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ENG1121

4/5/2020

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Word Count: 1227

How has R&B music transformed throughout time.

Has R&B music changed over time? What happened to old school R&B? What is R&B music? R & B stands for “Rhythm and Blues” it was created in the U.S by black musicians. R&B music is also mixed with hip-hop, jazz and soul. Nowadays R&B music is the most played out music. Different discourse communities and societies play R&B music almost every single day. Although R&B music is played out, more artists keep on creating the same genre with R&B music. More consumers and audiences want more old school R&B music instead of new school. New upcoming artists are changing the definition of R & B music. They are changing the genre of R&B.

For instance, artists think that R&B music is a fast beat or rap music. What they don't know is that R&B should be at a slow pace and should be a heartfelt song. Most R&B music is about love, relationships, and sometimes about life. Present artists today stick with the old school R&B music such as PARTYNEXTDOOR, Jhene aiko, Chris Brown, Usher, John Legend, Rihanna and Summer Walker. The most inspired old school R&B artists are TLC, Destiny's

child, Ne-yo and most importantly Aaliyah. Aaliyah is called the princess of R&B, because all her songs were real R&B music. Although there are artists that have created their own type of R&B music, there isn't a specific author that created the genre "R&B". It's seen and known that any artist that creates R&B is an author for their own music.

Today, society would call any music they hear R & B music. Although the newer generation makes R&B music they are still inspired by old school artists. "Old R&B singers such as; Prince, Ray Charles, Chuck Berry, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, and etc. are the type of people that set the stage for the "new" R & B singers today. The newer generation of R&B singers such as; Ne-yo, Beyonce, Trey Songz, Keri Hilson and etc. all looked up to the older R&B singers and took what they did and made it their own (Niecey 2011):" This statement proves that the new generation artists and their music is inspired by old school artists and the artists give the old school artist credit for inspiring their music. R&B music is very important to society because many individuals listen to R&B music daily. There is a large audience of R&B listeners whether it is old or new R&B music. It's also very important to the society and also the discourse community because a lot of people grew up listening to that music genre. Many people live around R&B music which creates an influence and impact on them. It creates an impact and an influence on them because they will constantly listen to it and will also become fans of that genre and also fans of the artists.

Nonetheless, R&B music has always been about lovers and friendships now it has changed enormously. Now we are in a new decade, artists are now singing about life, money, sex, fun, etc... R&B music was different back in the days. Today rap music has taken over R&B

and it is placed under the category R&B. “The rap songs are still moving towards advancement and we see various changes to the rap songs every day. Some singers are making a rap of old songs and some are creating their own rap songs. Things like love, sex, whiskey, and vodka are the main focus of this new (Fuller, 2017)”. This quote states that rap has taken over the R&B industry and artists like to rap about sex and freedom. This also explains that the evolution of R&B has transformed over time. As a matter of fact there are no rules when it comes to making R&B music. There isn't any information about how to create any genre of music.

The transition of R&B changing over time started in the 2000s. This was when producers and the music industry wanted to listen and come up with new music and genres. The music industry wanted more and more rappers to be involved with the R&B genre. The same 2000s artists are still well known and is still making R&B music today such as : Chris Brown, Beyonce, Drake, etc..”Coasting off the success of the integration seen in the 1990s, R&B artists continued to mix and mingle heavily with rappers and producers (Henry 2018)”. This article also explains how the industry experiments with other music genres such as “Pop and Rock”. They wanted to compare it with R&B and see if it would make an improvement to music. Now they call the new R&B “Alternative R&B”. That is when the new generation R&B artists came in and changed the game of R&B music. The goal and message for R&B music is to relate to society especially for the younger generation. The music has to relate to the audience about how they feel when they are going through relationships, joyful moments, hard times, etc... “Like pop music, present-day R&B has a more youthful timbre. Songs became more about independence from love, and the importance of having a healthy sex life or celebrated the fun associated with living life at any

age. Songs like *Invented Sex* by Trey Songz and *Shut It Down* by Drake and The Dream, focused on the love and admiration for the female body and physique, stressing the importance of her having sex with the male (Hutch 2013)'. This evidence states that R&B music talks about sex and the way life should be celebrated. I truly believe that R&B music has changed and transformed throughout time based on how upbeat the music is and how the lyrics do have relation to individuals lives."R&B in genre, use less instrumentation and effectively utilize a faster, artificial beat created by technology. Although very different from the aforementioned, older R&B, this new music is classified as Rhythm and Blues. R&B moguls Rihanna and Beyoncé recently named themselves pop icons, because of the ability of their music to cross over into the pop genre, proving that R&B has now become characteristic of loud, faster music(Hutch 2013)". This information proves and backs up my statement about how R&B music has changed from a slow beat to a faster and high upbeat music based on the present artists today.

Therefore, the evolution of R&B known as 'Rhythm and Blues' music has transformed over time. It all started in the 2000s and is still processing till today. More rappers are in the same category of R&B music and the music industry is stuck with "Alternative R&B music". The audience and the consumers seem to enjoy it, however half of the audience and consumers are still looking for real R&B music. Nonetheless, it also looks like alternative R&B will also take over the future and old school R&B will not make a comeback.

Work Cited

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