

Abstract

This thesis seeks to analyze the phenomenon of fascination with high male voice in contemporary popular culture with regard to the performative aspects of gender identity. Used here as a case study are the music videos of an American artist, Nick Piterra, whose *Youtube* videos have become viral. The thesis is concerned with the ways Piterra uses his head voice, what gender stereotypes he works with and how he challenges them. The analysis of those aspects draws mainly on contemporary gender and feminist theories. This text is also concerned with the visual aspect of Piterra's videos, specifically with how the interplay of image and sound interacts with the viewers' idea of a gender identity. Here, the author draws primarily on the work of the American gender theorist Judith Butler. As a larger context for these thoughts the contemporary interest in a historical phenomenon of castrati is also examined.

Key words: gender, voice, high male voice, performativity