

A Semiotic Analysis In Bon Jovi Selected Songs

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ABSTRACT

Song lyrics as a form of artistic expression that is full of meaning are often used as a tool to convey deep messages that are close to human life. One of the famous rock bands, Bon Jovi is known for its inspiring and meaningful song lyrics. The author's interest in the meanings contained in Bon Jovi's song lyrics, especially in the songs "It's My Life," "Have a Nice Day," and "We Weren't Born to Follow", prompted this study. This research aims to determine the meaning of Bon Jovi's song lyrics by describing the signifiers and signified contained therein. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with a Saussure semiotic approach. This study uses Saussure's Semiotic theory, which identifies the signifiers and signified in the lyrics, followed by syntagmatic and paradigmatic analysis to understand the relationship between sentences and reveal the deeper meaning of the song. Rhyme analysis is also used to strengthen the interpretation of the overall meaning of the song. The results of the study show that the three songs have a central theme of individual freedom and rejection of external control. The lyrics emphasize the importance of following one's desires and not letting others control one's life. Never give up on facing the challenges in our lives and continue to struggle to achieve our dreams without being influenced by others.

KATA KUNCI

Semiotika,
Ferdinand De
Saussure,
Lirik Lagu,
Bon Jovi,

ABSTRAK

Lirik lagu sebagai salah satu bentuk ekspresi seni yang sarat makna sering kali digunakan sebagai alat untuk menyampaikan pesan-pesan mendalam yang dekat dengan kehidupan manusia. Salah satu grup musik rock ternama, Bon Jovi dikenal dengan lirik-lirik lagunya yang inspiratif dan penuh makna. Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh ketertarikan penulis terhadap makna-makna yang terkandung dalam lirik-lirik lagu Bon Jovi, khususnya pada lagu "It's My Life," "Have a Nice Day" dan "We Weren't Born to Follow". Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui makna lirik lagu Bon Jovi dengan mendeskripsikan penanda dan petanda yang terdapat di dalamnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan semiotika Saussure. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Semiotika Saussure yaitu mengidentifikasi penanda dan petanda dalam lirik, dilanjutkan dengan analisis sintagmatik dan paradigmatis untuk memahami hubungan antar kalimat dan mengungkap makna lagu yang lebih dalam. Analisis rima juga digunakan untuk memperkuat penafsiran makna lagu secara keseluruhan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ketiga lagu tersebut memiliki tema sentral kebebasan individu dan penolakan terhadap kontrol eksternal. Liriknyamanggarisbawahi pentingnya mengikuti keinginan sendiri dan tidak membiarkan orang lain mengendalikan hidup seseorang. Jangan pernah menyerah menghadapi tantangan hidup dan teruslah berjuang meraih mimpi tanpa terpengaruh oleh orang lain.

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Introduction

Nowdays, songs are present not only as entertainment but also as a way for songwriters to express their feelings or convey messages that are relevant to the social dynamics faced by the listener.

Songs are a type of music where musicians express their feelings through many lyrics and melodies (Sri, 2023). Songs usually have meaning and messages that the author wants to convey to the listener, which is why songs are widely used for communication.

The meaning or message contained in a song can be found through a series of song lyrics. A lyric is a piece of writing written by someone with imagination using beautiful words with deep meaning. Through song lyrics, listeners can understand, feel, and interpret what the author conveys in the song lyrics. Understanding and interpreting a song lyric depends on each person's interpretation (Hasanah, 2022). Some songs that have lyrics that contain deep meaning are "It's My Life", "Have a Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow" sung by the American rock band Bon Jovi. The three songs illustrate that singers are voicing to listeners to be able to control their own lives without being influenced by others and never giving up in facing problems in life. Nowdays, songs are present not only as entertainment but also as a way for songwriters to express their feelings or convey messages that are relevant to the social dynamics faced by the listener, so this reinforces that a song is a form of written music used to convey emotions and ideas. The words used in a song are usually words that can convey an intense and emotional impression. This can include words describing a person's feelings, thoughts, or conditions and even words contextualized from the song (Dewi, 2020, cited in Syamsu & Weda, 2023).

Semiotics is a science that studies how a meaning or message is obtained through signs or symbols. Semiotics is not limited to language but can also include images, sounds, symbols, words, and other objects used to convey a message or meaning. Semiotics, also known as semiology, is a crucial field of study in human communication since signs and symbols are always necessary for human existence. Therefore, signs are the basis of communication (Zoest, 1993 cited in Sulaiman & Ibrahim, 2020).

To find out the meaning contained in the lyrics of Bon Jovi's selected songs, namely "It's My Life", "Have a Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow", the author will analyze them using Saussure's semiotic, which involves elements of signifiers and signified by using a Semiotic Saussure's approach which will be used to analyze each verse of the lyrics of the selected songs. Next, the author will explain through syntagmatic and paradigmatic concepts to find out the relationship between sentences so that the author can get a deeper meaning from the three songs. This analysis aims to make it easier for the author to understand the deep meaning of the three song lyrics. Rhyme analysis is also used to strengthen the interpretation of the overall meaning of the song.

Method

This study will be conducted using qualitative method to obtain research result. Qualitative research uses text or image data and usually uses different steps to analyze the data (Creswell, 2014 cited in Sinambela, 2020). The author does not use other instruments such as questionnaires, interviews, or recording devices. Sugiyono argues that, as humans, qualitative researchers will provide their subjective views on the subject of research, so researchers must be validated. In this study, the

author will apply Saussure's Semiotic approach by using Saussure's Semiotic theory which divides signs into 2, namely signifier and signified. Saussure's Semiotic approach has several ways of working, including identifying the signifier first. In this case, when we see or hear something, we first recognize the signifier. Second, associating the signified. After realizing the signifier, the brain will connect the signifier with the signified, which is the related concept or meaning. Third, interaction with the socio-cultural context. The meaning of a sign can change depending on the socio-cultural context in which the sign is used. In this approach, Saussure emphasizes that the relationship between the signifier and the signified determines the sign's meaning and that the socio-cultural system that implements the language influences the sign's meaning. One example of Saussure's method is analyzing the symbolism of colour in a poem, song, or story. We can use Saussure's method to see how the word "red" (the signifier) produces meanings such as "courage" or "danger" (signified) in a particular cultural context.

In data source, this study will be divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. In the primary data of this study, the author will collect data from the lyrics of selected Bon Jovi songs in the form of sentences. They were chosen from the three selected songs, namely "It's My Life", "Have A Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow". Apart from that, to obtain further sources of information, the author will collect data through several reviews on the internet regarding semiotic in analyzing the meaning of a song in journal, books, theses, and other scientific works. The author will collect data through the following steps; (1) The author downloaded each selected song lyric for analysis via the internet. The songs were downloaded from <https://www.azlyrics.com/>. (2) The author chooses three selected songs, namely "It's My Life", "Have A Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow". (3) The author reads each Bon Jovi song lyric. (4) The author categorizes based on Saussure's semiotic theory by distinguishing between signifiers and signified. In analyzing Bon Jovi's selected songs, the author will carry out the following steps; (1) The author divides the lyrics of selected Bon Jovi songs, entirely translated from English, into several verses. (2) The author uses Saussure's semiotic theory, which involves elements of signifiers and signified, to analyze each verse of the lyrics of the selected songs. (3) The author will explain through syntagmatic and paradigmatic concepts to find out the relationship between sentences so that the author can get a deeper meaning from the three songs. This analysis aims to make it easier for the author to understand the deep meaning of the three song lyrics. (4) The author will also identify the rhymes used in the lyrics of the three songs, which can help to understand the meaning of the songs through the patterns or repeated words.

Results

The author will present some data regarding the research findings, namely what is the meaning contained in the three selected Bon Jovi songs "It's My Life", "Have a Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow" is analyzed through the identification of signifiers and signified in each verse. The author identified signifiers in the form of linguistic elements in the lyrics and signified in the form of concepts or ideas represented by the signifiers in each verse of three Bon Jovi songs. Based on the analysis of each verse, 20 data were found that showed the relationship between signifiers and signified in building the meaning of the songs. The 20 data referred to are 20 verses that were analyzed in dept. These result are identified using Saussure's Semiotic theory which is divided into signifiers and signified. To illustrate the application of Saussure's Semiotic theory in analyzing the meaning of song lyrics, this

section will present examples of identifying the signifiers and signified in the first verse of each selected songs, namely "It's My Life", "Have a Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow."

1. It's My Life (Verse I)

Signifier

This ain't a song for the brokenhearted

Some words distinguish it, namely "ain't" to indicate rejection and "brokenhearted" to create emotional focus, the word choice that sets it apart is that "brokenhearted" has a strong and immediate emotional connection, which is the essence of what the lyrics signify, and the word 'ain't' shows rejection leads to the reverse expectation that this song is for someone strong, optimistic, or doesn't give up.

Signified

Shows that this song is not about sadness, but about the courage to fight sadness.

Signifier

No silent prayer for the faith departed

Some words distinguish it, namely "No," which indicates that the hope, prayer, or effort to revive or repair the lost trust is impossible or will not happen. "Silent prayer" can refer to prayers or hopes that are not expressed openly; it can also be interpreted as helplessness or inability to cope with loss or change of faith. The phrase "faith departed" is a term that represents the loss of hope or faith. The phrase "faith departed" is the core of this sentence because this word is not only about sadness but a more profound condition, namely losing hope and trust so that the meaning becomes more philosophical.

Signified

This sentence expresses despair, sadness, and the reality that lost trust cannot be repaired or restored. No amount of silent hope can revive a lost trust. In other words, it is a rejection of the unsuccessful attempts to restore something that has been deeply and permanently lost, whether in terms of spiritual life, relationships, or personal beliefs.

Signifier

And I ain't gonna be just a face in the crowd

Some words distinguish it, namely "Ain't" is a firm rejection of the situation. These words indicate a desire to fight against the problem. "Gonna" is an action or intention carried out with determination or conviction. "Just" means that someone will not allow himself to be just something ordinary or unobtrusive. Emphasizing that the singer does not just want to be seen among other people. "Face" refers to a person's face or identity but is used more literally to represent oneself in a group or society. "Crowd" describes a large crowd or the general public who overlooks specific individuals.

Signified

The refusal to be anonymous shows a desire to be known and influential.

Signifier

You're gonna hear my voice, When I shout it out loud

Some words distinguish it, namely "Hear my voice", which shows the desire to be heard, whether in an opinion or something else. "Voice it out loud" shows the strength and courage in voicing something. The word "loud" is significant because it shows the active action and courage to speak out loud rather than just waiting to be heard.

Signified

Depicts the courage to say what you think and believe without fear.

2. Have a Nice Day (Verse I)

Signifier

Why, you wanna tell me how to live my life?

These words and phrases are selected to be different because they carry such a strong meaning that they have specific meanings related to individual freedom and the rejection of complete control from others. In the context of this sentence, "why" challenges the authority or perspective of another person who tries to dictate how one lives. The word "tell" is used to show disagreement with the actions of another person who tells one how to live one's life. The phrase "live my life" emphasizes that everyone has the right to choose their path in life. It shows that everyone has the right to decide what they will do with their life.

Signified

The questions asked serve to show the feeling of individual freedom being disturbed by others whether from family, friends, or society. Showing the conflict between personal freedom and external control.

Signifier

Who, are you to tell me if it's black or white?

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "Who" this term refers to someone directly and questions the person's position or identity. Who he is so that he can assess himself. "tell" refers to the act of informing. This shows an attempt to regulate the actions of others. The phrase "black or white" refers to a situation considered too simple or described in black and white. At the same time, the actual problem is much more complex.

Signified

This sentence continues the critique of people who want to regulate how their lives are by challenging dualistic views.

Signifier

Mama, can you hear me? Try to understand.

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "Mama" refers to a more emotional and close figure, giving the impression of a request and a hope to be understood; "hear me" shows a desire to be heard; and "understand" emphasizes how important it is to understand.

Signified

This sentence describes a request to someone close to be heard or understood, this sentence produces an emotional and personal nuance.

Signifier

Is innocence the difference between a boy and a man?

Some words distinguish it, namely "Innocence" refers to the innocence or ignorance that might be considered characteristic of children, while "boy" and "man" refer to different stages of life.

Signified

This question describes the transition from childhood to adulthood, which involves a clash between free thinking and the harsh realities of life. The more mature, the more challenges faced, in contrast to childhood, which was not yet full of mental burdens.

Signifier

My daddy lived the lie, that's just the price that he paid

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "Daddy" refers to the father as an essential figure in a person's life, "the lie" refers to lies believed, "price" refers to sacrifices or consequences, and "he paid" refers to the sacrifice made by the father.

Signified

This sentence reinforces the theme of the struggle for life and freedom by connecting the experience of a life entirely of dishonesty and sacrifice with the reality that must be accepted.

Signifier

Sacrificed his life, just slavin' away

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "Sacrificed" shows sacrifice, "his life" shows what is sacrificed, and "slavin' away" shows endless hard work.

Signified

This sentence shows the struggle and suffering caused by lies where he lives, not according to his choice, so he has to sacrifice his life without happiness.

3. We Weren't Born to Follow (Verse I)

Signifier

This one goes out to the man who mines for miracles

Some words distinguish it, namely "Man" indicates a general subject that represents a persistent person, not just a specific person. The word "mines" metaphorically means digging or searching for something valuable usually in difficult or challenging situations. The word "miracles" is a symbol of great hope or extraordinary achievement.

Signified

This sentence as a whole symbolizes respect for those who strive hard to achieve something extraordinary even though it seems impossible.

Signifier

This one goes out to the ones in need

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "This one" indicates a specific message directed to a particular group, and "goes out" indicates a message or concern directed to others. "the ones in need" refers to individuals or groups who need help, support, or attention. Specifically, the word "in need" is used to describe a situation where someone is facing difficulties.

Signified

This sentence shows a message of support and concern for those who are in difficult situations.

Signifier

This one goes out to the sinner and the cynical

The phrase distinguish it, namely "the sinner and the cynical" implies support for those who are considered sinners and those who are pessimistic or cynical. This shows that the song is intended for everyone, no matter their mistakes or perspectives on life, and acknowledges the realities faced by different types of people.

Signified

This sentences shows unconditional acceptance showing that everyone deserves attention regardless of their moral or emotional state.

Signifier

This ain't about no apology

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "ain't" indicates a refusal. This informal language shows a firm and direct attitude towards a refusal. "no apology"

indicates that guilt or a desire to apologize is unnecessary. This phase shows no room for regret or justification for the actions that have been done.

Signified

This line significantly depicts the theme of freedom, independence, and the courage to have faith in ourselves without apologizing for our actions or who we are.

Signifier

This road was paved by the hopeless and the hungry

Some words distinguish it, namely "road" is a metaphorical symbol that shows life's journey, struggle, or path to a goal. It also shows a symbolic journey built through hard work and sacrifice. The word "paved" literally means "paved", in this context it means the result of our struggle. The word "Hopeless" refers to a person who is desperate or has lost hope. The word "Hungry" not only refers to hunger but symbolically, this word means the desire to make a change or the struggle to survive in a difficult situation.

Signified

This sentence depicts respect for those who have struggled to create change and progress amidst hardship and uncertainty. In addition, this sentence shows that sacrifice is the key to success and freedom.

Signifier

This road was paved by the winds of change

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "road" refers to a long journey of life or process of change, often a symbol of struggle or transformation. The word "paved" indicates that the path has been prepared by a previous process. It shows the results of work, effort, or the traces left by change. The "winds of change" is a symbol of major, inevitable change and is often equated with the element of wind, indicating a major movement that is invisible but has a big impact.

Signified

This sentence depicts respect for those who have struggled to create change and progress amidst hardship and uncertainty. In addition, this sentence shows that sacrifice is the key to success.

Signifier

Walking beside the guilty and the innocent

Some words or phrase distinguish it, namely "Walking beside" is a symbol of solidarity, togetherness, and a shared journey. It shows a neutral position that does not side with right or wrong. The word "quality" is a symbol of a guilty or sinful person. This word reflects the dark side of humans or moral imperfection. "Innocent" are symbols of people who are clean, innocent, or considered to have good morals.

Signified

This sentence shows the philosophy that everyone, whether guilty or innocent, is part of the great journey of life that must be lived with a sense of brotherhood and solidarity.

Signifier

How will you raise your hand when they call your name?

Some words distinguish it, namely "raise" in the song's context symbolizes the willingness, courage, and awareness to act when facing an important situation. The word "hand" in the song's context describes the responsibility or readiness to answer the call physically and emotionally. Here, raising the hand shows the courage to admit and accept the difficulties. "Call" symbolizes an important moment where someone is faced with an important decision about how to act or respond to the situation. "Name" represents individuality, that everyone has a role or calling in their life that they must answer bravely.

Signified

This sentence conveys the message that we must prepare ourselves, dare to take risks and face challenges when big opportunities come with our heads held high.

Signifier

Yeah, yeah, yeah

The word distinguish it, *namely* "Yeah" is a simple but powerful emotional marker. It not only shows agreement but also emphasizes an idea or theme that has been mentioned previously.

Signified

This sentence serves as an emotional affirmation because it shows a strong spirit and determination not to give up in the face of social pressure.

Based on the result of this study, the analysis of signifiers and signified through examples in the first verse of the songs "It's My Life", "Have a Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow," reveals the initial theme of autonomy, resistance, and individuality, which overall the lyrics of three songs lead to the meaning of full control over oneself and the spirit of never giving up in facing challenges, including in the context of social problems.

Discussion

Referring to the data of previous research findings that identified the signifiers and signified in each verse of the songs "It's My Life", "Have a Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow," with illustrative examples presented in the first verse, this section will interpret how the relationship between verses can build a more complete understanding of the overall message contained in these three Bon Jovi songs with relationship between syntagmatic and paradigmatic as well as rhyme.

1. It's My Life

The first verse of Bon Jovi's lyrics "It's My Life" describes how the singer talks about rejecting sadness or resignation. Where he states in the lyrics that the song is not for people who are heartbroken ("this ain't a song for the brokenhearted") or have lost hope ("faith departed"), instead, it is for people who want to stand out and be heard. He emphasizes that they will not be invisible or unimportant in society ("I ain't gonna be just a face in the crowd"), but someone who dares to say what they wish and lives with strong determination ("you're gonna hear my voice, when I shout it out loud").

This verse uses end *rhyme repetition* on words ending with the letter "-d", such as "broken-hearted", "faith-departed", "crowd", and "loud". The rhyme produced by this pattern gives a rhythmic and musical effect to the lyrics, making them easy to remember and touching the listener's emotions. In addition, because the rhyme gives a strong and rhythmic impression, this style of language strengthens the message of the song, namely the spirit to rise and voice courage.

Based on the relationship between the sentences that have been explained in the previous description, the meaning contained in this verse is that we should not allow ourselves to drown in sadness, but we must rise, speak up, and live with full determination.

2. Have a Nice Day

The first verse of Bon Jovi's "Have a Nice Day" shows the singer wondering why others feel entitled to choose what he does with his life ("Why, you wanna tell me how to live my life?") and seeing who they are that they have the right to decide what's right and what's wrong ("who, are you to tell me if it's black or white?"). The

singer also tries to reach out to his mother for an explanation ("Mama, can you hear me? Try to understand"). This shows that he longs for the understanding of those close to him, especially when facing challenges or decisions that he makes. This line also shows how important it is to have emotional support from family. Here the mother is depicted, as mothers are often seen as symbols of unconditional love, understanding, and emotional support. He also seems to think about how life experiences and tasks change a person into an adult, as opposed to the innocent life of a child ("Is innocence the difference between a boy and a man"). He also shows regret or criticism of his father's life choices, who may have lived by suppressing his dreams to fulfill his obligations. "Livin' the lie" suggests that his father may not have lived according to his true desires and that it was a painful sacrifice. He expands on the story of his father, describing a life spent toiling merely to meet needs or obligations, but without happiness or personal fulfillment. ("My daddy lived the lie, that's just price the he paid, "Sacrificed his life, just slavin' away").

In this verse, the language style used is rhetorical questions and emotional expression through metaphor and antithesis. Disagreement with other people's control over their personal lives is expressed through rhetorical questions such as "Why do you want to tell me how to live my life?" "Is innocence the difference 'tween a boy and a man?" uses the language style of antithesis to compare the idea of innocence and maturity, while "My daddy lived a lie" is a metaphor to show a life full of sacrifice and regret.

Based on the relationship between the sentences that has been written in the previous findings, the meaning is that we live in this world to determine our path in life. We should not let others control or impose their opinions on what is right or wrong. In living life, there are times when we also need understanding and support from those closest to us, such as mothers, because they have an important role in giving us love and understanding. However, we must also realize that becoming an adult means facing the realities of life, such as losing innocence and accepting responsibility. In addition, the story of a father who works hard but is trapped in a life full of sacrifice teaches us that life is not only about fulfilling obligations but also about living a meaningful life and by our hearts.

3. We Weren't Born to Follow

The first verse of Bon Jovi's song "We Weren't Born to Follow" depicts the singer giving tribute to individuals who dare to face adversity in their lives, regardless of their background or situation. Where he tells about someone who struggles to achieve something extraordinary even though it seems impossible. The phrase "mines for miracles" symbolize persistent and optimistic efforts, Like a miner looking for something valuable amid great challenges. He also describes those who need help ("This one goes out to the ones in need"), which means the singer gives empathy to people in need, both emotionally and physically. He also admits that this song is also for those who have sinned or those who have a bad view of life, the world, or certain principles. This shows that this song is for everyone, there is no limit whether for those who have made mistakes or not, as in the lyrics ("This one goes out to the ones in need"), ("This one goes out to the sinner and the cynical"). He also emphasizes that this song is not about apologizing ("This ain't about no apology"), but about having the courage to face reality without any regrets. In addition, he describes that people in difficult conditions often create a path to change or progress, such as people who are hopeless or hungry ("This road was paved by the hopeless and the hungry"). This means that the struggles of people who experience difficulties have allowed the next generation to have better opportunities. He also describes that this road of life is made by the forces of change that always move individuals and societies

in different directions ("This road was paved by the winds of change") and that the journey of life involves various people, both guilty and innocent, which means that everyone is related to each other, regardless of their bad or good, because no one is perfect in this world. He challenges the audience to think about how they will respond to a call or an important opportunity in life ("How will you raise your hand when they call your name?"). This is a call to be brave, responsible, and ready to face the challenges or opportunities that come in our lives. Finally, the singer emphasizes his belief or enthusiasm for the previous message by using phrases ("yeah, yeah, yeah"), which are expressive elements that make the song more emotional and energetic.

In this verse, there are two figures of speech such as anaphora and repetition. The repetition from the first line to the third line, such as "This one goes out to", is an example of *anaphora*, which is used to show that the song is given to various groups of people, such as those who are sinner, needy, or cynical. In the fourth and fifth lines, there is a *rhyme*, namely in the words "apology" and "hungry" ending with the suffix "y", which creates a harmony of sound that makes it easier for listeners to remember the message of the song. In the fifth and sixth lines, the phrase "This road was paved by" is repeated with the form of *repetition* to emphasize the role of people who are often overlooked, such as those who are hungry, desperate, and want to change.

Based on the relationship between the signifier and the signified that has been written in the previous findings, the meaning is an invitation to appreciate every struggle we face in life and dare to face the challenges or great opportunities that come to us, because we are all born into this world regardless of who we are or what we have done in the past. Whether it is from those who have great hopes, those who are lacking, to those who are guilty or skeptical of life.

Overall, the lyrics of the songs "It's My Life", "Have a Nice Day", and "We Weren't Born to Follow" by Bon Jovi, which the author found in this study, the meaning in the lyrics of Bon Jovi's chosen songs is determination and courage to face life in our own way.

Conclusions

Based on the result of the findings and discussions that have been carried out previously on the Bon Jovi selected songs that the combination of musical power and deep lyrical messages made these songs very successful in their time. First, the lyrics of these three songs convey messages that are very relevant to their listeners and the problems they face every day. The song "It's My Life" emphasizes the importance of living life with confidence and taking control of your destiny, a powerful and motivating theme for many people when it was released in 2000, especially the younger generation. The message of Have A Nice Day, released in 2005, is a resistance to social and environmental pressures to follow standards and rules that may not align with personal desires. The lyrics convey a message of optimism and determination to live one's own life. Meanwhile, "We Weren't Born to Follow", released in 2009, discusses the importance of staying true to yourself and avoiding the limitations or pressures of society. Bon Jovi conveys the message that everyone can create their path in life.

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