

Student ID: 5504641134

Pichaya Chirasavinuprapand

The Beatles

Word counts: 1,141

In music, song is the composition of words which contains melody and rhythm.<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to identify that when the song was originated but song can represent the artist and the age the song written one way or another. For instance, the song named “Love Me Do” has some distinct characteristic that can be defined that it was written by The Beatles and popular in 1960s. However, people always think that Beatles’ songs are ordinary songs while they are more than that. Their lyrics have expressed some meaning behind it.

The Beatles was the British rock band from the sixties known as “The Fab Four”. The Beatles consists of four members which are John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. It could be said that the Fab Four is one of the most popular bands for all time because their song placed number one in many chart and received many award not only in their hometown but also in other countries. Moreover, they caused “British Invasion” which was the phenomena that the demand for British rock music increased in the United States’ music market.<sup>2</sup> Because of their popularity, the

---

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia contributors. “Music.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 29 Jan.2013  
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music>>

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia contributors. “The Beatles.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. 2 Feb.2013  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Beatles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles)>

word “Beatlemania” was originated during their first tour concert. It referred to their fans that were really fond of them and started to follow them wherever they performed.<sup>3</sup>

Because The Beatles started their band with the Rock and Roll style, they had Chuck Berry, Little Richard and Elvis Presley as their idols. Thus, it was not so surprising that in their first period of their career was about the love song. From their 100 songs which recorded in 1962 to 1965, only 14 songs that were not related to love. Most of their lyrics expressed about love, girl, woman and relationship. The new thing that The Beatles brought to music industry was the use of simple words that not overstate, clear and touching. The words that sound real and make people believe in their song. The example of their work is in “I Saw Her Standing There” from album Please Please Me, which their language used were common words in people daily life and easy to understand.<sup>4</sup>

It was very amazing that there was no social criticism in their early work although most of the members came from poor and middle-class family. Hence, there should be some criticisms about the rich, the government or even the social injustice. It appeared only the image of four naughty boys that they trying to keep their look in the first period of their work. However, in 1966, The Fab Four started to write some criticisms about the politic through their lyrics. It appeared in the song “Taxman” which George Harrison had written. The lyric attacked both the Labour government and the leader of the Conservative Party.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Michael White. John Lennon. 1995. p.26-28.

<sup>4</sup> Hunter Davies. The Beatles The Authorized Biography.1968.p168-173

<sup>5</sup> Robert Fontenot. “Taxman ,The history of this classic Beatles song.” About.com Guide. 27 Apr.2009.  
<<http://oldies.about.com/od/thebeatlessongs/a/taxman.htm>>

Their turning point started in 1965 when they changed their attitude about the lyrics. They realized that their lyrics were too simple when compared to other singers' which made them feel very far behind. Hence, they began to change their lyric style and start to experiment new style of music and lyric.<sup>6</sup>

The Beatles came up with the new style which was the comic song. However, the comic song was nothing but the song that have the funny ending. These are some lists of the song that fell in this category including "Girl", "Michelle" and "Norwegian Wood". Later on, The Beatles began to write the lyrics that make fun of the society. For instance, in the song "Eleanor Rigby", it obviously refers to the generation of their parents and grandparents which were useless in the young eyes. Moreover, "The Fool on the Hill" was criticism the people who think that they were better than others and considered people who think or act different from them as the fool.<sup>7</sup>

Because all members of The Fab Four were born in the beginning of the forties, their generation gap is the biggest and strongest gap. However, they were no longer spoken for their generation but they had spoken for the hippie's generation. The song that can clearly represent the generation gap was "She's Leaving Home". It was about a girl that ran away from her home in order to live by herself and her parents were curious why she did it because they gave everything to her. The answer was she wanted to have some fun. This reflects the reality that parents and the youth usually have different perspectives

---

<sup>6</sup> Rudolf Hecl. "The Beatles and Their Influence on Culture." Masaryk University. 16 Aug.2006.  
< [http://is.muni.cz/th/108918/ff\\_b/The\\_Beatles\\_and\\_Their\\_Influence\\_on\\_Culture.pdf](http://is.muni.cz/th/108918/ff_b/The_Beatles_and_Their_Influence_on_Culture.pdf)>

<sup>7</sup> Rudolf Hecl. "The Beatles and Their Influence on Culture." Masaryk University. 16 Aug.2006.  
< [http://is.muni.cz/th/108918/ff\\_b/The\\_Beatles\\_and\\_Their\\_Influence\\_on\\_Culture.pdf](http://is.muni.cz/th/108918/ff_b/The_Beatles_and_Their_Influence_on_Culture.pdf)>

of the world. Parents had a hard time in post war years while their children wanted to have fun and experience more.<sup>8</sup>

In the second period of their work, it also contained some love songs but as many as it was during first period. It was more varied. They started to wrote the song about the use of drug. In fact, during the sixties, there were a lot of drug use among the youth. In that day, many artists used drug in order to get new experience and to be more creative. The Beatles also used drug and they were the first one that did not felt ashamed to use it. Some of their lyrics were written under the control of drug which only the drug addicts would understand the meaning and enjoy it. There were some examples of the song including “A Day in the Life”, “Strawberry Field Forever” and “Rain”. Later on, they wrote the lyric related to strange or special event such as newspaper article, poster, television and picture. For instance, the song “She Came In Through the Bathroom Window” was inspired by the real event when their fan got in to Paul’s house and stole his photograph.<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately in 1970, it became the end of The Beatles. They decided to break up the band. However, the members went on and had their own way of music career. John Lennon did that too. He began his music career with his wife.<sup>10</sup> He released the song “Give Peace A Chance” to against the United State involvement in the Vietnam War. It

---

<sup>8</sup> Rudolf Hecl. “The Beatles and Their Influence on Culture.” Masaryk University. 16 Aug.2006.  
< [http://is.muni.cz/th/108918/ff\\_b/The\\_Beatles\\_and\\_Their\\_Influence\\_on\\_Culture.pdf](http://is.muni.cz/th/108918/ff_b/The_Beatles_and_Their_Influence_on_Culture.pdf)>

<sup>9</sup> UOPX Writer Network. “Allusion to an influences of the drug culture on 1960s music.” University of Phoenix . 23 Aug.2010  
<[http://www.phoenix.edu/colleges\\_divisions/humanities/articles/2010/08/allusions-to-and-influences-of-the-drug-culture-lyrics-and-music-of-the-beatles-and-popular-american-culture-during-the-1960s.html](http://www.phoenix.edu/colleges_divisions/humanities/articles/2010/08/allusions-to-and-influences-of-the-drug-culture-lyrics-and-music-of-the-beatles-and-popular-american-culture-during-the-1960s.html)>

<sup>10</sup> Hunter Davies. The Beatles The Authorized Biography.1968.p.235-236

was said they want a peace not a war.<sup>11</sup> Moreover, the lyric of the song “Imagine” mentioning about the universal unity and peace.<sup>12</sup>

In conclusion, The Beatles create many great songs and the lyrics express something to society. In the first period of their career, the lyric based on love, girl, woman, relationship and some political .Then, it was about the comic song and making fun of society. For the second period of their work, it was about the drug and peace. It is very interesting to have a look from the very beginning of them till now. It shows the improvement of them in many ways. The world may have to admit that they are not only just the four yelling guys .They is more than that. They are the legend and they are the genius.

---

<sup>11</sup> Michael White. John Lennon.1995.p.50-52

<sup>12</sup> Michael White. John Lennin.1995.p.52-53