

**WAYS OF WOMAN TO BE INDEPENDENT AS PORTRAYED IN
MEGHAN TRAINOR'S SONGS.**

A THESIS

BY

REFI NURFADILLA

REG.NO : 120705103



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF SUMATERA UTARA
MEDAN 2017**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is entitled **Ways of Woman to be Independent as Portrayed in Meghan Trainor's Songs** that analyzes the feminism movement and the way to be independent woman in the world dominated by man. This analysis is focuses on the feminism. The songs are selected in the search of thematic feminism through the lyrics of the songs. The selected songs are "Dear Future Husband", "Me too", and "No". "Dear Future Husband" tells the story of a woman who can determine her life standard freely. "Me too" is about a successful and confident woman. "No" tells the story of a woman whodares to decide her own life. In order to resolve the problems, the writer uses the theory of Feminism and Hermeneutic to find how an independent woman portrayed in the selected songs. The method applied for this thesis is the qualitative descriptive and library research in doing the analysis. After done the research by using the theories, the writer finally found that woman should be treated better and extends her compositions about self-love and self-empowerment. Also, the term independent woman means way for woman being equal with man.

Keywords: Independent Women, Feminism, Hermeneutic.

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berjudul **Ways of Woman to be Independent as Portrayed in Meghan Trainor's Songs** yang menganalisis tentang gerakan feminisme dan cara untuk menjadi wanita independen di dunia yang didominasi oleh laki-laki. Analisis ini berfokus terhadap feminisme. Lagu-lagu yang dipilih dalam pencarian tematik feminisme melalui lirik lagu ini adalah "Dear Future Husband", "Me Too", dan "No". "Dear Future Husband" bercerita tentang seorang wanita yang dapat menentukan standar hidup bebasnya sendiri. "Me Too" bercerita tentang seorang wanita yang sukses dan percaya diri. "No" bercerita tentang seorang wanita yang berani memutuskan atas hak hidupnya sendiri. Untuk menganalisis masalah, penulis menggunakan teori feminisme dan hermenitika untuk menemukan bagaimana seorang wanita independen digambarkan sebagaimana tersirat di dalam lagu. Metode yang diterapkan dalam skripsi ini adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif dan riset perpustakaan. Setelah dilakukan penelitian dengan menggunakan teori tersebut di atas, penulis akhirnya menemukan bahwa wanita harus diperlakukan lebih baik dan meluas komposisinya tentang mencintai diri sendiri dan pemberdayaan diri. Juga, istilah perempuan independen berarti cara untuk wanita berkedudukan setara dengan pria.

Kata kunci : Wanita Mandiri, Feminisme, Hermenitika.

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APPENDICES

i. MEGHAN TRAINOR BIOGRAPHY

Meghan Elizabeth Trainor was born on December 22, 1993 in Nantucket, Massachusetts, the daughter of Kelly Anne "Kelli" (Jekanowski) and Gary Trainor, both jewelers. Trainor has two brothers: Ryan (born 1992) and younger brother Justin. Trainor began singing at age six, initially singing with her father at church. She began writing music at age 11, starting with her own arrangement of the song "Heart and Soul" (1938). Trainor attributes her early career progress to being born into a musical family. Trainor's father was a music teacher and musician, and plays organ in a Methodist church. Her great-uncle Bob LaPalm was in a prior band with Al Anderson of the rock band NRBQ, and Trainor's aunt and Trinidadian uncle, Lisa and Burton Toney, are soca music performers and songwriters.

At age 11, Trainor told her father that she wanted to become a recording artist and began writing songs, recording them using GarageBand from her MacBook. "She did a lot by ear," her mother recalls. Her father encouraged her to explore various musical genres. At age 12, Trainor began performing as part of Island Fusion, an "all-purpose party band" which performed covers, soca music, and Trainor's compositions. The band included her aunt, her younger brother, and her father. Trainor played piano, guitar, and bongo drum, and sang with the band

for four years. By age 13, Trainor had written her first original song, "Give Me a Chance". When she was in the eighth grade, the family left Nantucket. They temporarily relocated to Orleans, Massachusetts before moving to North Eastham, Massachusetts, where the children attended Nauset Regional High School. At Nauset Regional High, Trainor studied guitar and was a substitute cheerleader. Additionally, Trainor sang and played trumpet in a jazz band for three years.

While she was still a teenager, Trainor's parents encouraged her to attend songwriting conventions, and they took her to venues where production companies were searching for new artists and songwriters. At age 15, she took guitar lessons from former NRBQ band member Johnny Spampinato. During this time, Trainor used Logic Studio to record and produce her compositions, and later worked independently from a home studio that her parents constructed for her.

Between the ages of 15 and 17, Trainor independently released three albums of material she wrote, recorded and performed herself. Her eponymous debut album, Meghan Trainor, was released on December 25, 2009, receiving airplay from local radio station WCIB. Trainor enrolled in the Summer Performance Program at the Berklee College of Music during the summer of 2009 and 2010, reaching the finals of the program's songwriting competition. Trainor released "Take Care of Our Soldiers" on April 16, 2010, a charity single in support of American troops abroad. In 2011, Trainor released two acoustic albums, I'll Sing with You and Only 17. During this time, she received the accolade for Best Female Artist at the 2009 International Acoustic Music Awards, and the Grand

Prize at the 2010 New Orleans Songwriter's Festival, the 2011 Tennessee Concerts Song Contest and John Lennon Love Song Songwriting Contest.

At a music conference in Colorado, Trainor was introduced to former NRBQ member, Al Anderson. Impressed by Trainor's songwriting ability, Anderson referred Trainor to his publisher, Carla Wallace at Big Yellow Dog Music, urging Wallace to sign Trainor. At this time, Trainor was offered a full scholarship to the Berklee College of Music; however, Trainor decided to forego college to pursue a career in songwriting instead. Wallace offered Trainor a publishing deal with Nashville-based Big Yellow Dog Music, which Trainor signed at age 17. She began her career as a songwriter-for-hire in part due to her ability to write in a number of genre styles. She gravitated to song publishing, unsure of herself as a recording artist. "She thought she was one of the chubby girls who would never be an artist," her father recalls. Trainor graduated from Nauset Regional High School in 2012. Her second single, "Who I Wanna Be", was released on April 24, 2012.

Throughout 2013, Trainor traveled to Nashville, New York City and Los Angeles, where she would write and help produce country and pop music. She would also sing lead and background vocals for demos of other artists, with her vocals occasionally making the final cut. She later earned her first songwriting royalties by penning for artists from Italy and Denmark. In June 2013, Trainor met producer Kevin Kadish in Nashville through a referral from Wallace and a mutual friend. Kadish and Trainor shared a love for retro style music and began recording

together that month. Trainor later became frustrated with commuting to Los Angeles for songwriting sessions. Her parents did not want her to relocate, describing a move there as expensive. In November 2013, Trainor decided to relocate to Nashville instead. There, she wrote songs for a number of acts, including Hunter Hayes, Rascal Flatts, R5, and Sabrina Carpenter.

Kadish and Trainor co-wrote "All About That Bass" in 2013. After various record labels declined to have their artists record the song, Trainor recorded the song herself, and performed it on the ukulele for Epic Records chairman L.A. Reid. Trainor hired Troy Carter as her manager. "All About That Bass" was released on June 30, 2014, and its music video became a viral hit. "All About That Bass" reached number one in 58 countries and became one of the best-selling singles of all time, with worldwide sales of 11 million units as of December 2014.

"All About That Bass" preceded Trainor's debut extended play (EP), *Title*, released on September 9, 2014. It was composed entirely by Trainor and Kadish, and peaked at number 15 on the Billboard 200 and number 17 on the Canadian Albums Chart. Trainor released her second single, "Lips Are Movin" on October 21, 2014. The song's music video was commissioned by Hewlett-Packard, who included Trainor as part of a promotional campaign for their HP Pavilion product. The single peaked at number four on the Billboard Hot 100, making her the fifth female artist to follow up her chart-topping debut hit with another top 5 single. "Lips Are Movin" marked her second top 10 hit in Australia and Canada, and third in New Zealand. In November 2014, she appeared as a guest mentor on

the seventh season of American series *The Voice*. Trainor was listed as the fourth most Trending Music Artist in Google's Year in Search for 2014. Billboard ranked her as the fourth Top New Artist of the year, and placed her 12th on their own 21 Under 21 2014 list.

Sony Music Entertainment requested that Trainor's current publisher, Big Yellow Dog Music, pull Trainor's three self-released albums from circulation in the build-up to her major label debut, *Title*. As a result, *Title* is recognized as Trainor's debut studio album. It acts as a full-length replacement of her EP of the same name, and was released on January 9, 2015. The album debuted atop the U.S. Billboard 200, making her the 13th female artist with a debut number 1 song and album. On March 3, Trainor released the third single from the album called "Dear Future Husband", which eventually peaked within the Hot 100 top 20. Trainor featured in Charlie Puth's first single "Marvin Gaye" which released also in March 2015. Her next single, "Like I'm Gonna Lose You" featuring John Legend, became her second number-one on the Australian Singles Chart and third top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100. Trainor's first headlining concert tour, *That Bass Tour*, began on February 11, 2015, with Australian band Sheppard as the opening act. The album was to be further promoted through the *MTrain Tour*, with Charlie Puth and Life of Dillon as opening acts. It was set to begin on Friday, July 3, 2015. However, around that time or shortly afterward, in July 2015 (the online article did not specify a specific time) she was diagnosed with a vocal cord hemorrhage- a potentially serious but somewhat common event among singers, and was ordered by her medical team to undergo complete vocal rest, which has meant the

cancellation or long delay of at least the first two dates in the MTrain Tour: a Friday performance of July 3, 2015 at the Borgata in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the following Saturday night, the Fourth of July (Independence Day), at the Mohegan Sun, in Uncasville, Connecticut. On August 11, 2015, Trainor announced via social media that she was canceling the remainder of her North American tour due to further vocal cord hemorrhaging and would seek surgery "to finally fix this once and for all." On July 28, 2015, it was announced that Trainor was writing a song for the The Peanuts Movie soundtrack, entitled "Better When I'm Dancin'", which would be sung by herself. "Better When I'm Dancin'", released with an accompanying music video, is also featured on Just Dance 2016's new subscription platform, Just Dance Unlimited. In August 2015, Trainor co-wrote Rascal Flatts' single "I Like the Sound of That". On October 30, 2015, Trainor appeared on Undateable as the musical guest. She also made a cameo appearance as a customer named Meghan. In late 2015, American singer Who Is Fancy released the single "Boys Like You", featuring Trainor and Ariana Grande. Title was the ninth best-selling album of 2015 worldwide, with 1.8 million copies sold according to IFPI.

Trainor revealed to E! Online on January 7, 2016, that her second studio album, Thank You, was almost finished. Trainor told MTV that the album was influenced by Elvis Presley, Aretha Franklin, and Bruno Mars, and features a collaboration between herself and R. City. The album's first single, titled "No", was produced by Ricky Reed and released on March 4, 2016, not long after Trainor won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist. The lead single has so far

peaked at number 3 on the US Billboard Hot 100. Shortly after "No" was released, Trainor released four promotional singles, "Watch Me Do", "I Love Me", "Better (featuring YoGotti)", and "Mom" which features her mother, Kelli Trainor. Starting in July 2016, Trainor will embark on the The Untouchable Tour, in support of the album, with Hailee Steinfeld and Common Kings as opening acts. The album was released exclusively on Apple Music on May 6, 2016, and is scheduled for standard commercial release on May 13, 2016. Her second single from the album, titled "Me Too", was released on May 5, 2016. The accompanying video was released on May 9, 2016, but was later removed that day due to unapproved digital manipulation of Trainor's body. It was corrected to the unedited version and re-released the next day.

ii. **LYRICS**

"Dear Future Husband"

Dear future husband
Here's a few things
You'll need to know if you wanna be
My one and only all my life

(Awwwww)

Take me on a date
I deserve it, babe
And don't forget the flowers every anniversary
'Cause if you'll treat me right
I'll be the perfect wife
Buying groceries
Buy-buying what you need

You got that 9 to 5
But, baby, so do I
So don't be thinking I'll be home and baking apple pies
I never learned to cook
But I can write a hook
Sing along with me
Sing-sing along with me (hey)

You gotta know how to treat me like a lady
Even when I'm acting crazy
Tell me everything's alright

(Awwwww)

Dear future husband,

Here's a few things you'll need to know if you wanna be

My one and only all my life

Dear future husband,

If you wanna get that special lovin'

Tell me I'm beautiful each and every night

After every fight

Just apologize

And maybe then I'll let you try and rock my body right (right)

Even if I was wrong

[Laugh] You know I'm never wrong

Why disagree?

Why, why disagree?

If you gotta know how to treat me like a lady

Even when I'm acting crazy

Tell me everything's alright

Dear future husband,

Here's a few things

You'll need to know if you wanna be

My one and only all my life (hey, baby)

Dear future husband,

Make time for me

Don't leave me lonely

And know we'll never see your family more than mine

I'll be sleeping on the left side of the bed (hey)

Open doors for me and you might get some kisses

Don't have a dirty mind
Just be a classy guy
Buy me a ring
Buy-buy me a ring (babe)

You gotta know how to treat me like a lady
Even when I'm acting crazy
Tell me everything's alright

(Woah! Hey.)

Dear future husband
Here's a few things
You'll need to know if you wanna be
My one and only all my life
Dear future husband,
If you wanna get that special loving
Tell me I'm beautiful each and every night

(That's right!)

Oh-woah

Future husband, better love me right.

"Me Too"

Who's that sexy thing I see over there?
That's me, standin' in the mirror
What's that icy thing hangin' 'round my neck?
That's gold, show me some respect

I thank God every day
That I woke up feelin' this way
And I can't help lovin' myself
And I don't need nobody else, nuh uh

If I was you, I'd wanna be me too
I'd wanna be me too
I'd wanna be me, too
If I was you, I'd wanna be me too
I'd wanna be me too
I'd wanna be me, too

I walk in like a dime piece
I go straight to V.I.P.
I never pay for my drinks
My entourage behind me
My life's a movie, Tom Cruise
So bless me, baby, achoo
And even if they tried to
They can't do it like I do

I thank God every day
That I woke up feelin' this way
And I can't help lovin' myself

And I don't need nobody else, nuh uh

If I was you, I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me, too

If I was you, I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me, too

(Turn the bass up)

Turn the bass up

(Turn the bass up)

Let's go!

I thank God every day

That I woke up feelin' this way

And I can't help lovin' myself

And I don't need nobody else, nuh uh

If I was you, I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me, too

If I was you, I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me, too

If I was you, I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

If I was you, I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

I'd wanna be me too

"NØ"

I think it's so cute and I think it's so sweet
How you let your friends encourage you to try and talk to me
But let me stop you there, oh, before you speak
"Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No"

My name is "No"
My sign is "No"
My number is "No"
You need to let it go
You need to let it go
Need to let it go
"Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No"

First you gonna say
You ain'trunnin' game,
Thinkin' I'm believing every word
Call me beautiful,
So original,
Telling me I'm not like other girls

I was in my zone
Before you came along,
Now I'm thinking maybe you should go
Blah, blah, blah,
I be like "Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No"

All my ladies, listen up
If that boy ain't giving up

Lick your lips and swing your hips
Girl, all you gotta say is...

My name is "No"
My sign is "No"
My number is "No"
You need to let it go
You need to let it go
Need to let it go
"Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No"

Thank you in advance,
I don't wanna dance (nope)
I don't need your hands all over me
If I want a man,
Then I'mma get a man
But it's never my priority

I was in my zone,
Before you came along,
Don't want you to take this personal
Blah, blah, blah,
I be like "Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No"

All my ladies, listen up
If that boy ain't giving up
Lick your lips and swing your hips
Girl, all you gotta say is...

My name is "No"

My sign is "No"
My number is "No"
You need to let it go
You need to let it go
Need to let it go
"Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No"

I'm feeling untouchable, untouchable
I'm feeling untouchable, untouchable
I'm feeling untouchable, untouchable
I'm feeling
("Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No")

All my ladies, listen up
If that boy ain't giving up
Lick your lips and swing your hips
Girl, all you gotta say is...

My name is "No"
My sign is "No"
My number is "No"
You need to let it go
You need to let it go
Need to let it go
"Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No"

I'm feeling untouchable, untouchable
I'm feeling untouchable, untouchable
I'm feeling untouchable, untouchable
I'm feeling
"Nah" to the "Ah" to the "No", "No", "No", "No"