

Have Lyrics Truly Lost their Meaning?

Sze Nazalia Eurika Supera

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Welcome to my blog where I write about whatever there is to write about. Today's topic is about this year's Grammy Awards Show. Now, I do not claim to be any sort of music expert, nor am I a dedicated music geek, but I think I listen to enough music to complain about something – where is the Best Lyrics category?

Maybe it's just me, but I feel like modern songs have been lacking in the lyrical department. Fair enough for the music award show, I guess. There aren't a lot of options to choose from in modern songs as more often than not, the lyrics are meaningless and often highly explicit. This begs the question, though; 'Have lyrics truly lost their meaning in the modern music culture, to the point where there isn't even a place for them in the Grammy Awards (despite the fact there are hundreds of different music categories)?'

A song has many different components all contributing to its performance. A catchy beat, most would say, is one of the most important. I certainly do think this is true but, honestly, it seems the music industry and audiences have skyrocketed this agenda so far that, now, there is less focus on other components and, therefore, less work goes into them. One might describe it as a cycle: audiences care less about the meaning of the lyrics, producers put less thought into them, so on and so forth. As mentioned before, most music nowadays has lyrics relating to explicit things (drugs, alcohol, gambling – most of which the majority of the law-abiding population can't exactly relate to). While I do think creative freedom and a lack of censorship play a critical role in the process towards a more liberal society, it just irks me that songs now have little to no meaning at all. Compared to music in the past where songs talked about less material objects such as love for someone, for family, for our planet, for animals, etc., modern song lyrics almost seem laughably bad.

So, why is this an issue? It definitely isn't that big of a deal compared to other world problems. Still, music is a big part of our world. We hear it everywhere – on television, social media, the radio, etc. However, why do all these songs seem to romanticize a life of crime? Getting high certainly does not sound inspirational (to me, at least)! I still like listening to these songs because I appreciate a catchy tune, but if the lyrics were more subtle in their meaning, then maybe I would be able to share it with my

conservative family members without getting concerned (or even disgusted) looks. It's not just me, either. Many other people compare past songs with current ones, and most find the change quite weird, for lack of a better adjective.

There's sadly little we can do to change this. One, it isn't a serious problem, and two, it makes money for the music industry regardless. Why put effort into a component most consumers seem to not care about anyway? However, going back to the first few sections of this blog, I honestly think that having a Best Lyrics category in mainstream music award shows could even be a little bit influential. I do know that songs are not created simply to win an award, but if we put out there that a lot of people still appreciate and analyze the meaning of a song's lyrics, perhaps changes might happen.

Overall, my main point is that music award shows should add awards for song lyrics. Doing more work on more inspirational and meaningful lyrics, and not just explicit stuff which, might I add, can have a positive impact on today's easily influenced youth. That is all. Feel free to comment on this subject whether you agree with me or not, I will try my best to respond and hopefully have an engaging discussion. Thank you for taking your time to read my blog! 😊