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Popular Music Lyrics 1940-2009 Code Book

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Unit of Data Collection: For the purpose of this study, the unit of data collection is defined as an individual song—the single set of recorded song and its accompanying printed lyrics—found in your coding packets. The "song" includes any spoken-language portions (whether included in the printed lyrics or not), all intro and ending vocals, as well as any sampled content. "Sample" is defined by Merriam-Webster as "an excerpt from an audio recording used in another artist's recording." Sampled content includes all excerpts of previously recorded songs by the same or other artist(s), as well as audio clips from movies, television or other media, etc. Any and all verbal content can and should be analyzed.

Other Coding Instructions:
For all coding, use ONLY the information available to you as a listener, which has been provided by the researcher in your coding packets. Do NOT use any prior knowledge you may have of a given song's meaning or the artist's intent or explanations of song meaning. Do NOT use any knowledge you may have as a fan of popular music, particular songs or particular artists.

For the purpose of this study, it is critical that you put aside any stereotypes or preconceived ideas you may have about particular genres of music, artists or songs.

Do not seek hidden or alternate meanings within the song lyrics. Code only those references that are obvious or known to you--either through common usage/definitions of phrases or through context within the lyrics.

Code each song using BOTH the recording and the accompanying printed lyrics. Printed lyrics are provided for your convenience in deciphering any vocal content that may be difficult to hear or make sense of, as well as to ensure that any references to the topics of interest are not missed.

Do NOT code any foreign-language content.

Occasionally, there may be discrepancies between the printed lyrics and recordings. If discrepancies occur, always code according to what you hear in the AUDIO RECORDING.

You may listen to each song as many times as necessary to accurately complete the coding sheet.

DEFINING THE CONCEPTS, CONTENT and MEASUREMENTS

HOW IS SEX DEFINED? For the purpose of this study, *sex* is defined as the sexual activities, practices or behaviors humans use to express their sexuality. The concept includes those activities that involve only one's self (e.g., masturbation) or two or more people (e.g. intercourse, oral sex or mutual masturbation). *Sex* includes activities between both heterosexual and homosexual individuals, as well as activities between married partners, partners in committed relationships, casual sex partners (including "friends with benefits," one-night stands) and anonymous partners (e.g., prostitutes). *Sex* includes activities between partners who are sexually attracted to one another, but also includes activities enacted with a partner strictly for fun or pleasure (without commitment), obligation, sympathy, pity, monetary gain, advantages gained, conception, or hate. While sex is often thought of as voluntary and consensual activity, the definition for the current study also includes activities performed under force or duress. Specific activities and ideas of interest are defined later in this codebook.

HOW IS <u>OVERALL </u>SEXUAL CONTENT RATED? While you will be recording *how many* individual sexual references occur in each song, you will also rate the sexual content in the song, *as a whole after listening to the entire song*. Use the following scale to indicate the *overall* explicitness of the song. It may be helpful to liken this explicitness scale to that used by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) in rating movies—a rating scale familiar to most Americans. Each explicitness rating is paired with an MPAA rating, to aid in your selection. Below the rating scale are the MPAA's rating guidelines, adapted for the purposes of this study. Please assume the role of "the Rating Board" mentioned in the guidelines, and remember to assign a rating based on <u>sexual content only</u>. (Rating guidelines were downloaded on February 10, 2011 from http://www.mpaa.org/ratings/what-each-rating-means.)

> 0. No sexual content (G)
> 1. Mild suggestive (PG)
> 2. Strong suggestive (PG-13)
> 3. Explicit (R)
> 4. Strong explicit (NC-17)

> **G — General Audiences. All Ages Admitted.** A G-rated [song] contains nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex,. . .or other matters that, in the view of the Rating Board, would offend parents whose younger children [hear the song]. The G rating is not a "certificate of approval," nor does it signify "children's" [music]. Some . . . language may go beyond polite conversation but [it is] common everyday expressions. No stronger words are present in G-rated [songs]. No [sex] . . . is present in the [song].

> **PG — Parental Guidance Suggested. Some Material May Not Be Suitable For Children.** . . . The PG rating indicates, in the view of the Rating Board, that parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children, and parents should make that decision. The more mature themes in some PG-rated [songs] may call for parental guidance. There may be some profanity and some [description] of [sexuality]. But these elements are not deemed so intense as to require that parents be strongly cautioned beyond the suggestion of parental guidance.

PG-13 — Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Be Inappropriate For Children Under 13. . . . A PG-13 [song] may go beyond the PG rating in theme, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities or other elements, but does not reach the restricted R category. The theme of the [song] by itself will not result in a rating greater than PG-13, although [descriptions] of activities related to a mature theme may result in a restricted rating. [References to] nudity in a PG-13 rated [song] generally will not be sexually oriented. A [song's] single use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words, though only as an expletive, initially requires at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context. The Rating Board nevertheless may rate such a [song] PG-13 if. . .the Raters feel that most American parents would believe that a PG-13 rating is appropriate because of the context or manner in which the words are used or because the use of those words in the [song] is inconspicuous.

R — Restricted. Children Under 17 Require Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian. An R-rated [song], in the view of the Rating Board, contains some adult material. An R-rated [song] may include adult themes, adult activity, hard language, sexually-oriented nudity, or other elements, so that parents are counseled to take this rating very seriously. . .Generally, it is not appropriate for parents to [allow] their young children [to listen] to R-rated [songs].

NC-17 — No One 17 and Under Admitted. An NC-17 rated [song] is one that, in the view of the Rating Board, most parents would consider patently too adult for their children 17 and under. . .NC-17 does not mean "obscene" or "pornographic" in the common or legal meaning of those words, and should not be construed as a negative judgment in any sense. The rating simply signals that the content is appropriate only for an adult audience. An NC-17 rating can be based on sex, aberrational behavior, or any other element that most parents would consider too strong and therefore off-limits for [listening] by their children.

WHAT IS A SEXUAL REFERENCE & DIFFERENTIATION OF WORD USAGE: For the purpose of this study, a sexual *reference* is a word, phrase, clause or sentence that is used to express, in its entirety, a sexual idea, thought or activity. By this definition, "fuck," used as an expletive, would not count as a sexual reference; however, "fuck" used to describe the activity of intercourse is considered a sexual reference.

It is critical for this study that coders carefully and consistently differentiate between sexual references and romantic references. *Romance* or *romantic* references will emphasize the emotions of love over physical feelings of sexual desire. Do not code romantic references. Code only those references that are concerned with sexual behaviors.

HOW ARE <u>INDIVIDUAL</u> SEXUAL REFERENCES RATED? Each sexual *reference* that you code will be categorized as to whether the reference is 1.) suggestive or explicit in its EXPRESSION and 2.) whether the LANGUAGE used to express the idea is mild or strong.

1.) Expression of Thoughts and Ideas
For this study, *explicit* should be understood and distinguished from *suggestive* as follows (all definitions from Merriam-Webster).

- *Suggestive* sexual references suggest or tend to suggest something improper or indecent; such references are implied, presented through euphemism or innuendo (only if the euphemism or innuendo is obvious to you); the meaning is not directly expressed, but is capable of being understood through indirect terminology. In these references, the singer or speaker will hint at what he/she really wants to say, without directly expressing the thought.
- *Explicit* sexual references are fully revealed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or ambiguity; leaving no question as to meaning or intent (e.g., *explicit* instructions); unambiguous in expression (e.g. "was very *explicit* on how we are to behave").
- For this study, explicit references are NOT to be understood as those that are "open in the depiction of nudity or sexuality (e.g. *explicit* books and films)." All references that are codable will include relatively open expression of sexuality, thus this definition of *explicit* is not applicable to this study.
- THEREFORE, *explicit* and *suggestive*, in the context of this study, are terms to describe *the expression of a thought or idea*.
- To determine whether a reference is suggestive or explicit, ask yourself the following question:
    - Is the singer/speaker hinting at what he/she really wants to say, or is he/she being direct in what is being said (regardless of the severity of the language used)?
        - If he/she is hinting at what he/she really wants to say, then the expression is *suggestive*. If he/she is being direct—coming right out and saying what he/she really wants to say—then the expression is *explicit*, no matter the severity of the language used.

2.) Language Severity
For this study, the severity of language used to express thoughts and ideas will be judged by whether it is considered *mild* or *strong.*

- **Mild** ideas are expressed in terms that are not sexually-charged, vulgar, profane, dirty or obscene; ideas are expressed in terms unlikely to be found offensive. *Mild* language could be used in conversation with mixed audiences.
- **Strong** ideas are expressed through language that is sexually-charged, vulgar, profane, "dirty," obscene or offensive, either by definition or by context. *Strong* language would not likely be used in conversation with mixed audiences.
- To determine whether the language is mild or strong, ask yourself the following question:
    - Would it be acceptable to use these words/phrases in a conversation in the workplace or around children, for example?
        - If yes, then the language is most likely mild. If no, the language is most likely strong.

Rating Categories

For the purpose of coding the quality of sexual content, the following category options are used and are derived from the above definitions:

MILD SUGGESTIVE: A sexual reference that is implied, presented through euphemism or innuendo (only if the euphemism or innuendo is obvious to you) or the meaning of which is not directly expressed, but is capable of being understood through indirect terminology; *Mild Suggestive references* likely use language that is not sexually charged, vulgar, profane, "dirty," obscene or offensive; such language could be used in conversation with mixed audiences.

STRONG SUGGESTIVE: A sexual reference that is implied, presented through euphemism or innuendo (only if the euphemism or innuendo is obvious to you) or the meaning of which is not directly expressed, but is capable of being understood through indirect terminology; *Strong Suggestive references* likely use language that is sexually-charged, vulgar, profane, "dirty," obscene or offensive either by definition or by context; such language would not likely be used in conversation with mixed audiences.

MILD EXPLICIT: A sexual reference that is fully revealed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or ambiguity; the meaning is directly understood; *Mild Explicit references* likely use language that is not sexually charged, vulgar, profane, "dirty," obscene or offensive; such language could be used in conversation with mixed audiences.

STRONG EXPLICIT: A sexual reference that is fully revealed or expressed without vagueness, implication, or ambiguity; the meaning is directly understood; *Strong Explicit references* likely use language that is sexually-charged, vulgar, profane, "dirty," obscene or offensive; such language would not likely be used in conversation with mixed audiences.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

CODER ID: Record your coder ID on each sheet.

Elizabeth	1
Chris	2
Sue	3
Tanya	4

DATE: Indicate the date the song was coded in the following format: MMDDYY

SONG ID: On each coding sheet, record the song's ID number, the title, artist and year, according to the list in your packet.

GENERAL INFORMATION

COMPLETE THESE ITEMS AFTER LISTENING TO THE SONG.

1. **GENRE:** Indicate the genre that most closely matches the song, according to the definitions in your packet.

   1. Pop/Rock
   2. R&B
   3. Hip Hop / Rap
   4. Country
   5. Blues

   6. Swing / Big Band
   7. Alternative
   8. Heavy Metal
   88. Other
   99. Unable to Determine

2. **SEX of SINGER:** Indicate the gender of the singer(s).

   1. Male
   2. Female
   3. Male/Female Duet
   4. Male/Male Duet
   5. Female/Female Duet

   6. Male Trio or More
   7. Female Trio or More
   8. Mixed Sex Trio or More
   88. Other
   99. Unable to determine

3. **TITLE SEXUAL REFERENCE:** Indicate whether the song title includes a sexual reference.

   0. No Sexual Reference (G)
   1. Mild Suggestive (PG)
   2. Strong Suggestive (PG-13)

   3. Explicit (R)
   4. Strong Explicit (NC-17)
   99. Unable to determine

4. **SEXUAL THEME:** Indicate whether sex is a theme of the song. A theme is defined as the prominent subject or meaning of a song that is often apparent through repetition, recurrence, and forcefulness of related language. A theme can be thought of as distinct from a single or intermittent reference to sex.

   0. No sexual theme
   1. Sexual Theme (Sex is dominant)
   99. Unable to determine

5. **EXPLICITNESS RATING:** Rate the sexual content in the song, *as a whole*. Use the following scale to indicate the overall explicitness of the song.

   0. No sexual content (G)
   1. Mild suggestive (PG)
   2. Strong suggestive (PG-13)
   3. Explicit (R)
   4. Strong explicit (NC-17)

SEXUAL REFERENCES

For the following items, record how many times a corresponding sexual reference is made in the song. For example, if a word, phrase or idea is repeated as part of a chorus or verse, count each time the particular word, phrase or idea is sung or spoken. Also, be sure to place your counts into the correct columns according to whether it they are mild suggestive, strong suggestive, mild explicit or strong explicit.

6. **REFERENCE TO SEXUAL ATTRACTION / DESIRE**

7. **REFERENCE TO SEXUAL BODY PARTS**
   Sexual Body Parts include the primary sex organs (i.e. the anatomical body parts necessary for reproduction) as well as the secondary sex organs (i.e. breasts, pubic hair, buttocks, waist, thighs and hips in females; pubic, body and facial hair, deep voice, and broad shoulders in males).

8. **REFERENCE TO NUDITY**

9. **REFERENCE TO PHYSICAL SEXUAL AROUSAL**

10. **REFERENCE TO EJACULATION OR ORGASM (FEMALE OR MALE)**

11. **REFERENCES TO FOREPLAY ACTIVITIES**
    Foreplay activities include, but are NOT limited to, kissing on the mouth, with the tongue, on the body, erotic massage, touching a partner's primary or secondary sex organs, sex talk (e.g. talking dirty), rubbing bodies together with or without clothing, watching or reading erotica or pornography.

12. **REFERENCES TO INTERCOURSE**
    Intercourse is defined as penile-vaginal sex (i.e. when a man's penis enters a woman's vagina) or p

13. **REFERENCE TO ORAL SEX**

    Oral sex is defined as the use of the mouth, tongue, teeth or throat to stimulate a partner's genitals.

14. **REFERENCE TO MASTURBATION**

    Masturbation includes masturbation by one's self, defined as touching one's genitals to feel sexual pleasure, as well as mutual masturbation, defined as masturbating in front of a partner.

15. **REFERENCE TO PORNOGRAPHY**

    Pornography is defined as material, such as photographs, movies or magazines, depicting erotic behavior that is intended to cause sexual arousal.

16. **REFERENCE TO SEXUALLY-ORIENTED ENTERTAINMENT**

    Sexually-oriented entertainment includes stripping/strippers, lap dancing, peepshows, but does NOT include pornography (assessed individual in item #15).

17. **REFERENCE TO INFIDELITY**

    Infidelity is defined as marital or relational unfaithfulness; the act of having sexual relations outside of one's committed relationship.

18. **REFERENCES TO PROMISCUITY**

    Promiscuity includes several types of informal sexual encounters that take place outside a committed relationship. Such activities include one-night stands (occasional or frequent) and encounters with "friends with benefits."   References to promiscuity may include the actual act of having casual sex, but it may also include the use of words denoting or insinuating that a particular person is promiscuous, such as "player," "ladies man," "slut" or "whore."

19. **REFERENCES TO PROSTITUTION**

    Prostitution is defined as engaging in promiscuous sex in exchange for money or other goods.

20. **REFERENCE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

    Sexual Violence includes forcible rape (regardless of victim's age) and sexual assault.

21. **REFERENCE TO SEXUAL ABUSE OR INCEST**

22. **REFERENCE TO STATUTORY RAPE (CONSENSUAL)**

23. **REFERENCE TO USE OF CONTRACEPTION**

24. **REFERENCE TO USE OF CONDOM TO PREVENT SPREAD OF DISEASE**

25. **REFERENCE TO REFUSAL OF SEX/WAITING FOR SEX/ABSTINENCE**

26. **OTHER**

REFERENCES TO SEXUAL OUTCOMES

For the following items, record how many times a corresponding reference to a sexual outcome is made in the song. For example, if a word, phrase or idea is repeated as part of a chorus or verse, count each time the particular word, phrase or idea is sung or spoken.   Also, be sure to place your counts into the correct columns according to whether it they are mild suggestive, strong suggestive, mild explicit or strong explicit.

27.PREGNANCY/CONCEPTION

28.SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

29.ARREST/IMPRISONMENT AS CONSEQUENCE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY

30.RELATIONSHIP DETERIORATES OR ENDS AS CONSEQUENCE OF SEX

31.RELATIONSHIP INTENSIFIES OR BECOMES MORE SERIOUS AS CONSEQUENCE OF SEX

32.SOCIAL "REPUTATION" IS ENHANCED AS CONSEQUENCE OF SEX

33.SOCIAL "REPUTATION" IS DAMAGED AS CONSEQUENCE OF SEX

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POPULAR MUSIC GENRES (from Wikipedia and www.thefreedictionary.com)

Below are common popular music genres that may be included in your sample of songs. Use this information as a guide in determining the genre of your songs, if needed. In most cases, you will be able to identify an appropriate genre simply using your own musical and cultural knowledge.

Note that the information provided below will serve as a guide in determining the genre of the songs you hear and that the information below does NOT constitute complete definitions, but rather describes some characteristics that typically describe the genre of a given song. There are no connotative definitions of popular music genres, as described by Wikipedia:

> A music genre is a categorical and typological construct that identifies musical sounds as belonging to a particular category and type of music that can be distinguished from other types of music. Music can be divided into many genres in many different ways. Due to the different purposes behind them and the different points of view from which they are made, these classifications are often arbitrary and controversial and closely related genres often overlap.

POP/ROCK: Rock is typically considered to be a genre of popular music originating in the 1950s; a blend of black rhythm-and-blues with white country-and-western; rock is a generic term for the range of styles that evolved out of rock n' roll. Pop is often considered to be music of general appeal to teenagers; a bland watered-down version of rock n' roll with more rhythm and harmony and an emphasis on romantic love.

R & B / RHYTHM AND BLUES: A combination of blues and jazz that was developed in the United States by Black musicians; an important precursor of rock 'n' roll

RAP / HIP-HOP: Genre of African-American music of the 1980s and 1990s in which rhyming lyrics are chanted to a musical accompaniment; several forms of rap have emerged

COUNTRY: Popular music based on the folk style of the southern rural United States or on the music of cowboys in the American West

BLUES: A musical form and a music genre that originated in African-American communities of primarily the Deep South of the United States at the end of the 19th century from spirituals, work songs, field hollers, shouts and chants, and rhymed simple narrative ballads

BIG BAND / SWING: A type of musical ensemble associated with jazz, a style of music which became popular during early 1930s until the late 1940s; a big band typically consists of approximately 12 to 25 musicians and contains saxophones, trumpets, trombones, singers (or vocalists), and a rhythm section.

ALTERNATIVE: Underground music that has emerged in the wake of punk rock since the mid-1980s; Sounds range from the dirty guitars of grunge to the gloomy soundscapes of gothic rock to the guitar pop revivalism of Britpop; alternative rock lyrics tend to address topics of social concern, such as drug use, depression, and environmentalism; lyrics developed as a reflection of the social and economic strains in the United States and United Kingdom of the 1980s and early 1990s

HEAVY METAL: A type of rock music characterized by a strong beat and amplified instrumental effects, often with violent, nihilistic, and misogynistic lyrics

Popular Music Lyrics 1940-2009 Coding Sheet

CODER ID:_____ DATE:_____ SONG ID:_____ SONG YEAR:_____

SONG TITLE:_____ ARTIST:_____

GENERAL INFORMATION	
1. Genre	
2. Sex of Singer(s)	
3. Title Sexual Reference	
4. Sexual Theme	
5. **EXPLICITNESS RATING**	

SEXUAL REFERENCES	MILD SUGGESTIVE	STRONG SUGGESTIVE	MILD EXPLICIT	STRONG EXPLICIT
6. Reference to Sexual Attraction/Desire	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4
7. Reference to Sexual Body Parts	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4
8. Reference to Nudity	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4
9. Reference to Physical Sexual Arousal	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4
10. Reference to Ejaculation or Orgasm (Male or Female)	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4
11. Reference to Foreplay	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4
12. Reference to Intercourse	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4
13. Reference to Oral Sex	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.4
14. Reference to Masturbation	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.4
15. Reference to Pornography	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4
16. Reference to Sexually-oriented Entertainment	16.1	16.2	16.3	16.4
17. Reference to Infidelity	17.1	17.2	17.3	17.4
18. Reference to Promiscuity	18.1	18.2	18.3	18.4
19. Reference to Prostitution	19.1	19.2	19.3	19.4
20. Reference to Sexual Violence (Rape/Assault)	20.1	20.2	20.3	20.4
21. Reference to Sexual Abuse or Incest	21.1	21.2	21.3	21.4
22. Reference to Statutory Rape (Consensual)	22.1	22.2	22.3	22.4
23. Reference to Use of Contraception	23.1	23.2	23.3	23.4
24. Reference to Use of Condom to Prevent Spread of Disease	24.1	24.2	24.3	24.4
25. Reference to Refusal of Sex/Waiting for Sex/Abstinence	25.1	25.2	25.3	25.4
26. Other	26.1	26.2	26.3	26.4

SEXUAL OUTCOMES	MILD SUGGESTIVE	STRONG SUGGESTIVE	MILD EXPLICIT	STRONG EXPLICIT
27. Pregnancy/Conception	27.1	27.2	27.3	27.4
28. Sexually Transmitted Disease	28.1	28.2	28.3	28.4
29. Arrest/Imprisonment	29.1	29.2	29.3	29.4
30. Relationship Deterioration	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4
31. Relationship Intensifying	31.1	31.2	31.3	31.4
32. Social "Reputation" is Enhanced	32.1	32.2	32.3	32.4
33. Social "Reputation" is Damaged	33.1	33.2	33.3	33.4