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THE DIFFERENCES IN INFORMAL VOCABULARY IN POP, RAP AND
ROCK SONG LYRICS IN 2020, 2021, AND 2022
Bachelor’s thesis

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PREFACE

Informal vocabulary, such as slang, idioms, colloquialisms, neologisms, abbreviations and obscene lexis, is commonly used in spoken language, pop, rap, and rock culture, and songs in particular. As many popular musicians use informal language in their songs, these can be useful for people who study English and wish to learn common everyday words and phrases as well as slang expressions. The thesis considers the informal vocabulary of rap, pop, and rock songs in the English language, which can be used in an English language class for intermediate and advanced students to develop their ability to understand contemporary authentic English language used in song lyrics. The study aims to define the notions of informal vocabulary, especially when it is used in song lyrics; to explore obscene lexis, slang words, idioms, colloquialisms, abbreviations and neologisms in pop, rap and, rock song lyrics; to reveal differences between informal language used in pop and rap and rock song lyrics. The research attempts to discover if there are any differences in the use of informal language (colloquialisms, slang, idioms, etc.) in modern pop, rap, and rock songs in English, which can help inform English language teachers and learners in their decisions of how to use songs to learn English vocabulary.

The introduction to the Bachelor's thesis discusses evolution of musical compositions and song lyrics and music as a language learning resource. Chapter I discusses informal language: abbreviations, neologisms, colloquialisms, idioms, slang, and obscene lexis; mainstream music; popular music genres, including pop, rap, and rock. Chapter II provides an analysis of informal language used in song lyrics by Grammy 2020, 2021, and 2022 winners in the categories of best pop, rap, and rock performances. The conclusion presents the differences and similarities in the use of informal language among these three genres and years, and conclusions from the theoretical and practical research.

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Olen koostanud töö iseseisvalt. Kõik töö koostamisel kasutatud teiste autorite tööd, põhimõttelised seisukohad, kirjandus allikatest ja mujalt pärinevad andmed on viidatud.

Angelina Modelska

/allkirjastatud digitaalselt/

INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, the English language has become the second most popular and spoken language throughout the entire world. Having originated in England in the 5-6th century AD, it is now the dominant language of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and various island nations in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2023). Many students are learning it around the world as a second or foreign language. It is common for teenage learners to be exposed to English through films, series, Internet videos, podcasts, and music, and acquire certain vocabulary, including informal lexis, with the help of these resources. Learning the language by means of current-day audiovisual resources on top of trends is often more exciting to teenage learners than learning the language by a textbook, and can be a helpful technique to implement in English lessons at school.

In life, people are surrounded by a multitude of sounds, both natural and man-made, and of course, music. One listens to music every day, whether he/she wants it or not, because he/she can encounter it anywhere, like in a car or a store, a cinema, a spa or on the street. That is why studies were conducted on this theme by Rentfrow (2012) in his work “The Role of Music in Everyday Life: Current Directions in the Social Psychology of Music” (pp. 402-416). Wherever a man is, the sound of music surrounds him. Nevertheless, in view of this, few people think about how it affects our inner world, our mood, behavior and even health. The main musical elements and means of expression are melody, rhythm, dynamics, timbre and also lyrics in the case of songs.

Evolution of Musical Compositions and Song Lyrics

Music, as a dynamic art form, has undergone significant transformations in both composition and lyrical content through the centuries (Rosen, 1995). This evolution reflects not only the shifts in artistic expressions but also mirrors the societal, cultural, and technological changes that have shaped human history. In the ancient times, music was completely different. According to Britannica (2023), in different ancient countries, music originates from different sounds of improvised objects. According Tawa (1995), music of the 19th century changed over the years and in the end became what we know nowadays as classical music. It was serious, formal and long formed, with deep thoughts, formal language, and intricate music. Burkholder (1983, p.115) maintains that “The late 1800s and early 1900s were

characterized by the diversity, rapid change, idiosyncrasy, and polemic associated with such a period of transition, but the music which followed seemed only to intensify its diversity and accelerate the pace of change". In the classical era, musical compositions were characterized by intricate arrangements and adherence to specific structures. Composers like Beethoven, Haydn, and Mozart exemplified the era's emphasis on formality and precision (Rosen, 1995). Lyrics often revolved around courtly love and mythological themes, mirroring the cultural ideals of the time. The Romantic period saw a departure from classical constraints, with composers like Chopin and Schubert emphasizing emotional expression (Taruskin, 2010). Song lyrics became more introspective, exploring individual experiences and sentiments. This era witnessed a fusion of music and literature, as poets like Byron inspired musical compositions. The 20th century marked a radical departure from traditional norms. Jazz and blues introduced improvisation, syncopation, and a more liberated approach to composition. This shift in musical language reflected the changing social landscape, including the Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age (Gioia, 1997).

The evolution of song lyrics from the 19th century to the present day reflects a dynamic journey in musical expression. According to Varnum et al (2021), the changing of song lyrics over the decades has witnessed a dynamic shift from formal and serious compositions to simpler and more informal expressions. This transformation reflects changes in societal values, cultural influences, and artistic trends, contributing to the diverse landscape of musical expression. During the mid-20th century, song lyrics were characterized by a formal and structured approach (Kristobak, 2017). Artists like Bob Dylan and Joan Baez used their music as a platform for social and political commentary. Donnelly (2023) states that the 1970s and 1980s marked a shift towards more personal and introspective lyrics. Singer-songwriters like Joni Mitchell and Bruce Springsteen explored themes of love, identity, and self-discovery. Donnelly (2023) also writes that the emergence of grunge in the 1990s brought a raw and unpolished quality to lyrics. Bands like Nirvana and Pearl Jam embraced simplicity and informal language. According to Varnum et al (2021), the 21st century witnessed a further shift towards informal and globalized songwriting. Artists like Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran blurred genre boundaries and incorporated conversational language into their lyrics. Swift's „Shake it Off“(2014) and Sheeran's „Shape of You“(2017) exemplify this trend, embracing casual expressions and relatable themes. To summarize, the evolution of song lyrics mirrors broader societal changes and has shifted from the formal and serious compositions of the mid-20th century to the informal and globally influenced

lyrics of the present day. This transformation highlights the adaptability of artists in capturing the spirit of their times and connecting with the audience through the universal language of music.

Music as a Language Learning Resource

Learning the English language through music, especially informal language, is quite a popular topic, and there are many articles and works related to the topic on the Internet (e.g., Boothe and West, 2015; Hadian, 2015; Ludke and Morgan, 2023). These researches show that these two areas – music and language – are closely related and are of interest, and that music helps students to learn a foreign language.

Many have probably noticed that when they need to learn a short poem for class it can take a lot of hours or even days to memorize the words and the order of lines. Nevertheless, one can hear a song on the background once and it will play in their head all day. Sometimes in the adulthood, we can still remember some phrases, and lines of a certain song even though often we do not know the name of the track and the artist. It appears that it is easier for our mind to learn a text when there is rhyme and rhythm.

Songs can be a tool to engage and connect with students and music can facilitate language learning. It can help to internalize grammatical structures and remember new words. Listening to a song and reading the lyrics can help a student remember the words, get used to the natural rate of speech and become accustomed to the sound of the language. Modern song lyrics are also a treasure trove of informal language, where students can learn some current colloquial expressions and understand native speakers better. Music can also help to improve students' pronunciation; while listening to English songs, students can sing along and replicate sounds and tone (Altissia, n.d.),

Paterson and Willis (2008) in their book “English Through Music” for English teachers of young learners, present many interesting activities, teaching ideas and materials for a wide range of language items and skills. For example, there are different activities for action verbs, numbers, and parts of the body. Children can study greetings, foods, colors, insects through songs, rhythm games, and composing musical patterns. The authors believe that English and music work well together; while children are singing, they are learning and memorizing new words and phrases.

Given the value of music as a language learning resource, in what follows, the author will analyze literature on the theme of informal language and synthesize available knowledge in order to compose a theoretical framework, which will be used to conduct an empirical study of contemporary pop, rap, and rock song lyrics to discover how informal language is used in these music genres and if there are any differences between them. The research attempts to reveal if there are any differences in the use of informal language (e.g., colloquialisms, slang, idioms, etc.) in modern pop, rap, and rock songs in English, which can help inform English language teachers and learners in their decisions of how to use songs to learn English vocabulary. The hypothesis of the present research is that the use of informal vocabulary in pop, rap and rock songs differs, and these genres can be a resource of different types of informal language for English language learners.

CHAPTER I INFORMAL VOCABULARY

1.1 Informal vocabulary

Informal language refers to a relaxed, conversational style of communication that deviates from formal norms and is often characterized by features such as slang expressions, idioms, abbreviations, neologisms, colloquialisms, and even obscene lexis (Crystal, 2001). Informal language used in everyday speech with acquaintances and in situations, which are more relaxed. It is more common when people speak, but there are situations when a person can write in informal style, for example, writing postcards, letters, emails or text messages to a friend (Cambridge Dictionary, 2021). The difference between informal and formal language is that people use informal language with friends, relatives, parents or children, while formal is used when writing academic papers, official emails, CV for a job, and papers at work. (engVid,n.d.). Informal and formal language differ in the use of verbs (look at – examine), transitions (but – however), emphasis words (a lot of – much, many), letter expressions (Hi – Dear), abbreviations (cell – cell phone), etc. (engVid, n.d.)

Informal language is commonly used while talking with friends, relatives or family members. Informal style is free, playful and relaxed; however, there is still a difference between the expression choices of adults and teenagers (Antrushina et al., 1999). Frequently adults may not understand their children or colleagues from work who are younger than them because informal language changes over time and it is hard to always keep track of changes and stay alert. Informal speech of today is different from the past, but some phrases or words have carried over into the present. Also, it is important to mention that in addition to age-related differences, informal language may vary by culture, social class, state and its region. In sum, informal language is used in everyday speech, in communication with friends, parents, close colleagues, informal correspondence and so on, but is not commonly used in formal contexts, such as academic and professional discourse.

1.1.1 Slang

Slang refers to a subset of informal language characterized by unconventional words, expressions, or vocabulary that often emerge within specific groups or communities. It is a form of language that deviates from standard usage and evolves rapidly reflecting the ever-changing nature of culture and communication (Crystal, 2003). It is a vocabulary, usually, used between people who know each other well and often belong to the same social group. Mostly, slang words are used by teenagers and young people. It is more frequently spoken

than written, as it is suitable for the moment, and to express personal feelings (Cambridge Dictionary, 2021). Slang is highly informal and very changeable as it changes with every generation of people. Slang can become outdated (e.g., a wallflower: this term was commonly used in the 20th century to describe a shy person) and change its form and meaning over time (e.g., hip: originally, “hip” or “hep” meant someone very fashionable in the first half of the 20th century. It evolved to mean someone into jazz and beatnik culture in the 1940s and 50s, and changed further into “hippie” to describe flower children of the 60s. Today it has changed again to “hipster”, meaning a self-aware, artsy person) (Your dictionary, n.d.). The main difference between slang and colloquialisms is that slang refers to unique expressions which are created and used by certain specific groups of people or subcultures. It can become widely known but is not limited to a particular region. Slang words often lose their popularity and change over time, while colloquialisms are used over many years (Antrushina et al., 1999).

1.1.2 Colloquialisms

Colloquialism refers to informal, everyday expressions, commonly used in spoken communication within a particular regional and social group. These linguistic elements may include vernacular phrases, local idioms, and relaxed grammatical structures, providing a sense of familiarity and informality (Trudgill, 2010). It is an informal word or expression that is more appropriate for use in speech than in writing (Cambridge Dictionary, 2021). Colloquialisms differ across different language varieties; for example, in British English, ‘ace’ describes something excellent; in American English, ‘flake’ is a person who cancels plans regularly or the act of regularly cancelling plans; in Canadian English, ‘chirping’ means making fun of or taunting someone; in Australian English, ‘flat out’ means extremely busy (Your dictionary, n.d.). Colloquial language is the least exclusive because it is used in everyday speech by people of different ages and occupations (Antrushina et al., 1999). Colloquialisms refer to everyday items; for example, sneakers, exam, y’all (you all), bestie (best friend), fam (family), etc. Colloquialisms are used often used in literary texts to provide personality and authenticity to protagonists and dialogue, and indicate the setting of a literary work in the context of place and time (Antrushina et al., 1999).

1.1.3 Abbreviations

Abbreviation refers to the shortening of a word or phrase, typically by using initials or a combination of letters, to represent the original term in a more concise form (Crystal, 1997).

Abbreviations can take the form of acronyms, where the initial letters from a pronounceable word, or initialisms, where the letters are spoken individually. Usually well-known words are formed from the capital first letters of words – initials (PC – personal computer, WHO – world health organization, USA – United States of America) and acronyms, which are pronounced as full words (NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Abbreviations, which are made from omitting some letters or parts from a word are made by what is called “clipping”. This helps to save time and reduce the use of letters when their number is limited (advertisement – advert, examination – exam, AK – AK-47). In English and other languages, such a version is widespread for using personal names (Timothy – Tim, Frederick – Fred, Patricia – Pat). Not all abbreviations are informal in style. However, many colloquialisms and slang words are made by clipping or abbreviating common words (e.g., ‘fav’ for favorite, ‘veg’ for vegetable, ‘LOL’ for laughing out loud, etc.).

1.1.4 Neologisms

A neologism is a newly coined word, phrase, or expression that has emerged and gained currency in a language. They often arise to address contemporary technologies or societal changes, reflecting the dynamic nature of language evolution (Aitchison, 2001). Examples of neologisms are ‘selfie’, coined to describe a self-portrait photograph taken with a smartphone; ‘infodemic’, which emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic to describe the rapid spread of misinformation; vlog – a combination of video and blog, denoting a blog in video form. Neologisms are new words appearing in the language as a result of the emergence of new concepts, phenomena, qualities, not yet in time to enter its stock. For example, George Eastman created the word “Kodak” together with the camera, and the word “blurb” was made in 1907 to denote jackets of books (Minkova and Stockwell, 2001).

1.1.5 Idioms

An idiom is a phrase or expression with a figurative meaning that differs from the literal interpretation of its individual words; for example, “I’m going to call it a night” = “I’m going to bed”. Idioms often convey cultural or contextual nuances and are used to add color, emphasis, or a unique cultural flavor to language expressions (McEnery, 2006). Every person irrespective of their age and social status uses these words. (Cambridge Dictionary, 2021). Such as slang, idioms are not durable and may lose their stylistic coloring through the years and after become colloquial or neutral lexical units (Antrushina et al., 1999). Non-native speakers may have difficulties in understanding idiomatic expressions. Nonetheless,

many of them are widely used in everyday speech, such as, for example, ‘a piece of cake’ when a person can easily do something, ‘get over it’ meaning to recover from something, or ‘on top of the world’ when a person is feeling great.

1.1.6 Obscene lexis

Obscene lexis refers to the use of offensive or vulgar language, including swear words and taboo expressions that is deemed socially inappropriate or offensive. It often involves words or phrases that are considered vulgar, crude, or explicit, and may vary across cultural and societal contexts (Crystal, 1995). It is unacceptable lexis which is perceived repulsive, disrespectful, rude and indecent. It is generally avoided in formal communication and is often used in specific social settings, where informal language is more acceptable.

2.1 Genres of music

Genres of music refer to distinct categories or styles of musical composition that share common characteristics, including rhythm, instrumentation, and thematic elements. These classifications provide a framework for organizing and understanding the diverse range of musical expressions (Brackett, 2001). Genres of music have changed over centuries, and in the 21st century there is a large variety of them, e.g., alternative, anime, blues, classical, country, dance, trance, electronic, folk, hip-hop/rap, industrial, instrumental, jazz, metal, rock and so on. This work is focused on such genres as pop, rock and rap. Musically, these are very different genres, but they are quite similar in that all of them use informal language, and many people, especially younger generations, listen to such music and can therefore learn words and expressions used in such songs.

2.1.1 Pop music

The term “pop song” can be deciphered as “having popular appeal”, commercially oriented music designed primarily to be understood and appreciated by a wide audience, usually in literate, technologically advanced societies dominated by urban culture (Britannica, 2023). This genre characterized by its accessibility, catchy melodies, and broad appeal to a wide audience. It often features straightforward song structure, memorable hooks, and lyrics that resonate with a diverse range of listeners (Middleton, 1990). Speaking about the history, before the Industrial Revolution, popular music was non-folk, in the Victorian era and earliest 20th century was music hall and vaudeville, and in the 21st century pop music incorporates features of rock, disco, funk, punk, hip-hop, and increasingly pop-oriented

world music (Britannica, 2023). According to Last.fm, such artists as Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga, Billie Eilish, Jung Kook, Rihanna, Harry Styles, Katy Perry, Bruno Mars are the best-known representatives of this genre.

2.1.2 Rap music

Rap music is a genre that features rhythmic and rhyming speech, typically delivered over a musical backdrop. Originating in African American and Latino communities, rap often explores social issues, personal experiences, and storytelling through its distinctive vocal style and beat-driven compositions (Krims, 2000). Rap is a musical style in which rhythmic and/or rhyming speech is chanted (“rapped”) to musical accompaniment (Britannica, 2023). Rap/hip-hop and rhythm and blues (R&B) were an urban underground movement in the 19th century. “Gangsta rap” firstly appeared in the late 1980s (Britannica, 2023). The best-known nowadays rap artist are Eminem, Drake, Nicki Minaj, Jay-Z, 50 cent and so on. In this genre, it is common to use slang words, abbreviations and obscene lexis. This genre is not for everyone and can sometimes hurt listener’s feelings due to its thematic and lyrical content.

2.1.3 Rock music

This style, which was a dominant form of popular music by the end of 20th century and well known since 1950s, has its beginning from folk, blues and country music (Britannica, 2023). Characterized by amplified instruments, strong rhythms, and energetic performances, rock has diverse subgenres than span several decades, making it a versatile and enduring musical genre (Frith, 1996). It remains a dynamic and influential genre, continually shaping and reflecting cultural and musical landscapes. The best-known rock group through all the years is The Beatles. For the younger generations, the main popular groups in this genre are Metallica, Linking Park, Nickelback, Imagine Dragons, Fall Out Boy and so on. Their style is piercing sounds of guitar and drums.

The above information on informal vocabulary and music genres will be used as a theoretical framework to analyze contemporary pop, rap, and rock lyrics in order to identify different types of informal vocabulary and compare the use of such vocabulary in pop, rap, and rock song lyrics.

CHAPTER II INFORMAL VOCABULARY IN SONG LYRICS

The empirical research attempts to reveal if there are any differences in the use of informal language (e.g., colloquialisms, slang, idioms, etc.) in modern pop, rap, and rock songs in English, which can help inform English language teachers and learners in their decisions of how to use songs to learn English vocabulary. The research procedure consisted of the following steps:

- 1) collecting song lyrics of the Grammy winners in the categories of best pop, rock and rap performance in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022
- 2) identifying informal words and expressions in each song using online dictionaries
- 3) determining the type of informal vocabulary in each case using online dictionaries.

Grammy winning songs were chosen as the object of the research as they represent songs that received both critical and public acclaim in each specific year.

3.1 Analysis of song lyrics

The table below presents song lyrics of the Grammy award-winning songs in the categories of best pop, rock, and rap performance in years 2020, 2021, and 2022. In each song, informal words and expressions are highlighted in bold and classified by type (e.g., slang, colloquialisms, etc.) below the lyrics. It is clearly seen that all of them use informal language, most commonly slang and colloquialisms. but also, obscene lexis.

Table 1. *Informal language in Grammy-winning rap, pop, and rock song lyrics in 2020, 2021, and 2022*

2020		
Best Pop Performance	Best Rock Performance	Best Rap Performance
Lizzo “Truth Hurts” Why men great 'til they gotta be great? Wooh I just took a DNA test, turns out I'm 100% that bitch Even when I'm crying crazy Yeah, I got boy problems, that's the human in me Bling-bling , then I solve 'em , that's the goddess in	Nipsey Hussle Featuring Roddy Ricch & Hit-Boy “Racks in the middle” I was riding 'round in the V-12 With the racks in the middle Had to pray to almighty God They let my dog out the kennel When you get it straight up out the mud	Gary Clark JR. “This Land” Paranoid and pissed off Now that I got the money Fifty acres and a model A Right in the middle of Trump country I told you, "there goes a neighborhood" Now mister Williams ain't so funny I see you looking out your window

<p>me You coulda had a bad bitch, non-committal Help you with your career, just a little You're supposed to hold me down But you're holding me back And that's the sound of me not calling you back Why men great 'til they gotta be great? Don't text me, tell it straight to my face Best friend sat me down in the salon chair Shampoo press, get you out of my hair Fresh photos with the bomb lighting New man on the Minnesota Vikings Truth hurts, needed something more exciting You tried to break my heart Oh, that breaks my heart That you thought you ever had it No you ain't from the start Hey, I'm glad you're back with your bitch I mean who would wanna hide this? I will never ever ever ever be your side chick I put the sing in single Ain't worried 'bout a ring on my finger So you can tell your friends, "Shoot your shot" When you see 'em It's OK, he already in my DMs I'ma hit you back in a minute I don't play tag, bitch I been it We don't fuck with lies We don't do goodbyes</p>	<p>You can't imagine this shit I been pullin' up in the drop Tops with the baddest bitches Young nigga been focused On my check Got a new coupe wrapped Around my neck Tryna put the water on my Patek I got killers to the left of me We was lurking on her Ain't show no mercy on her We was goin' back to back We put a curfew on her It was dark clouds on us But that was perfect for us We know you always crash and burn But it was working for us Limo tint the V-12, double Check the details Gotta cross my T's and dot my I's or I can't sleep well Millions off of retail Once again, I prevail Knew that shit was over from the Day I dropped my presale Hold up, let the beat build See me in the streets still I been fightin' battles up a steep hill They gave my road dog twelve It was a sweet deal And I been ridin' solo tryna rebuild Look They let my dog out the kennel When you get it straight up out the mud You can't imagine this shit I got killers to the left of me Look, under no condition Would you ever catch me</p>	<p>Can't wait to call the police on me When I know you think I'm up to something I'm just eating, now we're still hungry And this is mine now, legit I ain't leaving here you can't take it from me I remember when you used to tell me Nigga run, nigga run Go back where you come from Nigga run, nigga run Go back where you come from We don't want, we don't want your kind We think you's a dog born Fuck you, I'm America's son This is where I come from This land is mine Up 'til the sun comes up No I can't stop grindin' And I can't let 'em break me No I can't let 'em find me You can meet my friend the governor Only if you wanna try me Or you can meet my other friend the judge Just in case you think I'm lying</p> <p>1.pissed off – slang 2.model A – slang 3.Trump country – colloquialism 4.ain't – colloquialism (abbreviation) 5.I'm - colloquialism (abbreviation) 6.up to somethin' – colloquialism (abbreviation) and slang</p>
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<p>We just keep it pushing like aye, aye, aye I'ma hit you back in a minute I don't play tag, bitch I been it</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'til – colloquialism (abbreviation) 2.gotta – colloquialism (abbreviation) 3. turns out – slang 4. bling-bling – slang 5.crying crazy - slang 6.'em – colloquialism (abbreviation) 7.coulda – colloquialism (abbreviation) 8.hold me down - slang 9.out of my hair - slang 10.ain't – colloquialism (abbreviation) 11.wanna – colloquialism (abbreviation) 12.side chick – slang 13.put the sing - slang 14.'bout – colloquialism (abbreviation) 15. "Shoot your shot" – slang 16.DMs – colloquialism (abbreviation) 17.I'ma – colloquialism (abbreviation) 18.hit you back – slang 19.bad bitch – obscene lexis 20.don't – colloquialism (abbreviation) 21. bomb – slang (excellent, impressive) 22. fuck – obscene vocabulary 	<p>slippin' Motorcaded shooters plus the Maybach chauffeur driven If they catch me wit' it They'll send me off to prison Judge ain't sympathizin' Court don't show forgiveness Engine in the Lambo drownin' out the music Sip Dior with the flowers Five gold cubans Champagne while I shop Hope I splurge foolish Closin' Escrow twice this month Both commercial units Damn, I wish my nigga Fatts was here How you die thirty somethin' After banging all them years? Grammy nominated In the sauna sheddin' tears All this money, power, fame and I can't make you reappear But I don't wipe 'em though We just embrace the only life we know If it was me, I would tell you "Nigga, live your life and grow" I'd tell you, "Finish what we started Reach them heights, you know? And gas the V-12 to the pipe and smoke" When you get it straight up out the mud You can't imagine this shit I got killers to the left of me Another million dollar bail That's just some regular shit</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.you's - colloquialism (abbreviation) 8.Up 'til the sun comes up – colloquialism 9.Grindin' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 10.'em - colloquialism (abbreviation) 11.wanna – colloquialism (abbreviation) 12.try me – slang 13. can't – colloquialism (abbreviation) 14.don't – colloquialism (abbreviation) 15.legit – slang (legitimate) 16. nigga – obscene lexis 17. fuck – obscene lexis
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	<p>See my granny on a jet Some shit I'll never forget Next day we flew to Vegas With my Puma connects We break bread, we ain't new to success Bleed music, invest, enterprise Take lucrative steps Cold game, but I knew it was Chess As a youth in the set Learn the game, you a student at best But it's a couple things you can expect Just like money know money, nigga Shooters respect other shooters We was both Don't want my crew on your neck I'm on the freeway in a drop It got me losing my breath I do the dash with the blues on the deck</p> <p>1.ridin' 'round – colloquialism (abbreviation) 2.V-12 - colloquialism (abbreviation) 3.pullin' up – colloquialism (abbreviation) and slang 4.Tryna – colloquialism (abbreviation) 5.Ain't - colloquialism (abbreviation) 6.goin' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 7.back to back – slang 8.gotta – colloquialism (abbreviation) 9.T's - colloquialism (abbreviation) 10.I's 1- colloquialism (abbreviation) 11.hold up – slang</p>	
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	<p>12.sweet deal - colloquialism</p> <p>13.ridin' solo tryna – colloquialism (abbreviation) and slang</p> <p>14.slippin' - colloquialism (abbreviation)</p> <p>15.wit' it – colloquialism (abbreviation) and slang</p> <p>16.send me off – slang</p> <p>17.ain't sympathizin' - colloquialism(abbreviation)</p> <p>18.Lambo drownin' - colloquialism(abbreviation)</p> <p>19.Sip Dior - colloquialism</p> <p>20.nigga – obscene lexis</p> <p>21.Damn – slang</p> <p>22.granny – colloquialism</p> <p>23. dog – slang (close male friend)</p> <p>24. shit – obscene lexis</p> <p>25. bad – slang (very good)</p> <p>26. bitch – obscene lexis</p> <p>27. drop – slang (release an album)</p> <p>28. drop – slang (expensive convertible car)</p> <p>28. bang – slang</p>	
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2021

Best Pop Performance	Best Rock Performance	Best Rap Performance
<p>Harry Styles “Watermelon Sugar”</p> <p>Tastes like strawberries On a summer evenin' And it sounds just like a song</p> <p>I want more berries And that summer feelin' It's so wonderful and warm Breathe me in Breathe me out I don't know if I could ever go without I'm just thinking out loud I don't know if I could ever go without Watermelon sugar High</p>	<p>Fiona Apple “SHAMEIKA”</p> <p>I used to walk down the streets on my way to school Grinding my teeth to a rhythm invisible I used my feet to crush dead leaves like they had fallen from trees Just for me Just to be crash cymbals In class I'd pass the time Drawing a slash for every time the second hand went by A group of five Done twelve times was a minute But</p>	<p>Megan Thee Stallion Featuring Beyoncé “SAVAGE”</p> <p>I'm that bitch (yeah) Been that bitch, still that bitch Will forever be that bitch I'm the hood Mona Lisa, break a nigga into pieces Had to X some cheesy niggas out my circle like a pizza I'm way too exclusive, I don't shop on Insta' boutiques All them lil' ass clothes only fit fake booties Bad bitch, still talking cash</p>

<p>On a summer evenin' Baby, you're the end of June I want your belly And that summer feelin' Getting washed away in you Breathe me in Breathe me out I don't know if I could ever go without Watermelon sugar High I just wanna taste it Watermelon sugar high Tastes like strawberries On a summer evenin' And it sounds just like a song I want your belly And that summer feelin' I don't know if I could ever go without Watermelon sugar High</p> <p>1.evenin' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 2.feelin' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 3.sugar high – slang 4.wanna – colloquialism</p>	<p>Shameika said I had potential I used to march down the windy, windy sidewalks Slapping my leg with a riding crop Thinking it made me come off so tough I didn't smile, because a smile always seemed rehearsed I wasn't afraid of the bullies And that just made the bullies worse But Shameika said I had potential Hurricane Gloria in excelsis deo, that's my bird in my tree My dog and my man and my music is my holy trinity Hurricane Gloria in excelsis deo, that's my bird in my tree My dog and my man and my music is my holy trinity Tony told me he'd describe me as pissed off, funny and warm Sebastian said, I'm "a good man in a storm" Back then I didn't know what potential meant and Shameika wasn't gentle and she wasn't my friend But she got through to me and I'll never see her again She got through to me and I'll never see her again I'm pissed off, funny and warm I'm a good man in a storm And when the fall is torrential, I'll recall</p> <p>1.I'd - colloquialism (abbreviation)</p>	<p>shit Pussy like water, I'm unbothered and relaxing I would never trip on a nigga if I had him Bitch, that's my trash, you the maid, so you bagged him, ah I'm a savage (yeah) Classy, bougie, ratchet Sassy, moody, nasty Acting stupid, what's happening? Bitch Eat me and record it, but your edge-up all I'm showing I keep my niggas private, so his AP all I'm showing Beefing with you bitches really getting kinda boring If it ain't about the money, then you know I'm gon' ignore it I'm the shit, I need a mop to clean the floor, it's too much drip I keep a knot, I keep a watch, I keep a whip Let's play a game, Simon says I'm still that bitch Bitch, I'm lit like a match, And any nigga I let hit is still attached, That body right, but you know this pussy fat, I drop a picture, now these bitches feel attacked, Don't let that nigga gas you up and get you whacked, ooh I make a call and get a pussy nigga smacked, These bitches talkin' 'bout pulling up, well, where you at? I'm in a Lamb', bitch, catch me if you can, ooh I'm kickin' bitches out they spot, Stalli' Chan, yeah</p>
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	<p>2.dog – slang (male friend) 3.man – slang (make friend) 4.come off so tough – slang 5.pissed off – slang</p>	<p>Niggas say I taste like sugar, but ain't shit sweet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.I'm - colloquialism (abbreviation) 2.the hood – slang 3.cheesy – colloquialism 4.out my circle – slang 5.Insta' – colloquialism 6.lil' ass – slang 7.trip on – slang 8.Eat me – slang 9.edge-up – slang 10. bitch – obscene lexis 11.kinda – colloquialism (abbreviation) 12.ain't - colloquialism (abbreviation) 13.gon' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 14.much drip – slang 15.I'm lit like a match – slang 16.body right – slang 17.drop a picture – slang 18.gas you up – slang 19.get you whacked –slang 20.talkin' 'bout – colloquialism(abbreviation) 21.Lamb' – colloquialism (abbreviation) 22.kickin' – colloquialism (abbreviation) 23. bitch – obscene lexis 24. nigga – obscene lexis 25. X – slang (cut) 26. pussy – obscene lexis 27. bag somebody – slang 28. savage – slang 29. bougie – slang 30. ratchet – slang 31. beef – slang 32. shit – obscene lexis 33. smack – slang 34. pull up – slang 35. Stalli' Chan – neologism
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2022		
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Best Pop Performance	Best Rock Performance	Best Rap Performance
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<p>Olivia Rodrigo “Driver’s License”</p> <p>I got my driver's license last week Just like we always talked about 'Cause you were so excited for me To finally drive up to your house But today I drove through the suburbs Cryin' 'cause you weren't around And you're probably with that blonde girl Who always made me doubt She's so much older than me She's everything I'm insecure about Yeah, today I drove through the suburbs 'Cause how could I ever love someone else? And I know we weren't perfect but I've never felt this way for no one And I just can't imagine how you could be so okay now that I'm gone Guess you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me 'Cause you said forever, now I drive alone past your street And all my friends are tired Of hearing how much I miss you, but I kinda feel sorry for them 'Cause they'll never know you the way that I do, yeah Today I drove through the suburbs And pictured I was driving home to you</p>	<p>Foo Fighters “Making A Fire”</p> <p>I've been waitin', elevatin', hanging on a line Hate to say it your new favorite's going out of style Threw away those broken heroes, they're just wood and wires Hallelujah, spread the news, but don't believe the hype Alright Are you afraid of the dark? I know a place we can start But if this is our last time Make up your mind I've waited a lifetime to live It's time to ignite I'm makin' a fire I was baited when I said I'd never tell a lie Luck be darned I took a stand and finally hit my stride Are you afraid of the dark? I know a place we can start But if this is our last time Make up your mind Are you afraid of the dark? I know a place we can start, yeah So if this is our last time Make up your mind I've waited a lifetime to live It's down to the wire This is our last time I've made up my mind I've waited a lifetime to live It's time to ignite</p> <p>1.I've - colloquialism (abbreviation) 2.waitin' - colloquialism (abbreviation)</p>	<p>Baby Keem Featuring Kendrick Lamar “Family Ties”</p> <p>Jump in that - summon that bitch Jump in that, fire , Hittin' that fire, jump in that whip, thumb in that bitch Cum in that bitch, drummin' that bitch Choppa doin' circles, it's a Bird, Bird Take him to the party, he's a nerd. I ain't seen niggas hit corners in the motherfuckin' 'burbs, Done politickin' with the competition, what's the word? Put that on my mama, nigga, eight in the process Niggas tryna tippy-toe through the progress Tongue-tied when the truth is an object What's the pros and the cons of this next check? Wasn't nobody 'round, I was independent In the '90s, sittin' bum with the windows tinted Heard a bum got a strap in the party. Who the fuck let this **** in the party? Beat 'em up. I was seein' double in the projects Mad at myself, learned to put it to the side Mama had to cater for the coupe That we rode after school on the way to Popeyes And niggas wanna play both sides It's a red dot, don't get on the wrong red eye It's a headshot, Damien Kane, woo, them guys Fuck around and bury two</p>
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<p>And I know we weren't perfect But I've never felt this way for no one, oh And I just can't imagine how you could be so okay now that I'm gone I guess you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me 'Cause you said forever, now I drive alone past your street Red lights, stop signs I still see your face in the white cars, front yards Sidewalks we crossed I still hear your voice in the traffic, we're laughing Over all the noise God, I'm so blue, know we're through But I still fuckin' love you, babe I know we weren't perfect but I've never felt this way for no one And I just can't imagine how you could be so okay now that I'm gone 'Cause you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me 'Cause you said forever, now I drive alone past your street</p> <p>1.'cause - colloquialism (abbreviation) 2.cryin' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 3.you're - colloquialism (abbreviation) 4.I'm - colloquialism (abbreviation) 5.kinda – colloquialism (abbreviation) 6.fuckin' – obscene lexis 7.I'm so blue – idiom</p>	<p>3.elevatin' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 4.hanging on a line – slang 5. damned – colloquialism</p>	<p>of them guys I'm OD in Paris, I'm OD in France I thought that I told you, I need the advance Put down your IG and look through my lens A million to grandma, who did I offend? The girl of your dreams to me is a fan I netted ten million and did a lil' dance I'm fuckin' the world, I unzip my pants My uncle G told me that I had a chance So then I popped out and did it again I cannot respect them, where did he begin? Advice from the council, let nobody in Been swervin' through rumors Avoidin' the trends and duckin' the hoes I'm duckin' the loonies that come with the shows I'm grateful to Man-Man, he opened up doors A bunk on the tour bus to come and compose I reach to the stars on my tippy toes This greatest success where most niggas fold I tell you my past, that shit don't get old But how could you ask like I don't be writin' my raps? These critics got everyone tapped You gotta relax, the city where nobody sleep Just tap in and ask where I'm at, Smokin' on you, shores, ain't two-nine, I am the omega, pgLang, Rollie gang, SIE</p>
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		<p> Don't you address me unless it's with four letters I thought you'd known better. I been duckin' the pandemic, I been, social gimmicks I been duckin' the overnight activists, I'm not a trending topic, I'm Hold on, y'all niggas playin' with me, man I answer to Metatron and Gabriel Bitch, looking for a better me I am a legacy, I come from the seventy The Al Green offspring, guns and the melody The big shot, wrist on cryotherapy Soon as I press that button Nigga better get right like the ambulance comin' Us two ain't alike, he ain't been through nothin' Dave Free got at least one B in the oven I'm trippin', I'm juggin', my mental is amazing, Pop off, only on occasions, Rich nigga, momma know I made it, brother Go figure, never caught cases, brother Face it, brother, gracious New flows comin', be patient, brother Show my ass and take y'all to class I can multitask like Megan, 2021, I ain't takin' no prisoner Last year, y'all fucked up all the listener Who went platinum? I call that a visitor Who the fuck backin' 'em'? All been falsified The facts mean this a </p>
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		<p>vaccine and the game need me to survive The Elohim, the rebirth Before you get to the Father, you gotta holla at me first, bitch Smokin' on top fives Motherfuck that album, fuck that single Burn that hard drive Ain't nobody safe When I come, I'm killin' everybody that's outside Yeah, Kanye changed his life But me, I'm still an old-school Gemini Let me jump in this bitch Two phones, but I only bring one in this bitch One daughter, but they all my sons in this bitch No hoes, ain't shit gettin' done in this bitch I'm scary, I got a gun in this bitch</p> <p>1.jump in the bitch's nerd-slang, obscene lexis 2.what's - colloquialism (abbreviation) 3.put that on my mama - slang 4.tryna - colloquialism (abbreviation) 5.tippy-toe - colloquialism 6.'round - colloquialism (abbreviation) 7.beat 'em up - slang 8.wanna - colloquialism (abbreviation) 9.fuck around - slang 10.OD - initialism (abbreviation) 11.IG - initialism (abbreviation) 12.lil' - colloquialism (abbreviation) 13.fuck - obscene lexis</p>
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		14.gotta – colloquialism (abbreviation) 15.yo’ - colloquialism (abbreviation) 16.ain’t – colloquialism (abbreviation) 17.hold on – slang 18.y’all – colloquialism (abbreviation) 19.´em – colloquialism (abbreviation) 20.come up killing – slang 21. whip – slang (car) 22. thumb in – slang 23. cum – obscene lexis 24. nigga – obscene lexis 25. ‘burbs – colloquialism (abbreviation) 26. bum – colloquialism 27. pop out – colloquialism 28. shit – obscene lexis 29. pop off – colloquialism 30. Rollie gang – slang 31. ass – obscene lexis 32. holla – slang 33. hoe – obscene lexis
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The analysis of song lyrics demonstrates that the words and phrases used there are more neutral in style than in the two other genres, which may be because such songs are meant to appeal to a very wide audience of all ages and backgrounds. In the pop song lyrics of 2020 are used 10 colloquialisms, 10 slang expressions and 2 obscene lexis. In 2021, there are 3 colloquialisms and 1 slang expression. In 2022, there are 5 colloquialisms, 1 idiom and 1 obscene lexis.

In rock songs the focus is on dynamic music, related to a particular form of motion, similar to roll, twist, swing, shake, which is why there may be more colloquial and slang expressions. In the song lyrics of 2020, there are 17 colloquialisms, 12 slang expressions and 3 obscene lexis. In 2021, there is 1 colloquialism and 4 slang expressions. In 2022, there are 4 colloquialisms and 1 slang expression.

Rap genre is a musical form of vocal presentation, including rhyming, rhythmic speech and street jargon. In this type of music slang and obscene expressions are quite common. In the

song lyrics of 2020, there are 11 colloquialisms, 5 slang expressions and 2 obscene lexis. In 2021, 9 colloquialisms, 1 neologism, 5 obscene lexis and 21 slang expressions. In 2022, 15 colloquialisms, 7 obscene expression, 2 initialisms and 10 slang expressions.

To conclude, the above analysis shows that colloquialisms and slang expressions are the most popular of all types of informal language in all genres of song lyrics. The analysis also shows that while pop and rock lyrics do not exhibit considerable stylistic differences in the use of informal language, rap lyrics, in comparison with pop and rock, have significantly more examples of slang and colloquialisms, and also obscene lexis, which may not be appropriate for school lessons both stylistically and thematically.

CONCLUSION

Informal language is a language of relaxed conversational style that consists of slang expressions, colloquialisms, idioms, neologisms, and obscene lexis. It is used by people in relaxed situations, in conversations between people from one social and interest group, relatives or friends; it can be used in personal messages, chats, and songs. Informal language is often playful and simplified, which a person consumes and produces when he/she feels at home. Slang is an informal lexis which is highly susceptible to change over time. Some slang expressions are recognizable and used over the years, but many of them disappear over the years. Colloquialisms, as slang expressions, are more appropriate for use in speech than in writing. Nevertheless, the main difference that distinguishes these two types is that colloquialisms have been quite stably used over the years. Neologisms are new words appearing in the language as a result of the emergence of new concepts, phenomena, and qualities, which have not yet become fully standard and entered a language's word-stock, codified in dictionaries. An idiom is a phrase or expression in a fixed order that has a figurative meaning. Two words together have different meanings from the meaning of each word on its own. Obscene lexis means swear words, words, which are considered taboo, rude, and vulgar.

Informal language has become a common feature of contemporary mainstream music of different genres. A musical genre is a type of music, or musical works, characterized by certain compositions, stylistic, and other features. Pop-genre songs are made for a wide audience and are dominated by urban culture. Rap is a musical style in which rhythm is chanted to musical accompaniment. Rock is dynamic guitar and drum music that has its beginning of folk, blues, and country music. Music has been recognized as a helpful language learning resource, and modern song lyrics can be used a source of informal language in the English language classroom.

The analysis of 9 songs of Grammy winners in the categories of best pop, rock, and rap performances of 2020, 2021, and 2022 to collect data on the use of informal language in these genres showed that colloquialisms and slang expressions are the most popular of all types of informal language in all genres. Pop and rock lyrics are rather similar in their use of informal vocabulary. Out of all three genres, however, rap song lyrics include the biggest

number of slang and colloquial expressions, and also obscene lexis, making it not appropriate for the school classroom.

SUMMARY IN ESTONIAN

Bakalaureusetöö teema on „Erinevused mitteametlikus sõnavaras popi-, räpi-, ja rokilaudele tekstides aastatel 2020,2021 ja 2022“.

Käesoleva lõputöö eesmärk on määratleda mitteametliku sõnavara mõisted, uurida kõnekeelt, vulgaarset leksikat, slängi sõnu, kõnekäände, ja neoloogisme pop, räpp ja rokk laulusõnades ning tuvastada erinevusi mitteametlikus keelekasutuses pop, räpp ja rokk laulusõnades.

Mitteametlik keel hõlmab slängi- ja kõnekäändude väljendeid, idioome, neologisme ja labast sõnavara. Neid kasutatakse lõdvestunud olukordades, kus suhtlemine toimub sama sotsiaalse grupi ja huvidega inimeste, sugulaste või sõprade vahel. Neid võib kasutada ka isiklikus kirjavahetuses ja lauludes. Mitteametliku keele tüübid on mängulised ja lihtsustatud, mida inimene tarbib end kodus tundes.

Praktiline osa hõlmab 2020., 2021. ja 2022. aasta Grammy võitjate pop, räpp ja rokk žanris esitatud 9 laulu analüüsi mitteametliku keelekasutuse osas. Analüüs näitas, et kõnekeelsed ja slängi väljendid on kõigi mitteametliku keele vormide seas kõige populaarsemad. Räpp muusikas esineb kõige rohkem kõnekeelseid ja slängi väljendeid ning lisaks ka vulgaarset leksikat.

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