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English Composition 11000

PART 1:

Ghenghis Khan by Miike Snow, a Swedish pop band, was produced in 2015 for their album *iii*. The song has a catchy beat filled with elements of electropop and slight hints of modern rock. The song is a narrative of the conflicting desires of the singer on committing to a relationship. This narrative of indecisiveness is shown through allusion to the late Mongolian conqueror, Ghenghis Khan, who was known to be controlling and possessive of his power and many concubines. This comparison to Ghenghis Khan is mentioned throughout the lyrics through many repetitions of “I get a little bit Ghenghis Khan, I don't want you to get it on, With nobody else but me, With nobody else but me”. This also plays into the narrative of indecisiveness as the singer says they only “ get a little bit Ghenghis Khan” which understates the effect of the comparison. The song also uses many examples of assonance where harmony and euphony are created. The first verse holds three separate forms of assonance where a long “o” sound can be heard repeated in the first 2 lines. This is followed by a repeating short “i” sound in the next two lines. This is also paired with a rhyming scheme where every two lines sync with each other. “I know there's no form, And no labels to put on, To this thing we keep, And dip into when we need, And I don't have the right, To ask where you go at night, But the waves hit my head, To think someone's in your bed”. This narrative of irrational commitment with the catchy pop beat works to create a well-done song with an upbeat mood despite the differing message in the lyrics.

Grenade by Bruno Mars was produced in 2010 for the album *Doo-Wops & Hooligans*. The song has heavy hints of R and B with the main pop beat and tempo. This song plays hard into a narrative of one-sided commitment in a relationship with many hyperboles of extreme acts of devotion: “ I'd catch a grenade for ya, Throw my hand on a blade for ya, I'd jump in front of a train for ya”. This exaggeration of commitment plays into the high energy of the singer which creates a less somber mood that instead feels more of acceptance rather than anger or denial. This gets further promoted as the singer uses both Assonance and Consonance to create a form of harmony and euphony: “Cause you never, ever, ever did, baby”. Although the idea of acceptance is presented in the song, the idea of commitment never disappears as the chorus repeats at both the start and end of the song: “I'd catch a grenade for ya (yeah, yeah, yeah), Throw my hand on a blade for ya (yeah, yeah, yeah), I'd jump in front of a train for ya (yeah, yeah, yeah), You know I'd do anything for ya (yeah, yeah, yeah), Oh, oh, I would go through all this pain, Take a bullet straight through my brain, Yes, I would die, for ya, baby, But you won't do the same”. This creates a more extreme narrative of commitment without acknowledgment.

I'll Find a Way by League of Legends (Feat. TELLE) was produced in 2021 in promotion of the Sentinels Of Light in-game event for League of Legends. This song is a narrative that follows Viego, a fictional character from League of Legends, on his journey to resurrect his dead wife. Viego as a character was designed to be a complicated villain with a virtuous goal but ill-intended means. The background of the narrative plays a major part in setting the mood and pacing of the song through a powerful bass-like EDM backdrop that coincides with a strong voice to create a cold ominous tone in the song. This tone sets a certain connotation for the phrase “I'll Find a Way” to lean towards one of madness rather than pure

devotion. The change is noticeable in the volume of his voice as it shifts throughout the song from a quiet grieving to a louder and more violent tone. This shift in tone also becomes noticeable as the beginning uses consonance as a way to create a soft verse (“And I’m chasing whispers, before they all just fade”) and changes to using cacophony in the later parts of the song to create a more harsh violent feeling (“This porcelain mirage, may start to break, Each piece a reminder, every single little mistake”). This change and contrast in the song create a strong narrative of madness in devotion.

PART 2:

This mixtape seeks to combine all songs into a type of anthology of insecure relationships through the deviations of a common first-person narrative and differing emotions. All three songs carry similar genres stemming from the popular style of modern pop, and they also have their own unique tone and emotional backdrop. This variety of emotions and tones of the songs allows for multiple interpretations and narratives centering on the dynamics of commitment in a relationship. Combining these songs allow for many views on how many relationships in our life can be lacking or abundant in commitment.

“Genghis Khan” made in 2015 by Miike Snow is a song that uses its upbeat and catchy beat to downplay the seriousness of the narrative of not being willing to commit to a relationship. This feeling of wanting to achieve a goal without putting in the effort can be associated with the narrative given in the song. This narrative of irrational commitment with the catchy pop beat works to create a well-done song with an upbeat mood despite the differing message in the lyrics.

This narrative of commitment can then be observed in the song “Grenade” made in 2010 by Bruno Mars where it depicts a narrative of a one-sided relationship where many exaggerations

and hyperboles of sacrifice can be heard throughout the song nearing madness and absurdity: “I'd catch a grenade for ya, Throw my hand on a blade for ya, I'd jump in front of a train for ya”. It questions if the commitment was placed in the appropriate place. This paired with the r & b style music creates a more melancholy vibe compared to the energetic upbeat style seen in “Ghenghis Khan”

This transition to a more somber mood fits well into the last song “I’ll Find a Way” made in 2021 by League of Legends (FEAT. TELLE). This song features a narrative of the loss of a loved one but still having lingering attachments and commitments. This loss can be analogous to the issue of what ifs and could haves that plague many people who have lost the timing to commit. In contrast to the prior songs by Miike Snow and Bruno Mars, this “I’ll Find a Way” doesn’t use upbeat or catchy beats but instead utilizes a slow dark bass-filled EDM style to complete the transition from an upbeat vibe and light commitment to a more mournful vibe and heavy commitment.

PART 3:

For the composition of my mixtape, I focused heavily on making a cohesive spectrum focusing on the narrative of commitment and vibe to create a chronology of depreciation from cheerful to somber. This focus on narrative did overshadow any deep analysis into the use of rhetorical devices to form a cohesive interpretation for a mixtape. This critique was brought up in one of my peer reviews from Emily Jospesh to incorporate a mix of rhetorical devices to explain the link found between the songs in the mixtape. Although there were some similar uses of rhetorical devices like cacophony and euphony, the connection using these devices wasn’t strong enough to combine the songs into a mixtape. This led me to look into similarities of cultural

importance, their audience, and even the intentions of each artist. This proved to have no significant effect as each song was made in its own unique genre with no real comparable past or influence. This left the emotions and narrative the songs conveyed to be the most concrete justification for the songs to be connected within a mixtape. Overall, the three songs I personally chose for the mixtape don't have particularly similar audiences or styles but have this unique theme of insecurity and commitment in everyone's relationship whether they be with another person or anything in your life.