

Analyzing Song Lyrics – Case Study

Whether you are a professional musician or song writer or you are just an aspiring musician trying to create the hit which will take you to the next level, our system can help you prepare lyrics that will move your audience. The purpose of this case study is to show you how IntenCheck can help you write lyrics that will help you reach your dreams.

When we analyze some of the songs which have been remembered over the years, we understand that it's the way in which the words deliver the message to the audience that can make or break a song. Often it's the case that the words in songs create the state of mind that will keep people wanting more.

Let's take a few examples to analyze:

1. The Black Eyed Peas – 'I gotta feeling'. Have you thought about what made this such a successful song in the recent history, keeping millions of people almost addicted to listening to it?
2. Outkast – Hey Ya
3. Led Zeppelin – Stairway to heaven
4. REM – Losing my religion

Let's look at the results of analysis:

EMOTIONS	SONGS			
	1	2	3	4
Anger	1	0	2	1
Fear	3	0	2	1
Disgust	3	2	2	2
Sadness	2	0	1	4
Joy	34	5	3	6
Surprise	0	0	8	0
ATTITUDE				
Positive	55	27	31	13
Negative	52	45	12	21
Active	101	52	36	20
Passive	28	37	30	43
Strong	118	44	31	28
Weak	7	7	6	6
COMMUNICATION STYLE				
Visual	20	6	15	23
Audial	2	3	19	21
Kinesthetic	78	54	31	20
Rational	4	12	15	17
INFORMATION				
Insincere	2	8	9	9
SONG LENGTH				
	580	452	341	273

The first two songs are known to actively engage the listeners and they tend to create powerful feelings inside them getting them to dance. That's why they are always well suited for clubs and parties where people want to be active, release their energy and express themselves through dancing. The last two songs are more passive, less engaging physically, but more engaging rationally.

Emotions

The first song, "I gotta feeling" by Black Eyed Peas is clearly expressing the most joy and positive feelings, from all the four songs analyzed. There is a sharp contrast between the number of words used that express joy (34) and the words used that express other emotions within this song. The second song is also primarily expressing joy in clear contrast to the other emotions, while the last two songs analyzed are more balanced, and contain words that express a wider range of emotions, considering also that their length is shorter than the first two. 'Stairway to heaven' primarily shows signs of surprise while 'Losing my religion' contains all emotions but surprise.

Attitude

When it comes to attitude a few things stand out from the distance. All the four songs use a high number of strong words, words that impact the listener, in very sharp contrast to the number of weak words used. This is a very clear indication that the lyrics create a strong impact on the audience. It is also obvious that the most physically engaging songs use more words which reflect an active attitude, when compared to the last two (101, 52 active words for the first 2 songs; 36,20 active words for the last two songs).

Communication Style

When it comes to the way information is delivered to the listener, again there is a big difference between the first two songs analyzed and the last two. The first ones contain by far more kinesthetic words, and this makes sense when we think that they create powerful feelings inside their listeners, getting them in the mood to dance. The last two however, are very balanced in the way they deliver the message, engaging all the senses as well as rational thinking. Perhaps this is one of the biggest differences that show why the response people have when listening to them can be so contrasting.

Conclusion

In conclusion we can say that no matter what is the type of music you are involved in, it can be a huge advantage to analyze the lyrics of successful and unsuccessful songs belonging to the genre. Intencheck gives clear information about the hidden factors that can help create the next hit, and it can help you maximize your creativity.

References:

<http://www.songlyrics.com/the-black-eyed-peas/i-gotta-feeling-lyrics/>

<http://www.songlyrics.com/outkast/hey-ya!-lyrics/>

<http://www.songlyrics.com/led-zeppelin/stairway-to-heaven-lyrics/>

<http://www.songlyrics.com/r-e-m/losing-my-religion-lyrics/>