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**Аннотация**

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The **aim** of the current paper is to explore the creative careers of four legendary rock groups: *The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Placebo* and *Radiohead* and to compare how they differ in their lyrical interpretation of the topic of **misunderstanding** in terms of style, lyrics and message.

These groups belong to different generations of rock musicians, and, I argue that these differences should be reflected in the ways of songwriting, in the sound, style, and in their language as well.

The **tasks of the research** include:

1. Working out the scheme of analysis of the lyrics of the songs;
2. Determining major factors that shaped the creative platform of the musicians;
3. Analyzing the main autobiographical events in the life of the authors of the songs that led them to composing them;
4. Revealing the main difference in the interpretation of the concept **misunderstanding** in the lyrics of the four groups.

I used such recourses as autobiographies, interviews, documentaries that helped to explore the roots of differences. Some songs were analysed in more detail according to the following plan: the history of their creation, prototypical characters, text analysis, tropes and peculiarities, the message.

The Beatles had the richest amalgam of interpretations of **misunderstanding** despite the fact that the lyrics of their songs is simple and specific and full of everyday detail. They embraced the topic from a variety of angles: generation gap, gender gap, ironic teasing type of misunderstanding between a man and a woman. Their later co-workers, Placebo, indulged in metaphors and idioms in their songs as their listeners were different people (higher walks of society) and besides they had more and cheaper recording time spans. So they could rehearse more in the studio and load their songs with vague meaning.

The research also showed that the ideas and ideals of the rock fans changed and evolved due to extralinguistic factors: educational level, technical equipment, the number of instruments and the working process itself.

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