

Delimiting cultural borders: the use of *Wordsmith Tools* to identify cultural differences in language uses by white or black rappers.

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Music has recently become an important field of study from a linguistic point of view. Authors such as Beal (2009), Alim (2006) or Fought (2006), among many others, have based partially or completely some of their studies on music in order to describe linguistic patterns, explore cultural phenomena or study the use of a particular language feature. While carrying out a sociolinguistic research project on processes of *language crossing* in rap music, we came up with two independent corpora corresponding to more than 30 songs by each ethnic group that were the subject of study, that is to say, white and black rappers. It is our purpose to explore the potential of this data as a valuable source of information about these both interacting groups. This paper presents some significant results from processing our corpora through *Wordsmith Tools* that both delimit and reinforce cultural differences in their language uses. The use of the controversial term *nigga*, the presence of different terminology to refer to females in both corpora and the explicit skin-color references made by both rap groups draw an ethnic line that delimits their language uses which have an important relevance in the hip-hop context.

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