Music or Lyrics? Individual differences associated with listening strategies

by

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Music or Lyrics? Individual differences associated with listening strategies

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Background:
Musical experiences and engagement strategies are known to be modulated by individual differences. On one end, lyrics are crucial in contributing to musical enjoyment for many, while for some it is all about the way music sounds; the voice becomes yet another timbre irrespective of the content. However, to the best of our knowledge, there have been no studies to identify individuals and their underlying traits that might be associated with such engagement in addition to the type of musical reward.

Aims:
This study aims to first formulate a tool to identify an individual’s natural affinity towards appreciation of music vs lyrics and identify personality traits (including empathic and emotional traits) associated with the same.

Method:
A six-item Music-or-Lyrics scale (MoLS) was first developed in order to quantify an individual’s inclination to focus on music vs lyrics. After further pruning of the MoLS, 318 Participants (Age M = 32 years, SD = 12.45, 138 male), recruited through university mailing lists and Prolific, completed an online survey comprising the MoLS, Big-Five Inventory, Interpersonal Reactivity Index, Emotional Contagion Scale, and Barcelona Music Reward Questionnaire (BMRQ).

Results:
The MoLS scores revealed a Cronbach alpha of 0.74 and a bimodal distribution with the majority falling into the ‘Lyrical’ category. We divided the participants into ‘Lyrical’ or ‘Musical’ categories based on the medians of the two modes of the MoLS scores, resulting in 73 lyrical and 40 musical participants. Cronbach’s alphas were found to be at an acceptable level (i.e., alpha ≥ 0.7) for all the variables except one factor of BMRQ with a borderline acceptable alpha of 0.65. Mann-Whitney U tests to assess group differences with significance estimation via bootstrapping with replacement, revealed that the ‘Musical’ group had significantly higher trait Openness to experience \(U=1126.5, p < 0.05\) and Conscientiousness \(U = 1117.5, p<0.05\), as well as higher trait empathy (Fantasy; \(U =1086. p<0.05\)).

Conclusions:
The traits Openness to experience and Fantasy have previously been associated with an individual’s emotional reactivity to music (Vuokskoski et al., 2011, Music Perception). Also, higher predilection for genres like jazz that are characterized by fewer lyrics has been associated with Openness and Conscientiousness (Andersen et al., 2020, Social Psychological and Personality Science). The current study extends these findings to a preferential focus on music versus lyrics from personality to empathic traits. These findings have significant implications for the field of music recommendation since individual differences related to personality are associated with music preferences.
References:


Keywords: individual differences, music listening strategies, lyrics vs music, empathy, personality
Edited to get under 400

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References:


https://pureportal.strath.ac.uk/en/publications/a-psychological-approach-to-understanding-the-varied-f unctions-th?fbclid=IwAR1eWlzp1MK78GHEQ3i2LgSwkjjxjmcQV-g317dx43TMqtc_qWlm1w9O0xU

Music is heard by people daily in many parts of the world, and affects people in various ways from emotion regulation to cognitive development, along with providing a means for self-expression. Music training has been shown to help improve intellectual development and ability, though no connection has been found as to how it affects emotion regulation. Numerous studies have been conducted to show that individual personality can have an effect on music preference, mostly using personality, though a recent meta-analysis has shown that personality in itself explains little variance in music
preferences. These studies are not limited to American culture, as they have been conducted with significant results in countries all over the world, including Japan, Germany, and Spain.

Background
People listen to music on a regular basis such as during their daily commute, while working or going to the gym. Studies so far investigate the association between personality and music genres. However, little is known on whether people prefer to listen to the lyrics, music of the song, or put both in equal regard. Should I include score developed and describe the personality measures?

Aim
The goal is to find the relationship between the personality of the person and their preference towards music or lyrics.

Anant wrote:
The several cues explored in this study were related to musical engagement strategies, reward from listening to music, emotional contagion, empathy and broad personality traits.

Results
Cronbach alpha - After analysing the distribution of scores, participants with scores lesser than equal to 4 were classified as lyrical and greater than equal to 10 were classified as Musical. Reason?
(positively correlated with 'extraversion' personality factor, Which Alpha to mention?)

Bimodal distribution (4, 9)
Mann-Whitney U tests were conducted to investigate the differences between the Personality of Musical participants against Lyrical. This revealed higher scores for Musical Participants with (IRI) Fantasy Scale (U = 1086. α = 0.024). While comparing (BIFI) personality factors Musical participants had higher scores for Openness (U = 1126.5, α = 0.022569617370123043) and Conscientiousness (U = 1117.5, α = 0.01988434778103175) as well. The validity of the alpha coefficient obtained from the Mann-Whitney U tests was verified by running the Monte-Carlo experiment 10000 times.

Conclusion

➢ The other didn't show any significant results and none we were able to generate for lyrical?
➢ taps respondents' tendencies to transpose themselves imaginatively into the feelings and actions of fictitious characters in books, movies, and play

1]https://www.npr.org/sections/allsongs/2013/05/29/187168874/the-good-listener-whats
People listen to music on a regular basis such as during their daily commute, while working or going to the gym and affects people in various ways from emotion regulation to cognitive development, along with providing a means for self-expression. The type of music people prefer also varies with respect to the genre, melody, rhythm, beats and bass. Studies so far investigate the association between personality and music genres. However little is known on whether people prefer to listen to the lyrics or music of the song. In our study we conduct various tests to determine the relation between a person's personality and the influence it has on their preference towards lyrics and music. The various statistical tests conducted were Kruskal Wallis Test, Mann-Whitney Test, Spearmen Test and Monte Carlo Simulation. Multiple personality measures such as HUMS - Healthy Unhealthy Musical Score, BMRQ - Barcelona Music Reward Questionnaire, IRI - Interpersonal Reactivity Index, EC - Emotional Contagion Scale, BIFI - Big Five Inventory of individuals were recorded to assess the personality of the individuals. The reason behind considering many Personality measures was to ensure that all personality traits can be accounted for. A four items questionnaire containing situational questions were carefully designed after doing a qualitative study and Inter-item consistency was checked using Cronbach alpha measure. The data recorded consisted of all the previously mentioned personality metrics scores and music vs lyrics scores of 318 participants. The Mann–Whitney U test was conducted to check the null hypothesis that, for randomly selected values X and Y from two populations, the probability of X being greater than Y is equal to the probability of Y being greater than X. The U statistic obtained was validated by running the Monte-Carlo experiment 10000 times. We found the

To ensure that the results are not random monte carlo experiments were conducted

1) Unable to get any significant results for Kruskal wallis
2) Do we include Mann whitney results
3) If the null hypothesis that, for randomly selected values X and Y from two populations, the probability of X being greater than Y is equal to the probability of Y being greater than X.

The presented findings wi

When sad we tend to introspect and have a lot of deep thoughts sometimes this involves focusing on the lyrics of music as well. From the results obtained on the Sadness trait of the Emotional Contagion scale, it is clear the Lyrical people have higher Sadness trait scores than Musical People.
The correlation between human personality traits and how people appreciate a specific music genre has been supported by a few Western studies. The present study intended to examine the same issue, with Macau as the setting, by adopting the Big Five Inventory to measure the association between personality and music genres. The secondary focus of this study was to conceptualize how Macau students define the music that they enjoy. A total of 130 Macau undergraduates aged 18–25 participated in the survey, which contained 50 items in the Big Five Inventory and an open-ended item, which asked the participants to name two music genres that they like. Ten music genres (soothing, band, instrumental, folk, jazz, acoustic, R&B, classical, pop, and religious) were identified by manually grouping the responses to the open-ended questions. ANOVA tests were performed to compare genre preference and personality. The participants generally exhibited a wide range of preferences, and their personality traits were more or less mixed, resulting in the finding that no significant differences exist among personality traits and genres. This may be due to the lack of variety in the educational system that they grew up with. According to Spearman’s rho correlation analysis of personality traits and genres, no significant correlations exist between the two types of variables. This result echoes the means difference results with the same explanation. As for the open-ended item, as expected, some did not follow the common labels; they used “relax,” “soothing,” “light” and other terms relating to the effect of music on their moods. These answers may show that some listeners are more concerned about the immediate effect of music on their listening experience and not on the classification of music genres. Therefore, using traditional music labels to reflect the preference of listeners toward a wide and inconsistent system of music genres may be imprecise.

There are now a multitude of ways in which consumers can consume and enjoy music. While it is known that most people mix and match between different formats (‘multi-channelling’ in industry terms), critically, little is known about why people choose to listen to one music format over another. What uses and gratifications do particular formats serve? This study is a pioneering exploration of how consumers negotiate between six major formats: physical, digital files, free digital streaming, paid-for digital streaming, radio, and live music. It does so in accordance with the theory of planned behaviour, adopting a uses and gratifications approach. Employing an online questionnaire containing measures addressing musical engagement style, music piracy attitudes, the uses and gratifications of preferred listening format, genre preference, personality, and self-efficacy, data was obtained from 396 participants residing in Australia, the US and the UK. The format most used by the sample was by far digital download, followed by streaming, physical, and radio. A factor analysis on the most often used format yielded eight particular uses and gratifications of utilising different formats: usability and intention to use; discovery; functional utility; flexibility; connection; social norms; value for money; and playback diversity. The presented findings will address how people actively use particular music formats to meet particular needs. Further analyses highlight that different ways of listening to music are related to personality type, engagement in music piracy, and unique ways of engaging with music. Additionally, the study will consider how engagement in illegal downloading fits within a wider pattern of eclectic music-listening behaviours. Discussion centres on the functions that particular formats serve and how consumers tend to listen to music via different formats in complementary ways.

Music or Lyrics? Personality, trait empathy, and kinds of musical reward associated with listening strategies

Music-comes-first kind of a person: traits and tendencies