

## ABSTRACT

**Putri, Noerhayati Ika.** "The Use of Swear Words in Some English Rock Lyrics and the Prejudices against Them (A Case Study of *Guns N'Roses*' Albums)". A thesis submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana degree of the English Department Faculty of Letters Airlangga University, 2001.

Language is used by human beings to communicate to each other. They use language to express all of their feelings, including anger. They often swear or produce some swear words in order to show other people that they are angry. However, even though this is not the only function of swear words, people often refuse to accept an act of swearing. They do not realize that swear words are part of language and that swearing is natural.

Rock music is identical with harsh, rebellion and rudeness. Therefore, it is not strange for the rockers to swear even in the lyrics they produce. The writer decided to use English rock lyrics as the object of the research because she finds that there are so many swear words found in rock songs.

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society. The writer focuses her study on language based prejudice by analysing the prejudices against the use of swear words in English rock lyrics.

*Guns N'Roses* is one of the biggest rock bands in the world, therefore, the writer decided to choose them as the object of the research and analysed the lyrics in the albums *Use Your Illusion I* and *II*. She chose the band because it is her favourite rock group. The data of this study are the lyrics with swear words in both albums.

First, the writer analyses the types of swear words, including the functions, mode, and the varieties, by using Geoffrey Hughes' theory. The result of the thesis indicates that *Guns N'Roses* produced swear words to show two functions of swearing: emotional and social. Among the three swearing modes, *Guns N'Roses* use one of them, swearing at, to abuse someone/ something else. In other words, *Guns N'Roses* produced swear words which were directed to someone else. The writer also counts the number of lyrics with swear words in both albums. The result shows that it is proved that there are indeed more than 50 % lyrics with swear words in *Guns N'Roses*'s albums. She finds that swear words in the albums mostly deal with sexual and bodily function, rather than with religious matter or racial and national insult. It supports some opinions of Geoffrey Hughes and Vico that the focus of swearing had changed, from religious matter to sexual and bodily function, and from those that show the domains of God and heroes to

those that largely indiscriminate, with sacred, profane, sexual political and racist modes coexisting in a various conglomeration.

The writer then analyses the prejudices against *Guns N'Roses* based on the language they used in some of their lyrics. She focuses on the tendency of the band of producing swear words in almost all the lyrics. The study supports Hudson's theory on **language-based prejudice**, in which people expect some prejudices against other people from the way they speak. The result of the study shows that Indonesian people are still expecting some negative stereotypes or prejudices from the people who produce swear words.

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**