

## CHAPTER II

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE RESEARCH

#### II.1 Swear Words and Attitudes toward Them in the Western Society

The term swearing is similar to “foul mouthed” language. This is due to the fact that swear words are mostly words ‘prohibited’ or words that are considered ‘taboo’ in the society. Swearing has two functions; emotional and social. Swearing expresses wide range of emotions, from mild annoyance through strong frustration to seething anger, and not to make sense. Swearing has important social function, too. It can mark social distance, as when a group of teenagers tries to show their identities by swearing loudly in public. It can also mark social solidarity, as when a group develops identical swearing habits. Therefore, everybody swears, even an old lady who said ‘sugar’ when she was losing her key.

Swearing focuses on some of the terms below:

##### 1. Religious Matters

The swear words of this term disrespect God or holy things. They are words like: *bloody, God, goddamn, hell, devil, damn, Lord, Jesus, Christ*, etc.

##### 2. Sexual and Bodily Functions

The words are like: *fuck, shit, piss, bitch, motherfucker, sonofabitch, bastard, bugger, frig, punk, etc.*

### 3. National and Racist insult

The words are: *kike, nigger, chink, kaffir, dago, yankee, frog, limey, wop, etc.*

According to Hughes in "Swearing", there are two kinds of swearing that show a curious convergence of the high and the low, the sacred and the profane.

#### 1. High Variety of Swear Words

The 'high' deals with the spell, the charm and the curse, forms seeking to invoke a higher power to change the world, or support the truthfulness of a claim. The 'high' varieties are mostly of 'sacral' notions of language which are believed to be very powerful within the society. This variety deals with the use of swear words in religious matters.

Here are some 'high' swear words: *goddamn, drat, gorblimey, strike me dead, blow me down, etc.*

#### 2. Low Variety of Swear Words

The 'low' variety is swear words related to the 'lower' physical faculties of copulation, defecation, and urination that have come very much to the fore as referents in swearing. They usually have no literal meaning, and have

practical impossibilities. The swear words of this kind are often violations of sexual taboos, especially those concerning incest.

Here are some 'low' variety of swear words: *sonofabitch, motherfucker, bugger, shit, arse, ass, piss, fuck, cunt, etc.*

In the Western society, swearing are still believed to have negative aspects among them. Swearing, despite of its functions to express emotion, can impose a personal penalty, give bad influence for the society, and corrupt the English language. The writer takes the data from the internet. Here are the list of prejudices of using swear words in Western society:

#### 1. Swearing imposes a personal penalty

Since it gives a bad impression, makes you unpleasant to be with, endangers your relationships, is a tool for whiners and complainers, reduces respect people have for you, shows you don't have control, is a sign of a bad attitude, discloses a lack of character, is immature, reflects ignorance, and sets a bad example.

#### 2. Swearing is bad for society

Since it contributes to the decline of civility, represents the dumbing down of America, offends more people than you think, makes others uncomfortable, is disrespectful of others, turns discussions into arguments, can be a sign of hostility, can lead to violence.

### 3. Swearing corrupts the English language

Since it is abbrasive, lazy language, does not communicate clearly, neglects more meaningful words, lacks imagination, and has lost its effectiveness (taken from an article by Coss Control Academy, Northbrook, IL).

Still based on the article which was taken from the internet, there are ten 'popular' swear words used by the Western people: *bastard, bugger, God, pants, crap,arse, shite, shit, bollocks*, and *darn*. (AAsk Jeeves Answer What's Wrong with Swearing\_files/swearing.html)

#### **II.2 Guns N' Roses**

There are some quotations about *Guns N'Roses* as one of the biggest rock bands.

"Undoubtedly the biggest band in the world."  
(The Sun: September 1991)

"...The world's greatest rock phenomenon."  
(The Guardian: September 1991)

"The World's Most Dangerous Rock'N'Roll Band."  
(Kerrang!: April 1993)

The story of one of the greatest events of 20th century and the best musical phenomenon of all times -American rock'n'roll band *Guns N'Roses* - took its place in small town called Lafayette, Indiana, U.S.A. The very first

line-up of Guns N' Roses were: Izzy Stradlin, W.Axl Rose, Tracii Guns, Rob Gardner and Duff McKagan. They took their band's name from the mixture of two previous bands: Hollywood Rose and L.A. Guns.

Their first album is 'Appetite for Destruction', released in 1987, and the second one is 'G.N'R. Lies' in 1989. Both of these albums reached the success. Unfortunately, their success was not followed by good news about them, in contrast, the band got a very serious drugs problems. Bad stories about the band were reported in almost all rock magazines. Some of them were stories about their habit to change their personnels, and the scandals made by the band both on or off the stage.

The third and the fourth albums are the double albums 'Use Your Illusion I and II', which were released on September 16, 1991. In 1993, their fifth album, 'The Spaghetti Incident?', was released. The sixth album was released in 1999, a collection album called ' live era: 1987-1993'. The latest album 'Chinese Democracy', was just released in the year of 2000.

From the story above, it shows that *Guns N'Roses*, as the biggest rock band, has a dark background behind their popularity. The band has a close relationship with drugs, scandalism, free-sex, rudeness, madness, and several other bad things. They were often influenced by drugs in making their

**songs. It is obvious that the way they speak among the other members is also rude. Swear words are commonly used, it is shown from their songs.**

# **CHAPTER III**

## **PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**