) as a tool for criticism, and (g) to exaggerate or scold.

Several previous studies have discussed the use of dysphemism expressions. In contrast, this study will examine with a more detailed and in-depth analysis of 1) the lingual form of dysphemism expressions and 2) the communicative function of the use of dysphemism expressions in the Instagram social media comment column on the @stateofisrael account. This study aims to fill the gap in previous research with a more specific focus on using dysphemism expressions in the Instagram social media comment column on the @stateofisrael account. It can significantly contribute to understanding language use, especially in dysphemism expressions on social media.

## 2. Method

This study used qualitative methods. Subroto (2007) stated that qualitative research is descriptive, recording carefully and precisely data in words, sentences, discourses, photos, diaries, or memorandums. The object of this study was dysphemistic expressions written by Instagram social media users. The data source comprised dysphemistic expressions found in the comment section of the Instagram account @stateofisrael. This research focused on analyzing dysphemistic language by examining the forms and functions of expressions containing dysphemism within this comment section. The data analyzed includes words, phrases, and sentences with dysphemistic expressions

found in the comments. The study aimed to examine how Instagram users used dysphemism on social media. The data collection method in this study involved capturing, observing, and noting techniques. The researcher also employed a documentation technique, take screenshots of comments in the @stateofisrael Instagram comment section. The observation method was applied in data collection, following Sudaryanto (1993) free, involved, and competent analysis technique. The researcher recorded each comment containing a dysphemistic expression from the @stateofisrael Instagram account. According to Sudaryanto (1993) the recording stage could be conducted immediately after using the primary collection methods or later with specific tools. The data collection steps included: 1) capturing and gathering data through screenshots, 2) categorizing sentences that contain dysphemistic expressions, 3) identifying and recording words, phrases, and expressions with dysphemism in the Instagram comments, 4) analyzing sentences with dysphemistic expressions, and 5) determining and analyzing the functions of dysphemism as used by Instagram comment writers on the @stateofisrael account.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Results

Based on the study of the results of the use of dysphemism in the comments column of the Instagram account @stateofisrael, seventeen comments data were found containing dysphemism expressions. three linguistic forms were found, including words, phrases, and clauses. The word form is divided into affixes, reduplications and compound words. The phrase form is categorized into verb, noun, and adjective phrases, while the clause form was identified as having only one type. Meanwhile, nine functions of using dysphemism expressions were found, there are: 1) expressing anger or annoyance, 2) criticizing, 3) insinuating, 4) insulting, mocking, or intensifying insults, 5) accusing or blaming, 6) complaining, 7) conveying information, 8) expressing disagreement, and 9) showing dislike.

#### Dysphemistic lingual forms in the comment column of the Instagram account @stateofisrael

Based on the lingual forms of dysphemism found in this study, word forms, phrase forms, and clause forms contain dysphemism expressions. The word form is divided into affixes, reduplications and compound words. The phrase form is categorized into verb, noun, and adjective phrases, while the clause form was identified as having only one type.

#### Words-Based Forms of Dysphemism

The lingual form of dysphemism in the form of words can be categorized into two types: monomorphemic dysphemism, which consists of basic words, and polymorphemic dysphemism, which includes derived words formed through affixation (suffixes), reduplication, and compounding processes.

#### Basic Word Forms of Dysphemism

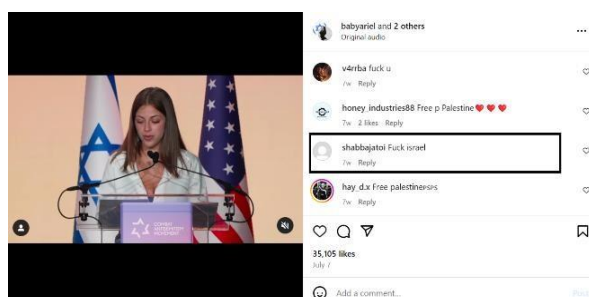


Figure 1. Fuck israel

The term dysphemism "fuck" is an example of a basic word form because it cannot be broken down into smaller units and stands alone. In linguistics, the basic word form is usually the smallest unit with meaning and cannot be further broken down into morphemes with meaning. The term "fuck" in example data (1) is a dysphemism expression because its use is often intended to express anger, rudeness, or intimacy strongly. The term "fuck" is included in the verb class. The expression "fuck Israel" is a dysphemism expression of a taboo term used to curse, mock, and hurt.

### Dysphemism in the form of words that contain affixes

Words with affixes are those that have been modified with prefixes, infixes, or suffixes. Below is an example of dysphemism using an affix:

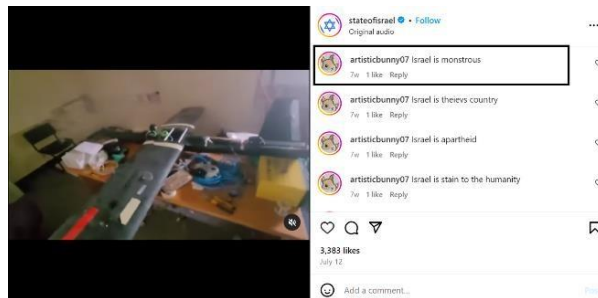


Figure 2. Israel is monstrous

According to data (2), there is an affixation process in the form of adding (-ous) to the suffix. The affix (-ous) in the comment column above changes the noun into an adjective. The expression "monstrous" comes from the root word "monster," which is then added with the suffix (-ous), which gives a negative or derogatory meaning. The expression "monstrous" is often used to describe something terrible, cruel, or inhumane, so it can function as a way to express strong criticism or assessment of someone or something. The expression "monstrous" is a dysphemism expression in the form of a term that calls for insults to the targeted character.

### Dysphemism in the form of reduplication

Reduplication words are words that are formed due to the process of repetition or reduplication. The following are examples of the use of dysphemism in the form of reduplication words:

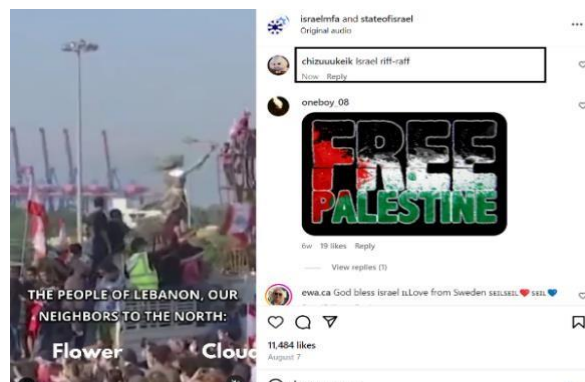


Figure 3. Israel riff-raff

In data (3), "riff-raff" results from a reduplication process. In English, reduplication occurs when word elements are repeated to create a new term with a specific meaning. In the case of the term "riff-raff," both parts have a similar structure, and the use of both gives a negative connotation, referring to a group of people considered low or worthless. In the Oxford online dictionary, "riff-raff" is an expression used to insult someone who is considered to have a low social class or is socially unacceptable. This expression indicates that people looked down upon in society have no manners or are not worthy of respect. The expression "riff-raff" is a dysphemism expression of a term that calls for insults to the targeted character.

## Dysphemism in the form of compound words



**Figure 4.** they're totally **BLOCKHEADS!!!** 🐶

In data (4), "blockheads" is one form of dysphemism expression in compound words. In the Oxford and Cambridge online dictionaries, "blockhead" means foolish people. The comment writer used the term "blockhead" to describe Israelis perceived as foolish, given that one of Israel's posts misrepresents the facts by casting them as victims in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The use of "blockhead" in the comments section serves not only as an insult but also as a way to express frustration with the actions of Israelis, who are perceived as manipulative and deceptive.

### Forms of Dysphemism in the Form of Phrases

Base words are paired with affixes to create dysphemism phrases, which are clarified or modified by verbs, nouns, adjectives, or prepositional phrases that follow these words or affixes.

### Forms of dysphemism in the form of verb phrases

The following are examples of dysphemism expressions in the form of verb phrases:



**Figure 5.** **PLAYING VICTIM**

In the comments column in data (5), a dysphemism expression is found as a verb phrase "playing victim." "Playing victim" can be considered a dysphemism expression as a verb phrase. Where the phrase "playing victim" is exocentric. An exocentric phrase is a phrase whose syntactic distribution or behavior deviates from the meaning of its constituent parts (Langoday et al., 2024). Linguistically, "playing victim" is a verb phrase consisting of two essential words with different meanings. "Playing" comes from the word "play," which means to behave or act as if in the context of a game. In this context, "playing" indicates that someone is doing an action or pretending. The word "victim" refers to someone who suffers or is the target of something detrimental, such as crime or injustice. "Victim" usually means that the person is experiencing something negative. When combined with the phrase "playing victim," the overall meaning becomes idiomatic, implying that someone is not a victim but is pretending to be one to gain attention or sympathy. This creates a negative connotation because it suggests manipulation or dishonesty in one's reaction to the situation. The meaning cannot be attributed to any word in the phrase, making it exocentric. The phrase "playing victim" is a dysphemism that calls for insults to the targeted character.



### The form of dysphemism in the form of a noun phrase

The following is an example of the use of dysphemism in the form of a noun phrase:



Figure 6. Not people, just tunnel cockroach terrorist

Other dysphemism expressions found in the comments' column in data (6) are a form of exocentric phrases because the overall meaning cannot be literally drawn from one of the main words. These terms form a phrase with one element that makes the phrase a dysphemism expression. In data (6), the phrase "not people, just tunnel cockroach terrorist" can be described more specifically. The phrase "not people" explains that the expression denies someone's status as a human or "people," which is a negative statement. Then, in the phrase "just tunnel cockroach terrorist," it explains that the comment writer equates someone or an individual with "cockroach" and "terrorist" through the use of derogatory metaphors. This phrase has a derogatory, insulting, and derogatory meaning that cannot be fully explained only from the individual words. The combination of the words "cockroach" and "terrorist" cannot be described in a literal meaning based on the primary word, so this phrase is exocentric. The phrase "not people, just tunnel cockroach terrorists" is a dysphemism expression that is an insult to the target character.

### The form of dysphemism in the form of an adjective phrase

The following is an example of the use of dysphemism in the form of an adjective phrase:



Figure 7. Stupid people gathering

The dysphemism expression in data (7) found in the comment column of the Instagram account @stateofisrael is an attributive endocentric phrase. This is because in the dysphemism expression "stupid people," the word "stupid" is an adjective that functions as an attribute that describes or gives characteristics to "people" (noun). Thus, this phrase has an endocentric structure because the adjective and noun are related. The dysphemism expression above is also attributive because the adjective "stupid" describes the characteristics of the noun "people." Thus, in this context, the adjective conveys a negative judgment about the individuals that the writer of the dysphemistic comment in the Instagram comment section of @stateofisrael is targeting.

### Dysphemism Forms in the Form of Clauses

In addition to words and phrases, dysphemism appears in the comments section of the Instagram account @stateofisrael. Dysphemistic expressions in clauses are present in several comments on posts from this account.



**Figure 8. YOUR FACE IS LIKE A DOG YOUR PIG DICK IS ISRAEL YOUR FATHER'S DICK AMERICAN COCK FUCKS FUCK YOU PIG DICK YOUR FACE IS UGLY LIKE THE DEVIL, YOUR FACE IS Slaughtered, YOU ARE A DOG, YOU ARE AN UGLY DOG, YOUR FACE IS A PIG, YOUR FACE IS LIKE A POOP BRO!**

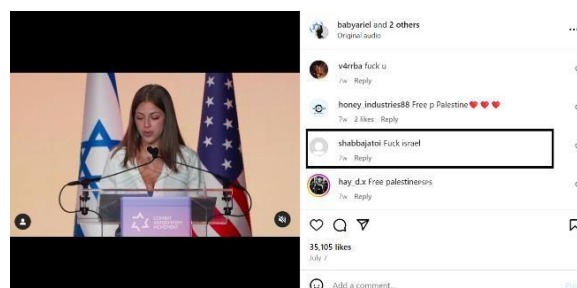
The term dysphemism in data (8), found in the comments' column, consists of core clauses. However, most of the expressions in the comments above are dominated by main clauses (independent clauses), which can stand alone and express a complete thought or statement without additional clauses. These clauses have a full structure, including a subject and predicate, and can function as independent sentences. A more in-depth explanation in the comments above, "your face is like a dog" is a core or main clause because it has a clear subject, that is "your face," and a complete predicate "is like a dog," which is a dysphemistic comparison or insult to someone's face. In addition, the clause "your pig dick is Israel" is also a core or main clause, which has the subject "your pig dick" and "is Israel" as a predicate that can convey a vulgar insult by connecting or equating certain body parts to something or someone, then the following expression "your father's dick" is the subject and "American cock fucks" is the predicate. Furthermore, the expression "fuck you pig dog dick" is still considered the main clause even though it is a rude emotional statement but can stand alone and has a hidden (implicit) subject "you" and the predicate "fuck you" and so on. The existence of a clause form in the dysphemism expression in the comments column not only provides an overview of the grammatical structure of the utterance but also shows the aggressive and demeaning nature that is the outline of the use of the dysphemism expression. Dysphemism expressions in the form of clauses are often used to convey meaning directly and sharply and function to clarify or add details to the dysphemism expression in the comments' column.

### Functions of Using Dysphemism Expressions in the Comments Column of the Instagram Account @stateofisrael

The use of dysphemism expressions in the comments section of the Instagram account @stateofisrael serves expressive functions. There are nine distinct functions: 1) expressing anger or annoyance, 2) criticizing, 3) insinuating, 4) insulting, mocking, or intensifying insults, 5) accusing or blaming, 6) complaining, 7) conveying information, 8) expressing disagreement, and 9) showing dislike. Each function will be discussed in detail, with examples from the data provided.

#### Expressing anger or annoyance

The expressive function of the dysphemism expression found in the comments' column of the Instagram account @stateofisrael is to express anger or annoyance. In general, using dysphemism expressions is to vent someone's anger or annoyance by using rude, impolite words and hurting someone's feelings. The following is an example of a dysphemism expression that functions to express anger or annoyance, which is found in the following data :



### Figure 9. Fuck Israel

In data (9), the comment writer used the dysphemistic expression "fuck Israel" to express anger or frustration. The word "fuck" is used to convey intense negative emotions, such as anger, hatred, and irritation. This harsh language reflects strong emotions, signaling that the comment writer is highly upset. The phrase "fuck Israel" directly reveals the comment writer negative feelings toward Israel's actions, suggesting political disapproval, moral outrage, or deep disappointment regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By using this dysphemism, the comment writer not only expresses criticism but also aims to intensify the emotional impact of their statement, possibly influencing other comment writer who share similar views or emotions.

### Criticizing

Another function of dysphemism expression units is to provide criticism. Criticizing used dysphemism expressions to criticize an action from another party accompanied by his opinion and with sharper or harsher expressions. The following is an example of a dysphemism expression that functions to express criticism contained in the following data:

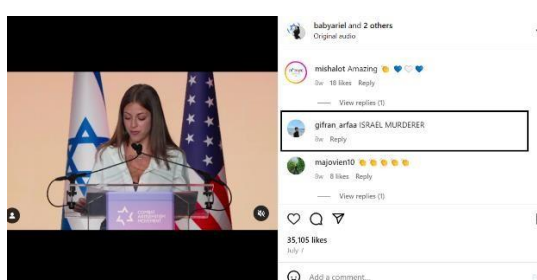


Figure 10. ISRAEL MURDERER

Data (10) shows that "Israel murderer" is used; the term "murderer" is extreme and damaging and is often used to indicate someone who commits murder intentionally and immorally. This term can indicate the emotional intensity of the comment writer. The comment writer deliberately chooses the word "criminal" to express disagreement and strongly criticize Israel. By associating the word "criminal" with Israel, the comment writer criticizes Israel's actions, which are considered cruel, especially in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By calling Israel a "criminal," the comment writer of the comment tries to condemn Israel's actions directly and emotionally. This is not ordinary criticism; it is a severe accusation that shows that Israel's actions are morally and politically wrong. This dysphemism expression shows the comment writer's attempt to give the impression that Israel is committing cruel acts to other readers of the comment.

### Insinuating

Another function of dysphemism expression units is to provide insinuation. Insinuating in the sense of using dysphemism expressions to say something indirectly or directly but using word choices that sound more rude, impolite, and frontal. The following are examples of dysphemism expressions to provide insinuation found in the data below:



Figure 11. Nasty people!

Data (11) shows that the term "Nasty people!" describes the behavior or nature of a person or group of people considered evil, unpleasant, rude, and immoral. In addition to functioning as a subtle insult



that is satirical without using explicitly harsher words, this expression shows strong disapproval from the speaker towards the behavior or character of the targeted person. One type of dysphemism is using terms with negative connotations to describe a person or group. In this case, the word "nasty" has a very derogatory meaning and satirizes someone with undesirable traits, such as ugliness, rudeness, or moral evil. Therefore, this phrase not only conveys criticism but also tries to belittle and humiliate the targeted person to create a bad image of them. In addition, the term "nasty people" shows that, by giving a solid negative label, the speaker deliberately wants to create an emotional distance between himself and the object of criticism. This dysphemism used the comment writer dislike or anger to make the target look worse in the eyes of others. In other words, this term is used to criticize and reinforce negative social views of the individual or group mentioned.

### Insulting, Mocking, or Sharpening Insults

Other functions of dysphemistic expressions are to insult, mock, or demean. Using dysphemism expressions to belittle a specific group is considered insulting. Mocking expressions are intended to ridicule or make fun of another group. Additionally, sharpening insults involves using harsh or taboo words to intensify the insult or mockery directed at a particular group. Below are examples from the data illustrating how dysphemistic expressions function to insult, mock, or escalate insults:



Figure 12. Devil worshipper

In data (12), the term "Devil worshipper" literally means a devil worshiper, which is considered a very evil, immoral behavior and against religious values and goodness in everyday culture and beliefs. The comment writer used this phrase to convey his comments to Israel, which associates Israel with the symbol of Satan, extreme evil. "Devil worshipper" is insulting or derogatory because it implies that someone mentioned is doing behavior that is not only morally wrong but also against religious norms or prevailing social values. In addition to being insulting, this phrase can also be used to delegitimize a person or group of people by giving the impression that they are not worthy of respect or equal treatment with others who behave according to moral standards.

### 3. Accusing or blaming

Another function of dysphemistic expressions is to accuse or assign blame. This involves using dysphemism to attribute negative actions or events to a specific party with harsh language. Below is an example from the data showing how dysphemistic expressions are used to accuse or blame.



Figure 13. Israel is the terrorist not Hamas and Hezbollah

In data (13), the comment writer used the phrase "Israel is the terrorist, not Hamas and Hezbollah" to directly accuse Israel of committing acts of terrorism. While this accusation links Israel to acts that

are considered terrorist, the comment writer explicitly defends or exonerates Hamas and Hezbollah from similar accusations. By calling Israel a "terrorist," the comment writer attempts to change the public's understanding of who is considered to be the perpetrator of crimes or violence in the ongoing conflict. In this situation, the word "terrorist" has a very negative meaning because it is often used to refer to parties who commit violence, cruelty, or threaten public safety. All of these accusations have significant moral consequences. In this case, the term is used to shape public opinion and blame Israel for its actions that are considered to be beyond the limits of humanity. In addition, this accusation shows an attempt to shift responsibility from Hamas and Hezbollah by saying that they are not involved in acts that are considered terrorism. Therefore, this phrase is not only intended to accuse but also to assert a political position that supports Hamas and Hezbollah and strongly criticizes Israel in the conflict.

#### 4. Complaining

Another function of dysphemistic expressions is to express complaints. Complaints are conveyed through dysphemism, using more abrasive language to describe the suffering experienced. The data below provides an example of how dysphemistic expressions are used to convey complaints.



Figure 14. ISRAHELL doing this no more lies please what a stupid video



In data (14), the comment writer wrote in one of the posts, "Israel doing this no more lies please what a stupid video," showing dissatisfaction and frustration with Israel's actions. The comment writer deliberately changed the word "Israel" to "Israhell," which is a form of dysphemism by combining the word "Israel" with "Hell." The comment writer uses this to insult Israel by linking it to something extremely negative, namely hell, reflecting strong disagreement and anger. The comment writer also complained about Israel's conditions or actions, as shown by the phrase "no more lies," which shows distrust of Israel and accuses of dishonest or misleading information. The comment writer argues that the actions or stories revealed by Israel are full of lies, and they hope that the lies will stop. In addition, the comment writer used the phrase "what a stupid video" as part of their criticism of the content that is considered stupid or misleading in the video. This expression shows the comment writer's dissatisfaction with the media or information used in the video. In other words, the comment writer argues that the video is not only irrelevant or unimportant but also adds to the frustration of the narrative and propaganda associated with Israel. Therefore, the commentary serves as a sharp critique of Israel and a critique of information considered false and manipulated. The comment writer used sharp and harsh terms to express their disbelief, frustration, and dissatisfaction.

#### Conveying Information

Another function of dysphemistic expressions is to convey information. This involves using dysphemism to describe a societal event in a negative light. The data below provides an example of how dysphemistic expressions are used to convey information.



**Figure 15. State of Killer**

In data (15), the comment writer used a dysphemism expression in one of the posts by writing a comment, "State of Killer," to inform other readers that Israel is a murderous state because it is committing genocide against Palestine. By calling Israel a "State of Killer", the comment writer wants to emphasize and criticize the violence that is considered systematic and cruel against the Palestinian people. This term has an extreme and negative connotation, showing the comment writer's moral attitude towards the policies and actions of the country. This expression not only functions as a statement of fact but also as an emotional appeal that encourages readers to consider the humanitarian situation experienced by Palestine. By using this dysphemism, the comment writer hopes to foster a sense of empathy and public awareness of the suffering of the Palestinian people and demand that Israel be held accountable for its actions that are considered inhumane. Therefore, this expression significantly triggers broader discussions about the region's humanitarian issues and social justice.

### Showing Disagreement

Another function of dysphemistic expressions is to express disagreement. This involves using dysphemism to convey rejection, denial, warning, or disapproval of a particular party. Below is an example from the data showing how dysphemistic expressions are used to demonstrate disagreement.

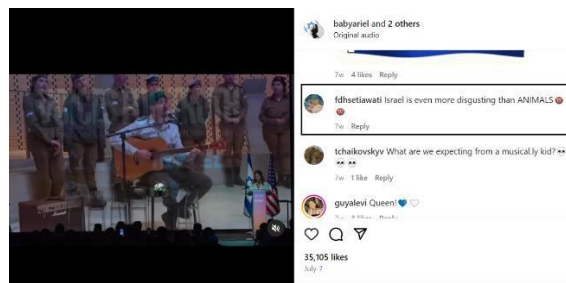


**Figure 16. Stop playing victim homeless people.**

In data (16), the comment writer used the term dysphemism in one of the posts to show that they are skeptical or disagree with Israel by writing, "Stop playing victim homeless people." The comment writer says in this context that Israel pretends to be the victim of the prolonged conflict while they are the ones who steal the land and rights of the Palestinian people. By calling Israel "homeless people," the comment writer not only belittles Israel's position but also shows their dissatisfaction and criticism of Israel's actions, which they consider inhumane and unfair. The use of this expression reflects the comment writer's rejection of the narrative often conveyed by Israel, which often depicts themselves as victims of conflict. The comment writer tries to change the reader's view of Israel by associating it with expressions that show helplessness and deception through the phrase. This shows that the comment writer does not only want to express their disagreement but also challenges Israel's actions towards Palestine. Therefore, the phrase "stop playing victim homeless people" functions as a sharp tool of criticism, showing the comment writer's dissatisfaction and encouraging further discussion on complex issues involving justice, human rights, and identity in the context of prolonged conflict.

## Showing Dislike

Another function of dysphemistic expressions is to express dislike. This involves using dysphemism to convey the speaker's negative feelings towards a particular party, whether related to their characteristics or actions. Below is an example of how dysphemistic expressions are used to show dislike, although it is not present in the data below.



**Figure 17. Israel is even more disgusting than ANIMALS 🤢🤢**

In data (17), the comment writer used the term dysphemism to show his/her dislike of one of the posts. The comment writer clearly shows his/her dislike towards Israel by saying that Israel is even more disgusting than animals. This expression used a derogatory comparison and shows that the comment writer considers Israel's actions to be worse than those of animals that are conventionally not considered to have morality. This expression, "Israel is even more disgusting than animals," is more based on feelings than facts. It shows the writer's dissatisfaction, frustration, and anger towards the situation related to Israel. In this situation, the writer is providing information and conveying their personal feelings towards the country.

## 3.2. Discussion

In studying the use of dysphemistic expressions in social media comment sections, our research further develops, broadens, and investigates the application of dysphemism, particularly on Instagram. Research conducted by Widya Ayu, Anisa Nur Aziza, Amalia Kusuma and Ika Nurul (2021) and Chaerunisyah & Wijana (2023) found that social media serves as a platform for freely expressing emotions and opinions. However, internet users may abuse the freedom of expression to share rude, blasphemous, or insulting language, all of which fall under the category of dysphemism. Social media users can easily employ dysphemistic expressions to voice their opinions and criticisms, often without considering the potential consequences, which can harm the feelings of the individuals or groups targeted by the dysphemism expression.

Therefore, based on the explanation above, our research agrees with this opinion because, in our observations, dysphemism expressions appear in various forms. Social media users use this to verbally attack or convey their disagreement in a very negative way. However, in our research, we found that the phenomenon of dysphemism expressions in social media, especially in the Instagram account @stateofisrael, is often related to sensitive issues such as politics, religion, and international conflicts between Israel and Palestine, thus providing freedom of expression for social media users to be able to convey sharp criticism and also tend to be demeaning. Our findings found three lingual forms of dysphemism expressions, while we found nine expressive functions for the function of dysphemism expressions.

## 4. Conclusion

The use of dysphemism expressions is typically used to convey one's thoughts through words or phrases that carry negative connotations and sound impolite. These expressions are intended to communicate emotions such as anger, frustration, disappointment, or hatred toward someone. In this study, the primary data source comes from dysphemistic expressions found in the comments section of the Instagram account @stateofisrael, as this platform contains numerous examples. The study examines both the linguistic forms and functions of these dysphemistic expressions. Three types of linguistic forms are identified: primary word forms, phrase forms, and clause forms. Primary word forms include affixes and reduplications. Phrase forms are categorized into verb phrases, noun phrases, and adjective phrases. The clause form is found in only one type. Additionally, this study

identifies nine functions of dysphemism, which include: 1) expressing anger or irritation, 2) criticizing, 3) insinuating, 4) insulting, mocking, or intensifying insults, 5) accusing or blaming, 6) complaining, 7) conveying information, 8) expressing disagreement, and 9) showing dislike. Dysphemism serves to express thoughts and emotions toward a person or thing by selecting words or phrases that may hurt the feelings of the listener.

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