

Legacy of Lyrics: from The Verbasizer to AI

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Introduction

Songs have multiple aspects which work in tandem to create a cohesive experience. One such aspect, lyrics, are often an important part of songs. They can help to set the tone, tell a story, attempt to create a connection with the listener, or potentially other roles which may help with conveying the intention or boost the effects of the music. And in the music industry when there are so many songs being released any of these aspects may help to set a song or artist apart from the others.

AI has been introduced as an important element in multiple factors in the music industry. Lyric writing is one example of the factors of song creation that AI has been trained to be able to create. However, as something that has been primarily an element within the human domain of creation, AI introduction may cause disruption and contestation. One domain of this contestation is in AI's ability to effectively create lyrics.

This paper will examine the importance of lyrics and their creation, while also attempting to posit the best way for AI to engage with the lyric writing process. It will do this by looking at what available literature there is in regards to lyrics. Furthermore, it will integrate a project attempting to test various AI model's ability to generate lyrics based on an atypical prompt. Combined, this paper will attempt to add to the literature of the importance of lyrics while also attempting to address the best way for Ai to integrate with the lyric writing process.

Importance of Lyrics

Lyrics are important to songs, particularly they “are an integral part of popular music, which itself is a domain of human experience that has enormous significance” (West, 2019, p. 4). This significance can be seen from the range of which music is integrated in since “Through a number of recent technological advances in popular media (e.g., online song download sites, portable

MP3 players), individuals' options for obtaining and listening to music have expanded greatly" (Pettijohn & Sacco, 2009, p. 297). Whether it is in soundtracks of movies, social media, radio or personal playlists. By having music and lyrics amongst such a wide array of media forms their effects can also be likewise spread out or focussed on one or two aspects. This can be attributed to its basis in communication since "Lyrics are an important form of communication, serving a variety of purposes as documented in the psychology of language literature. Lyrics tell stories and communicate with audiences in a manner similar to how people have conversations with each other" (Pettijohn & Sacco, 2009, p. 298). One such example for lyrics can be social media posts which only contain lyrics which the user finds personally resonant or poignant.

The variety of situations and impact they can have show that "song lyrics have value. It is not for nothing that popular music has such a wide and profound appeal; and song lyrics, as the most salient element, quite clearly have a crucial role to play in how people experience popular music" (West, 2019, p. 4). These also do not take into consideration the influence and inspiration these lyrics can have as well the extent of personal impact they can have as shown with tattoos of these lyrics or other significant personal displays or affects. This can be due to the explicit nature of lyrics which may be more easily transferable or understood compared to other aspects such as the tune or composition when it comes to expressing preference and personal impact.

However, academically, lyrics are largely ignored as far as any kind of analysis of either their contents or importance. This can be due to two of the closest disciplines, stylistics and literature studies, have not embraced lyrics outside of only a few notable exceptions (West, 2019). Even in the six years between West's acknowledgment of this lack of academic acknowledgement of lyrics and this paper, I have not found much more in regards to academic literature about lyrics.

Further complicating this matter is the relatively recent addition of AI to the music industry and, in particular to this paper, with the lyric writing process. This is part of the "a long-standing debate around the social implications of AI, centered on one main question: whether, and to what extent, AI will be capable of mimicking and even replacing human beings in a whole range of activities" (Bonini & Magaudda, *Artificial Intelligence*, 2024, p. 122) and in particular in the music industry as "concerns about AI have translated into less dramatic but no less worrisome consequences, encompassing fears that this technology may soon replace artists

and musicians, turning music creativity into something cold and functional, favoring a new way to make profit for online platforms and financial investors in the digital sector” (Bonini & Magaudda, *Artificial Intelligence*, 2024, p. 122).

However, If we follow the logic that:

“music’s economic value lies in its mediation, rather than the music itself. Following this line of thinking, we might say that music as an object (music score, physical recording) sold for a price (exchange value) has lost its value for most people (except for record fans), but music as a social practice (use value) has not. Then, it is crucial to turn part of our attention to the reconfiguration of a wide set of music-related practices, how they are changing and coevolving together with new artifacts and platforms form music fruition” (Bonini & Magaudda, conclusion, 2024, p.151).

It can be logical to take lyrics as one of these important aspects that still has practical and use value. This also would put more onus on the human element, not just in the creation process but for the use rather than a purely financial aspect but the necessity of both creating and consuming music for the artistic aspects. The inspiration from lyrics can also be taken from the sociopolitical climate. This may also be a separating factor between human and AI production of lyrics. For example, Pettijohn and Sacco found that “when social and economic times were difficult and threatening, songs with more words per sentence and more future references were popular [and] lyrics of popular songs included more person pronouns (first, second, and third person), discussed more social processes (friendship, talking, etc.), and had more sports references” (2009, p. 304) who further elaborate that it could be due to “identifying with popular song lyrics that represent our worldviews may help ease threats to the self. Specifically, we found that songs that were judged to be more meaningful and comforting were popular during social and economic down times” (2009, p. 305).

While the human element in lyric production is important and historically something only done by humans, it does not mean that there is no room for improvement or that AI cannot potentially help. For example, Parada-Cabaleiro, Mayerl, Brandl, et al found that:

“In essence, we find that lyrics have become simpler over time regarding multiple aspects of lyrics: vocabulary richness, readability, complexity, and the number of repeated lines. Our results also confirm previous research that found that lyrics have become more negative on the one hand, and more personal on the other. In addition, our experimental outcomes show that listeners’ interest in lyrics varies across musical genres and is related to the songs’ release year” (2024, conclusion para. 1)

One potential solution for bucking these trends could be finding alternative methods of generating lyrics. This is an aspect where AI could help or hinder depending on its training data and prompting. This paper and project will deal with the latter aspect. Particularly, how the cut up method, which has some precedent in lyric production already, can affect the lyric production of AI.

Cut Up Technique, David Bowie, and the Verbasizer

The cut up technique, which has had various proponents, one of the most popular was William S. Burroughs, who learned of it from Brion Gysin, is the process of cutting up articles or other pieces of written material (or even other physical media in general) to then rearrange and create something new (Knickerbocker, 1965). This creates a sort of literary remix of the narrative utilizing the existing words to create something new. One notable example of how the cut up technique can be used to serve for lyric writing is David Bowie. This is also relevant for how he integrated technology with the cut up technique and his own curation for lyric writing.

Even without the use of technology or techniques, Bowie had an ability to generate lyrics in little time and based on very simple prompts. For example, in the 1976 interview with playboy, Bowie creates a song he called “audience”, starting with the lyrics, during the interview based on asking the interviewer for the name of someone in rock and a songwriter in a process that he claims was similar to how he wrote the *Diamond Dogs* album (Crowe, 1976). This shows the human element in action with a more standard or simple prompting. However, Bowie did utilize techniques and technology to prompt and assist in the lyric writing process.

Technology, whether utilizing it in his process or as motif, is very normal for Bowie, thus, it should not be a surprise that Bowie worked with a program called the Verbasizer which would

generate a collection of words, nouns and phrases from various sources, mimicking the cut up method, for Bowie to curate into lyrics which he notably did for his album *Outside* (Bonini & Magaudda, Artificial intelligence, 2024). The Verbasizer was a useful tool for Bowie who describes how the Verbasizer picks different parts from the columns and sentences which ends up being a “kaleidoscope of meanings and topics and nouns and verbs all sort of slamming into each other” and how the program is like a “technological dream in its own way. It creates the images from the dream state [...] because it will prompt feelings and ideas [...] that I would have skirted around or just not have been involved in” (Textshop Experiments, 2016, 00:00-00:50, 3:03-3:30).

This is important in regards to both AI and lyric production due to it having a practical use and also one that is atypical. Rather than a typical prompt, it allowed for the creation of lyrics based on atypical prompts and creation process which allowed for the facilitation and cooperation between the human artist and the AI system. This also became the starting point for the research project.

Project and Project Results

This project was to determine how effective AI is at generating lyrics based on an atypical prompt, specifically based on the cut up technique. The project consisted of using a fan-made version of Ty Robert’s version of the Verbasizer (<https://verbasizer.com/>) which grabs recent news headlines or David Bowie lyrics and then mimics the cut up technique by randomly splicing them together. The results are what became the prompts for different AI (CoPilot, Staccato, and Udio) to create lyrics from. These lyrics were then run through a sentiment analysis from both Staccato and Copilot plus my own intrinsic analysis. This was to try and determine how effective AI can be at creating lyrics with minimal human interference and curation while also giving human and AI reflection on the outcome.

The results from the project were promising in regards that the AI systems were generally able to produce coherent lyrics based on the prompt. However, the two music focussed AI systems, Udio and Staccato, did a better job at curating the prompt into lyrics than CoPilot. Furthermore, the

results regardless of prompt or AI were consistent but simple in their rhyme and syllable schemes. The cohesion and readability or narrative aspects were not always consistent and sometimes the AI would seemingly “force” words from the prompt that seemingly did not make sense. Copilot had the least coherency between the lyrics and lines, this allowed it to take the most from the prompt but without any semblance of a narrative or rhyming scheme. Staccato provided the most consistent narrative, rhyme and line length while still incorporating some aspects of the prompt that fit the initial narrative. Udio was the only one to provide a song title and generally it would fit with the song and narrative which was consistent and with the rhyme scheme and line length, but incorporated very little of the original prompt.

The sentiment analysis from the AI systems looked at the songs as a whole narrative, picking out certain words or lines that skew it to a certain emotion. CoPilot broke down the lyrics into themes, tones, emotions and then a summary. This gave a much more analytic feel to the analysis and did not provide much detail. Staccato was not broken down into categories and instead was a paragraph describing the analysis and what words it discerned as being relevant to the tone but also gave suggestions for what the writer could do to improve. Furthermore, both Staccato and CoPilot had very similar analyses of the lyrics with very little differentiation outside of the specific synonyms used. Also, analyzed the two original prompts as primarily dark and the resulting lyrics for the most part were similarly dark or oppressive but with some elements of rebellion. The one exception was Udio which all the lyrics it created were analysed as being positive and uplifting with romantic tones as well which is very different from how they analysed the prompt. The one exception for this was *Echoes of Chaos* which still was positive but more in a resilient and hopeful way rather than romantic or overtly positive. But otherwise the analysis for both tended to be very similar and the AI found the lyrics did not skew far away sentiment-wise from the source prompt outside of Udio’s results.

Overall, all the AI systems were able to create lyrics based on the cut up prompt. Both music AIs outperformed CoPilot in regards to narrative cohesion whereas CoPilot sacrificed narrative cohesion for including as much of the prompt as possible. For analysis, Copilot was able to more effectively break down the lyrics into specific wording that gives a connotation whereas Staccato gave a brief summary of that but spent the majority focused on what aspects the writer could

improve on to enhance these effects. Udio did not have an option for sentiment analysis and the lyrics were more coherent than CoPilot but less relevant to the prompt than Staccato.

Conclusion

This paper has attempted to show that while song lyrics are important and can be relevant for personal or socio-political experiences, there is a relatively small amount of academic literature on lyrics. Thus this paper hopes to supplement not only the attached project but to add to the field as a whole, particularly by combining it with the burgeoning field of AI. By combining the results with the available academic and practical literature on lyrics and their writing process, this shows that while AI can be of value and can technically be sufficient in regards to generating lyrics, specifically using the cut up method, it may still require human intervention to curate. This is due to AI's technical ability being proficient but this creates a lacking of improvisation or surprise, or perhaps even just a greater degree of creative expression, that may make the lyrics stand out. Thus, a human element may still be needed for lyric creations and curation to handle the less technical aspects and analysis outside of the word association that AI focuses on.

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Annex

Project

The goal of this project is to determine the effectiveness of AI in creating lyrics based on Atypical prompting. This may help with understanding AI's ability to create, particularly from atypical prompts, and also help to determine the best combination of Human and AI partnerships in writing Lyrics and possibly to help define the role of AI within creative writing as a whole.

The process was first generating two prompts using the fan made version of the verbasizer. One prompt was done using David Bowie lyrics and the other was made by using news headlines. The prompt was then fed into Udio, Staccato and CoPilot to create lyrics from. The Staccato, CoPilot and I did our own analysis of the lyrics.

The reason for using the verbasizer is that David Bowie had used the original version to curate lyrics from for his album *The Outside* (Bonini & Magaudda, 2024) which gives it some degree of precedent of success as a means of replicating the cut up technique for lyric creation.

The reason for trying to mimic the Cut-Up technique for this is that it has historical precedent for lyric writing as previously mentioned but is also a technique that has a longer background and application to various creative mediums. Furthermore it can help to assess AI's ability to create from atypical prompts.

The reason for using Udio and Staccato is that they are music specific AI that allow for prompts based on lyrics and attempt to incorporate the lyrics in. The reason for using Copilot is that it is not music specific and can create more of a control or contrast to the other two. Also, Staccato and CoPilot were able to give analysis of the lyrics. However, Staccato was only on a trial for a limited time and was not able to do all of the prompts. Also, I did not provide an analysis for the verbasizer prompts due to the nature of the uncurated format being almost impossible to discern.

By the end, the goal of this project will be to provide practical and production in an attempt to mimic the lyric production of david Bowie during the writing process of "The Outside" to see if it can effectively generate lyrics from an atypical input.

Project data

1.

08.12

From verbasizer

Lyrics were a combination of 2 bowie songs

"Saviour Machine"

President Joe once had a dream
The world held his hand, gave their pledge

So he told them his scheme for a Saviour Machine

They called it the Prayer, its answer was law
Its logic stopped war, gave them food
How they adored till it cried in its boredom

'Please don't believe in me, please disagree with me

Life is too easy, a plague seems quite feasible now
or maybe a war, or I may kill you all

Don't let me stay, don't let me stay
My logic says burn so send me away

Your minds are too green, I despise all I've seen
You can't stake your lives on a Saviour Machine

I need you flying, and I'll show that dying

Is living beyond reason, sacred dimension of time
I perceive every sign, I can steal every mind

Don't let me stay, don't let me stay
My logic says burn so send me away

Your minds are too green, I despise all I've seen
You can't stake your lives on a Saviour Machine

And

"All The Madmen"

Day after day
They send my friends away
To mansions cold and grey
To the far side of town
Where the thin men stalk the streets

While the sane stay underground

Day after day
 They tell me I can go
 They tell me I can blow
 To the far side of town
 Where it's pointless to be high
 'Cause it's such a long way down
 So I tell them that
 I can fly, I will scream, I will break my arm

I will do me harm
 Here I stand, foot in hand, talking to my wall
 I'm not quite right at all...am I?

Don't set me free, I'm as heavy as can be
 Just my librium and me
 And my E.S.T. makes three

'Cause I'd rather stay here
 With all the madmen
 Than perish with the sadmen roaming free

And I'd rather play here
 With all the madmen
 For I'm quite content they're all as sane as me

(Where can the horizon lie
 When a nation hides
 Its organic minds in a cellar...dark and grim
 They must be very dim)

Day after day
 They take some brain away
 Then turn my face around
 To the far side of town
 And tell me that it's real
 Then ask me how I feel

Here I stand, foot in hand, talking to my wall
 I'm not quite right at all
 Don't set me free, I'm as helpless as can be
 My libido's split on me
 Gimme some good 'ole lobotomy

'Cause I'd rather stay here
 With all the madmen
 Than perish with the sadmen
 Roaming free And I'd rather play here
 With all the madmen
 For I'm quite content
 They're all as sane as me
 Zane, Zane, Zane Ouvre le Chien

results:

my nation their cellar free To stand brain go roaming lobotomy For answer stalk three Its can't they can
 librium feasible You le organic stopped need real a says called flying Life Machine Prayer arm town his
 stake sadmen war thin I'd good 'Please logic they're My turn boredom 'ole makes So and wall Day side
 food had was held men some I'll right scheme let disagree Gimme so for hand friends long too to high
 While don't How despise at scream that E feel perish way you sacred Ouvre face such gave cried easy
 heavy The seen am stay minds They I'm mind do your Chien dimension away split it pointless set of far
 living Than T dark beyond the green rather Here here fly Roaming kill blow grim hides adored very All
 once sign President is he around Then streets I've reason every pledge after 'Cause Joe I grey Just S are
 time not steal play send Is be cold plague law Madmen them content take with down how its mansions it's
 sane may me They're believe please tell madmen on ask perceive till underground lie libido's as Where
 maybe horizon dream world Don't harm dim all break Saviour foot helpless talking When will in told
 must quite lives burn show day dying Your or now seems Zane

Staccato AI analysis 08.12

The sentiment of the text seems to be quite dark and complex, with themes of confusion, desperation, and existential questioning. The lyrics seem to convey a sense of chaos and inner turmoil, with elements of surrealism and introspection. To continue conveying this sentiment in lyrics, the songwriter could focus on using vivid and abstract imagery, unconventional metaphors, and disjointed yet evocative language. They could also experiment with non-linear storytelling, exploring themes of identity, perception, and inner conflict. Embracing a more experimental approach to songwriting could help evoke a sense of dissonance and unease that aligns with the themes present in the text. Additionally, incorporating elements of repetition, wordplay, and unusual rhythmic patterns could further enhance the overall mood and atmosphere of the lyrics

Copilot Sentiment Analysis 08.12

- **Tone:** The lyrics have a mix of dark and reflective tones, with elements of despair, anger, confusion, and a longing for change.

- **Themes:** There are themes of conflict, societal and political issues, existential musings, and personal struggles. The references to war, lobotomy, and persecution evoke a sense of turmoil and unease.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Negative:** There is a strong presence of negative emotions, such as despair, frustration, anger, and sorrow. Words like "lobotomy," "sadmen," "war," "grim," "kill," and "despise" highlight this.
 - **Positive:** There are fleeting hints of hope and resilience, such as "flying," "life," "prayer," and "sacred," which suggest a search for meaning and redemption amidst chaos.

Summary: The lyrics paint a vivid picture of a troubled world filled with conflict and strife, but also touch upon the human spirit's resilience and quest for meaning. The overall sentiment is predominantly negative, with an underlying sense of longing for change and betterment.

From Udio 1.5 08.12

Title: Steal the Show

[Verse]

Life's a dream that shimmers bright, the stage is set tonight,
 With a flair for the grand design, we'll rock beneath the lights.
 No time for doubts or fears, just let the rhythm flow,
 We'll dance to the beat of our hearts, let this passion grow.

[Chorus]

So take my hand, we'll steal the show, nothing's stopping us, you know.

My analysis: seems more like a pop love song, very upbeat and positive with a focus on a 'we'. No significant relation to the prompt. As far as the lyrics, it is a very basic rhyme scheme and elicits thoughts of more upbeat and hopeful. AABB rhyme scheme with internal matching rhymes (internal A rhyme with end A rhyme). 12-13 syllable lines.

Staccato Ai analysis 08.12

The sentiment of the text is uplifting, optimistic, and full of energy. It conveys a sense of excitement and determination to seize the moment and make the most of every opportunity. To continue conveying this sentiment through lyrics, the songwriter could emphasize the themes of courage, determination, and unity. They could use imagery and metaphors that evoke a sense of empowerment and joy, encouraging listeners to embrace life's possibilities and follow their dreams. Incorporating dynamic and

engaging language, along with a catchy rhythm and melody, would also help to reinforce the uplifting and energetic mood of the song

Copilot analysis 12.12

- **Tone:** The tone is uplifting and positive, filled with excitement and confidence.
- **Themes:** The lyrics celebrate life, dreams, and the power of music and passion. They convey a sense of living in the moment and embracing opportunities.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Positive:** There is a strong presence of positive emotions, such as joy, enthusiasm, confidence, and unity. Phrases like "shimmers bright," "rock beneath the lights," "let this passion grow," and "we'll steal the show" emphasize this positivity.

Summary: The lyrics exude an uplifting and energetic vibe, encouraging listeners to seize the moment and live life to the fullest. The overall sentiment is highly positive, with a focus on confidence, joy, and the excitement of being in the spotlight.

Udio 2.10 09.12

Echoes of chaos echoes of rebellion

[Verse 1]

My nation's hiding secrets deep

In the cellar where shadows creep

Stalking dreams in a fog of lies

An unanswered prayer, it's no surprise

Can they hear the cries for freedom's call?

Or are we lost within these walls?

[Chorus]

We'll rise and break the chains

For those who've lost the fight

We'll walk this endless maze

Chasing the fading light

[Verse 2]

I see the madness, hear the noise

They gambled fate with their toys

But when the clock hits the final hour

Will they stand tall? Will they cower?

Ask yourself, what's worth the cost?

In this battle for the lost?

[Chorus]

We'll rise and break the chains
 For those who've lost the fight
 We'll walk this endless maze
 Chasing the fading light
 [Bridge]
 Together we can face the dawn
 Together we will carry on
 This is our chance, our time to claim
 A world unchained, no more blame
 [Chorus]
 We'll rise and break the chains
 For those who've lost the fight
 We'll walk this endless maze
 Chasing the fading light

My analysis: based on the title and the recurrence of mentions of breaking chains this song seems more of a resistance/rebellion song. The idea of endless maze could also be similar to the rat race idea, but the chasing the fading light does not seem to fit. Seemed to take only the first part of the prompt with "Nation's Cellar" but did not integrate much more. Feels more upbeat and hopefully, although less so than Steal The Show. Competent lyric generation and only some things that seem to not fit in. Relatively simple structure and AABBCC end rhyme scheme for verses and ABAB scheme for chorus, AABB for Bridge, pretty consistent 6 syllables across lines.

Staccato sentiment analysis 09.12

The sentiment of the text conveys a sense of resilience, determination, and unity in the face of adversity and oppression. The lyrics speak to the struggle for freedom, the willingness to fight for those who cannot, and the hope for a better future. To continue conveying this sentiment in the lyrics, the songwriter could explore imagery and metaphors that symbolize liberation and perseverance. They could include references to overcoming obstacles, standing strong in the face of challenges, and the power of solidarity. The use of evocative language, vivid descriptions, and emotional depth can further enhance the impact of the message. Additionally, incorporating a powerful and empowering refrain that encapsulates the theme of breaking free from oppression and striving for a brighter tomorrow can help resonate with the listeners and reinforce the overall sentiment of the song

From Copilot 12.12

- **Themes:** Key themes include freedom, struggle, resilience, and hope. There is a clear narrative of facing and overcoming challenges, united by a common goal.
- **Emotions:**

- **Negative:** The lyrics capture emotions of frustration, sorrow, and determination. Words like "hiding secrets," "shadows creep," "fog of lies," and "battle for the lost" reflect these negative emotions.
- **Positive:** Despite the initial despair, the lyrics move towards a more hopeful and empowering sentiment, especially in the chorus and bridge. Phrases like "we'll rise and break the chains," "chasing the fading light," and "a world unchained" emphasize hope, resilience, and collective strength.

Summary: The lyrics convey a journey from darkness to light, capturing the struggle against oppression and the fight for freedom. The overall sentiment is a mix of somber reflection on current challenges and hopeful determination to overcome them, with an emphasis on unity and perseverance.

From Staccato 09.12

In the nation's cellar, we're roamers of the mind
 Seeking answers, in a world so unkind
 But they say it can't be done, we're just too feeble
 Yet I believe in the power of what's real and see-through
 A life machine, a prayer in the night
 Arm in arm, we'll take on this fight
 Sad men at war, thin as can be
 But I'll say no to their logic, I'll break free
 My turn to break the boredom of the mundane
 On the side of the wall, where the outcasts remain
 I'll hold my ground, never giving in
 You can't contain my spirit, it's bound to win
 Gimme some hand, my friends, let's reach for the sky
 We'll soar too high, we'll never say goodbye
 While they despise us and scream in fear
 We'll E-perish their way and make it clear

The sacred face that once cried so heavy
I've seen it all, their minds are not steady
I'm in a dimension away from the norm
Living a life that's wild and warm
Beyond the dark, beneath the green
Here we fly, a sight to be seen
Roaming freely, killing the grim
Hiding our adored dream within
All at once, the President is near
Around the streets, reason is clear
Every pledge after, we'll stand tall
'Cause in this grey world, we won't fall
Just in time, we'll steal the play
Sending a message, come what may
In this cold world, plagued by law
Madmen have a content that we can't thaw
They take us down, with their mansions of sane
But believe me, we're not to blame
Please tell the madmen, it's time to go
Perceive the truth, till the underground lie's known
Libido's on the horizon, a dream so far
Don't harm me now, break through this tar
The saviour's foot, helpless in its talk
When will we be told, it's time to walk

Must live quite the burning show

Day by day, the dying grow

Your time is now, it seems so Zane...

My analysis: Also directly took the "Nation's Cellar" line. Not broken into verses, chorus and Bridge as the Udio did. 10-13 syllable lines. After the first 4 lines, which follow a AABC scheme, the rest of the lines follow the AABCCDD etc rhyme scheme except for the last line, which also incorporates Zane randomly from the prompt, although the narrative cohesion is more strained although it does incorporate more of the prompt than Udio without sacrificing the narrative as much as Udio did.

Staccato Sentiment Analysis 09.12

The sentiment of the text is defiant and rebellious, with a sense of determination and resilience against societal norms and expectations. The songwriter could continue to convey this sentiment for lyrics by incorporating more imagery and metaphors that symbolize the struggle against oppression and conformity. They could also add more dynamic and powerful language to evoke a sense of strength and unity among those challenging the status quo. Additionally, incorporating themes of empowerment, overcoming obstacles, and fighting for freedom could further enhance the message of resistance and perseverance in the lyrics

From copilot 12.12

- **Tone:** The tone of the lyrics is reflective and defiant, with an underlying sense of resilience and hope.
- **Themes:** The lyrics explore themes of struggle, defiance, resilience, and hope amidst adversity. There is a clear narrative of challenging the status quo and fighting for freedom and truth.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Negative:** The lyrics express emotions of frustration, anger, and sorrow. Phrases like "world so unkind," "sad men at war," "despise us," and "plagued by law" highlight these negative sentiments.
 - **Positive:** Despite the negative aspects, there is a strong presence of hope, determination, and unity. Lines such as "we'll take on this fight," "we'll soar too high," "we won't fall," and "sending a message, come what may" emphasize resilience and optimism.

Summary: The lyrics convey a journey through struggle and adversity, with a strong emphasis on resilience, unity, and hope. The overall sentiment is a mix of defiance against oppression and an unwavering belief in the power of truth and freedom. The lyrics encourage standing tall and fighting for what is right, even in the face of challenges

From CoPilot 12.12

Verse 1: My nation, their cellar free, To stand brain go roaming, lobotomy. For answers stalk the three, Can't they see? Librium feasible, you and me.

Pre-Chorus: Life called flying, stopped need real, Sad men in war, thin as steel. Day side held, friends too high, I'll scheme, let's agree, never die.

Chorus: Gimme a hand, long too high, I despise, scream, cry. Sacred mind, I'm split away, Pointless living, dark dismay.

Verse 2: President's around, reason every pledge, After Joe's grey, time to hedge. Cold plague law, madmen say, Their mansions sane, take them away.

Bridge: Perceive the underground, libido's lie, Horizon's dream, world won't die. Savior's foot, helpless talk, Lives burn show, as we walk.

Outro: Your day dying, seems quite still, Helpless talking, break and kill. Don't harm, dim, all remains, Savior's foot, helpless gains.

(note from CoPilot: I took some creative liberties to make the lyrics flow a bit better, but I hope you like them)

My analysis: Copilot broke the lyrics down into verse, prechorus, chorus, bridge, and outro. Again took the nation and Cellar from first part but split it up this time. A lot more nonsensical lines/sentences than what Udio and Staccato produced with almost all lines not being coherent. Seemed far darker and less upbeat and hopeful than the others.

Sentiment analysis from copilot

- **Tone:** The tone is dark and contemplative, with underlying themes of struggle, confusion, and defiance.

- **Themes:** The lyrics explore themes of mental and societal conflict, existential reflections, and a yearning for liberation and truth.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Negative:** There is a strong presence of negative emotions, such as despair, frustration, confusion, and sorrow. Words and phrases like "lobotomy," "sad men in war," "I despise, scream, cry," and "pointless living, dark dismay" highlight these sentiments.
 - **Positive:** Amidst the negative emotions, there are glimmers of hope and defiance, suggesting a desire to break free from oppression. Phrases like "Librium feasible, you and me," "never die," and "world won't die" indicate resilience and determination.

Summary: The lyrics convey a complex emotional landscape, blending feelings of despair and frustration with moments of hope and defiance. The overall sentiment leans towards the darker side, reflecting struggles with mental, societal, and existential issues. However, the recurring theme of resilience suggests an underlying drive to overcome these challenges.

(Note: No staccato analysis due to trial having run out)

2.

09.12

Verbasizer

From

Jay-Z accused with Diddy in lawsuit of raping girl, 13, in 2000 Jay-Z has dismissed the action as a "blackmail attempt", while Diddy has denied the claims against him.

Travel ban on S Korea president after martial law attempt Travel bans have also been imposed on several senior officials involved in the botched martial law move.

Killing of insurance CEO reveals simmering anger at US health system Long-standing frustrations were revealed online after a health insurance executive was shot and killed in New York City.

Iran's uranium enrichment 'worrisome' - nuclear watchdog The IAEA agency says Tehran's nuclear programme has "spawned in every direction" over the last decade.

Watch: BBC reports from inside Damascus The BBC's Barbara Plett-Usher says everyone in the Syrian capital is "waiting to see what will happen next".

Fears loom over India's 'Hong Kong' project on a remote island Experts say the multi-billion project would be a 'death sentence' for the Shompen people.

Comeback of 1990s Indian crime drama evokes nostalgia Fans of CID, one of India's longest-running TV shows, are thrilled about its much-anticipated comeback.

Results from verbasizer

longest Killing have uranium say watchdog spawned Shompen agency see 'death over raping been insurance will Usher against Plett to Barbara says Experts ban with lawsuit The action would online health direction shows one crime India's claims botched be blackmail capital move attempt Indian executive Z CEO City Travel Fears thrilled BBC's multi billion on programme everyone standing Damascus US what officials several Comeback Kong' BBC killed involved was much s simmering Diddy anticipated drama enrichment law Watch sentence' every denied Fans also last York system is at comeback president Jay 'Hong a while about him accused nuclear from imposed reveals evokes IAEA S senior of in decade anger reports for has island Iran's running and bans after waiting the Long revealed nostalgia were remote dismissed TV project Tehran Korea happen people 'worrisome' are next New loom CID girl as its Syrian martial inside shot frustrations

From Staccato 09.12

The sentiment in this text appears to be quite chaotic and intense, with mentions of killing, uranium, rape, ban, lawsuit, and various other heavy topics. This conveys a sense of urgency, drama, and unease. To continue conveying this sentiment in lyrics, the songwriter could focus on using strong, impactful language, vivid imagery, and a fast-paced rhythm to mirror the chaotic and intense mood. They could also explore themes of conflict, inner turmoil, and suspense to further enhance the sense of urgency and drama in the lyrics. Additionally, using metaphors and symbolism related to the mentioned topics could add depth and complexity to the overall message of the song

CoPilot 12.12

- **Tone:** The tone is intense and dramatic, with themes of conflict, controversy, and intrigue.
- **Themes:** The lyrics explore themes of political and social unrest, legal and corporate battles, and media scandals. There are references to nuclear issues, law enforcement, and public drama.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Negative:** The lyrics convey strong negative emotions such as fear, frustration, anger, and tension. Phrases like "death over raping," "botched blackmail," "frustrations," and "madmen" highlight these sentiments.
 - **Positive:** There are few positive emotions, but occasional hints of resilience and determination can be inferred, such as "thrilled" and "standing."

Summary: The lyrics paint a picture of a world filled with turmoil, conflict, and controversy. The overall sentiment is heavily negative, reflecting societal and political unrest, personal and collective struggles, and a sense of urgency and drama. The references to nuclear issues, legal battles, and media controversies add to the intense and dramatic tone of the lyrics.

UDio 09.12

Shining Star Neon Dream

[Verse]

In the neon lights we danced all night,
 The rhythm takes us higher, it feels so right,
 With every glance, you're pulling me near,
 Like a dream from the past, you're my souvenir.

[Chorus]

You can be my shining star,
 Together we'll go far!

My analysis:

Very basic. Has the sentiment of happiness, could be a love/couples song. Still follows the AABB rhyme scheme. 9-11 syllables per line in verse and 6-7 for chorus. Generally cohesive and all fits with the theme. Seems more of a pop song and somewhat of a relationship/love song due to the amount of usage of "we" and in a positive way.

Staccato sentiment analysis 09.12

The sentiment of the text feels nostalgic and romantic, evoking a sense of longing and euphoria. The imagery of dancing in neon lights and being pulled closer by someone like a souvenir from the past adds to the wistful and dreamy atmosphere. To continue conveying this sentiment in lyrics, the songwriter could focus on incorporating sensory details that emphasize the atmosphere of the moment, such as describing the colors of the neon lights, the feeling of the rhythm pulsating through their bodies, or the intoxicating scent of the night air. Additionally, they could explore the emotions of the characters more deeply, delving into the longing, desire, and connection they share in the midst of the vibrant setting. Developing the narrative of the relationship and the significance of being each other's shining star could also enrich the lyrical content and enhance the overall sentiment.

CoPilot analysis 12.12

- **Tone:** The tone of the lyrics is romantic and uplifting, with a sense of nostalgia and joy.
- **Themes:** The lyrics revolve around themes of love, connection, and the exhilarating feeling of dancing and being together under neon lights.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Positive:** There is a strong presence of positive emotions, such as joy, excitement, love, and nostalgia. Phrases like "we danced all night," "feels so right," "pulling me near," and "shining star" highlight these positive sentiments.

Summary: The lyrics evoke a dreamy and romantic atmosphere, celebrating the joy of being together and the magical moments shared under the neon lights. The overall sentiment is highly positive, filled with love, excitement, and a sense of boundless possibility.

Udio 09.12

Pure Bliss

[Verse 1]

In the shadows where we meet, it's alive
 Words we share, they spark, they thrive
 With history deep like an ocean's wave

Every moment with you, I crave
Whispers echo, our hopes collide
In this world, you're my guiding light

[Chorus]

You can be my shining star
Together we'll go far
Holding on to every kiss
Baby, that's pure bliss!
Got this feeling inside
With you, I can't hide
It's a rush, can't resist!
Baby, that's pure bliss!
That's pure bliss!

Whoa-oh!

[Verse 2]

Got that vibe, won't let it fade, no doubt
Every laugh we share, it's what life's about
From the rooftop views, to those late night calls
With each chapter written, in love, we stand tall
Take my hand, we'll write our story
In your arms, I'm lost in glory

[Chorus]

You can be my shining star
Together we'll go far
Holding on to every kiss
Baby, that's pure bliss!
Got this feeling inside
With you, I can't hide
It's a rush, can't resist!
Baby, that's pure bliss!
That's pure bliss!

Whoa-oh!

[Bridge]

Hold me close, don't let go,
In this moment, I feel whole,
Every heartbeat feels like gold,
With you, love's story unfolds!

[Chorus]

You can be my shining star

Together we'll go far
 Holding on to every kiss
 Baby, that's pure bliss!

My analysis: This one reads the most like a proper song. Simple AABB... rhyme scheme. Lighthearted, repeated use of bliss encourages that and the optimistic romantic narrative. Love focussed high energy pop song calling someone baby and focusing on "you" in a positive and romantic way. Verse two the lines get longer but otherwise it is short lines but with a larger range of 3-7 syllables for the most part.

Staccato sentiment analysis 09.12

The sentiment of the song is overwhelmingly positive and joyful, depicting deep love and happiness. The verses and the chorus express a sense of deep connection, affection, and bliss between two people. The use of vivid imagery and romantic language conveys a feeling of warmth and emotional fulfillment. To continue conveying this sentiment in the lyrics, the songwriter could: 1. Focus on specific details and imagery that evoke strong emotions and create a vivid picture for the listener. 2. Use metaphorical language to symbolize the depth of the feelings shared between the individuals. 3. Incorporate sensory descriptions to engage the listener on a more profound level. 4. Maintain a consistent tone throughout the song to ensure the sentiment resonates effectively. 5. Experiment with varying rhyme schemes and song structures to keep the listener engaged and enhance the emotional impact of the lyrics

CoPilot analysis 12.12

- **Tone:** The tone of the lyrics is romantic and joyful, filled with love, excitement, and a sense of adventure.
- **Themes:** The lyrics focus on themes of love, connection, and the exhilarating feeling of being with someone special. There are references to shared moments, deep emotional bonds, and the joy of experiencing life together.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Positive:** There is a strong presence of positive emotions, such as love, joy, excitement, and contentment. Phrases like "shining star," "pure bliss," "every moment with you, I crave," and "in this moment, I feel whole" highlight these positive sentiments.

Summary: The lyrics celebrate the beauty of love and the joy of being with a special someone. The overall sentiment is highly positive, with a focus on the deep emotional

connection and the happiness that comes from sharing meaningful moments together. The lyrics convey a sense of unity, excitement, and the pure bliss of love

Staccato 09.12

Verse 1:

In the night, when the stars align,
Whispers of a tale that's hard to define,
Longest days, killing time,
Uranium in the air, a dangerous crime.

Chorus:

We're standing on the edge,
Watchdog spawned from dread,
Shompen agency says we should hold our breath,
'Cause the fear of death is in the air we tread.

Verse 2:

Insurance will deny, against the flow,
Barbara says it's a dangerous show,
Experts ban, a lawsuit in tow,
A city in turmoil, where secrets grow.

Chorus:

We're standing on the edge,

Watchdog spawned from dread,
 Shompen agency says we should hold our breath,
 'Cause the fear of death is in the air we tread.

Bridge:

In the midst of chaos, there's a light,
 A beacon of hope, shining bright,
 Through the storm, we'll unite,
 And emerge from the darkness, into the light.

Chorus:

We're standing on the edge,
 Watchdog spawned from dread,
 Shompen agency says we should hold our breath,
 'Cause the fear of death is in the air we tread.

My analysis: This one incorporated the most from the prompt, however a lot of it felt forced and led to a lack of cohesion, particularly in verse 1 and 2. Bridge and chorus are more consistent but tell two different stories or feelings where the bridge is more optimistic and the chorus is more pessimistic. . Rhyme scheme seems to be very close to AAAA/BBBB with very close rhymes. Line length is generally consistent.

Staccato sentiment analysis 09.12

The sentiment of the text is dark and foreboding, with an underlying feeling of fear and uncertainty. The mention of uranium, danger, fear of death, chaos, and secrets growing all contribute to this mood. The repetition of the chorus reinforces the feeling of being on the edge and facing impending danger. To continue conveying this sentiment in lyrics, the songwriter could focus on vivid and evocative imagery, metaphors, and word choices that heighten the sense of unease and tension. Exploring themes of isolation, desperation, and struggle can deepen the emotional impact of the lyrics. Additionally, integrating elements of conflict and resolution, such as the bridge's mention of a beacon of hope and unity, can provide a contrast that enhances the darkness and

ultimately offers a glimmer of optimism. By playing with contrasts and crafting a narrative that moves between despair and hope, the songwriter can create a compelling and emotive song that resonates with listeners.

CoPilot Analysis 12.12

- **Tone:** The tone is dark and intense, with elements of fear, conflict, and tension. However, there's also a hint of hope and unity towards the end.
- **Themes:** The lyrics explore themes of danger, societal turmoil, fear of death, and resilience. There are references to environmental and societal issues, as well as a sense of vigilance and survival.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Negative:** There is a strong presence of negative emotions such as fear, dread, and anxiety. Phrases like "uranium in the air," "dangerous crime," "fear of death," and "turmoil" reflect these sentiments.
 - **Positive:** Despite the predominantly negative tone, there are moments of hope and unity, especially in the bridge. Phrases like "a beacon of hope, shining bright," "we'll unite," and "emerge from the darkness" convey optimism and resilience.

Summary: The lyrics portray a tense and foreboding atmosphere, highlighting societal and environmental dangers. However, the presence of hope and the call for unity offer a counterbalance to the darker elements. The overall sentiment is a mix of fear and anxiety, with a notable undercurrent of resilience and hope for the future.

From Copilot 12.12

Verse 1: Killing, uranium in the air, Watchdog spawned, the world's despair. Insurance will, against the crime, Usher's call, Plett and Barbara's time.

Pre-Chorus: Ban and lawsuit, online health, India's claims, botched blackmail stealth.
Capital moves, attempt to sway, Executive Z, the game they play.

Chorus: City travel fears, multi-billion scheme, Everyone standing, the American dream.
Comeback Kong, in simmering heat, Drama unfolds, where the law and streets meet.

Verse 2: Anticipated drama, enrichment law, Watch every sentence, denied the flaw.
Fans of a system, New York's stay, President Jay, the urban fray.

Bridge: Nuclear games, imposed reveals, Decade's anger, the truth it feels. IAEA's
whispers, running bans, Iran's island, frustration spans.

Outro: Nostalgia waits, remote dismissed, Tehran's project, future's twist. Syrian martial,
inside the shot, Frustrations flare, as the world forgot.

My analysis: uses a lot from the prompt but it is almost all seemingly forced which gives no cohesion or narrative either line by line or as a whole. Relatively simple AABB rhyme scheme and pretty consistent line length. Overall maybe more negative or nihilistic but due to the chaotic nature and lack of narrative cohesion it is hard to define an emotion.

(note: the Staccato analysis was only a trial and had run out at this time)

Copilot Analysis 12.12

- **Tone:** The tone is dark and intense, with strong elements of conflict, tension, and societal critique.
- **Themes:** The lyrics explore themes of political and social unrest, environmental issues, legal and corporate battles, and media-driven drama. There are also references to nuclear issues, international relations, and public fear.
- **Emotions:**
 - **Negative:** The lyrics convey strong negative emotions such as despair, frustration, anxiety, and anger. Phrases like "world's despair," "botched blackmail," "frustrations flare," and "the world forgot" highlight these sentiments.
 - **Positive:** There is very little positive sentiment in the lyrics, with most of the focus being on negative aspects and conflicts.

Summary: The lyrics paint a picture of a world filled with conflict, tension, and societal issues. The overall sentiment is heavily negative, reflecting a sense of frustration, anger, and despair over political, environmental, and social challenges. The references to nuclear issues, legal battles, and media controversies add to the intense and dramatic tone of the lyrics.

Verbasizer 1

staccato: dark, desperate, existential

Copilot: dark, reflective, anger and despair

Steal the show

Staccato: uplifting, positive

CoPilot: uplifting, positive

Echoes of chaos

Staccato: resilience and unity

Copilot: hope and freedom and resilience

Staccato 1

Staccato: Defiant and rebellious

Copilot: reflective and defiant

Copilot 1

Copilot: dark and contemplative with elements of defiance

Verbasizer 2

Staccato chaotic and intense

CoPilot intense and dramatic

Shining star

Staccato nostalgic and romantic

Copilot romantic and uplifting with some nostalgia

Pure bliss

Staccato overwhelmingly positive and joyful and affectionate

Copilot romantic and joyful

Staccato 2

Staccato: dark and forboding with some contrast of hope at the end

CoPilot: dark and intense with some hope at the end

CoPilot 2

Copilot: dark and intense

Project results

Udio was the only one to provide a title which did give some relation to the lyrics provided. Overall wrote generally positive lyrics that seemed to skew to more romantic songs with generally basic rhyme schemes of AABB with only a few occasions of ABAB for choruses and for the most part kept the lyric length consistent and short around 6 syllables with sometimes skewing longer or shorter. Generally only took a small part of the prompt and then went with it to create a narrative. While the lyrical content was different, this seemed to emulate David Bowie's experience with the Verbasizer the most in regards to certain aspects and writing around it. However, Staccato did manage to integrate more of the prompt into the lyrics while maintaining more of a narrative.

The lyrics from Staccato generally struck a balance between incorporating the prompt and creating a more cohesive narrative than the other two AI systems, usually with a focus on the narrative but with the occasional forced word or line from the prompt. This did successfully integrate the prompt without sacrificing the narrative best in both examples. It also managed to switch the rhyme scheme the most significantly between the two but still managed to maintain a stable and consistent syllable count.

The lyrics by CoPilot lacked the most narrative of the three, generally attempting to incorporate the most of the prompt but at the sacrifice of a cohesive narrative. This could be due to the AI

not being designed for music capabilities and thus trying to appease the most usage from the prompt rather than focussing on the creative aspects and the quality of the song.

The sentiment analysis from Copilot was focussed on themes and tones, picking out specific words that it determines are carriers of that feeling. It also addressed the narrative content and the topics. It did not focus on form such as line length or rhyme scheme. This created more of a connotative conclusion. However, in this connotative regard it did seem accurate.

Staccato's sentiment analysis also focussed on specific words or terms that had a connotative connection to the general mood it had determined based on those words. However, the actual sentiment analysis is shorter than CoPilot's at only 3-4 sentences. The rest it spends on suggestions that it has determined will help the writer enhance the elements that are already there. It does mention elements of surprise in the writing though and how to incorporate those and the benefits of contrast to the narrative. However it also does not mention rhyme scheme, line length or other structural aspects. Overall, it seems much more intuitive as a writing tool and assistant rather than a sentiment analysis.

As far as the analysis went, Staccato and CoPilot made the same analysis as far as the main sentiment across all the songs with only minor differences in synonyms.

Furthermore, staccato and CoPilot analyzed the lyrics from their prompts as being similar from the source material outside of Staccato one which was more defiant and rebellious rather than just dark. However, Udio skewed away from the source prompt in both cases, creating more uplifting and positive lyrics

From the output that were generated from the Verbasizer and prompted to the three different AIs, they effectively mimicked the concept of the cut-up technique which was the goal. However, they each showed different strengths and weaknesses while all displaying similar structural simplicity and continuity. However, when judging the effectiveness of the lyrics generation, both Staccato and Udio outperform CoPilot with effectively maintaining a narrative while integrating aspects of the prompt. Additionally, the analysis differs greatly between CoPilot and Staccato to where they are almost incomparable. CoPilot is a better sentiment analysis offering more breakdowns of the tone and the specific wording on the negative vs positive emotions, whereas Staccato offers more to the writer in areas that can improve.

Overall, the AI systems could in general create lyrics based on a cut-up prompt which was the question. While results vary, based on the criteria established of utilizing an atypical prompt to create lyrics, all three AI systems passed. However, while effectiveness of lyrics is going to be subjective based on the individual, all three AI systems did have their weaknesses, with the two music focussed ones Udio and Staccato outperforming the more general CoPilot AI, even though all three relied on basic rhyme schemes and structures.

Citation:

Bonini, T., Magaudda, P. (2024). Artificial Intelligence: Where the Music of the Future Is Heading. In: Platformed! How Streaming, Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence are Shaping Music Cultures. Pop Music, Culture and Identity. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-43965-0_6