



Harmful Conceptual Metaphors for Women in Popular Songs

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Abstract

This paper analyzes how conceptual metaphors in the lyrics of popular songs can be potentially detrimental by influencing the public's perception of women. Conceptual metaphors in songs often compare women to objects (objects that are fragile and breakable or primarily of monetary value) and animals. Many common conceptual metaphors in music refer to women as less than sovereign, rational humans, implying that women should be owned, controlled, and used. These comparisons are harmful because music is so influential and has the ability to create and perpetuate stereotypes. By examining the lyrics of the popular songs: Bob Dylan's "Just like a woman", Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" (written by Marvin Gaye), and Chris Brown's "Fine China" we can discern subtle ways in which misogynistic language has become so imbedded into popular culture.

Keywords: conceptual metaphors, women studies, feminism