

Behind Misheard Lyrics



Phonetics: Deals with the production of different sounds of speech made by people. It explains how the vocal tract produces sounds that people make as they talk. A lot of words can be misheard because of the complexity that goes into creating certain sounds.

Song lyrics are especially prone to being misheard or misinterpreted

When one word or sound is misheard and sounds like another, this usually means that the words share one or more phonetic feature.

Sometimes words will have a similar manner or place of articulation. Articulators are what comes together to make a sound.

Other times, it will have to do with the voicing of word (voiced or voiceless), vowel height or frontness of the tongue, rounding of the lips or the tongue being lax or tense.

Voiceless means that the air passes through the vocal cords without any vibration. Voiced means that there is vocal chord vibration.

Manner of articulation is the interaction between the tongue or lips. Examples include stops, nasal and fricatives.

The place is the point of contact in the vocal tract. This includes bilabial, alveolar and velar

Example from Slipknot's "Wait and bleed"

Hear the full song here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBy7TCSY2wk>

Example lyrics:

Original: "I've felt the hate rise up in me. Kneel down and clear the stone of leaves. I wander out where you can't see. Inside my shell I wait and bleed."

Misheard: "I've felt the air rise up in me. Kneel down and clear the stone of peas. I wander out where you can't be. Inside my cell I wait and bleed."

Transcribed Lyrics:

Original:

aɪv fɛlt ðə heɪt raɪz ʌp ɪn mi. nɪl daʊn
ænd klɪr ðə stəʊn ʌv li:vz. aɪ 'wan
də ʌʊt wɛr ju kənt si. ɪn'saɪd maɪ ʃ
ɛl aɪ weɪt ænd blɪd.

Misheard:

aɪv fɛlt ðɪ ɛr raɪz ʌp ɪn mi. nɪl daʊn
ænd klɪr ðə stəʊn ʌv pi:z. aɪ 'wanda
r ʌʊt wɛr ju kənt bi. ɪn'saɪd maɪ sɛl
aɪ weɪt ænd blɪd