

Научно-исследовательская работа

Английский язык

## **GRAMMAR VIOLATIONS IN THE SONGS OF MODERN PERFORMERS**

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## **Introduction**

Speech is one of the most important indicators of a man's development. Our speech constantly changes. It can become richer, fuller and more beautiful or not. In the modern world the culture of language gains a lot of importance. The cultural language is rich in meaningful accuracy of language, beautiful constructions and different epithets. On the other hand speech culture is influenced by mass media and music.

**The purpose of our research work** is to improve and enlarge the knowledge of English and to find out if the violations of English grammar rules used in music can be considered the norm of the language.

### **Tasks:**

1. to study the definition of «grammar norm»;
2. to study the examples of grammar norm violations;
3. to analyze the lyrics of modern songs to find out the examples of grammar rules violations

### **The methods of research are:**

1. critical analysis of scientific sources;
2. method of contextual interpretation;
3. observation and comparison method;
4. quality and quantity analysis.

The relevance and practical value of this work is beyond doubt. These data can use at the English language lessons at schools or in other educational institutions, during the study of grammar theory and practice and text interpretation.

## **I. Speech and grammar norm**

Our speech is one of the most important indicators of our culture, intellect and understanding development. It appears in early childhood in the form of separate words without proper grammar forms. Then it develops and changes throughout our life becoming more difficult and richer.

In modern society special attention is paid to observing the so-called culture of speech in the wide meaning of these words. The cultural language is rich in meaningful logical accuracy of language, beautiful proper grammar constructions and different epithets.

Everyone watches TV, listens to the radio, read newspapers and magazines. There we can meet different types of articles and topics or hear all sorts of speech.

Our speech changes because of them. It should be noted that mass media in particular is the major indicator of the language and grammar norm for many people.

But we won't forget about music. It reacts quickly to the changes in the society reflecting all the issues in its melodies and lyrics, changing grammar rules and new words and phrases.

Many of us like to listen to foreign songs, and I'm not an exception. A good song helps us not only to relax and enjoy, but also to support an interest in learning English. However modern songs produce not the best influence on our understanding of language rules, because there are often slang words, violation of grammar rules and even swear words. It doesn't mean the authors do not know their own language. Most likely, it is the desire to bring the lyrics to the conversational speech, where one can certainly come across incorrect word combinations, unusual word order, reductions and grammar mistakes, i.e. what completely isn't permitted in official written language and correct oral speech. It's believed that «wrong language» is more characteristic of spoken American-English and can more often be observed in Afro-American dialects. Many people don't like rap songs because of the wrong coarse language. But lately a new dangerous tendency has appeared to make up illiterate lyrics in other types of pop music.

First of all let us study the grammar norm as a language phenomenon. According to the definition of Translation Dictionary of L.L. Nelyubin grammar norm is a combination of grammar rules and practice with the aim to direct and regulate the language activity of all participants of communication speaking the definite language. Grammar norms include morphological and syntactical norms.

Morphological norms affect correct formation of different grammar forms of words (the number of nouns, degrees of comparisons of adjectives, short forms, etc).

Syntactical norms regulate correct formation of basic syntagms (word combinations and sentences).

Grammar norms violations both morphological and syntactical leads to ambiguity, incorrect words and forms usage. Grammar norms observation is one of the major criteria of speech culture.

## II. Grammar norm violations

Let's speculate on some widely spread grammar norms violations which we have come across in the lyrics of English songs.

### 2.1 Conversational reductions

The simplification of lyrics tends to be mainly in the spelling which leads to incorrect pronunciation. Some of the examples have become so common that they are no longer considered to be spelling rules violations but youth slang.

Reduction is a short form of usual words which appear in speech if you say them fast. For example «gonna» is a short form of «going to». If you say it fast and don't pronounce each word, you get something like «gonna».

Here are **the examples** of the most common reductions:

Ain't = am not/are not/is not	Blue ain't your color. You ain't boss.
[ ] Ain't = has not/have not	If I ain't got you. She ain't ready to the date yet.
Gimme = give me	Just a gimme reason. Gimme a right advice.
Gotta = (have) got a	I've gotta song to you. She gotta way out of this situation. Have you gotta news?
Gotta = (have) got to	You got to me a money. I gotta go now. We haven't gotta think about this.
Kinda = kind of	She's kinda cute. He is kinda handsome.
Lemme = let me.	Lemme go! Lemme know when you need me.

Wanna = want to	I wanna trust you, but I can't. I don't wanna live forever without you.
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## 2.2 Skipping of endings in words

Last sounds in some words are swallowed and it is also characteristic of casual colloquial speech. Sometimes skipped letters are replaced with an apostrophe (').

Feelin'	filling
Talkin'	talking
Cookin'	cooking
Lookin'	looking
Buildin'	building

## 2.3 Violation of grammar rules («bad grammar»)

1) Double negation (often used for amplification)	Nobody didn't come to party. Nobody didn't see him to enter in the room.
2) Double indication of the grammar tense.	«You didn't had» instead of «you didn't have».
3) Skipping personal pronouns in the beginning of sentences.	«Can't let it get past me» instead of «I can't let it get past me».
4) Using pronouns in the wrong form.	«Me just thinking of the time» instead of «I just thinking of the time». «Me say a man down» instead of «I say a man down».
5) Amplification of degrees of comparison of adjectives with the help of additional wrong forms.	I'm restless can't you see I try my bestest. («Best» is a superlative from «good» already. It must be written without suffix «est»).
6) Wrong verb forms in conditional	«If I was sorry, I'd give you all the

sentences	glory» instead of «If I were sorry, I'd give you all the glory».
7) Violation of subject predicate agreement.	«She say true» instead of «She says true».
8) Change the shape of the word to maintain rhyme.	«Song she sang to me, song she brang to me».
8) Violation of the word order.	

We can continue the list of «bad grammar», but we won't concentrate on mistakes. We also have mistakes in conversational speech in Russian.

Upon speculating on the mistakes given further you can easily analyze and understand why next songs are hardly suitable for learning English at an early stage.



### III. Analysis the lyrics of modern songs

To determine how often the deviation from the norm of a particular type is used we analyzed a lot of songs. And for today I want show you the brightest ones.

#### “American boy” – Kanye West

1. We just sold out all the floor seats.

**Correctly:** We **have** just sold out all the floor seats.

2. Who the hottest in the world right now.

**Correctly:** Who **is** the hottest in the world right now.

3. It’s really nice to meet ya. (There we meet a reduction “ya” from “you”).

#### “Satisfaction” – The Rolling Stones

1. I can get no satisfaction.

**Correctly:** I **can’t** get **any** satisfaction.

#### “Boy friend” – U2

1. I still haven’t found what I’m looking for.

**Correctly:** I still haven’t found **for** I’m looking.

#### “Rich Girl” – Gwen Stefani

1. If I was a rich girl.

**Correctly:** If I **were** a rich girl.

#### “Shape of My Heart” - Sting

1. He don’t play for respect.

**Correctly:** He **doesn’t** play for respect.

#### “Smells like teen spirit” - Nirvana

1. I am worse at what I do best.

**Correctly:** I am the worst at what I do best.

(superlative degree), because "worse" is used in comparative.

#### “Hello” - Adele

1. But it don't matter, it clearly doesn't tear you apart anymore.

**Correctly:** But it **doesn't** matter, it clearly doesn't tear you apart anymore.

**“California Hotel” - Eagles**

1. Warm smell of colitas, rising up through the air

Warm smell of colitas is rising up through the air

Up ahead in the distance, I saw a shimmering light

I saw a shimmering light up ahead in the distance

(Violation of the word order)

**“Can't stop the feeling” - Justin Timberlake**

1. And ain't nobody leaving soon, so keep dancing. (Double negative "ain't nobody".)

**Correctly:** And nobody is leaving soon, so keep dancing.

**“Starboy” - The Weeknd**

1. I'm tryna put you in the worst mood

**Correctly:** I'm **trying to** put you in the worst mood.

2. The competition, I don't ever listen.

**Correctly:** “I don't ever listen the competition.”

(Violation of the order of words)

3. House so empty, need a centerpiece.

**Correctly:** House **is** so empty, **it** needs a centerpiece.

**“Love” - Justin Bieber**

1. Yourself My mama don't like you and she likes everyone.

**Correctly:** My mama doesn't like you and she likes everyone ...

(It is Present simple and "mama" is in 3d person singular, there should write "does").

## Conclusion

Foreign popular music is a very important sphere of life, affecting on education and formation of speech culture. However, the profanity using of language tools in English songs is very common and it has a negative impact on us, because we are not indigenous carriers of this the language is very amenable to such influences.

Finally let us sum up the main items. The object of our research is modern English musical compositions. There are many reasons for grammar mistakes in the lyrics. Maybe one possible reason for the violation of grammar in songs can be the need to withstand a certain size in verse. Each line should contain number of syllables. If they are not enough, the author can «sacrifice» the grammar «in the name of musicality».

The typology of linguistic norms was presented in our research work, but since the subject of the study was violations of the grammatical norms in lyrics, this type of norm was more widely disclosed.

I started my English studies by listening The Beatles, Scorpions, Aerosmith, etc. The songs of these groups is strikingly different in language from modern compositions, it was possible to learn grammar and common vocabulary. I would very much like the future to please us really high-quality in terms of language standards songs, thanks to who can continue to improve their English skills.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that despite the presence of «bad language» in modern English-language songs should not give up listening to data compositions'. If you are just starting to learn English, use songs that are specifically selected for this purpose. A lot of them in Internet. And it is better if they already have ready exercises. Hereinafter it is necessary to consider the possibility and methods of using lyrics performers that can be used as educational material.

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