

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Problem

Social class as one of a social factor that play a role in language variation is the structure of relationship between groups where people are clasified based on their education, occupation, and income. Social class in which people are grouped into a set of hierarchical social categories, the mos common being the upper, middle, working class, and lower classes.

Variation in laguage is an important topic in sociolinguistics, because it refers to social factror in society and how each factor plays a role in language varieties. Languages vary between ethnic groups, social situations, and spesific location. In social relationship, language is used by someone to represent who they are, it relates with strong identity of a certain social group. In this study the writer concern about swear words in rap song lyric. Karjalainen (2002:24) “swearing is generally considered to be the use of language, an unnecessary linguistic feature that corrupts our language, sounds unpleasant and uneducated, and could well be disposed of”. It can be concluded that swear words are any kind of rude language which is used with or without any purpose. Usually we can finds swear words on rap songs.

Rap is one of elements of hip-hop culture that has been connected to the black people. The music of the artists who were born during 80’s appeared to present the music in a way that describes as a social critique. This period of artists focused on the social issue of black urban life, which later forulated hardcore activist, and gangster rap genres of hip-hop rap.

Many hip-hop artists share similar beliefs, and their discussions serve to explain the frustrations of blacks. Rap music content however, contains a large amount of violence in comparison with other media outlets. The paradox of rap music is that while it often alerts the public to problems concerning Black Americans, the values and behaviors frequently has promoted in rap lyrics and hip-hop culture

may actually exacerbate reviews those very problems. Hip-hop rap is a contemporary response to conditions of joblessness, poverty, and disempowerment of black people. For this research the writer choose Onika Tanya Maraj or known as Nicky Minaj, she is a Trinidadian-American rapper, singer, songwriter, actress, and model, that we know often uses swear words on her lyrics songs, for example on the song *Barbie Thingz*. Born in Saint James, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and raised in Queens, New York City, she gained public recognition after releasing the mixtapes *Playtime Is Over* (2007), *Sucka Free* (2008), and *Beam Me Up Scotty* (2009).

After signing with Young Money Entertainment in 2009, Nicki Minaj has released her first studio album, *Pink Friday* (2010), which is peaked at number one on the US Billboard 200 and it is ultimately certified triple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Her second album, *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*, was released in 2012 and debuted at number one in several countries. Nicki Minaj makes her film debut in the 2012 animated film *Ice Age: Continental Drift*. In 2013, she was a judge on the twelfth season of American Idol. Minaj's third studio album, *The Pinkprint*, has released in 2014. She has subsequently played supporting roles in the films *The Other Woman* (2014) and *Barbershop: The Next Cut* (2016). Her fourth studio album, *Queen* is released in 2018. Nicki Minaj is the first female artist included on MTV's annual Hottest MC List. In 2016, Nicki Minaj included on the annual Time 100 list of the most influential people in the world. As a lead artist, she has earned four top-five entries on the Billboard Hot 100: *Super Bass* in 2011, *Starships* in 2012, and *Bang Bang* and *Anaconda*, both in 2014. She has accumulated the most Billboard Hot 100 entries among women of all genres.

In addition, she is also the most profane female rapper according to Musixmatch. She has been called one of the most influential female rap artists of all time according to *RAP-UP*. Throughout her career, she has received numerous accolades, including six American Music Awards, 11 BET Awards, four MTV Video Music Awards, four Billboard Music Awards, a Billboard Women in Music Rising Star Award, and 10 Grammy Award nominations. Minaj has sold 20 million singles as a lead artist, 60 million singles as a featured artist, and over five

million albums worldwide, making her one of the world's best-selling music artists.

To enrich this research, the writer wants to analyze the swear words of Nicki Minaj's song lyrics to determine the social class she has and whether Nicki Minaj's social class affect the use of swear words in her song lyrics.

### **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Sociolinguistic investigate the relationship between language and society with the goal of a better understanding which means that in sociolinguistic people learn about how social factors such as social class can influence how people talk. The writer identifies that the problem of the research is the use of swear word in Nicki Minaj's rap song lyrics. The writer assumes that Nicki Minaj's social class influences the use of swear words in her song lyrics.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem, the writer limits the analysis only focuses to identify the swear word in Nicki Minaj's song lyrics and try to determine what kind of social class that Nicki Minaj has and how the social class influenced the swear words in her lyrics. The writer uses social class and language variety in a sociolinguistic study to limit the problem.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on limitation of the problem, the writer formulates the statement of the problem as follow:

1. What kind of swear word in Nicki Minaj's song lyric?
2. Does Nicki Minaj's social class influence the use of the swear words on her song lyrics?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

Based on the statement of the problem, the writer will prove the statement of the problem as follow:

1. To identify kind of swear word in Nicki Minaj's song lyrics.



2. To prove Nicki Minaj's social class can influence the use of swear words on her song lyrics.

### **1.6 Methods of the Research**

In this research, the writer uses qualitative method to collect the data. The sources of the data are from journals, articles, books, and internet. Then, the writer analyzes the data and theories. Then, the writer gives the result of the data and theories.

### **1.7 Benefit of the Research**

This research is dedicated not only to students or faculty, but also to the fan of Hip - Hop music, as it is expected to be able to understand what is the purposes of swear word and how social factors can influence the way people speak. The writer believes that this research can stimulate the critical thinking of the reader about the impact of social class differences in social life.

### **1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research**

This writing of term paper uses paper organization. The writer organizes it to be some sections that consist of four chapters.

The systematic organization of the research consists of four chapters, as follows :

#### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

In this chapter, the writer explains about background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, statement of the problem, objectives of the research, methods of the research, and benefit of the research about the influences of social class to the swear word in Nicki Minaj's rap song lyrics.

#### **Chapter 2: Framework of the Theories**

In this chapter, the writer explains about the theory of sociolinguistic study and the specific theory that used is social class, language variety and as well as the definition and type of swear word.

Chapter 3: The influence of social class to the swear word in Nicki Minaj's rap song lyrics.

In this chapter, the writer analyzes the data in order to answer the research question. The writer discovers that Nicki Minaj uses swear word in his song to represent who they are, it relates with strong identity of a certain social group.

Chapter 4: Conclusion

In this chapter, the writer concludes the analysis of the discovering of the complete study.

