

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN RAP MUSIC IN THE CONTEXT OF GENDER



TOPLUMSAL CİNSİYET BAĞLAMINDA RAP MÜZİĞİNDE KADININ YERİ

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ABSTRACT: Rap music has become very popular and has managed to fascinate its audience, recently. Rap music draws attention the problems with its rhythm it addresses as well as the social issues. It is not only entertains its listeners but also informs them. One of the subjects that this genre of music deals with is women. In a way, it shows the position and importance of women in society. Women in rap music lyrics are analysed in the context of gender. The aim of this study is to examine the ideas and judgment about women in rap music lyrics within the framework of gender under the titles of “stereotypes against women”, “humiliation of women”, women roles” and “sexism”, and to reveal that women are prioritized with violence and their bodies, and their position in society. This study is a qualitative research. The findings were found by the method of literature review on the themes of gender norms, humiliation of women, women's roles and sexism within the framework of gender by examining the women mentioned in rap music lyrics, and women in rap music lyrics were analysed by content analysis. From the Rap Music 2022 Playlist of May prepared by the YouTube platform, 10 of the songs with the highest number of listeners and dealing with the theme of women were selected as samples. The findings of this study show that there are women stereotypes and violence in the framework of gender in rap songs analysed as in daily life, and their bodies are prioritized, not a social problem of women.

Keywords: Women, gender, rap music, sexism, humiliation of women

ÖZ: Son zamanlarda rap müziği oldukça popüler hale gelmiş ve dinleyici kitlesine kendisine hayran bırakmayı başarmıştır. Rap müzik ritminin yanı sıra ele aldığı toplumsal konu ve sorunlarla dikkat çekmektedir. Rap müziği dinleyicisini sadece eğlendirmekle kalmayıp aynı zamanda bilgi de vermektedir. Bu müzik türünün ele aldığı konulardan biri kadındır. Bir nevi Kadının toplumdaki yeri ve önemini göstermektedir. Rap müzik sözlerindeki kadınların toplumsal cinsiyet bağlamında incelenmiştir. Bu çalışmanın amacı, toplumsal cinsiyet çerçevesinde rap müzik sözlerinde ele alınan kadınlara yönelik fikir ve yargıları “kadına karşı basmakalıp yargılar”, “kadının aşağılanması”, “kadının rolleri” ve “cinsiyetçilik” başlıkları altında incelemek, kadının şiddet ve bedenleri ile ön planda tutulduğunu ve toplumdaki önemini açığa çıkarmaktır. Bu çalışma nitel bir araştırmadır. Bulgular, yabancı rap müzik sözlerinde geçen kadınlar incelenerek toplumsal cinsiyet çerçevesince toplumsal cinsiyet normları, kadınların aşağılanması, kadın rolleri ve cinsiyetçilik temaları kaynak tarama yöntemi ile bulunmuştur ve rap müzik sözlerinde yer alan kadınlar içerik analizi ile analiz edilmiştir. Youtube platformunun hazırlanmış olduğu Mayıs ayının Rap Music 2022 Playlist’inden

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sıralamaya göre dinlenme sayısı en çok olan ve kadın temasını ele alan şarkılardan 10 tanesi örneklem olarak seçilmiştir. Bu çalışmanın bulguları, gündelik hayatta olduğu gibi analiz edilen rap şarkılarında toplumsal cinsiyet çerçevesinde kadınlara yönelik basmakalıp tiplerin olduğunu ve kadının toplumsal bir problem olarak değil, şiddet ve bedenlerinin ön planda tutulduğunu gösterir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kadın, toplumsal cinsiyet, rap müzik, cinsiyetçilik, kadının aşığılanması

Introduction

Music as a means of expressing feelings and thoughts builds common values, establishes a communication between composer and listener (Ayas, 2015: 27). Music is a part of culture. The information can be obtained about a society's thought system, norms, politics and values from the lyrics, rhythm and clips of music. Gender is one of the most frequently handled with issues in music (Lam, 2010). Music lyrics mostly include gender issues related to the female body (Essl, 2003). In addition to this, music also deals with women's roles, sexuality, personality traits and even behaviours in the context of gender.

Gender determines the roles of men and women. The roles formed on the genders are transmitted by means of through culture for generations. Gender has significant power in shaping the lives of the sexes by assigning them certain roles in cultural sense. There are many differences between the sexes within the framework of gender. Women's identity is mostly shaped by motherhood and being an ideal wife within the framework of gender, while men's identity is formed by fatherhood and earning money. In clothing sector, women generally prefer certain women's clothing such as skirts, dresses and tights while men prefer clothes such as tracksuits, pants and suits. Traces of gender are reflected even in the food and beverage sector. For instance, other alcoholic beverages are considered as suitable for men except for wine. In fact, their identities towards the norms have already been drawn from the moment human beings are born and genders direct and maintain their lives according to identities (Şahin, 2019).

Rap music, one of the music genres, is a means of struggling against social problems throughout its history (Elbir, 2021: 30). Thanks to rap music, the awareness of individuals increases and social problems come to light (Mişe, 2018). The artists apply rap music to reveal social problems. With this music genre, they present the truth to the listeners (Kodal, 2023). The genre of rap music has the role of an intermediary that the marginalized and excluded use to find a remedy for their experiences and express their feelings (Sönmez and Kazan, 2023). Rap music not only attracts an audience through its rhythm but also reveals the problems faced by society in its lyrics. It is anticipated that rap music focuses more on women with popular culture and for that reason women come to mind other than black people especially when it comes to rap music. Social issues such as violence, gender discrimination and gender humiliation draw attention in rap lyrics (Otcan,

2020). In a way, it is understood that it also shows the position and importance of women in society.

It is stated that traces of gender are especially found in rap music lyrics, which are the creation of popular culture, as seen in album covers and music videos (Grönevik, 2013). As Güner (2018) says, there are hidden messages in song lyrics indirectly, if not directly. The messages given in the lyrics of the music are instilled in all listeners from seven to seventy. The traces of rap music are reflected in daily life. In arabesque rap music, acts of violence, discourse of slang and using of drug are normalised. Arabesque rap music appeals to a certain audience, especially adolescents. The themes of them also affect adolescents and are reflected in their lives (Sağır, 2020). In the media, this method is done by Lasswell's hypodermic needle model. The message intended to be given with the hypodermic needle model is given to the recipient just like the liquid injected under the skin with a needle (Bineham, 1988). According to Moretti (2005), each written word focuses the reader on believe. What is written is assumed to be real. The birth of rap music refers to protest issues, and therefore rap music traces to gender.

New opportunities have been offered to women in the music industry since the 18th century and hence gender discrimination against women is observed in most of the music industry (Çak and Beşiroğlu, 2013: 54). In most of the lyrics, women are portrayed as worthless beings (Kırlioğlu et al, 2016). In pop music lyrics, women have been summarized with four basic characteristics: "ineffective employee", "perpetual wanderer", "useless" and "mindless". Women are also the subject of rap music lyrics similar to other music genres. In this genre of music, women are mostly sexualized as sex workers (Hunter and Soto, 2009). At the same time, women are presented as sex objects to rap music listeners (Oikelome, 2013).

It is stated that rap music devalues and excludes women by showing men as superior to women (Köten and Akdemir, 2021: 58). Women in rap music are portrayed as more marginalized than men (McMillan, 2022). In addition, rap music mostly emphasizes lyrics of praise for men (Monk-Turner and Sylvertooth, 2008). In this case, it can be said that rap music is more pro-male. Women are shown in rap music with derogatory lyrics. In Rap/Hip-hop music, women are included in the category of "entertainment and travel" in Mohammed-Baksh and Callison's study (2015). In Mcforland's (2008) study, violence against women and misogyny are covered deeply. Women are sexualized in rap music lyrics as well as in music videos (Hunter, 2011). In the clip videos, she is presented to the audience with her sexual performance rather than her inner beauty. In previous studies on women in rap music, it has been concluded that women exhibit behaviours related to their sexuality (Herd, 2015), are objectified (Flynn et al., 2016), are marginalized (Tobias, 2014), hostility towards women and are reflected as sex objects (Conrad et al., 2009; Weitzer and Kubrin, 2009), and also, it has

been concluded that stereotypes against women are shaped by their sexuality, femininity and abnormality in rap music (Dankoor et al., 2023).

The aim of this study is to explain the stereotypes against women in the lyrics of rap music within the framework of gender and to reveal the position of women in society in terms of violence and prioritizing their bodies rather than as a social problem. In this study, it is aimed to raise awareness of women subjected to inequality and all kinds of violence by society through rap music showing the role representations assigned to women in society.

In this study, female roles and representation in rap music in English will be analysed within the framework of gender. The research population is the women in the most listened rap music in English recently. From the YouTube-Rap Music 2022 Playlist, 10 of the most listened songs with the theme of women in their lyrics were selected in order. The selected songs are from the May 2022 playlist. This research is a qualitative study. The common themes on women in 10 selected rap songs were revealed through the thematic analysis. The selected rap songs were examined under the headings of stereotypes against women, humiliation of women, women's role and sexism. The content analysis, one of the qualitative research methods, has been conducted within the scope of gender, and women's identities in the most listened rap music in English have been analysed within inductive method. With the purpose of study, literature review methods have been also utilized. Findings related to women stereotypes, humiliation of women, women's roles and sexism are included by analysed The lyrics of 10 songs selected from the most listened foreign rap list determined by YouTube.

Literature Review

Gender and Women in Rap Music

Rap music being a creation of popular culture is a genre which belongs to the hip-hop family. It is also known as hip-hop music genre. Rap music firstly emerged in the United States in the 1970s and was based on the life of African Americans at that time (Perkins, 1996). While rap music initially influenced African Americans (Henderson, 1988: 309), today this type of music is sung and listened in all European countries (Androutsopoulos and Scholz, 2003). It has existed in range from the date of its emergence to the present day and has maintained its popularity. Nowadays, it has become popular among young people thanks to its unique rhythm. The young generation might express themselves freely with rap music (Delgado and Staples, 2008: 169).

Rap proved its power with its musical rhythm. In this case, words and rhythm are indispensable for rap music (Powell, 1991: 245-259). Rap music is substantially listened due to its rhythm although the majority of its audience does not fully understand what the rapper means. While

entertaining its audience, rap music also educates by handling with social issues such as sexism, racism and crime (Henderson, 1996). Rap music, which especially attracts the attention of young generations influences its listeners from the way they dress in daily life to the use of language and thought system (Ergen, 2023). And also, information about culture, values and environment is obtained by its lyrics. In fact, rap music reflects the social environment in its music as inspired by the environment (Lena, 2006: 81). Therefore, it helps the formation of the cultural identity of the singers and their listeners as well as informing (Krims, 2000). This music genre also presents cultural values by addressing ethnic groups in the society (Keyes, 2004). One of the subjects tackled is the deprivation of some rights of black people, are generally one of the ethnic groups. Rap music can cause negative problems while both entertaining and informing. Rap music generally deals with social issues and gives messages to its listener about the subject, however but the message to be given may not be perceived in the same meaning by all listeners. Since each listener perceives the subject in terms of their own culture and lifestyle (Hunnicut and Andrew, 2009). It is stated that there are stereotypes in rap music. For example, it is seen that African-Americans are mostly included with violence in this type of music (Caldwell, 2008). For this reason, Rap music being one of the indicators of popular culture not only creates stereotypes against an ethnic group in the audience, but also causes ethnic groups to become marginalized and form an oppositional culture (Martinez, 1997: 285). Oppressed societies create an oppositional culture to resist oppression. It can be said that rap music which is one of the important elements in the creation of popular culture has similar effects on gender and women.

Gender is discrimination based on sex (Corbett, 1991). It constitutes of the differences between men and women (Connell, 2009). According to West and Zimmerman (1987: 125), there are differences between the sexes occur in three senses based on gender: Psychological, social and cultural. Likewise, Ruble, Martin, and Berenbaum (2006) state that gender creates biological differences between men and women in the formation of their interests and social relations. In the process of social relations, social roles within the gender are learned from the immediate environment thanks to the socialization (Sağır et al, 2021: 280).

Gender is related to gender-based violence, social roles and body image. Hence, it affects the formation of sexism, racism and class differences (Enns, 2000; Runyan, 2018). Women and men are differentiated by specific roles. The sexes are valorised according to stereotypes against them. In this case, gender-based stereotypes against gender affect the ideas about the sexes. Therefore, inequality between men and women is created on account of these stereotypes. However, it mostly leads to negative social, physical and psychological thoughts towards women and presents expectation (Ellemers, 2011: 292).

Women are ignored in society due to gender (Lorber, 2001). Gender determines women's roles in society. It creates the perception that women mostly live in the home. Women are also less involved in entrepreneurship, employment and politics than men (Alesina et al, 2013: 41). Gender causes women to be addressed with issues such as sexuality and motherhood (Ardener, 2000). In this case, gender has disadvantageous effects on women.

Rap music which is one of the carriers of popular culture includes women in its lyrics and music videos and traces of gender may be found in rap music as in everyday life. Although women in rap music are seem to be characterized with positive expressions, it is stated that words have negative meanings and women are devalued (Grönevik, 2013).

In rap music, women are mostly handled negatively and kept in the foreground with their bodies. Women's bodies are objectified through sexual normalization (Hunnicuttt and Andrews, 2009: 624). In rap clips, women stand out with their sexuality. In the clips, women often wear clothes that expose their bodies and perform sexual acts. Thus, it is stated that women in rap music videos are viewed only as bodies rather than with human values (Conrad, et al, 2009: 142-143). Similarly, Tyree and Jones (2015) argue that women are given certain sexual roles in rap music, and women are humiliated in the lyrics.

It is stated that rap music means of misogyny (Cundiff, 2013: 719). Especially in lyrics, it is seen that a derogatory language is used against women. For example, women are often depicted with abusive terms such as "ho and bitch" (Monk-Turner and Sylvertooth, 2008: 5). Cundiff (2013) also states that in the lyrics of rap music, expressions of physical violence are included and normalized, as well as insulting language against women. Violence in rap music is kept in the foreground by ignoring the messages against violence and humiliation it wants to convey. Thus, it is stated that rap, which appears to be the reason for the emergence of violence, has a negative effect on increasing violence (URL-1). Since women are represented together with violence in rap music lyrics and music videos, violence against women in this music genre is a constant theme. Even non-violent rap music evokes violence (Johnson et al, 1995: 602).

Women are sexualized in rap music, are prioritized as prostitutes and untrustworthy, and are associated with violence. It can be said that these and similar phenomena lead to the emergence of hostility towards women in this music genre and feed violence. It is thought that the negative portrayal of women in rap music also negatively affects women's social life (Weitzer and Kubrin, 2009). According to YouTube's "Rap Music 2022 Playlist" for the month of May, 10 of the most listened songs that deal with the theme of women will be discussed in terms of stereotypes against women, humiliation of women, women roles and sexism.

Methodology and Data Analysis

This research examines women in rap music lyrics in the context of gender. This research is also a qualitative research. Qualitative research briefly summarizes the data obtained in a study by interpreting them and deals with the details (Cohen et al, 2007: 461). Bengtsson (2015) states that qualitative research focuses on meaning and reaches direct conclusions based on meaning. In the findings, the themes of stereotypes against women, humiliation of women, women's roles and sexism within the framework of gender by examining the women mentioned in the lyrics of rap music in English were found through the literature review method and the studies written on this subject were examined.

In this research, the "Rap Music 2022 Playlist" list of YouTube, one of the most listened music platforms, was analysed. From the Rap Music 2022 Playlist of May prepared by the YouTube platform, 10 of the songs with the highest number of listens and dealing with the theme of women were selected by order. The songs selected from the YouTube "Rap Music 2022 Playlist" are as follows:

- 1- Broadway Girls, Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen
- 2- Elon Musk, DDG feat. Gunna
- 3- What Happened to Virgil, Lil Durk feat. Gunna
- 4- Wait for U, Future feat. Drake and Tems
- 5- Frozen, Lil Baby
- 6- Barbarian, Lil Durk
- 7- I'm on One, Future feat. Drake
- 8- D.M.B., ASAP Rocky
- 9- In a Minute, Lil Baby
- 10- Banking on Me, Gunna

The lyrics and depictions of women in the selected rap songs which are thought to be about women were identified and underlined. With the thematic analysis method, common themes repeated in the 10 selected rap songs were identified. Abstract themes are revealed by thematic analysis method (Ryan and Bernard, 2000). With this method, it was handled that women were addressed on the themes of stereotypes against women, humiliation of women, women roles and sexism.

The findings on stereotypes of women, humiliation of women, women's roles and sexism in rap music lyrics were analysed through content analysis. According to Stemler (2015: 1), content analysis is mostly used for visual analyses such as films, series, clips and photographs. And also, Prasad (2008) emphasizes that content analysis is mostly used in text analysis to reveal meaning. As its name suggests, the literature review method is to complete the missing information by examining similar studies on the researched topic and to reach new information on the researched topic

(Demirci, 2014). Previously, topics such as misogyny in rap songs (Weitzer and Kubrin, 2009), violence against women (Mcfarland, 2008), gender sexuality (Herd, 2015) and women objectification (Flynn et al., 2016) have also been addressed through content analysis.

Findings

Stereotypes against Women

Stereotypes against gender determine how women and men should behave and gain appearance in society. Appearances, personalities, thoughts, attitudes and behaviours of genders are shaped by gender stereotypes (Butler, 2009). A certain stereotype of men and women emerges with the norms adopted by society (Seguino, 2007: 7). Stereotypes may emerge with the perceptions formed towards genders.

Table 1: Stereotypes against Women

The Property of Stereotypes Against Women in Rap Lyrics	The Name of Rap Music Characterized in Stereotypes against Women	An Example of Stereotypes against Women
Stereotype from prejudices	Frozen	<i>"I got women tryna get at me like you been growing' up"</i>
	I'm on One	<i>"Said she wanna see the world and she tired of sitting still"</i>
	Banking on Me	<i>"Bet you ain't after fame"</i>
	D.M.B.	<i>"My angel and my goddess when my head get clouded, you are my soul mate, my Goddess and baby"</i>
Bad qualified stereotypes	Broadway Girls	<i>"She is saying things she don't mean"</i>
	Elon Musk	<i>"We just fucked, but I can't stay, but she still my crush"</i>
	Wait for U	<i>"I got a career you that I love you for a living"</i>
	In a Minute	<i>"What you gon' do for me?"</i>
	Banking on Me	<i>"Love what you do for the papi"</i>
	Frozen	<i>"Glad that I been through a lot, it made me a monster"</i>
Stereotype of positive traits	Wait for U	<i>"Early in the morning, late at night (I will wait for you) , It don't even matter what time it is (I will wait for you)"</i>

Stereotype of negative traits	Broadway Girls	<i>"They town just told me "Don't trust them"</i>
	Wait for U	<i>"Tell me now, I need you too bad"</i>
	Barbarian	<i>"My bitches tell me I'm so arrogant"</i>
	D.M.B.	<i>"Roll my blunt, fill my cup"</i>
	In a Minute	<i>"She knows I'm a gangster, she love me"</i>

Stereotypes against women include certain characteristics. Stereotypes of women may be based on prejudices such as “women are braver”, “women have shorter minds”, “women are emotional”, and may include badly characterized information such as “women are the ones who seduce men” (Apali, 2011: 52-53). The stereotypes of “positive and negative traits”, stereotype from “prejudices” and “bad qualified stereotypes” are also included in the lyrics of rap music. According to Table 1, it was concluded that rap lyrics contain stereotypes with positive and negative characteristics of women such as smart, untrustworthy and living for men; with prejudices such as emotional, wandering, shopaholic, money-loving; and bad girl with bad information that women are traps, seen as a means of passion for men and have negative effects on men.

First, stereotypes are created by emphasizing the negative characteristics of women in rap music lyrics. Within the stereotypes, women have come to the forefront with negative characteristics such as “untrustworthy” and “living for men”. According to the stereotype against woman living for men in rap music lyrics, men are at the centre of a woman's life and she struggles to live for them. And also, Women are presented as beings that promise their men happiness, relieve their pain, support them and continue to do so even if the opposite sex is bad. Positive stereotypes about women in rap music lyrics are found only in the song “Wait for U”. This song includes the stereotypes of smart women.

It may be said that another one of the stereotypes against women in rap music lyrics is formed in line with prejudices as given in Table 1. Stereotype from prejudices that women are emotional, wanderers and shopaholics were found in rap music lyrics. In addition to these stereotypes, it is accompanied by expressions such as women are also in pursuit of fame. At the same time, women's fondness for money is one of the stereotypes given in rap music lyrics. Women are perceived as having the potential to do anything for money.

*"What is a dime that is for you
And four of your friends to fly out"* (Frozen, Lil Baby)

It can be admitted that there are stereotypes against women that some women are bad girls. These girls generally can be labelled as prostitutes. These women are not married, they are entertained and it is accepted that

they want these things. This stereotype is reflected in rap music lyrics as follows:

“That is that bitch,

Torey, I know what to do with it...

I could never be your man” (I’m on One, Future feat. Drake)

“Probably think I wanna hit and run,

Bad girls wanna have fun” (D.M.B., ASAP Rocky)

Stereotypes against women may be formed that women are angels or devils in line with prejudices. In rap lyrics, women come to the forefront with evil with the image of the devil while women are engaged in goodness with the image of angels.

“She a goblin, she don’t even stop it

Make your toes curl” (Frozen, Lil Baby)

Bad qualified stereotypes about women are also included in rap music lyrics. As one of the stereotypes against women, the information that women are traps was observed in rap lyrics. The woman in “Broadway Girls” (Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen) is characterized in a bad way by being called girls like you. It may be assumed that such women are characterized as trapped beings.

Another bad qualified stereotype against women in rap music lyrics is the depiction of women as a means of passion for men. Women are responsible for fulfilling the desires of men. In a way, they live for their men. A woman who sacrifices herself for her man appears. In this case, a stereotype is formed about the woman's fulfilling the needs of the man.

Other women stereotype in rap music lyrics is that women have a negative effect on men. In this axis, a female model emerges that pulls her man down. This type of woman treats her man like a dog, weakens him spiritually and may even cause him to become a bad person.

“Supposed to be your dawg,

But you done put me in a kennel” (Wait for U, Future feat. Drake and Tems)

Humiliation of Women

In rap music lyrics, there are evidences that women are humiliated. In many parts of society, women are not valued they deserve and are humiliated by devalued. The findings are considered as devaluation of women, use of insulting and negative statements, violence and marginalization are indicators of humiliation of them.

As it can be understood from the analysed lyrics, it may be said that women are not trusted, have no right to go to some of the places where men go, and they have nothing. It is emphasized that women are untrustworthy and that women are worthless by even equated with dogs. Some of the rap

lyrics in which women are devalued and subjected to humiliation are given below:

"Leave them Broadway girls alone...

Broadway girls a trap" (Broadway Girls, Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen)

"I treat all of my dogs the same

Take care all of my bitches the same" (What Happen to Virgil, Lil Durk feat. Gunna)

"She understand I can't take her

Everywhere a nigga going" (Wait for U, Future feat. Drake and Tems)

"Acting like your ass be rich

You ain't got shit" (Barbarian, Lil Durk)

Insulting and negative statements used against women are indicators that they are humiliated (Demir, 2008). In the negative statements written against women in the selected songs, women's weakness is emphasized and mobbing is practiced. By stating that the woman does not feel uncomfortable with unauthorized touching of her body, her honour is undermined and she is made to feel ashamed. In this case, women are humiliated by being depicted with insulting and negative statements in rap music lyrics.

"She riding a bull like cars" (Broadway Girls, Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen)

"She doesn't care if I touch" (Elon Musk, DDG feat Gunna)

"Get out my business,

This shit don't concern you" (What Happen to Virgil, Lil Durk feat. Gunna)

"At the point, I met you

Slowed me down" (Frozen, Lil Baby)

"You be tryna be in a niggas' section before they bitch" (Barbarian, Lil Durk)

"Roll my blunt, fill my cup

Be my bitch" (D.M.B., ASAP Rocky)

The act of violence involving humiliation against women is only, included in one of the rap music analysed (İnce, 2010). Moreover, in the song of "D. M. B." (ASAP Rocky), the lyric of *"I don't beat my bitch"* expresses that violence against women is not practiced. The lyrics that include violence against women are as follows:

"I smack her...

I tackle her" (Banking on Me, Gunna)

It may be accepted that women are also marginalized and humiliated in rap music lyrics. In the selected rap music lyrics, it may be said that women are marginalized by creating a perception that they pick up men throughout their lives through generalization. In this genre of music, the figure of a woman acting for a man is usually portrayed. While the man is a king and a rich man, the woman is perceived as a bitch and someone who chases wealth.

“Girls like you just wanna take me around” (Broadway Girls, Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen)

“Bitch I’m a star” (What Happen to Virgil, Lil Durk feat. Gunna)

“Booster bitches bring me all type of shit

Without the barcode” (Barbarian, Lil Durk)

“Fuck them hoes” (D.M.B., ASAP Rocky)

“You know I come trim

I’m in a different league” (In a Minute, Lil Baby)

Women Roles

Certain roles are assigned to the sexes by society and the sexes are expected to internalize these roles and behave accordingly. According to Ralf Dahrendorf (Weingart, 1969), gender roles are learned and internalized in everyday life. The position and importance of women in society can be determined with the roles internalized by genders. The roles adopted by the society are also embraced by gender (Büstan, 2015: 169).

Table 2: Women Roles in Rap Music Lyrics

Name of Rap Song	Artist	Active Roles of Women in Lyrics
Broadway Girls	Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen	Deceiver and Untrustworthy
Elon Musk	DDG feat. Gunna	Greedy for Money and Sexually Attractive
What Happen to Virgil	Lil Durk feat. Gunna	Bitch and Giver
Wait for U	Future feat. Drake and Tems	Conventional and Bad
Frozen	Lil Baby	Greedy for Money and Conventional
Barbarian	Lil Durk	Greedy for Money, Bitch and Supporter
I’m on One	Future feat. Drake	Bitch and Traveller
D.M.B.	ASAP Rocky	Bitch, Conventional, Partner, Angel and Stupid
In a Minute	Lil Baby	Bitch and Conventional
Banking on Me	Gunna	Loyal, Sexually Attractive and Consumer

Women are given certain roles when considering the way women are presented to the audience in rap music lyrics. According to the data in Table 2, these roles are given as deceiver, untrustworthy, bitch, giver, conventional, bad, greedy for money, supporter, traveller, partner, angel, loyal, consumer and sexually attractive.

In the lyrics of "Broadway Girls" (Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen), the women roles mentioned are "deceiver and untrustworthy". The woman portrayed in the role of the deceiver may also be indirectly implicated in the role of the untrustworthy. The woman in this role does not know the love, her only aim is to enjoy the moment and to live only for love in a day. It may also be said that women in this role should not be trusted and should be left alone.

Another women role reflected in rap lyrics is that of the "greedy for money" as in the song "Elon Musk" (DDG feat. Gunna). Money is at the centre of the greedy women for money and lives her life within the framework of money. Moreover, it can be said that greedy women for money even chooses the man in her life according to the wealth she has. The woman in the role of greedy for money in "Frozen" (Lil Baby) has become a man's puppet for a penny and has allowed herself to be tampered with. In "Elon Musk" also features a woman in a sexually attractive role. The woman in this role is in charge of satisfying the man's sexual desire.

Another of the most common female roles in rap music is the "bitch". The bitch woman is aware of her role, often mistreated by the opposite sex. This woman can also be both good and harmful to the opposite sex. In "Wait for U" (Future feat. Drake and Tems), the woman in the bitch role treats the other sex like a dog. The man needs and wants the bitch woman, but woman treats him mercilessly. The bitch woman also appears as slowing down her man in the song of "Frozen" (Lil Baby). This woman has the power to turn a man into a monster. In "Barbarian" (Lil Durk), the woman in the bitch role is fond of sex and considers herself superior to other people. In this song, the woman is additionally portrayed in the role of "supporter". The supportive woman is obliged to glorify her man.

The woman is shown as the "giver" in "What Happened to Virgil" (Lil Durk feat Gunna). This woman gives something of herself to the opposite sex, both sexually and financially. In this song, it is stated that a woman gives a gift of expensive clothes in exchange for a man to have sexual intercourse with her. In this case, the role of giver woman emerges.

Another woman given in the lyrics of rap music is in "conventional role". The woman in conventional role is good for the opposite sex and fulfils man's emotional needs just like a partner. The woman in traditional role is presented to the audience as sensitive, emotional and fragile in "Frozen" (Lil Baby). The conventional woman in "D.M.B." (ASAP Rocky) woman's daily routines, such as holding his gun and filling his glass, for him.

The woman has also appeared in the role of "traveller" in rap songs. These women love to travel and live with the desire to travel the whole world. Women have also come to the fore in the role of "stupid" in rap music. In the role of stupid, the woman has difficulty in understanding the events, ignores the badness of her man and continues her love. Finally, women are presented in the role of "loyal" and "consumer" in rap music.

Sexism

Music is one of the cultural indicators through which sexism is perpetrated. Traces of sexism in rap music are seen in the context of gender. In the rap music lyrics selected in the study, it was observed that sexism exists as both visible and latent meaning.

In this study, women's being in a lower position than men according to glass ceiling syndrome, women's gaining power from men and living for them, labels such as "bad woman" and "money chaser", generalizations such as "consuming woman" and "emotional women", slang expressions, finally the perception of women as a sexual object according to self-presentation is considered as an indicator of sexism against women in rap music lyrics.

The sexist view mostly adopts that men are superior to women in all societies (Umera-Okeke, 2012: 3). While men have simultaneously more authority and authority, women are positioned below them. While men are the bosses, women are ordinary workers who fulfil men's tasks. According to the glass ceiling syndrome, there are few women workers who achieve success on account of certain barriers (Karakılıç, 2019: 215). An invisible barrier prevents them from being professional in their careers (Yıldız et al., 2018: 100). In fact, the glass ceiling syndrome is a metaphor that does not allow women to occupy certain positions in a society and that evolves into discrimination. In "D.M.B." (ASAP Rocky), which bears traces of the glass ceiling theory, the phrase "*Hold my gun, load it up, count my slugs*" suggests that men are in a better position than women and make them do everything.

In the lyrics of "Broadway Girls", which is one of the most listened rap music of May on YouTube 2022, it is stated that when riding a horse, the man should ride in front and the woman should ride behind the man. According to sexism, it may be concluded that women are behind men with these statements. Expressions showing that men are ahead and superior in the selected rap lyrics are as follows:

"I jump on a horse, She get on the back" (Broadway Girls,
Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen)

"How you gona blame me? I give cabana

Bitch I'm a star...

Bro I'm a king" (What Happen to Virgil, Lil Durk feat.

Gunna)

*"I was fucking with you when you had the tiny
Presidential"* (Wait for U, Future feat. Drake and Tems)

"I know I got it, I'm all in her body..."

"She banking on me, I am the bank" (Banking on Me,
Gunna)

"I am the boss, pay all the bills

I am the golden child for real" (In a Minute, Lil Baby)

The lyrics of Future's "Wait for U" mention about a woman who needs a man to be strong. This woman makes him feel by relieving his pain, and believe that she is alive. It is possible to see in these sexist expressions against women that women derive their power from men and they live for men in this world. The man mentioned in the song "Wait for U" (Future) waits for his woman in order to run his business. He needs a woman to continue with the flow of his life. Labelling of gender may be considered as an indicator of sexism. Goffman's (1963) labeling theory deals with the exclusion of the individual in society. The individual is categorized in a certain way in society because of a characteristic.

"Hold my gun load it up, count my slug..."

"She clean my crib, She feed my friends" (D.M.B., ASAP
Rocky)

*"Booster bitches bring me all type of shit without the
barcode"* (Barbarian, Lil Durk)

Labelling of gender may be considered as an indicator of sexism. Goffman's (1963) labeling theory deals with the exclusion of the individual in society. The individual is categorized in a certain way in society because of a characteristic. In this case, the social identities of individuals who are removed from society are determined with the labeling theory. In rap music, women who fall into bad ways and disobey men are often labeled as bad women. Moreover, the view that women wish men evil rather than good is also included in rap music. In "Broadway Girls" (Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen), the phrase of *"Girls like you just wanna take me around"* expresses that bad women are eager to use the man in question.

"You pray for my demons, girl, I got you" (Wait for U, Future feat.
Drake and Tems)

"At the point, I met you, slowed me down,

You fucking up my focus" (Frozen, Lil Baby)

"Probably think I wanna hit and run, bad girls wanna have fun"
(D.M.B., ASAP Rocky)

In rap music, one of the products of popular culture, "money chaser" may be given as an example among the labels for women. Women prefer to earn money via the easy way instead of earning their own money. The simplest way is to find a rich male candidate and get him. It is also seen in

rap music lyrics that women love money. The man in the lyrics of “Elon Musk” (DDG feat. Gunna) feels like Elon Musk, one of the richest men in the world lately. By feeling like a rich person, he conveys the perception of being rich to the other sex, and in this way, women follow him. If men get rich, women will always be after them. Women can do anything for money.

“Don’t play with baby

I give you something to cry about that is a dim

That is for you and for of your friends to fly out” (Frozen, Lil Baby)

“Acting like your ass be rich” (Barbarian, Lil Durk)

Some generalizations about women based on gender can be indicators of sexism. It can be accepted that sexist norms against women are adopted especially in more patriarchal societies. In patriarchal societies, women are responsible for fulfilling all needs in family and work life.

In general, women shop more than men. Women have achieved economic freedom by having their own jobs anymore. Therefore, women are seen as the most consuming consumers today based on their economic freedom (Huddleston, 2011: 1-18). Even advertisements, which constitute a large part of daily life, are mostly directed towards women. Although most women do not like shopping, they are assumed to be “consuming women” due to sexist stereotypes against women. This female figure is also reflected in rap music lyrics.

“You wake up and you wanna go shopping” (Banking on Me, Gunna)

“Fucked on a stipper and I took me a Roxy” (What Happen to Virgil, Lil Durk feat. Gunna)

Women are often generalized as “emotional” beings. In “Frozen” (Lil Baby), it is mentioned that only sensitive, fragile and emotional women can feel like an oppressed man. It is understood from these words that women are seen as vulnerable by society. Women are divided into groups in the phrase of *“What is the type of bitch I need”* in “D.M.B.” (ASAP Rocky).

The insult and slang statements against women are another indicator of sexism (Köten and Akdemir, 2021: 54). All of ten selected songs’ lyrics contain slang statements against women. According to Table 3, the most slang the words containing in the selected lyrics are “bitch, fucked, shit and ass”. It has been found that women use their charm to make an impression on men. Women are aware of their attractiveness as they are smart and they use this advantage on men. In all of the ten songs selected, slang statements are used for women, suggesting that women are a means of passion for men. In the sentence of “Elon Musk” (DDG feat Gunna) *“We just fucked, but I can't stay but she still my crush”*, it is understood that the man has sexual intercourse with a woman and for him she is a passion.

“Every time I sip on codeine, I get vulnerable” (Wait for U, Future feat. Drake and Tems)

“As soon as I cum, she keep sucking

I don’t want her to stop it” (Banking on Me, Gunna)

Table 3: *The Most Repeated Slang Words for Women in Rap Music Lyrics and Frequency of Repetition*

	Artist	Most Repeated Slang Word	Frequency Number of Repetitions
Broadway Girls	Lil Durk feat. Morgan Wallen	Ass	3
Elon Musk	DDG feat. Gunna	Bitch, Fuck, Hoe, Dummy (It can be used as slang meaning)	6, 4, 1, 1
What Happen to Virgil	Lil Durk feat. Gunna	Bitch, Fuck, Shit	6, 1, 4
Wait for U	Future feat. Drake and Tems	Fuck	2
Frozen	Lil Baby	Bitch, Shit	1, 4
Barbarian	Lil Durk	Bitch, Fuck, Shit, Ass, Dick, Guffy (It can be used as slang meaning)	11, 2, 5, 4, 2, 1
I'm One	Future feat. Drake	Bitch, Fuck, Shit, Ass	3, 2, 3, 1
D.M.B.	ASAP Rocky	Bitch, Fuck, Shit, Ass, Hoe, Cunt	39, 7, 2, 4, 4, 4
In a Minute	Lil Baby	Bitch, Shit, Silly (It can be used as slang meaning)	4, 3, 1
Banking on Me	Gunna	Bitch, Fuck, Sex, Cum	1, 1, 1, 1

Finally, women as a sexual object may be assumed as one of the indicators of sexism. Goffman (2014: 234) defines “the presentation of self” as the image that any individual tries to give of self to other individuals. According to presentation of self, the individual exhibits behaviour within the expectations of society in the context of gender. Women are turned into a meta by the imposition of beauty on their bodies (Güzel, 2013: 83). Ideal woman identity is created with their beauty by turning them into a meta. In such a situation, women are treated as if they are merely sexual objects based on their physical characteristics. Women are valued by prioritizing their physical characteristics instead of their personalities. Nowadays, women's bodies are considered ugly if they do not conform to the sexually accepted sense of beauty. In other words, women are seen as a sexual object. The man in the lyrics of "I'm on One" (Future feat. Drake) will take the woman on a world tour and take advantage of her body sexually in famous

cities such as Paris and Cristiano. In addition, he depicts the woman by imagining the sexual parts of her body instead of loving the woman's soul.

"My horse is Porsches, turning me on" (Broadway Girls, Lil Durk feat Morgan Wallen)

"You lil' pussy, you soft and fertile" (What Happen to Virgil, Lil Durk feat. Gunna)

"I got a career that takes my time away from women" (Wait for U, Future feat. Drake and Tems)

"Niggas pulling robberies in this bitch, we ain't just trapping" (I'm on One, Future feat. Drake)

"Roll my blunt, fill my cup, be my bitch" (D.M.B., ASAP Rocky)

Conclusion

Rap music which is a favourite of recent times, deals with social issues and problems. Current issues and problems are handled through rap and rap music becomes a means of expression. This genre of music draws attention to issues such as violence, sexism, humiliation and race. In addition, rap music generally focuses on women. Rap deals with the subject of women through culture, and the listener perceives the woman in question with their own culture.

As a result of the findings, it is concluded that the lyrics of rap music written about women include stereotypes against women, humiliation of women, women's role and sexism. In terms of stereotypes against women in rap music lyrics, stereotypes based on negative traits such as women are "unreliable, they live their lives for men. Women promise him happiness and relieve his pain even if a man is a bad person. And also, it is mentioned about stereotypes that are emotional, wanderers, shopaholics and loves money. There is even a stereotype against women in rap music lyrics that women do anything for money. Some women are described as bad and prostitutes. Bad and prostitutes women are not suitable candidates for marriage. Some women are described as angels while some as demons. It is included stereotypes against women on women are traps, that they are instruments of male passion, and that they are responsible for fulfilling men's desires. In addition, stereotypes that women have a negative impact on men as the model of a woman who pulls her man down are included.

It is concluded that the humiliation of women on the content of gender in rap music lyrics, the use of humiliating and negative expressions, violence and marginalization are indicators that they are humiliated in this music genre. In the rap song lyrics analysed, women are devalued by emphasizing that they cannot be trusted, they cannot visit some places where men go, and that they are equated with dogs. It is observed that women are not bothered by being touched, they are weak and exhibited abrasive behavior towards women. This situation embarrasses the women. In the rap lyrics analysed, only in the song "D.M.B. (Asap Rocky)" violence against women is practiced

and women are humiliated. Apart from this, women are marginalized and humiliated by making generalizations such as women chasing men, bitches, and fortune hunters.

In rap music, women are portrayed as deceiver, untrustworthy, greedy for money, sexually attractive, bitch, giver, conventional, bad, supporter, traveller, partner, angel and consumer. A woman in the roles of deceiver and unreliable does not know love, she adopts carpediem. The woman in the role of greedy for money continues her life within the framework of money, sells herself for money, becomes a puppet of the man. The Bitch woman is both a medicine and a trap for her man. The supporter woman sacrifices something of herself for the man. The conventional woman is presented as sensitive, emotional, fragile and the servant of her man. Finally, the woman in the role of the traveller is given in the lyrics as a woman who likes to travel and a stupid woman who has difficulty in perceiving events.

In the study, it is concluded that women are perceived as inferior to men in rap music lyrics, with labels such as bad woman and money-grubbing, generalizations such as consuming woman and emotional woman, slang expressions and as a sexual object. Men are depicted as superior to women. There are sexist expressions that women derive their power from men. There are sexist labels that women are fortune hunters. In rap music lyrics, women are described with slang expressions such as "bitch, fucked, shit and ass", indicating that sexism is included. Women have been transformed into object by prioritizing their bodies and beauty. The prioritization of their bodies is also a sign of sexism against women.

It is concluded that rap has a negative impact on women through the representation of women in rap music. Women are prioritized with violence and the body in rap music as in daily life. In this case, it is concluded that women are subjected to inequality and all kinds of violence in society. It is thought that stereotypes of women are based on prejudices, bad qualified stereotypes, positive and negative characteristics of women. Devaluation, violence, marginalization of women and the use of derogatory expressions are indicators that they are humiliated. In rap music, women have come to the fore as deceiver, untrustworthy, greedy for money, sexually attractive, bitch, giver, conventional, bad, supporter, traveller, partner, angel and consumer. And also, women's being in a lower position than men, taking women's gaining power from men and living for them, labels, generalizations, slang expressions and being prioritized as sexual objects have revealed that sexism is practiced against women. It is frequently observed that women are frequently used together with their negative characteristics.

The findings show that women are not valued as they deserve, are not considered equal to men and are humiliated. To summarize, rap music has

the power to humiliate women based on gender and its popularity has an impact on the value, perception and roles given to women in society.

This study reminds that women are not appreciated as much as they deserve and rap music, which is very popular, influences daily life and thought systems and that leads its listeners to listen to its lyrics without question.

This study can serve as an example for future similar studies, especially for studies on women. It will also serve as an example for future studies on the media and provide a different perspective on gender debates.

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