Abstract

Based on previous findings that feminist females had a higher frequency of using swearwords (Rieber, Wiedemann, & D'Amato, 1977), the present study aimed to replicate such a finding in Hong Kong in which feminism is related to frequency of swearing. Feminism is defined according to Downing and Roush's (1985) Feminist Identity Development (FID) which consists of five stages of feminist identity. It is hypothesized that Revelation, Embeddedness-Emanation, Synthesis and Active Commitment stages of would be related to higher tendency to swear. To validate the explanations given for feminists' higher frequency of swearing in the previous study (Rieber et al., 1979), it is also hypothesized that feminist females will have higher level of anger and more likely to feel prejudiced and discriminated. In return, level of anger and feeling of prejudiced and discriminated would be positively related to tendency of swearing. The current result does not support the relationship between feminism and swearing and show mildly significant relationships that support the other hypotheses. The study suggests future direction for investigating feminist identity development in Chinese society and emotions specific to each FID stage.