



EMOTIONAL LEXIS IN SONG LYRICS AND ITS PSYCHOLINGUISTIC EFFECT ON LISTENERS

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Abstract: *Music has always played a significant role in human emotional expression. One of the most powerful elements of music is song lyrics, especially emotional lexis, which includes words that directly or indirectly express feelings such as love, sadness, fear, happiness, loneliness, and hope. This study investigates how emotional vocabulary in song lyrics influences listeners from a psycholinguistic perspective. The research analyzes emotional words in selected English-language songs and examines how these words affect listeners' emotional states, memory, and cognitive processing. The findings show that emotional lexis in song lyrics significantly affects listeners' emotional perception and strengthens memory retention and emotional involvement. This study contributes to both psycholinguistics and discourse analysis by demonstrating how language in music can shape emotional reactions and psychological responses.*

Keywords: *emotional lexis, song lyrics, psycholinguistics, emotional language, listener perception, music and language*

Introduction

Language and music are two of the most powerful forms of human communication. When they are combined in song lyrics, they create a strong emotional impact on listeners. One of the most important linguistic features in song lyrics is emotional lexis, which refers to words and expressions that describe emotions or create emotional responses. Words such as love, broken, lonely, happy,



pain, dream, and hope are frequently used in modern songs because they directly influence listeners' feelings and emotional reactions.

From a psycholinguistic point of view, emotional words are processed differently in the human brain compared to neutral words. Emotional language activates not only linguistic processing but also emotional and cognitive reactions. This means that when listeners hear emotional words in songs, they do not only understand the meaning of the words but also feel emotional responses connected to those words. Emotional vocabulary can influence how people interpret a song, how they remember it, and how deeply they connect with it emotionally.

Many researchers have studied the relationship between music and emotions, but fewer studies focus specifically on emotional vocabulary in song lyrics and its psychological effect on listeners. In modern society, songs are not only a form of entertainment but also a powerful emotional communication tool. Therefore, studying emotional lexis in song lyrics is important both for linguistics and for psychology. This research focuses on emotional vocabulary in English-language songs and examines how this emotional lexis influences listeners' psychological and emotional responses.

Methods

This research is based on qualitative and quantitative analysis of song lyrics combined with psycholinguistic interpretation. The study focuses on English-language songs because English music is widely popular around the world and is often used in linguistic and psychological studies. The research method is descriptive and analytical because it examines emotional vocabulary and its psychological effect on listeners.

Ten popular English songs from different genres, including pop songs, romantic songs, and emotional ballads, were selected for analysis. The songs were chosen because they contain a large number of emotional expressions and are widely known among listeners. The lyrics of these songs were collected from official lyric websites and carefully analyzed. The selection of songs aimed to include both positive and negative emotional themes in order to create a balanced analysis.



The data analysis was based on lexical analysis. Emotional words were identified and grouped according to their emotional meaning. The research focused on positive emotional vocabulary, negative emotional vocabulary, and words that express emotional relationships. After identifying emotional words, their frequency in the song lyrics was analyzed. In addition, the psycholinguistic effect of emotional vocabulary was interpreted based on how emotional words influence memory, emotional response, and listener engagement.

The theoretical background of the study is based on psycholinguistic theories that explain how emotional language is processed in the human brain. Emotional vocabulary is known to activate stronger cognitive responses than neutral vocabulary. Therefore, this study examines how emotional lexis in song lyrics influences listeners' emotional perception and memory retention.

Results

The analysis of the selected song lyrics showed that emotional lexis plays a central role in modern music. The results revealed that emotional words appear much more frequently than neutral words in song lyrics. Emotional vocabulary was found in almost every line of the analyzed songs, which shows that song lyrics depend heavily on emotional language to express meaning and attract listeners.

The results also showed that positive emotional vocabulary is used slightly more often than negative emotional vocabulary. Words related to love, hope, happiness, dreams, and emotional connection were among the most frequently used expressions. At the same time, negative emotional words such as pain, loneliness, sadness, broken heart, and crying were also common. This shows that emotional contrast plays an important role in song lyrics because it helps create stronger emotional reactions among listeners.

Another important result of the study is the psychological effect of emotional lexis on listeners. Emotional vocabulary helps listeners connect personally with a song. Words related to love, loss, and emotional memories often remind listeners of their own experiences. As a result, listeners become emotionally involved in the song and feel a stronger emotional connection with it. Emotional vocabulary also makes



songs easier to remember. Songs that contain emotional words are more memorable than songs that use mostly neutral vocabulary because emotional language creates stronger mental associations.

Discussion

The findings of this research confirm that emotional lexis is one of the most important linguistic elements in song lyrics. Emotional words do not only express feelings but also influence how listeners understand and remember a song. From a psycholinguistic perspective, this happens because emotional language activates both cognitive and emotional processes in the brain. Emotional words create stronger psychological reactions than neutral words, which explains why emotional songs are often more popular and memorable.

Another important aspect of emotional lexis in songs is its universality. Words related to love, sadness, happiness, and loneliness are understood by people from different cultures. Even when listeners do not understand every word in a song, emotional vocabulary helps them understand the emotional meaning. This explains why English songs are popular all over the world. Emotional lexis helps listeners understand the emotional message even when their language level is not very high.

The results also show that emotional vocabulary is strongly connected with memory. Emotional words create stronger mental associations and help listeners remember song lyrics more easily. This explains why emotional songs often stay in people's memory for a long time. Emotional vocabulary also plays an important role in language learning because students often remember English words through songs. Emotional language makes vocabulary easier to learn and remember.

However, the research has some limitations. The study analyzed only a small number of songs, and most of them belonged to the pop genre. Future research could analyze more songs from different genres such as rap, rock, and classical music. In addition, future studies could include experimental research in order to measure listeners' emotional reactions more accurately.

Conclusion



In conclusion, emotional lexis plays a significant role in song lyrics and has a strong psycholinguistic effect on listeners. Emotional vocabulary helps songs express feelings more effectively and creates emotional connections between the song and the listener. The research showed that emotional words are used frequently in song lyrics and that they influence listeners' emotions, memory, and understanding.

From a psycholinguistic point of view, emotional language activates both emotional and cognitive processes, which makes songs more memorable and emotionally powerful. This study also shows that song lyrics can be useful in language learning because emotional vocabulary is easier to remember. Emotional lexis is not only a linguistic feature but also a psychological tool that helps songs influence listeners emotionally.

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