

# An Analytical Study to Examine the Effects of Song-remixes on General Listeners and Music Professionals

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## Abstract

Music is a very important part of the Indian film industry and it is famous for its songs. The songs have been around since the beginning of the Indian film industry. There are legendary music composers who have raised the profile of music in the Indian film industry such as R.D.Burman, A.R.Rahman, Jatin Lalit, Ajay-Atul. People used to watch the movie because of its songs, original songs. But recently a trend has been developing in the Hindi film industry, a practice of recreating the old songs.

It is not that in the past no one re-created the song, but many times everyone handled it carefully and used it out of necessity. But lately it has become a tradition, in almost every movie there is a revised song and they have not treated it well. Some composers have even criticized songs that were repetitive with harsh words.

Indian music has a beautiful and rich history, it is famous all over the world, there are some artists who made Indian music famous all over the world, years ago. In recent times there have been questions about the popularity and quality of the songs. They were famous but because of the wrong things. A trend has recently been introduced in the Indian film industry, which is to re-create songs. This research is about "do people like the remixed songs?". My study will help to understand people's perceptions. Is it good or degrading the quality of music that the Indian film industry produce.

**Keywords:** Old songs, Indian Film Industry, Music Industry, Bollywood, Classics, Music Directors

## Purpose of the study

The purpose of our study is trying to learn systematically, analyze and understand what sound professionals and people from Hindi film industry think about these songs when they listen to these songs. Also whether they like the song remakes trend taking over the art of creating real music. Now a days in almost every film there is a song that is reworked and spoils the original work. Some great music composers have also criticized the remakes of their original songs. Because of these many songs/ original songs they can't find their place in the movies and it's not that these songs help narrative and everything; it always sounds like they add these songs forcefully to these movies. There are some requests that occur online to stop this remake and not just one application, many applications, so listeners are unhappy with the continuation of this trend.

## Background and Significance

This research helps to understand whether remakes are better than the original work or is it just ruining original work. It will also help us understand what musician and sound professional think about these songs & how it is helping or degrading the quality of the music over the years. The study gives an overall thought among the masses belonging to the industry about the song remake trend.

## Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are

- To analyze the opinion of the people about song remakes in the Indian film industry.
- To trace the elements of general popularity of the remix songs
- To analyze the trend through the lenses of music professional.

## Introduction

The Indian film industry has a rich history of more than 100 years. For the past 100 years the Indian film industry has produced memorable films created by leading artists. Over the years the Indian film industry has seen one of the most exciting stories in myths. Contains famous directors such as Satyajit ray, Guru Dutt, Shekhar kapur, Rajkumar Hirani, Zoya Akhtar, Imtiaz Ali and many more, it is an endless list. Over the years these directors have created their own impact and style of discussing memorable characters and songs. In the Indian film industry songs are widely used and also play an important role in storytelling, each director has his own style using Songs in the plot, e.g. In Imtiaz Ali's films, the songs help to further the story. Each song has a deep meaning in the context of the story and if you remove the songs from the story there is no story, this is the way he used it. Everyone has their own way.

There are some music directors and songwriters who have produced original songs that have raised the standards of songs used in Indian cinema. A.R.Rahman, apart from the Oscars & Grammy winners, he has provided real songs that will never be forgotten over the years.

A.R.Rahman turned music into religion. People still listen to his songs repetitively. Lots of music director like A.R.Rahman has done original songs over the years, but more recently there have been music directors who have started remixing old songs, even repeating the same songs over and over again. This has become a habit now.

It's not that there were no modifications in the past. In the film Don (2006), they remade the songs of the real Don, but they never played with it. They are trying to keep it real. But this new remake trend, in almost every movie there is a remake song, with spoiled rap music unnecessarily added & altered characters. Nowadays most remakes with rap are usually unnecessary and some criticize why they change the lyrics of the song, then what is the point if you want only the hook line of the first song, then make original songs. Some music directors even criticized the rehearsal process as a shortcut. A.R. Rahman also criticized the remake trend.

This criticism of these songs does not go away, many budding artists who produce original songs say that they do not get a job because of this practice and those who get a job have to fix some that they do not like. This study helps us to examine what people think about this, whether they hate the practice like other industry experts or like it. Does it improve quality or reduce of the song.

The name of the latest composer Tanishk Bagchi who re-created the song by A.R.Rahman, the song was Masakali for the film Delhi-6. He also received a lot of criticism from other people. Director, songwriter, Artist everyone has criticized Tanishk Bagchi for ruining an old song. Almost every producer wants a song change in their movie, because they think using the old blockbuster will make this song famous sooner, it is not a great idea to re-create it. What is sad about all of this is the filmmakers who support these things. If you count the songs that were remixed over the past few years, the list will be quite long. No one really understood why people re-create, everyone has their own ideas, some think that because of their lack of intelligence, some think they like shortcuts, some think this is a quick success, choose the old.

From 2-3 years almost every film released had a remake song. It's not that human intelligence is dying that's why they use Remkes, most of these people out there who can create the best real music, it's not that easy. It's more than just a sales thing; everyone wants to be redone in their film to make money with the sound of old songs. If people don't like those songs it gets a bad name and can still

get more viewers than a quality album released 7-10 years ago. Ultimately a company or label to achieve what it wants, earns money. From a commercial point of view this redesign is very profitable.

## Review of Literature

After going through various articles and research papers, to learn more about the subject the researcher has found that there are people who discuss this topic, but there is no mention of that measure in music lovers. To the best of my knowledge, no one has done any research on the conversion of songs in Hindi film Industry and had an impact on it. There are forums like Quora, where they discussed the topic but there is no result or conclusion.

The researcher has analyzed a major problem and reached out to the research it gives me. In the previous literature there are common ideas and opinions in it, which are discuss below and present to the reader so that he can better understand it. Going through several articles and discussions about it and the researcher got some information on this topic.

There are three major sources of content that has been reviewed

1. Articles related to the song recreational trend in Bollywood.
2. Conversations / social media stories about song remixes in Bollywood.

## Review of published Articles.

### 1. Bollywood's Remake Raja

In this article Narendra Kusnur of The Hindu, talks about Bollywood remake raja (king), Tanishk Bagchi. His discography includes 61 remixes from the beginning of 2017. He also said that many of his songs were bad and that he used them without composing. His discography includes 'Aankh Maarey' of Simba, 'O saki Saki' from battla house.

Points to consider: -

- A designer, who hasn't come up with any real work in a long time, is still getting a job.
- People with first impressions do not get that much work
- Some famous filmmakers support creative people.

Conclusion-

The author thinks that, enough damage is done with this practice and Enough is Enough.

### 2. Indian Music industry explains why Bollywood is recreating old songs.

This is the title of Mimansa Shekhar of Indian Express. took interviews with some famous artists such as Sonu Nigam, Sunidhi Chauhan, Shibani Kashyap. He wrote in his article about how remake exists in almost all albums.

Speaking to him Shibani Kashyap said he did not understand why people change the lyrics of the songs, because in the end it is a popular song, why they get a hook line and change everything else.

Points to consider: -

- This article provides insight into what think artists and artists working in the Indian film industry think about this situation.
- The shelf life of older songs is often compared to that of repetition once. Reconstruction began as early as the 90s
- Some modern designers try to take shortcuts by redesigning.

Conclusion: -

The author of this article has taken interviews with well-known people in the industry. Everyone thinks recycling is not a good thing in the industry. It's the sound, the shortcuts and all the redesign sounds the same.

### 3. Why Bollywood needs to stop making remixes of classic songs.

This IWMBuzz article talks about how this trend can go wrong for all Bollywood fans! They continue the way Bollywood blindly follows any trend and is now in the process of redoing an old-fashioned song. They also explained that it would be a market strategy to attract a large audience by playing nostalgia. There is a significant number of audiences who liked the redesign and enjoyed that version. There are also some fans who don't like the business thing about it.

Points to consider-

The people have a lot of emotions behind the song and they do not like the idea of remodeling. People do not like to spoil anything; they just listened to it when they were growing up. Going through a lot of news I have found that there is criticism of this practice, people and artists criticize it, and everyone says this practice is unhealthy for the industry and the audience. This helps to achieve commercial success, labels and companies earn a lot of money for this, to a certain extent and attract viewers to the theatre, but for good it does not. People are trampling on innovative music producers, in every possible way. Some people think that the practice will never reach the place of saturation, but some people think that it has already reached the place of saturation. People hated this trend while still labeling and the producer wants to do more of this. There are very mixed reviews on this, but most people hate the practice, listeners are asking to get rid of this style immediately and everyone is asking them to stop wasting songs and to stop ruining their memory with that song.

### Research Methodology

In research it is important to find out which method is most useful in a particular study, as this study "Trend of remake songs in India" requires high-level data collection method for better knowledge and understanding of people's opinions. The measurement method helps us to reach the right conclusion.

This study is largely based on the perception of consumers on the topic "Style of writing songs in the Indian film industry"

A survey is done to find out what people think.

### Nature of Data

There are two types of data classification methods, based on data source.

**Primary data:** Primary data includes data collected by the researcher using different data collection methods.

**Secondary data:** Secondary data is already available data and can be used for analysis. There are 2 other types below.

**a. Internal Source:** Data from a specific field or area in which research is conducted. For example, data collected on published brochures, official results, etc.

**b. External Source:** Data from outside the specified learning environment. For example, data collected from books, newspapers, the Internet, etc.

### Primary Data

Questionnaire method is used for this study by using a variety of questions that include multiple choice questions and definitions, in this research. We have disseminated this research to a target audience to understand what they think about this redundancy trend whether they like it or not.

**Target Group** - In this study the researcher has directed Artists, Sound Professionals and Ordinary Listeners, More focus is given on general music listeners, as it will help to understand what the listener wants to do and what they want to do. Because this article requires people who have some knowledge of music and sound, including artists and audio artists, they can give us a better understanding of the topic and how it affects them.



**Structure of questionnaire** – The questionnaire includes 9 questions with multiple choice questions and open-ended questions. All questions are a mandatory. The reason for giving multiple choice questions is finding the right answers for participants, which helps us to balance the answers. In the study it is easy to conclude the quantitative data because it reflects the participants' tendencies and helps to understand the research problem. Answered questions help us to find the best answer and help us to better understand the pros and cons of a research problem and get an idea of it.

**Sampling method:** Non-probability sampling method.

**Sample Size:** 65 participants regardless of gender and age.

## Variables

In this study there are different types of variables that should be kept in mind before analyzing or understanding the outcome from the questions. This study is based on a quantitative, flexible and quantitative method.

## Hypothesis

A hypothesis is a statement that can be tested by scientific research. If you want to test a relationship between two or more things, you need to write hypotheses before you start your experiment or data collection.

In this research the hypothesis is, “Most of the masses do not love the remake of the old songs.”

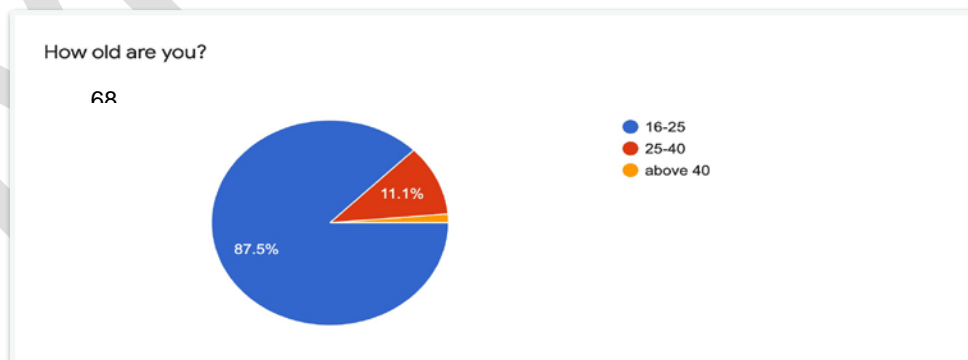
**Null Hypothesis:** “Most of the masses love the remake of old songs.”

## 4. Data Analysis & Appendices

The survey conducted for this study includes a series of selected questions and three open-ended questions to get general information about what the audience thinks about the practice. During data collection the researchers have found 68 mixed responses from enthusiastic listeners, musicians and sound artists.

Q-1: Which age group do you belong to? (68 Responses)

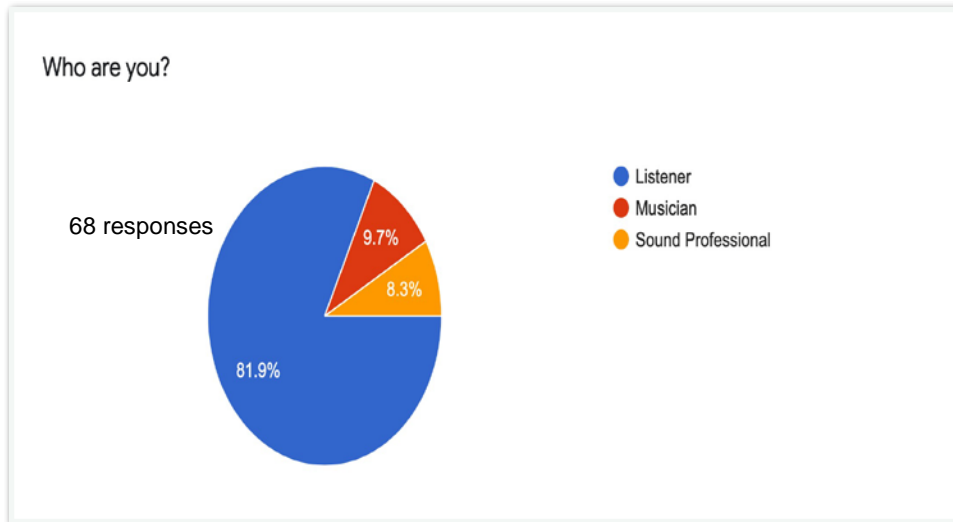
- a) 16-25 (88%)
- b) 25-40 (11%)
- c) Above 40 (1%)



The first question was to fully understand what category of age group the responders belong, it helps us understand what kind of songs they listened according to their age. As we can see from the results majority of the participants are between 16-25 age & after that 25-40. The reason choosing the question was according to the age, we can get results of what songs, remake/ original a particular age group prefers.

Q-2: Who are you? (68 responses)

- a. Listener (82%)
- b. Musician(10%)
- c. Sound Professional (8%)

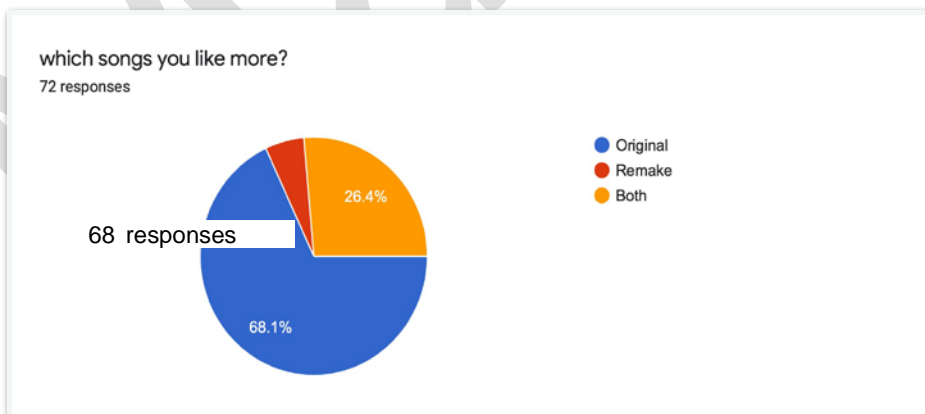


This question helps us to know fully to what category the song listeners the responder belongs. Are they only listeners or they are professionals this gives us better understanding of the knowledge. As you can see the majority of the responses are by listeners & then by musicians & because of this mixed response, we can get better answers and conclusion of the subject.

Q-3: Which kind of songs you like more ? (68 Responses)

- a. Original (68%)
- b. Remake (6%)
- c. Both (26%)

When asked which songs they like more 68% people said they like original songs more than the remakes songs. The result we got from the respondents, it was obvious that people like original songs more

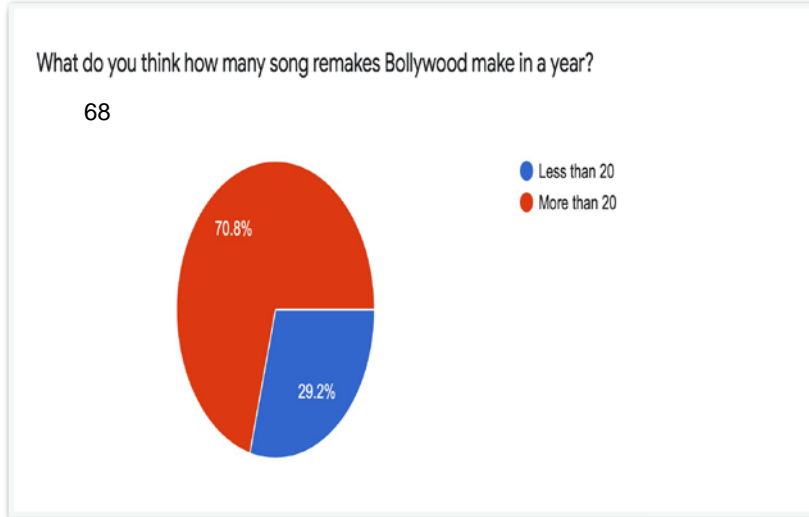


The main research problem was people's preference of the songs & this question justifies it.

Q-4: According to you, how many song remakes Bollywood makes in a year? (68 Response)

- a. Less than 20 (71%)
- b. More than 20 (29%)

This question help to understand the no of remake songs Bollywood makes in year & people's understanding of the same. The response says that Bollywood release more than 20 remakes songs a year & that is correct. In 2021 more than 20 remake songs released in Hindi film Industry .The reason to chose the question is to understand the listeners who listen to remakes knows approximately how much remake songs are released in a year.

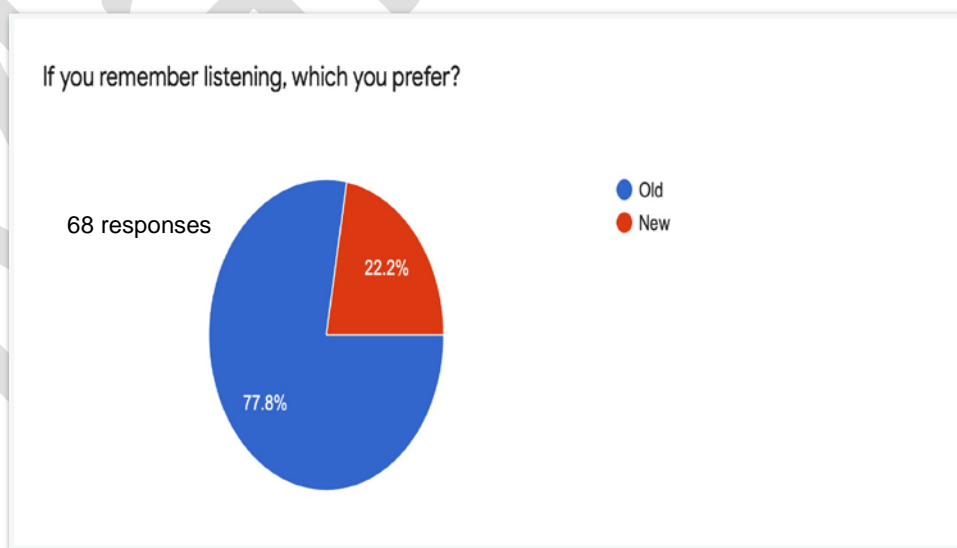


Q-5: Do you remember listening to any certain remake of a song?

This question is directly tied with the next question & that help us understand what song impacted their opinion. The most repeated preferred song was Masakali 2.0. It received lot of criticism. Almost all of the songs in the list received criticism one way or the other & these songs were not good as original according to participants that's why they have given preference to the original one in the next question.

Q- 6: If you remember listening, which one do you prefer? (68 Response)

- Old
- New

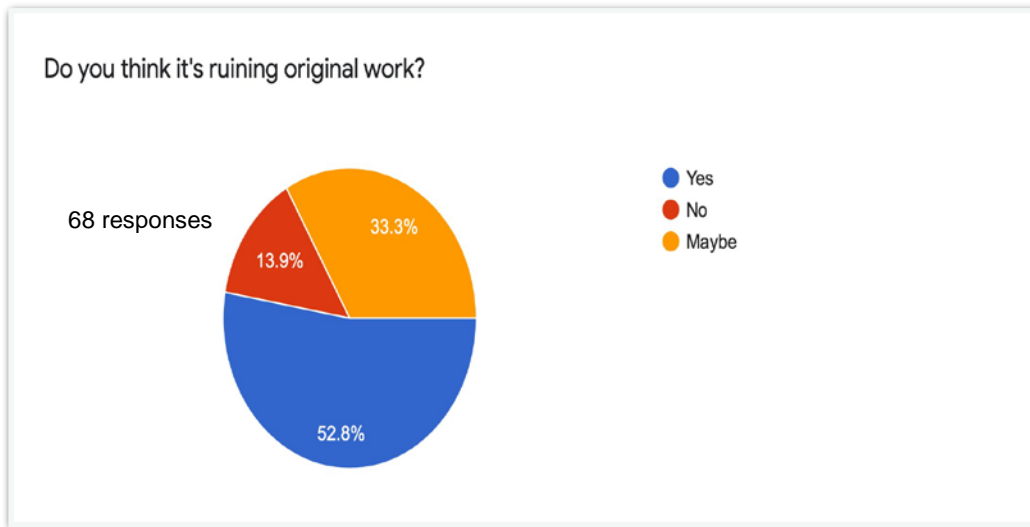


Majority of the respondents liked old songs after listening to a remake, that depends on the which song they heard first original or remake, but when we cross check this with age group most of the people who liked new are belong to category 16-25. The reason selecting this question is to understand what people like after listening to remake, do they still like original or they like remakes.

Q- 7: Do you think it's ruining original work? (68 Response)

- Yes (53%)
- No (33%)
- Maybe (14%)

Most of the respondents think it is running original work & some of them are confused about it they don't know for sure & only 14 % people think that this is not ruining any original work. The result is clear that remakes are ruining original work.



Q-8: And If Yes why ? (42 Response)

This is an open ended question which is kind of follow up by previous question, it is about ruining the original song & if people thinks yes this is ruing the original work then they are supposed to answer this & we will get insight about this.

Some of the insights are given below:

- It doesn't sound natural, old or previous songs and lyrics will stay in our minds and prevent new art from being registered. The new version is a modified version and will also remind the audience of the visual content of the original song video and draw attention to the continuous look.
- Not only did they change the music, they also changed the words and kept the hook line & made it worse.
- Talented new artists would not be encouraged or encouraged to do original songs as long as the re-enactment of the old ones made them famous and financially viable.
- Sometimes it spoils the original design by forcefully adding extra bits and unwanted words
- Because while it is a creative attempt to recreate an old song, it is made in such a way that it does not conform to the legacy of the old song.
- There is nothing less than a violation of old songs as new artists simply copy the lyrics and music of the songs. And even if they do, there is no art in it and nothing is true of the new song.
- The first one is made to fit the story. Music, lyrics and everything about reality are properly and thoughtfully composed.
- Because modern bollywood music hurts the ears rather the original song gives you a pleasant feeling until it cools your mind.
  - And like the exaggerated rhythms, the lyrics, they do not keep the real thing.
  - What will you think if Prabhu Deva remakes Lagaan and Salman Khan again?
  - Yes. That is my answer.



- There is a certain beauty in the first song. The amount of hard work that goes into compiling, recording, recording, mixing and handling is completely insulted when a remix is done.
- Bcz song authenticity is missing. The original song was created a long time ago and let it be in the same mood.

When asked about is it ruing the original song, most of the people said yes & the reason they are given, most of them thinks that the authenticity is gone with the remake & there are some other reasons too. The majority of the people think that this trend is killing the original song and their memories with it.

## Conclusion

This practice of recreating songs has been around in the Hindi film industry for a long time, initially working for some people, but later it began to fail. They have tried to experiment with music, the experiment is important because then we can gain something new, but in this practice they try year after year but never gain anything, the only thing they find later is criticism and hatred.

The conclusion of this research is that 2000's people love re-sung songs, not all but some love re-make of songs, because which song we first hear and what types of songs are trending at the time are also important. The current generation listens to fast and pop songs in particular, because we like more updated songs and probably listen to a newer version first, because we like recreating. Thanks to social media networks like instagram also influence this idea, due to the use of reels, in reels content creators use remake or old songs that influence them to like or make a new version of it. This practice of recreating songs has a huge trade-off because it is ultimately about money.

People in the 90s or people born before that listen more to the original song of great artists, composers; over the years. They love those original songs rather than remake and have memories of some of the songs, they don't like the person playing those memories, this is one of the reasons they hate re-enactment. According to them the conversion kills the soul of the original song & remakes the pain in the ears. People sign online requests to stop the practice, which is not a mistake because it degrades the quality of music. If you look at the results of the study more than 60% of people hate this practice, some do.

## Limitations

This study was done by a limited number of participants from a limited area. This barely scrapes the surface of this very powerful concept. It needs to be thoroughly researched by the future researcher and students to know more about it.

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