



Music as a Significant Language of Communication

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Abstract: Music is a complex and abstract phenomenon that has been an integral part of human life since the emergence of sound and language. This paper focuses on examining music as a significant language of communication. It starts by discussing the historical evolution of music and by reviewing various instances in movies and musical pieces which highlights music as a means of communication. Over time, the modulation of sounds gave rise to music, which has since evolved into a sophisticated language of communication with its own unique syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

Keywords: Music, Language of Communication, Education, Human Behaviour, Psychological Well-being.

I. INTRODUCTION

Have you ever noticed that whatever we speak has a certain tune? How would we have sounded if it were not so?

The emergence of life and sound was a simultaneous process. With the emergence of life, sound emerged as a way to express thoughts and ideas. Living beings who are capable of producing sound, communicate through it. When the early humans learnt to communicate through sounds, they used to modulate it according to the sense and purpose of the message to be conveyed. Similar modulations and expressions conveyed a particular sense. For example, the sound produced to indicate a warning for a danger had a different tone from the one produced to call the members of a group to feed upon a hunt. The basis of these modulations is a tune, the existence of which had been in nature itself. The early humans also played drums and horns to communicate messages.

The primary difference between normal speech and music is that in speeches, words along with the tones of speech express a meaning but in music, the tune and rhythm, together with the lyrics bring out the theme of the song. A tune is the main element of music. It is decided by how well it delivers the theme. These tunes alone have a mysterious impact on our emotions. Tones on the other hand are particular to our speech. It is the speech mannerism and expression that can distinguish the same message. In written communication, the punctuation used, or the situation of conversation refers to the tone. For instance, “What is he doing?” and “What is he doing!” has different intonations. The former is an interrogating statement where the speaker wants to know what the person is doing, and the latter is an exclamatory one where the speaker knows what the person is doing and is surprised at his actions. Each tune is a combination of certain specific notes in a specific format which collectively portrays a mood. Some such tunes are happy ones, some are peaceful, or may express pain and loneliness. This characteristic of music to arouse human feelings makes it a language of communication.

II. RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

This paper discusses that music can be considered a language of communication, with its own unique system of units for conveying meaning. These units can be referred to as musical notes or sounds, which are arranged in specific patterns to create a musical message that can convey emotions, ideas, and stories. It aims to create an analogical relation between words and phrases, which are basic units of language, and musical notes and sounds which are the basic units of music. This study involves various research methods including literature review, observation and various experiments to acknowledge music as a language of communication.

The paper also highlights the importance of recognizing music as a language of communication, given its direct relation to the psychological state of humans and its ability to instigate various emotions in the human brain. Music can lead to the creation of better and more personalized language that can be used to communicate and connect with others on a global or universal perspective. It suggests that further research is needed to explore the potential of music as a means of communication, including the development of new theories and experiments.

III. METHODOLOGY

This research includes a mixed approach which includes a rhetorical criticism and analysis of texts and qualitative research as well where different perceptions about music and communication have been studied and analysed.



IV. MUSIC AND COMMUNICATION IN HISTORY

Much like spoken language, music functions as a non-verbal form of communication, enabling individuals to convey emotions and cultural messages (Sachs, 1968). In the realm of English language instruction, music serves as a valuable supplementary tool for enhancing language acquisition.

Throughout human history, the utilization of auditory instruments such as drums and horns has played a pivotal role in communication. In ancient times, these instruments were wielded by designated individuals within the court of monarchs, signifying the issuance of royal decrees and demanding the attention of the populace.

In the 19th century, the caste system held firm sway within society, and deviations from its norms were met with censure. Poetic compositions, recited or sung openly, were employed as a means to mock and chastise those who challenged prevailing social conventions. A poignant portrayal of such social dynamics is depicted in a television portrayal of a 19th-century Brahmin society, highlighting the derisive tactics employed against individuals who defied societal norms. These actions served to suppress practices perceived as religiously aberrant.

V. DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF MUSICAL COMMUNICATION

Music is universal. Music is timeless. It serves as a potent language of communication across cultures and generations. In this research article, we delve into the multifaceted role of music as a language of communication, exploring its cognitive, emotional, and cultural dimensions. Through scholarly research and historical examples, we aim to elucidate the profound significance of music in facilitating connections among diverse populations.

- Cognitive - Music is a universal human form of communication that has the capacity to overcome linguistic, physical, mental, and cognitive barriers to understanding others.

Cognitive Dimension of Music as Communication:

Music possesses a remarkable capacity to convey complex cognitive information. Research in music cognition reveals that melodies, rhythms, and harmonies can convey meaning and structure in ways that resonate with human cognition. For instance, the use of certain musical elements, such as rising melodies, is associated with conveying happiness and triumph, while descending melodies can evoke sadness (Juslin & Laukka, 2003). Moreover, music's capacity for pattern recognition allows listeners to anticipate and interpret musical events, creating a shared cognitive experience (Huron, 2008).

- Emotional Dimension of Music as Communication:

Emotion is a fundamental component of human communication, and music serves as a potent vehicle for emotional expression. Studies in music psychology demonstrate that music can induce a wide range of emotions, from joy and excitement to nostalgia and melancholy (Juslin & Västfjäll, 2008). The emotional impact of music is not limited to the individual but extends to collective experiences. For example, the use of music in rituals, ceremonies, and national anthems can evoke a sense of unity and shared emotion among a group of people (Sloboda, 1991).

- Cultural Dimension of Music as Communication:

Music is deeply intertwined with culture and identity, making it a powerful tool for conveying cultural narratives and preserving heritage. Throughout the globe, various cultures employ music as a means to transmit narratives, principles, and heritage from one generation to another. For instance, the blues in African American culture and reggae in Jamaican culture serve as cultural expressions that convey historical experiences and societal struggles (Manuel, 2009). Additionally, music can bridge cultural divides by facilitating cross-cultural understanding and appreciation (Nettl, 2005).

- Music's Impact on Language, Emotion, and Identity:

The impact of music goes beyond its function as an independent mode of communication. It shares a symbiotic connection with spoken and written language, elevating linguistic communication by strengthening emotional expression and aiding memory. Moreover, music can have a central influence on moulding both individual and collective identities, exemplified by its role in the emergence of subcultures and social movements. By tapping into shared emotional experiences and cultural references, music contributes to the construction of collective identities.

VI. COEXISTENCE OF MUSIC AND SPEECH IN COMMUNICATION

The coexistence of music and speech in communication is a captivating and multifaceted phenomenon that has deep-rooted historical and cultural significance in human society. This comprehensive exploration seeks to unravel the intricate relationship between music and speech, delving into their shared history and their distinctive roles in human communication.



Music, often described as the "Soul" of communication, and speech, referred to as the "Body," should not be perceived as isolated domains of human behaviour but rather as integral components of the human communicative repertoire.

To understand the coexistence of music and speech, it is crucial to trace their historical evolution. Both music and speech have ancient origins, dating back to the emergence of sound and language in early human societies. While speech primarily serves as a transactional means of communication, facilitating the exchange of information and the coordination of purposeful actions, music places a significant emphasis on the relational dimension of communication. This distinction is fundamental to their coexistence, with music providing a unique avenue for establishing and sustaining social connections and conveying emotions, narratives, and cultural identity.

The unique signature and semantics of music as a language further highlight its coexistence with speech. Music's syntax encompasses the arrangement of musical elements such as rhythm, melody, and harmony, creating a structured and expressive framework for communication. Its semantics involve the interpretation of musical elements, where each note, chord, or instrument can convey specific emotions or convey complex narratives. The pragmatics of music extend to its use in diverse contexts, from traditional ceremonies to contemporary entertainment, highlighting its versatility as a communicative medium.

Music's syntax is a particularly intriguing aspect of its communicative power. It relies on a system of musical notation and structure that transcends linguistic boundaries. The organization of musical notes into patterns and sequences allows for the conveyance of complex emotional states, narratives, and themes. For example, a minor key can evoke sadness or melancholy, while a major key often signifies joy or triumph. This syntax, though distinct from the grammatical rules of spoken language, provides a structured framework for conveying meaning and emotion.

Semantically, music communicates through the emotional and symbolic resonance of its elements. Lyrics, if present, contribute explicit meaning, but even instrumental music conveys emotions and messages through melody, rhythm, and dynamics. A crescendo in a piece may signify rising tension or excitement, while a sudden decrescendo might represent a moment of calm or reflection. The semiotic richness of music enables it to express nuances and subtleties of human experience that may elude spoken language.

Moreover, the pragmatics of music extend beyond its intrinsic characteristics to its role in various cultural and social contexts. Music serves as a means of cultural preservation and identity. Traditional folk songs, for instance, transmit stories, values, and historical narratives from generation to generation. In contemporary settings, music can be a tool for activism, protest, and social commentary, carrying messages of change and solidarity.

Numerous examples from movies and musical compositions vividly illustrate the coexistence and interplay between music and speech in communication. In cinematic storytelling, music often serves as a powerful tool for conveying emotions, enhancing narrative depth, and establishing mood. Iconic film moments, such as the haunting melodies in "Schindler's List" or the triumphant orchestration in "Star Wars," demonstrate how music complements speech, enriching the overall communicative experience. Similarly, in musical pieces like Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, the "Ode to Joy" transcends language barriers, uniting listeners through the universal language of music. These music compositions, without lyrics, deliver very particular emotions to the listeners. This is the communicative power of music and why music should be considered a mode of communication in the coming ages.

In conclusion, the coexistence of music and speech in communication is a testament to the richness and complexity of human expression. Music and speech, with their distinct characteristics and communicative purposes, complement each other, creating a harmonious tapestry of human interaction. Recognizing the interplay between these two domains not only deepens our understanding of communication but also enriches our appreciation of the profound role that both music and speech play in our lives. As we continue to explore the intricate dynamics between music and speech, we unveil new dimensions of human connection and expression, reaffirming their enduring significance in our shared human experience. Music and speech coexist not as separate entities but as intertwined threads in the fabric of our collective communication, enriching our lives in myriad ways.

VII. MUSIC IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Music, a multifaceted and abstract phenomenon, has woven itself into the tapestry of human existence since the dawn of sound and language. This comprehensive exploration delves deeper into the historical evolution of music as an extraordinary language of communication and its pivotal role in English Language Training (ELT). Music, with its unique blend of rhythm, melody, and lyrics, offers an enchanting platform for language acquisition. This approach has garnered increasing recognition and popularity in the realm of language education, proving itself to be an indispensable tool for enriching the ELT experience and nurturing language development, cultural understanding, and a profound connection to the English language.

Furthermore, the use of English language songs in ELT plays a vital role in honing listening comprehension skills. Music exposes learners to a diverse range of accents, dialects, pronunciation variations, and intonations, preparing them for the challenges they



may encounter in real-world interactions. This exposure fosters adaptability and fluency in understanding spoken English, a crucial skill in today's globalized world. To illustrate music's communicative potency, numerous instances can be found in movies and musical pieces. Films often employ music to convey emotions, character development, and plot progression, transcending verbal language barriers. Iconic scenes, such as the "I Will Always Love You" moment in "The Bodyguard" or the powerful "Circle of Life" opening in "The Lion King," underscore music's ability to communicate profound messages and evoke strong emotional responses. These examples serve as compelling evidence of music's capacity to communicate complex ideas and emotions, transcending linguistic boundaries.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, music's unique syntax, semantics, and pragmatics offer a dynamic and effective tool for enhancing language acquisition and fostering a deeper connection to the English language. Its rhythmic patterns, rhymes, and diverse linguistic elements make it an invaluable resource for language learners, while its use in movies and musical compositions illustrates its unparalleled ability to convey emotions and ideas, making it an indispensable component of language education and human expression. In the future, music can emerge as an alternative mode of communication and with the developments in AI, a new world of communication would become evident when music will become a strong alternative for communicating complex and deep emotions that is too hard to express in words.

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