Latin pop & K-pop Music Reviews: Hegemony Reinforcing Speaker Stereotypes

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American hegemony holds certain stereotypes of Spanish speakers and Korean speakers.

Media has reinforced these stereotypes through various mediums.

The hegemonic forces in music criticism and music reviews, Rolling Stone Magazine and The New York Times, appear to reinforce these stereotypes in Latin pop and K-pop reviews.

Research questions

How are stereotypes of speaker communities presented by hegemonic publications in music criticism of Latin pop and K-pop albums, songs and artists?

Do these opinions also reinforce strict roles of mainstream and counterculture? If so, do these mirror the dominant stereotypes of the speaker communities as a part of mainstream or countercultural America?

Methodology

- 1) Analyzed 20 reviews. 10 Latin pop and 10 K-pop reviews.
 - 5 reviews of male Latin pop artists, 5 reviews of female Latin pop artists.
 - 4 reviews of male K-pop artists or groups, 5 reviews of female K-pop artists or groups.
 - 1 review of a mixed-gender K-pop group.
- 2) Themed each review by analyzing words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs known as 'quotations'.
- 3) Drew qualitative and quantitative results based on themed quotations.

Hypotheses

- 1) Music criticisms will make use of dominant stereotypes of Spanish and Korean speaker communities in America.
- 2) This will include specific, and distinct, stereotypes about women in these communities.
- Latin pop will be considered countercultural and K-pop will be considered mainstream.

Results

- Stereotypes are indeed reinforced in music criticisms by the selected sources by genre.
- Stereotypes are also reinforced in the selected reviews on the basis of gender and language.
- Inconclusive results on reinforcing the roles of speaker communities and the music of these languages as mainstream and/or counterculture.

Qualitative Example: Intracultural vs Intercultural

'The turning point came last year as Shakira revisited her Colombian roots' (Pareles, 2017).

"Lingo" is a bit more experimental by meshing pop with country, a genre rarely featured in K-pop' (Kwak, 2022)

Discussion

- 1) Latin pop music and Korean pop music reviews conform to White Americans' stereotypes of Spanish and Korean speakers.
- 2) Separated by gender, reviews also conform to stereotypes of Hispanic and Korean women, respectively.
- 3) Due to rapidly changing and widely varied definitions of "pop" and "countercultural" music, it is hard to conclude whether the musical genres reviewed are restrained to one or the other.

References

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