

Lil Nas X: A Corpus Analysis on Mental Health Signs and Negative Lyrics

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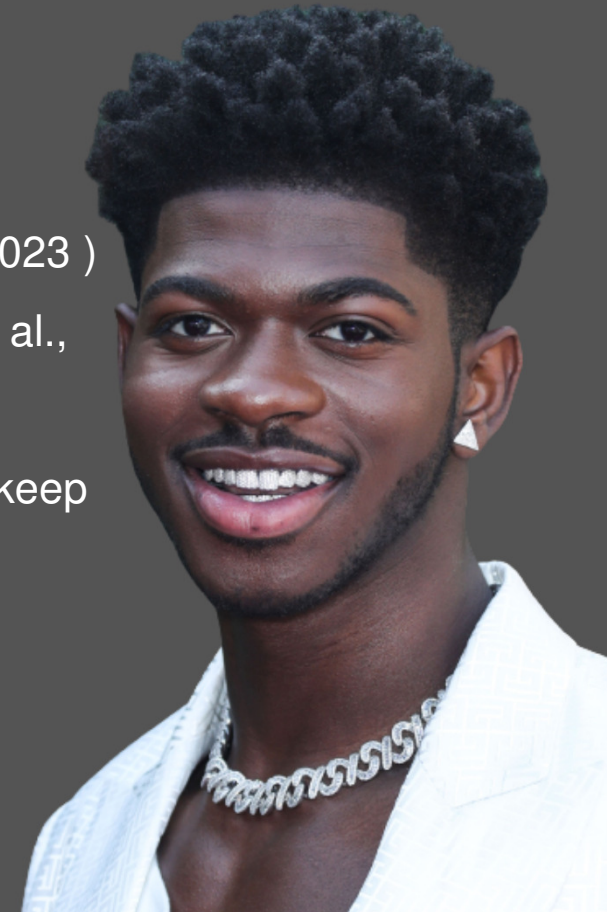
Contribution

Motivation

Why was this study conducted?

- Suicide rates among celebrities are increasing. (Kristina Robb-Dover, 2020)
- Since 2000s: more than 100 influencers took their own life. (Lydia, February 2023)
- Lyrics embody a form of storytelling and emotional exploration. (Ussolichah et al., 2021)
- No researches have been done about rapper **Lil Nas X** while negative words keep appearing in the lyrics.

→ Focus on the mental risks of **Lil Nas X** brought out by his comparable life obstacles



Findings

Before the fame

- ✓ The song lyrics include signs of mental illness, suicidal idea, and references to death and departure.

Career peak

- ✓ Frequent presence of negative words, *death*, *leave*, and *away* in the lyrics.
- ✓ 9 past events coincided with 7 risk factors for mental illness by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Over the time

Findings

- 2021: many words with negative context appeared : "die", "anxious", "fear", "dead", "mistake",...

	Document	Left	Term	Right
+	2021	in my prime	Need an adversary	to my "down to marry
+	2021	becomes predictable	Oh, som...	angry
+	2021	becomes predictable	Oh, som...	angry
+	2021	you're all alone	Sometimes I'm	anxious
+	2021	you're all alone	Sometimes I'm	anxious
+	2021	Your Name)	I caught it	bad
+	2021	I'll treat you like	you're	dead
+	2021	now, Treat you like	you're	dead
+	2021	knowin' that her ass	a	deceiver
+	2021	I get by	Tell the	devil
+	2021	by (get by)	Tell the	devil
+	2021	I been livin'	I'd rather	die
) I'm on your head right
				right now I'm on your
				My mama told me that
				I can't have him inside
				I can't have him inside
				than to live with these

Before the fame

Career peak

Over the time

Findings

Negative context for "Gun" and "Life" - Sun Goes Down

The term "**Life**" :

- Examined in the context of the song: negative connotation,
- Connected with the terms "I don't want a life" and "Send me a gun"

Document	Left	Term	Right
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	a life Send me a	gun	and I'll see the sun
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	a life Send me a	gun	and I'll see the sun
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	a life Send me a	gun	and I'll see the sun
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	a life Send me a	gun	and I'll see the sun
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	lie, I don't want a	life	Send me a gun and
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	lie, I don't want a	life	Send me a gun and
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	an instant ease ...	life	where you got plenty Of
2021- SUN GOES DOWN	But it's much m...	life	than dyin' Over your past

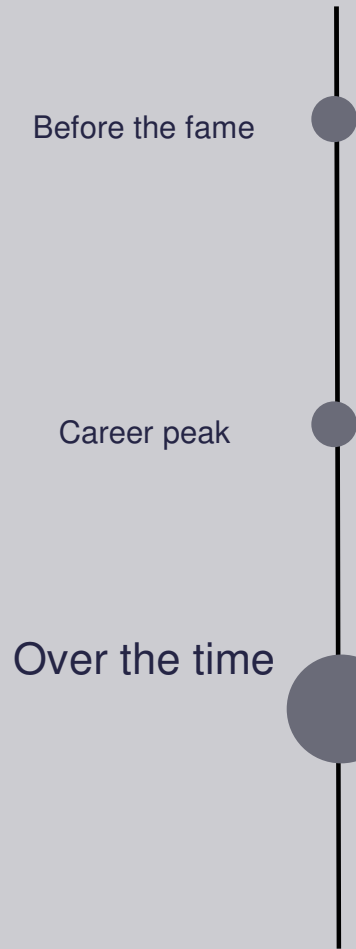
Before the fame

Career peak

Over the time

Findings

Lil Nas X's Experiences That Matched Mental Illness Risk Factors



Mental Illness Risk Factors (Conducted by CDC)

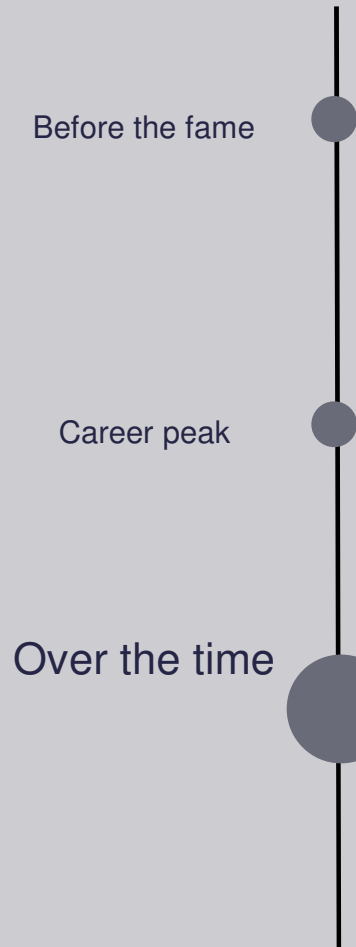
- History of depression/
other mental illness
- Violence victimization
and/or perpetration
- Substance use
- Sense of hopelessness
- Current or prior history
of adverse childhood
experiences
- Loss of relationships

Lil Nas X's Real Life Experiences (Based on series *My Life Story*)

- Hypochondria (2017)
- Try to kill himself (2019)
- Domestic violence (while living with brother)
- Smoking
- Song wasn't going great (2018)
- Mom didn't do well in rehab (2019)
- Living with addicted mom
- Grandmother (during collage)
- Broke up with boyfriend (2019)

Findings

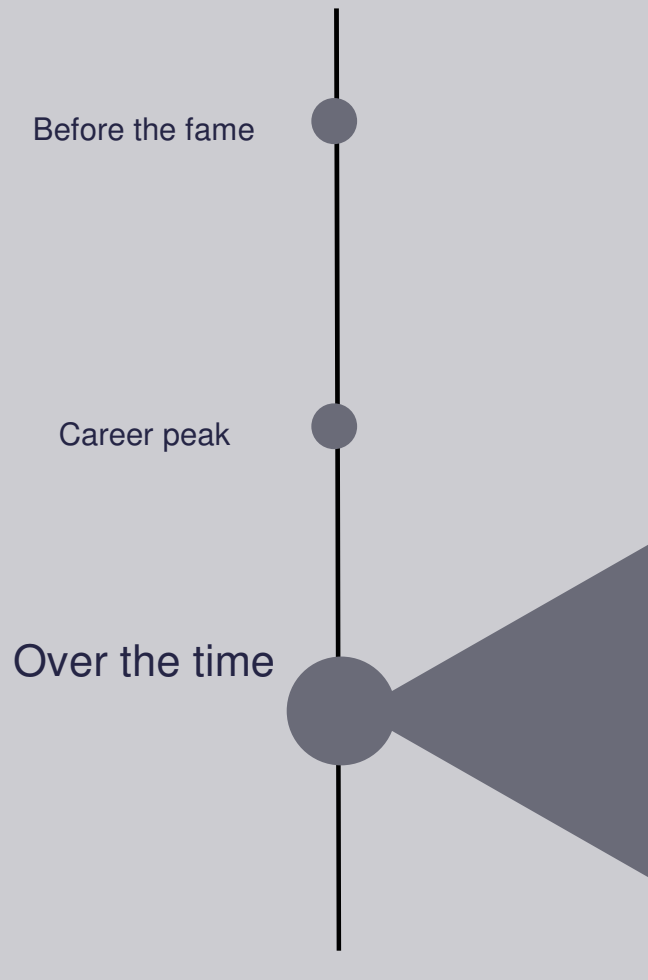
Linguistic Evidences in Lil Nas X's Lyrics Compared to Suicidal Warning Signs by CDC



Warning Signs for Suicide	Linguistic Evidences in Lil Nas X's Lyrics (2019-2022)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being isolated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I'm way too lonely- I'm missing out- just me in my dreams- I've been feelin' lonely- you're all alone- I can't be yours- can't find a love- they don't like me- feelin' small as the salt in the sea
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- don't feel right- oh Blue- I'm stressing at night- I wanna run away- need an instant ease- plenty of every hurt and heartbreak- sometimes you're angry- scary things in my head- I smoked myself to sleep

Findings

Linguistic Evidences in Lil Nas X's Lyrics Compared to Suicidal Warning Signs by CDC



- Expressing hopelessness

- don't leave me in the cold
- I can't even close my eyes
- Whole life was going under
- In this broken home
- nothing like I hoped
- feeling down
- my love is fallin' down
- all of my feelings are gone

- Talking or posting about wanting to die

- to be free
- don't want a life
- send me a gun
- I'll see the sun
- I woulda died
- suicide
- too hard to live
- I'd rather die
- ready to go far
- they want me to die
- rather die than to live
- way to hard to live

Contribution

- ✓ Words uses: a clear demonstration of his poor mental health
- ✓ Bracing the statement: experiencing an adverse childhood life clearly affected the process of molding an individual's personality and thoughts, or led to mental illness
- ✓ Providing: a better understanding of the relationship between negative music and the psychological darkness of music creators and celebrities
- ✓ Contributing to similar future discourses in the broader context of the music industry and celebrity culture

Thank You for Your Attention!

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