

## Ambiguity Analysis of Words and Terms in Movie Script Entitled “Shooter”

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**Abstract.** There are general words and terms which is used in military language in movie “Shooter”. In its subtitles or movie transcripts, many words and terms in general context are found on in certain scene, where the scene is taking place. To put it simply, a word in general context, when used by military force, it gives different meaning. As such, those English learners who do not know such language will encounter difficulty to learn them as some of them may have certain interest. Describing the militarized words and terms in precise interpretation is the main concern. Therefore, attempt carefully interpretation is require to describe militarized words and terms in order to avoid word confusion.

**Introduction.** When we are going to learn English, we are going to be taught about the basic of English learning first, for example basic writing, basic reading, basic spelling, basic learning, and basic defining (vocabulary). After learning English, later we will not encounter the difficulty when communicating with foreigners who speak in English, whether they are the native speakers or not.

However, learning English is not easy as we flip our hands, as many words may contain more than one or two meaning of each. As such, we indeed face the difficulty communicating with other people in English as we only are taught with basic skills learning. And it is not easy to understand every words which contain such. It needs time for us to learn more about English, words by words, and department by department, as the words themselves have different meaning when applied in certain field, which need to be interpreted properly. Therefore, taking intermediate and advance English course is recommended. This is usually called as “word ambiguity”, a word formation process of which single word contains more than one or two different meaning.

“Shooter” is an American movie that uses words containing ambiguity. Thus, they cannot be interpreted in general means, so properly and carefully interpretation is advised in order to understand well what the words within the movie mean, which can be found on the text that usually appear at the bottom of the screen, which is mostly called as subtitles.

**Ambiguity.** According to Lexicon Webster International Dictionary (1977), ambiguity is the state or quality of being ambiguous or obscure; doubtfulness or uncertainty, particularly of signification. It means, ambiguity is a word formation of which a single word contains two or more meanings in different context. For example, word “shadow”. First meaning, in scientific context, is phenomenal object which is projected by light where an object stands between in the middle of them. On second meaning, especially in law or political context, it means secret or hidden, supposedly there is any illegal activity which is conducted outside public reach. On third, in linguistic context, which is mainly found in poetry or poem, shadow means an object which shows certain predicament of character’s fate within the story.

**Context.** Lexicon Webster International Dictionary (1977) defines that context is the parts of a written or spoken communications which precede or follow a word, sentence, or passage, and affect its meaning; as distortion by quoting out of context. The surrounding environment, circumstances, or facts with help give a total picture or something.

Context is some kind of reference of certain topic brought by people who are having conversation which talking about something. Like writer explained before on ambiguity, a single word may have different meanings if used to refer something, be it scientifically, politically, and more.

**Military Language.** Language which is found by military usually called as military language. Adele Wilson (2008) states that there are many general words and terms which contain ambiguity in military context, so making an English-military language dictionary is solely attempt to handle the difficulty, as most of words are taken from general and specific terms. For example “1200” that determines the direction of certain object (military context) and time of day (general context).

Learning such language or term will be able to even the odd, however it is not easy to do, unless some words of such language are used frequently in our daily life. It is not easy to apply it in our daily life as some linguistics, the conservative and formal ones are insisting the people to use the language properly, as the way they communicate reflects their character or personality. If someone speaks to another using proper language (non-military), that person is well-mannered and considered cultured or civilized. But if someone using

improper language (military) to use when speaking to another, that person is considered ill-mannered and uncultured or uncivilized, as the military language may contain words which are considered foul according to general society, therefore using such language is not recommended for the sake of relationship.

The reason military use and develop such language is, to train the enlisted personnel to able to endure the harsh training and environment as military often involving the conflict which cause the loss of individual's life, as such may determine the moral. If someone in platoon survived, the moral of the personnel are either remain unchanged or raised, as some of them glad if one of them whom they know well is still alive. But if someone within the platoon is killed, it affects the entire platoon's moral greatly, ranging from stand chance to submission. Therefore, harsh training by using military (and some foul) language will able to solve the problem.

Through language, groups of individuals form what can be termed *discourse communities*. By using slang and jargon unknown to the outsider, individual members of specific groups form bonds of identification with one another. The language used within a given community serves both to construct a vision of the world into which initiates are socialized and to draw a line between those in the group and those on the outside. In official language, this occurs through the use of technical terms—acronyms and jargon. In informal language, it is accomplished by knowledge of terms whose meanings are not available except through direct participation in the group—meanings that appear in no formal glossary.

Informal military language reinforces a

service member's primary identity as being part of the group, along with those who share his or her language. Beyond that, informal language constructs a vision of the world that becomes the defining characteristic of group membership. This is done most directly through *naming*. The names we give to things are of vital importance in understanding the view of the world the namers participate in and is an important part of all language use. Names of objects, perhaps more than any other words, constitute implicit arguments. In informal language, names are often metaphors. Sometimes, these metaphors are obscure. When naval officers associated with aviation refer to the surface fleet surrounding and supporting the carriers as "greyhounds," they use language that seems positive, implying an image of sleekness and speed.

However, the relationship drawn on is that between dog and master. The argument, in other words, is that the rest of the surface fleet is useful insofar as it serves the needs dictated by the carriers. Similarly, members of the U.S. military who handle nuclear weapons informally use metaphors, naming places where U.S. nuclear bombs are aimed as "home addresses" and referring to nuclear missiles on board U.S. submarines as "Christmas trees." These homey and domestic metaphors convey the meaning that U.S. nuclear weapons, although extraordinarily destructive, are safe for the U.S. military to handle.

Such examples point to another important function of language. The arguments that are implicit in the words we use, particularly the names, often are those that construct hierarchies. Discourse communities use language that possesses

its own internal symbolic logic, and this places the members of the community in a hierarchical relationship with those of other communities. Language not only bonds the membership; it also helps construct a world view in which that membership can be secure in the superiority of its knowledge. Because language is never value-neutral but always contains embedded arguments, it is always taking a position on whether that which is named is "good" or "bad." Thus, homey metaphors such as the one about "Christmas trees" bond members of the military community and place a positive value on their work.

This function of informal language will generate terms and labels that differ from official usage in several ways. Such terms may be less euphemistic. This is in part because official terminology is intended as an aid to the institution as it represents itself to outsiders, while informal language is designed to emphasize the insider status of participants. Further, informal language is likely to create a bond between the members of the community even if that bond is created by highlighting divisions between the individuals and the institutions they represent that would not be acceptable in formal use.

In the U.S. military, a proportion of informal language is used to reinforce a worldview that emphasizes the importance of a given service or warfare community versus others. All are members of the military, officially a single institution with the same mission and perspective. Unofficially, informal language creates connections and identity particularly through defining the group in terms of what it is *not*: the navy, then, defines itself in part as being *not* the army or air force. Naval personnel who do not serve on submarines will say

that there are two kinds of ships: “submarines and targets.” Air force personnel refer to anyone in naval uniform as a “squid.” Such distinctions can be achieved through joking and narratives as well. Army personnel will say that “the difference between the Army and the Marines is that the Army will call in air strikes and then take the hill, while the Marines will take the hill and then call in air strikes.”

Informal language can also serve, particularly during times of war, to dehumanize the enemy. This can be accomplished, as in official terminology, through the naming of enemy combatants in a sterile or neutral way, in order to elide the fact that combat involves the killing of human beings. But it is more likely to function by referents implying that enemy personnel are inferior, that they are “gooks” or “camel jockeys.”

Because of the extensive media coverage of most military operations, many military terms have entered into the civilian lexicon. Indeed, a feedback loop of sorts operates, wherein military terms enter civilian usage as metaphors while linguistic terms from civilian life simultaneously enter military usage. In many civilian communities, militarized language denotes a level of seriousness that could not be conveyed as effectively in other ways. Thus, the Clinton headquarters in the 1992 presidential campaign was the “War Room”; Arkansas’s system of substitutions in college basketball is known as “platooning”; team leaders are “floor generals”; and business schools assign Sun Tzu and the U.S. Marine Corps doctrinal manuals about tactics and strategy. At the same time, language and metaphors from civilian life cycle into

military usage, downplaying the level of seriousness involved. Particularly prevalent is the language of sports and games, so that the now famous “Left Hook” in the Saudi Desert was the “Hail Mary pass” and the war began with a “kickoff” or a “tip-off.”

**Findings.** Here are the militarized general words and terms found on “Shooter” movie script as listed below:

1. *Side*  
General: a position of which certain object or person is located.  
Military: faction, group, community, or society.
2. *Track*  
General: a mark made by any object on the trails.  
Military: an attempt to find or follow something.
3. *Shit*  
General: excrement of living creatures.  
Military: 1. To express surprise; 2. To refer an object.
4. *Viper*  
General: poisonous snake  
Military: military codename or nickname
5. *12.00*  
General: the time of day (day or night)  
Military: direction (north)
6. *Fire*  
General: a flamed object  
Military: shoot
7. *Down*  
General: the direction of which object is moving  
Military: killed or defeated
8. *Arms*  
General: human anatomy started from shoulders to hands  
Military: weapons (firearms)
9. *Company*  
General: a commercial corporation  
Military: group or band

10. *Ghost*  
 General: an astral/invisible creature  
 Military: fake, unofficial
11. *Business*  
 General: commercial affair  
 Military: problem or issue
12. *Draw*  
 General: illustrate something  
 Military: put weapon towards in quick stance
13. *Dog*  
 General: canine mammal animal  
 Military: underling
14. *Scout*  
 General: community for youngsters  
 Military: observe or watch the area
15. *Story*  
 General: spoken or written tale  
 Military: building floor
16. *Ruin*  
 General: crumble  
 Military: render something useless
17. *Negative*  
 General: calculation symbol  
 Military: another way to say “no”
18. *Disable*  
 General: physical impairment  
 Military: stop
19. *Crack*  
 General: break  
 Military: sneak in, infiltrate
20. *Gear*  
 General: machinery component  
 Military: equipment
21. *Run*  
 General: moving in quick stance  
 Military: order, tell
22. *Shell*  
 General: animal’s hide (turtle, hermit crab)  
 Military: empty bullet
23. *Classified*  
 General: categorized  
 Military: secret, confidential

**Conclusion.** There are lots of militarized general words and terms found in “Shooter” movie script. It requires carefully interpretation to describe the words and terms. The way to solve the problem is to watch lot of movie which has military them in it in order to learn more about military language so that the English learners will not face such difficulty when communicating to English native-speakers who use such language.

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