

## THE LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE OF BOB DYLAN

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This article deals with some examples of linguistic and cultural heritage of Bob Dylan; attention is given to several cases of studying his lyrics by scholars and poets. Literature and social features of Dylan's works are presented.

Key words: Bob Dylan, Nobel Prize, poetry, music, lyrics, cultural and social realia.

## БОБ ДИЛАН: ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКОЕ И КУЛЬТУРНОЕ ВЛИЯНИЕ

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В данной работе рассматриваются некоторые примеры лингвистического и культурного наследия Боба Дилана, внимание уделяется изучению работ музыканта учеными и поэтами. Представлены литературные и социальные особенности произведений.

Ключевые слова: Боб Дилан, Нобелевская премия, поэзия, музыка, культурные и социальные реалии.

Dylan is widely recognized as one of the most influential figures both musically and culturally. He was included in the *Time 100: Heroes and idols of the twentieth century* list, where he was called as an outstanding poet, a caustic social critic and a fearless, guiding spirit of the countercultural generation. His song *Like a rolling stone* tops the list of the 500 best songs of all time. In 2016, Bob Dylan received the Nobel Prize in literature for creating new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition. He is the first musician who has received such an award.

But still Bob Dylan's most significant achievement is the revolution he unleashed in songwriting. Before his appearance, songs were much more pattern in writing lyrics and in choosing a theme.

Dylan's lyrics have been the subject of careful study by scholars and poets since 1998, when Stanford University sponsored the first international scientific conference dedicated to the musician's work. In 2004, Richard F. Thomas, Professor of classical literature at Harvard University, organized a first-of-its-kind workshop called *Dylan*, which was dedicated to 'discussing the musician not only in the context of pop culture of the last fifty years, but also within the tradition of classical poets such as Virgil and Homer'. In turn, in 2009, William O'Brien, literary Professor at the University of California, immortalized Dylan's contribution to world literature by creating a full academic course dedicated to the musician, which analyzed the historical, political, economic, aesthetic and cultural significance of Dylan's work.

Bob Dylan's songs are well known all over the world, and they are often used for deeper learning of the English language. However, there is a special feature here. Dylan was once asked if he could live anywhere outside of America, to which he replied that 'he couldn't live anywhere but America, because he understand the tone behind the language there'. By 'tone of language' Dylan means ordinary contexts in which certain words and phrases are used, and he is right to assume that these contexts vary from one English-speaking country to another. Many of the works of a musician or even poet are based on folklore, stories dating back hundreds of years, because of the combination of such a long cultural history and a new interpretation of it; he is often compared to Homer, ancient Greece writer.

An important place in Dylan's work is occupied by idioms. By changing them a little in his songs, he fills them with a completely new meaning. Many of his famous sayings, such as *knockin' on heaven's door*, *blowing in the wind*, *a hard rain's a-gonna fall*, have been reflected in cinema, literature, and have also been the subject of many scientific articles.

Another feature of Dylan's work is the political coloring. Despite a fairly large number of satirical lyrics in his songs, there are very serious and heavy works. For example *Masters of War*, *John Brown*, *All Along the Watchtower*, and so on. In these songs, he talks about how the state raises a spirit

of militarism in its citizens from childhood. So, John Brown, the hero of the song of the same name, is sent to the Vietnam War by his proud mother. However, in addition to the medals, he returns with his injured body and the confidence that he was not trying to defeat evil, but was on its side. And in one of his most famous songs, *Masters of War*, Dylan, saying that in the war 'all against all' cannot be winners, sings that in the modern world the most terrible is the fear of giving birth to children. This song later became the anthem of anti-war movements all around the world.

He always says that he was inspired not only by other musicians. Poetry, literature and films have all made their way into his work. Bob Dylan's true importance is that he was able to internalize these disparate influences, and to transform them, with great courage and sensitivity, into a sound that was uniquely, unmistakably his own. Indeed, to create 'new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition'.