

SEXISM IN REGGAETON

Gilmarie Muñiz cannot stand reggaeton, the wildly popular music genre with roots in Latin and Caribbean music: “You can’t find anything significant in the genre that has positive contributions to society,” the 34-year-old from Tampa says in Spanish. “In spite of the music industry improving the quality of music and diversity through the fusion of genres over the years, it’s not the same for the development of the lyrics --they’re primitive ... and caveman-like.”

Sexism in reggaeton, including music videos and lyrics, has long been a problem for many who are concerned with the implications it has for women and future generations who grow up listening to the genre. Experts, though, say sexism is not unique to reggaeton, and it is only a small piece of larger problems in society. Some reggaeton performers reproduce sexist narratives and fantasies through which women are faceless fragmented bodies whose main purpose is to serve as sexual objects for men, according to Frances Negrón, professor at Columbia University. “What we know is that they want to create an image and this image is that they are a man that has a lot of women... they’re also articulating a rejection of marriage, of commitment, of middle-class respectable norms of men... it’s a little bit more complicated than they’re just sexist.” For many, it may represent a world of male friendships and unity against marriage, fatherhood, and other forms of commitment. In certain ways, it is a conversation between men rather than with women.

Experts say that the larger implication of sexist lyrics (not just in reggaeton but generally) is that women are valued only for their looks and sexuality while men are valued for their skills, intelligence and other qualities. The problem is that sexism is present not only in other musical genres, but in entertainment media and advertisements and the reason why many people find reggaeton more offensive is that the performers are using a different language, associated with a lower social class, which does not follow middle class norms.

Adapted from www.independent.co.uk

READING COMPREHENSION.

Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. The music and the lyrics in reggaeton have evolved in a different way.
2. Sexism is thought to be a big social problem, not only in reggaeton.
3. According to these sexist lyrics, they don’t care about women abilities.
4. Reggaeton is more offensive because they sing in Spanish.

LEXICON. Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. origins: | 3. agreement: |
| 2. people who sing or act: | 4. abilities: |

PHONETICS.

1. Write TWO words from the text that have the final “-s” pronounced /z/
2. How is the “a” pronounced in “man”, /ɑ:/, /æ/ or /ʌ/?
3. How is the “i” pronounced in “middle”, /aɪ/, /i:/ or /ɪ/?