Rock and Education: How Does Modern Popular Music Affect the Construction of Youth Identity?

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Accepted 30th August 2017

Abstract

The project consists of investigating how the music that is heard, the ways in which it is heard and the means by which it is heard are being influenced in the construction of the youth identity. In this case the Rock genre will be addressed for such purposes, because it is an artistic and social phenomenon that has given identity to young people around the world. In this way, it is hoped that conceptual, theoretical, analytical and creative references will be generated, addressing a series of questions or problems derived from the main question:

How does modern popular music affect the construction of youth identity?

The research is to be carried out between secondary and high school students (young people between 12 and 17 years of age), but in different contexts, that is, some within the rural and other urban context. In conclusion, it is hoped to be able to demonstrate the possibility and necessity of using music, beyond for recreational and entertainment purposes, as a mass tool for social reflection and dissemination of values that complement education for a peaceful and respectful coexistence between young people, who will become the adults of the future.

Keywords: Identity, Music, Rock, Education, Youth, Values

Introduction

The project consists of investigating how the music that is heard, the ways in which it is heard and the means by which it is heard are being influenced in the construction of the youth identity. There are nowadays an enormous number of youth groups that identify themselves by a similar way of dressing, share the pleasure of visiting certain places, listen to the same musical style, and even think they share the same ideology. This could be a success of diversity for many or a growing lack of identity for others, in this case the Rock genre will be addressed for such purposes, because it is a phenomenon that has given identity to young people around the world.

This research begins with questions raised from the artistic, teaching, professional and life experience; Pretending to find answers from the reflection and analysis of artistic practice, whether passive or active, ie practicing or just listening to music; In such a way as to generate conceptual, theoretical, analytical and creative references. The central question is:

How does modern popular music affect the construction of youth identity?

Modern popular music is a reference to the music that emerges and is characterized by the incorporation of technology in its production, diffusion and massive distribution as an industrial product; Being Rock and Roll the product that gave origin to the market of the youthful consumption, which extended Quickly inspiring young people around the world to want to lead changes in their societies, from America to Africa; The Beatles were protagonists in the hippie movement of San Francisco of the 60 like Sixto Rodríguez was in the movement Apartheid in South Africa in the 1990s. It is understood by musical identity, the set of values, traditions, symbols, beliefs and modes of behavior that influence a community and that function as a basis for managing a sense of belonging in the individuals who are part of that particular community.¹

By virtue of the above, the need to understand that through music also the young people are educated, it is the media idols and youth artists that most influence in the conceptualization of the youth, its youth; And Rock is a style emanated from young people for young people, on the understanding that being young, in any case, it is more an attitude to life than a biological stage of it.

In Mexico over the last two decades the increase in crime and drug trafficking has been increasing, levels of corruption, insecurity, nepotism and impunity have reached alarming levels; And it is not by chance that in the mass media of communication as youth idols people whose only purpose is to sell a product or an image, which turns out to be linked to the music industry associated with the government. Why in the middle of the 'fight' against drug trafficking, what abounded are songs that idolize them, the video clips make apologies for the mafia, seduce the youth with luxuries, money, arms, women, drugs; Thus normalizing violence and illegality among young people, who face complex family and therefore social situations, which are usually addressed by technological means and in groups that provide a sense of belonging.

Music being an essential ingredient for the cohesion of most youth groups such as rockers, punks, darks, hippies, metaleros, etc.

Footnotes:

¹Study of expressions autoctonas in the school presentation duíntama (2010).
Since music is a social and not a particular practice, research on it should not only revolve around a musical theory or instrumentalist techniques, but also around the type of relationships and social coexistence’s that are stimulated and represented by a particular style Musical, and for this reason it is very important to raise the need to establish an ethical referent, although it is not possible to control the creation and musical taste in terms of personal or group, if there is a responsibility with respect to mass music, Which is given a wide and open dissemination among the population without any ethical reference or type of responsibility for its content.

Conclusions

From the above, coupled with more than a decade of teaching experiences, I propose that it is possible to identify ‘risk behaviors’ from the contexts of coexistence, which, as already explained, are intimately related to the type of music Listening, and everything as a whole must have repercussions on their academic performance and forms of social relations.

Recommendation

It is through the same music as one can contribute to improve the forms of coexistence school and social, can be without a doubt an excellent tool of educational support. But first, it will be necessary to determine the ways in which it is currently influencing the construction of youth identity so that it may be, through these same mechanisms, the way of influencing the freedom to construct, rather than induce, the identity.

Always bear in mind that the life of the human being begins with a sound (heartbeat) and culminates with the arrival of silence, music exists even before articulate language, is certainly the first abstract thoughts of man, has been present and has gone hand in hand throughout the entire history of humanity, to think that it has nothing to say or show about who we are seems inconceivable. Recent example of this was, for example, the emergence of the Blues; From so much oppression, suffering and misery that kept alive the spirit of hope and struggle for freedom, not to be forgotten, for transcendence, was music ... From the deepest and pure of the human spirit was born a new musical style that not only gave identity to a segregated population, but also to an entire nation. Over time this expression, identified mainly with the young, would become what we now call Rock.

If we know how important it is to care for food, because it comes into our body and on it depends our body health, why not worry in a similar way so we hear, enters our brain and somehow is digested in the consciousness of each person. Knowing what is heard is also a matter of health!

References


