This handout is designed as a resource for people not attending the talk. All the content below except the references are presented on my slides. For a copy of my slides, please contact me: esmith49@u.rochester.edu

Definitions

**Prosodic dissonance**: mismatch between the linguistic stress of a word and its metric placement

**Stress discrepancy rule**: The stronger the metric position coupled with a weaker syllable, or the weaker the metric position coupled with a stronger syllable, the more prosodically dissonant an event will sound.

Associated phenomena:

- **Vowel reduction**: schwas on musical strong beats or schwas on accented syllables in the text can increase the feeling of prosodic dissonance
- **Syncopation**: phenomenal accents / syncopation affect whether and how much a lyric is prosodically dissonant
- **Parallelism**: we assume that a repeated musical pattern will correspond to a repeated prosodic pattern
- **Rhyme creation**: prosodic dissonance is commonly used to create or force a weak-syllable rhyme scheme
- **Syllable length**: altering the relative duration of syllables as spoken can enhance the sense of prosodic dissonance

Transcribed Examples

**Katy Perry, “Unconditionally” (2013), chorus**

Un-condi-tio-nal, un-condi-tio-nal-ly
Taylor Swift, "...Ready For It?" (2017), bridge

Lady Gaga, "Applause" (2013), second verse

5 Seconds of Summer, "Easier" (2019), prechorus

Lady Gaga, "Applause" synthesizer during second verse
Janelle Monáe, “Make Me Feel” (2018), second half of first verse

you keep on asking me the same questions and second guessing all my intentions

should know by the way... I use my compression that you are the answer to my confessions

Taylor Swift, “You Need to Calm Down” (2019), first verse

you are someone that I don’t know but you’re taking shots at me like it’s Patron

Zedd and Kehlani, “Good Thing” (2019), first verse

I book myself tables at all the best restaurants, then eat alone

I buy myself fast cars just so I can drive ‘em real fuckin’ slow

Rebecca Black, “Friday” (2011), bridge

Yesterday was Thursday, Thursday Today it is Friday, Friday...
Bibliography

*n.b. To reference this talk, please use she/her pronouns and cite the author by first name.


