SCSMT 2020 || **Prosodic Dissonance in Pop Music** || Eron S.

This handout is designed as a resource for people not attending the talk. All the content below except the references are presented on my slides. For a copy of my slides, please contact me: <u>esmith49@u.rochester.edu</u>

Definitions

Prosodic dissonance: mismatch between the linguistic stress of a word and its metric placement

Stress discrepancy rule: The stronger the metric position coupled with a weaker syllable, or the weaker the metric position coupled with a stronger syllable, the more prosodically dissonant an event will sound.

Associated phenomena:

- **Vowel reduction:** schwas on musical strong beats or schwas on accented syllables in the text can increase the feeling of prosodic dissonance
- **Syncopation:** phenomenal accents / syncopation affect whether and how much a lyric is prosodically dissonant
- **Parallelism:** we assume that a repeated musical pattern will correspond to a repeated prosodic pattern
- **Rhyme creation:** prosodic dissonance is commonly used to create or force a weak-syllable rhyme scheme
- **Syllable length:** altering the relative duration of syllables as spoken can enhance the sense of prosodic dissonance

Transcribed Examples

Katy Perry, "Unconditionally" (2013), chorus

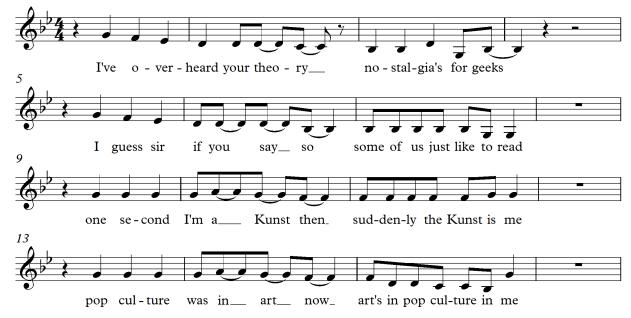


Taylor Swift, "...Ready For It?" (2017), bridge





Lady Gaga, "Applause" (2013), second verse



5 Seconds of Summer, "Easier" (2019), prechorus



Lady Gaga, "Applause" synthesizer during second verse





Janelle Monáe, "Make Me Feel" (2018), second half of first verse

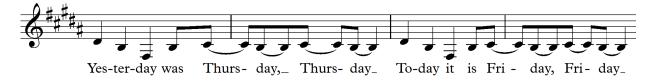
Taylor Swift, "You Need to Calm Down" (2019), first verse



Zedd and Kehlani, "Good Thing" (2019), first verse



Rebecca Black, "Friday" (2011), bridge



Bibliography

*n.b. To reference this talk, please use she/her pronouns and cite the author by <u>first</u> name.

Adams, Kyle. 2008. "Aspects of the Music/Text Relationship in Rap." Music Theory Online 14, no. 2.

Adams, Kyle. 2009. "On the Metrical Techniques of Flow in Rap Music." Music Theory Online 15, no. 5.

- **Attridge**, Derek. 1995. *Poetic Rhythm: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- **Gordon,** Reyna L., Cyrille L. **Magne**, and Edward W. **Large**. 2011. "EEG Correlates of Song Prosody: A New Look at the Relationship between Linguistic and Musical Rhythm." *Frontiers in Psychology* 2: 352ff.
- **Griffiths,** Dai. 2003. "From Lyric to Anti-Lyric: Analyzing the Words in Pop Song." In Analyzing Popular Music, ed. Allan F. Moore. Cambridge University Press: 39-59.
- Halle, John and Fred Lerdahl. 1993. "A Generative Textsetting Model." Current Musicology 55: 3-23.
- **Hayes,** Bruce. 2009. "Textsetting as Constraint Conflict." In *Towards a Typology of Poetic Forms: From Language to Metrics and Beyond*, ed. Jean-Louis **Aroui**, and Andy **Arleo**. John Benjamins Publishing: 43-62.
- **Heffner,** Christopher C. and L. Robert **Slevc**. 2015. "Prosodic Structure as a Parallel to Musical Structure." *Frontiers in Psychology* 6: 1962ff.
- **Komaniecki,** Robert. 2017. "Analyzing Collaborative Flow in Rap Music." *Music Theory Online* 23, no. 4.
- **Komaniecki,** Robert. 2019. "Vocal Pitch in Rap Music." Presentation at Music Theory Southeast, Music Theory Midwest, and Society for Music Theory annual meetings.
- **Krebs**, Harald. 1999. Fantasy Pieces: Metrical Dissonance in the Music of Robert Schumann. Oxford University Press.
- Lee, Christopher S., Lucinda Brown, and Daniel Müllensiefen. 2017. "The Musical Impact of Multicultural London English (MLE) on Speech Rhythm." *Music Perception* 34, no. 4: 452-481.
- **Lerdahl**, Fred. 2003. "Essay: Two Ways in Which Music Relates to the World." *Music Theory* Spectrum 25, no. 2: 367–373.
- **Lerdahl**, Fred. 2001. "The Sounds of Poetry Viewed as Music." Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences 930, no. 1: 337–54.

Lerdahl, Fred and Ray S. Jackendoff. 1996. A Generative Theory of Tonal Music. MIT Press.

- **Ohriner,** Mitchell S. 2019. "Lyric, Rhythm, and Non-alignment in the Second Verse of Kendrick Lamar's 'Momma.'" *Music Theory Online* 25, no. 1.
- **Palmer,** Caroline, and Michael H. **Kelly**. 1992. "Linguistic Prosody and Musical Meter in Song." Journal of Memory and Language 31, no. 4: 525–542.
- **Pau,** Andrew. 2015. "Sous le rythme de la chanson': Rhythm, Text, and Diegetic Performance in Nineteenth-Century French Opera." *Music Theory Online* 21, no. 3.
- Perricone, Jack. 2018. Great Songwriting Techniques. Oxford University Press.
- **Proto,** Teresa. 2015. "Prosody, Melody and Rhythm in Vocal Music: The Problem of Textsetting in a Linguistic Perspective." *Linguistics in the Netherlands*: 116-129.
- **Reed,** Alissandra, Braden **Maxwell**, and David **Temperley**. 2019. "P2-44 Cognitive Coupling of Stress and Meter." Poster presented at Society for Music Perception and Cognition meeting, August 10. Accessed on OSF.
- **Rodgers,** Stephen. 2015. "The Fourth Dimension of a Song." *Music Theory Spectrum* 37, no. 1: 144–153.
- **Rodríguez-Vázquez**, Rosalía. 2010. "Text-setting Constraints: A Comparative Perspective." Australian Journal of Linguistics 30, no. 1: 19-34.
- **Rosenblum**, Mathew. 1992. *Vocal Music: Phonetics, Phonology, and Musical Structure.* PhD diss. Princeton University.
- **Salley,** Keith. 2011. "On the Interaction of Alliteration with Rhythm and Metre in Popular Music." *Popular Music* 30, no. 3: 409-432.
- **Schreuder,** Maartje. 2006. *Prosodic Processes in Language and Music.* Ph.D. diss, Rijkuniversiteit Groningen, School of Behavioral and Cognitive Neurosciences.
- **Temperley,** David. 2018. The Musical Language of Rock. Oxford University Press.
- **Temperley,** Nicholas, and David **Temperley**. 2013. "Stress-meter Alignment in French Vocal Music." *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 134, no. 1: 520–527.
- **Thomas,** Margaret E. 2016. "Text and Temporality: Toward an Understanding of Rhythmic Irregularities in the Music of Tom Waits." *Music Theory Online* 22, no. 4.
- **Wennerstrom**, Ann. 2001. *The Music of Everyday Speech: Prosody and Discourse Analysis*. Oxford University Press.
- **Williams,** Justin A. 2009. "Beats and Flows: A Response to Kyle Adams, 'Aspects of the Music/Text Relationship in Rap." *Music Theory Online* 15, no. 2.