**Dealing with a Music Video Review**

Tasks:

1. *Watch the music video clip of the song „Because of You“ by Kelly Clarkson at least twice.*
2. *Read the review that was written by an experienced reviewer. Look up the words that you do not know.*
3. *Pick three aspects from the review that you either find very important or do not agree with. Explain why you chose these aspects.*

**Review of the music video clip “Because of You”**

The music video clip of the song “Because of You” by Kelly Clarkson from 2004 tells the story of a young woman, played by the artist. The video’s setting is the house of a young woman and her family. She is the main character of the music video. At the beginning, we see her in the kitchen. She has an argument with her husband. They are yelling at each other. Then we see her on the way out of the house. It seems that she wants to leave him. He follows her in the hallway. In his hand he has a framed picture. It shows the family: mother, father, and their daughter. He is so angry about his wife that he wants to smash the picture. At this moment, the film freezes. However, Kelly Clarkson can step out of the freeze frame. She goes back and meets a little girl. It is herself as a child. She takes the girl by the hand, and together they see how her parents are constantly arguing. After several disappointing situations and fights, the father finally leaves the family. Sadly she watches him drive away.

At this point the memory-part ends, and the grown-up Kelly Clarkson goes back to where the scene with her husband froze. She steps back into the picture. Instead of leaving the house, she embraces her husband, and they make up. He does not smash the picture, and together they see their little daughter. They go towards her and lift her up.

The most important object in the video is the picture frame with the picture of the family. The way it is presented makes it look like a symbol: It symbolizes the intactness of the family. The colours are not very bright in this video, and the light is often fairly dim. This underlines the seriousness of the situation in the present. In the part that takes place in the past, the colours are even less bright and seem faded. This makes the viewer realize that this is the woman’s memory and not the present. It also shows that the story of her childhood was even bleaker than the present.

The lyrics of the song deal with the singer’s bad feelings in connection with her father. The entire song is addressed to him. In the refrain she says: “Because of you I never stray too far from the sidewalk. Because of you I learned to play on the safe side so I don't get hurt.” At first glance, this sounds thankful, because it seems that her father wanted to protect her. But then she says: “Because of you I find it hard to trust not only me, but everyone around me. Because of you I am afraid.” This is more like an accusation. The melody of the refrain is not simple but singable. It is also dramatic and haunting.

In the stanzas the singer tells how bad she feels, because she could not deal with the father’s behaviour and death when she was a child. At the very beginning of the song, she says: “I will not make the same mistakes that you did. I will not let myself cause my heart so much misery.” This is probably the most important statement of the song. In combination with the video it expresses that she does not want to put her own child into the trouble that her parents, particularly her father, put her in. The song’s tempo is slow, and its beat is regular and very distinct. In combination with the melody, tempo and beat make the song sound mournful and accusatory. The song makes the listener realize how much a child can suffer from their parents’ bad marriage and divorce. The video also shows that it can easily happen that people unknowingly repeat their parents’ behaviour and mistakes. However, the video ends on a positive note, because the couple gets back together. In my opinion, the filmmakers succeed in transporting the message: “Reflect your own behaviour critically, try to overcome the conflicts with your partner, and do not break up so easily.”

Although it is mostly sad, I like this video because of its message. Also, it is realistic, but ends in a positive way. I think the video has an effect on the viewer, because the viewer feels empathy with the little girl. I like the idea that the viewer needs to think about how a child may feel, and what effect bad experiences can have in later life. I also like the idea that couples can make up, even after a serious fight.