GOVERNO DO ESTADO DO PARANÁ
SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DA EDUCAÇÃO

ROSELI BUENO DA SILVA

FOLHAS

A UTILIZAÇÃO DO GÊNERO MUSICAL PARA PROMOVER A HABILIDADE DA FALA NAS AULAS DE INGLÊS COMO LEM

CORNÉLIO PROCÓPIO
2009
GOVERNO DO ESTADO DO PARANÁ  
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PDE- PROGRAMA DE DESENVOLVIMENTO EDUCACIONAL


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INTRODUCTION

*Hip-hop is inherently political, the language is political. It uses language as a weapon – not a weapon to violate, not a weapon to offend, but a weapon that pushes the envelope that provokes people, makes people think.*

(Todd Boyd)
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Conteúdo Estruturante: Discurso como Prática Social
Conteúdo Básico: reading (interpretação - intertextualidade, fonte, conteúdo veiculado); writing (elementos composicionais, marcas lingüísticas, variações linguísticas); speaking (marcas lingüísticas); listening (compreensão da mensagem, aspectos de pronúncia, marcas lingüísticas)

Título do projeto: A utilização do gênero musical para promover a habilidade da fala nas aulas de Inglês como LE
Título do Folhas: Learning English through music: Hip-Hop
Orientadora: Professora Dra Audrei Gesser

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**THE WORLD IS SPINNING ROUND**

I'm sitting here in the main square
In the center of my town,
Watching the people laugh and talk,
Watching them buy and look and walk,
And the world is spinning round

Chorus:
Every day I learn something new,
New things to see, new things to do,
I learn what's good, I learn what's true,
I have all my life in front of me!

I'm sitting in the bus station,
In the center of my town,
Watching the people come and go,
Saying goodbye, saying hello,
And the world is spinning round.

From: Primary hits: songbook & audio CD pack, Macmillan. (p. 44)
TASK 1 –

Answer the following questions.

1. Considering what was said in the song above, write notes of other ways of learning.
2. What is your opinion about the learning of English language at school? How do you like learning in class? In your opinion, what is the most effective way to learn English?
3. How do you feel when you have to do a task that requires the use of music/songs?
4. How do you think music can help you in your learning of English?
5. Read the text below in order to get more information about the role of music in human life.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN HUMAN LIFE?

Language as a means of communication plays an important role in human interaction. Human language can be divided into spoken and written language. It is through language that people can express their feelings, emotions and intentions.

Music is more than just a creation of melodic sounds, it is mainly the response of people to rhythm and sounds that they see in the world. Music cannot be separate from life. As long as music is part of our lives, we should take advantage of it to improve ourselves through things around us.

Many people enjoy listening to music even if they do not understand anything about their forms. Today, there are so many singers from different countries and cultures that people can have contact with any language in the world. As English is an international language, a great number of songs is written in English although many singers are not native English speakers.

We can learn many things from songs. Of course, there are songs that are not worth listening to due to the fact that the whole song is a repetition of only one word or it is sometimes full of meaningless words or phrases. Fortunately, the lyrics of most songs are good because they talk about issues that really matter such as politics, nature, hunger, love, religion, everyday problems and about other countries and cultures.

**Umbrella – Rihanna**

You had my heart, and we'll never be worlds apart  
Maybe in magazines, but you'll still be my star  
Baby cause in the dark, you can't see shiny cars  
And that's when you need me there  
With you I'll always share  
Because  
[Chorus]  
When the sun shines  
We'll shine together  
Told you I'll be here forever  
Said I'll always be your friend  
Took an oath I'm stick it out till the end  
Now that's raining more than never  
Know that we'll still have each other  
You can stand under my umbrella  
You can stand under my umbrella


**TASK 2**

1. What is the message of the song?
2. Express your opinion about the title.
3. Think of another word to replace the word umbrella
4. Which words would you use to rewrite some parts of the lyrics without changing the main idea?  

Books, magazines, Internet, movies and music are rich sources for the learning of English. Music can be very useful in the learning of English and the best way to learn it is to get the lyrics of the song you are listening to and try to read them as the artist sings.

On the Internet you can visit various websites that offer for free the lyrics of most songs. So, through lyrics you can practice listening and reading at the same time. After listening to the same song several times you should try to write it down in order to check if you could remember most of the words. Maybe, it will take some time in the beginning, but soon you will see the good results.

As music is of easy access and acceptability, the success of your learning will depend on how involved you are with it. If you sing the same song several times the words will be
kept in your mind, improving your pronunciation, enriching your vocabulary and giving you self-confidence and motivation to continue learning. In the beginning you should choose songs in which the words are well spoken. Trust it! It will really help you make progress. The song “The world is spinning round” is a good example of a song with clear sounds and this for sure, will help you link the words of the lyrics with the sounds produced by the singer.

Learning should be a pleasure, so listen to your favorite songs. Do not limit yourself to a specific style or singer, try others, no matter what song you choose. But if there is a song or singer that you are fond of, look for further information. Go beyond the news on TV or radio, search on the Internet or in books. Among all these sources, computers have been very helpful because of its easy access to everyone. You can use the internet to find all sorts of songs, lyrics, styles and all that can give support to your learning.

Today, there is such a huge amount of styles that choosing only one is generally a hard task. Considering the existence of different styles it is important to give the meaning of some of them according to Cambridge Dictionary:

| **Blues** | a type of slow, sad music, originally from the southern US, in which the singer typically sings about their difficult life or bad luck in love. |
| **Gospel** | a style of religious, originally performed by black Americans. |
| **Jazz** | a type of modern music with a rhythm in which the strong notes are usually not on the beat and which is usually improvised (= invented as it is played) |
| **Rock** | a type of popular music with a strong loud beat which is usually played with electric guitars and drums. |
| **Heavy metal** | a style of rock music with a strong beat, played very loudly using electrical instruments. |
| **Folk** | modern music and songs that are written in a style similar to that of traditional music. |
| **Rap** | a type of popular music with a strong rhythm in which the words are spoken, rather than sung. |
| **Hip-hop** | a type of popular music in which the subject of the songs is often politics or society and the words are spoken rather than sung. |

Among all these styles the hip-hop is one that deserves special attention. Although rap is a type of popular music, it belongs to the hip-hop movement, and it has been seen more as a culture than a style because of its spread all over the world. Since the 80’s the hip-hop movement has developed and several elements were added to it. Most hip-hop historians point out four elements of hip-hop:
1. **RAP** – it is a slang used for conversation and it is the short word for Rhythm and Poetry. It has its origin in Jamaica.

2. **MCing** (or rapper) – the song is spoken rather than sung by the rapper. **DJ** - selects and plays the recorded music for the enjoyment of others).

3. **Graffiti art** - scratches or drawings on a wall or other public surfaces)

4. **Break**– this type of dance demands one to stretch the body to its limits.

Some consider beat-boxing the fifth element. All the elements mentioned above make up the hip-hop culture.

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**♪ ♫ A LITTLE BIT OF THE HIP-HOP HISTORY ♫ ♪**

This cultural movement began amongst urban youth in New York. The term “hip-hop” was first used by the members of Sugar Hill Gang, who started their song “Rappers Delight” with these words: “da hip da hop, da hapity da hip hip hop and you don’t stop”. (:http://www.uic.edu/orgs/kbc/hiphop/index.htm. Accessed on Dec, 2008).

The roots of the hip hop come from African-American oral tradition and it has been expanded from its origins to become a dominant voice, in mind, and it doesn’t need to be repackaged in whiteface to be consumed by the masses. Russel Simmons, a hip hop pioneer, says in his book *Life and Def*, that he sees hip-hop culture as the new American mainstream. “We don’t change for you; you adapt to us”.

Now, hip-hop has been seen as a suburban CNN and it is the unique form for the ghettos and suburbs to express their needs and their problems. The term hip-hop has been reported to be a creation of Afrika Bambaataa in the middle of 1968, and the rhyme phenomenon began with Grand Master Flash, Mele Mel, Kid Creole, and Keith Cowboy. “The message”, by Grandmaster Flash, is considered to be the first political rap song.

The message - by Grandmaster Flash and The Five Furious

Broken glass everywhere
People pissing on the stairs, you know they just
Don’t care
I can’t take the smell, I can’t take the noise
Got no money to move out, I guess I got no choice
Rats in the front room, roaches in the back
Junkies in the alley with a baseball bat
I tried to get away, but I couldn’t get far
Cause the man with the tow-truck repossessed my car

[CHORUS]
Don’t push me, cause I’m close to the edge
I’m trying not to lose my head
It’s like a jungle sometimes, it makes me wonder
How deep I keep from going under

Standing on the front stop, hanging out the window
Watching all the cars go by, roaring as the breezes Blow
Crazy lady, living in a bag
Eating out of garbage piles, used to be a fag-hag
Search and test a tango, skips the life and then go
To search a prince to see the last of senses
Down at the pee show, watching all the creeps
So she can tell the stories to the girls so, so, so ditty
She had to get a pimp she couldn’t make it on her Own
[CHORUS]

Some other important “Firsts” in the hip hop culture

1977 – DJ Disco Wiz is credited for being the first Latino DJ.
1980 – Kurtis Blow was the first artist to appear on (an) American national television.
1980 – “The Breaks” released by Kurtis Blow, helped to spread the hip-hop’s popularity among wider audiences.
1983 – Michael Jackson first performed “Moonwalk” on Motown 25 TV Special.
1984 – The first rap-only radio station was Los Angeles KDAY.
1984 – Lionel Ritchie punctuated Breakdancing to be known globally via his performance at the Closing Ceremony of the 1984 Olympic Games.
As this movement has spread around the world, it has caused substantial effects on people’s lives, influencing the way people think, the way they wear their clothes and also the way they communicate. Among all these features, the most important one is that this culture is being used to raise people awareness of social problems.

Todd Boyd, an expert on the hip-hop movement, said that "hip-hop is inherently political, the language is political. It uses language as a weapon — not a weapon to violate, not a weapon to offend, but a weapon that pushes the envelope that provokes people, makes people think." And the hip-hop continues to thrive in urban America and in the whole world.

In 2007 when the hip-hop singer Akon (real name Aliaune Damala Bouga Time Puru Nacka Lu Lu Lu Badara Akon Thiam, born 1981) came for a show in Brazil, he was very surprised to see that although people didn’t know his language, they knew how to sing his entire songs. Akon was born in Missouri, United States, but he lived in Dakar, Senegal, until he was seven years old. He went back to the USA. After his first contact with hip-hop he entered the life of crime. As it always happens, he was sent to prison because of his bad behavior and there he had time enough to reflect about the kind of life he was having. While he was in prison he decided that when he got his freedom back he would have a change in his life. He appreciated music since he was a kid, so when he left prison he started his musical career. He is now very famous throughout the world by the deep content of his songs.


Blame on me – Akon

I'm sorry for the times that I left you home
I was on the road and you were alone
I'm sorry for the times that I had to go
I'm sorry for the fact that I did not know

That you were sitting home just wishing we
Could go back to when it was just you and me
I'm sorry for the times I would neglect
I'm sorry for the times I disrespect
I'm sorry for the wrong thing that I've done
I'm sorry I'm not always there for my sons
I'm sorry for the fact that I'm not aware
That you can't sleep at night when I am not there

Because I'm in the streets like everyday
I'm sorry for the things that I did not say
Like how you are the best thing in my world
And how I'm so proud to call you my girl

I understand that there's some problems
And I'm not too blind to know
All the pain you kept inside you
Even though you might not show

If I can't apologize for being wrong
Then it's just a shame on me
I'll be the reason for you pain
And you can put the blame on me

(CHORUS)
You can put the blame on me (4)

Said you can put the blame on me (4)

I'm sorry for the things that he put you through
And all the times you didn't know what to do
I'm sorry that you had to go and sell those bags
Just trying to stay busy until you heard from dad

When you would rather be home with all your kids
I'm sorry that you had to do it on your own
I'm sorry that I went and added to your grief
I'm sorry that your son was once a thief
I'm sorry that I grew up way too fast
I wish I would of listened and not to be so bad
I'm sorry that your life turned out this way
I'm sorry that the feds came and took me away

I understand that there's some problems
And I'm not too blind to know
All the pain you kept inside you
Even though you might not show

If I can't apologize for being wrong
Then it's a shame on me
I'll be the reason for your pain
And you can put the blame on me

(CHORUS)

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Available at: http://letras.terra.com.br/akon/1322656/
Accessed on February, 2009
TASK 3 –

1. Search on the Internet for further information about Akon’s life.
2. Is there any connection between the content of the lyrics and his real life?
3. What are the targets of the singer in the lyrics? Who is he supposedly talking to?
4. Does the song carry a negative or a positive message?

CRITICS AND DEFENDERS OF THE HIP-HOP: WHO’S RIGHT? WHO’S WRONG?

The hip-hop has been reported by critics to cause violence. Tricia Rose, professor of American Studies at the University of California in Santa Cruz, says that both critics and defenders are wrong when talking about hip hop, but for her, the critics are more wrong than the defenders. The defenders are the most wrong ones about gender and sexism and the haters are the most wrong ones about issues related to violence and culture. She said she’s very sad about both sides of this war and also said we need to have a sophisticated and educated position towards this: to be subtle and not extreme, to think about what it is wrong and what it is right when considering the hip-hop.


THE HIP-HOP AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The hip-hop movement has influenced American culture and consequently the language.
As language is the product of a society, if a society changes, so does the language. Because of the hip-hop culture, the English language has suffered deep changes in its vocabulary and lexicon. Words that were used for specific purposes in the past have gained new meanings.

In fact, this culture has caused an alteration in the vocabulary, in the lexicon and in the structure of English language. The same happens with the countries where this culture is established. Of course, although the hip-hop has its origins in African-American music, it suffers cultural transformation because each country has its own cultural traditions.

**Slangs in the hip-hop culture** - As music influences the language, it causes changes in how people say what they think and how they write the words. Once Hip-hop music focuses on popular culture, we can figure out a great deal of slang and misspelled words in lyrics that one could think they belong to another language. A short list of some slang will surely illustrate this characteristic.

### TASK 4 - Fill in the blanks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slang</th>
<th>Standard English</th>
<th>Translation (Portuguese)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axe</td>
<td>Ask</td>
<td>Perguntar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Befo'</td>
<td>Antes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>A ten dollar bill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuz</td>
<td>That</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat</td>
<td>That</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mo'</td>
<td>Mais</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My bad</td>
<td>My mistake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace out</td>
<td>Good bye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peeps</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pessoas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popo</td>
<td>Police</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sku me</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What up?</td>
<td>Olá, como vai você?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White girl</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>Police</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>187</td>
<td>A murder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TASK 5 -

Search on the Brazilian hip-hop songs and try to find some slang. Look for slang and expressions in the songs and compare them with Standard English.
Analyze some slang/expressions in one of Jay-z’s songs.

99 PROBLEMS - Jay-Z

If you’re havin’ girl problems I feel bad for you son
I got 99 problems but a bitch ain’t one

I got the rap patrol in the gat patrol
There are rappers with guns after me
Foes that wanna make sure my casket’s closed
Enemies that want to make sure I’m dead
Rap critics that say he’s “Money Cash Hoes”
Rap critics that say “he only cares about money and women”
I’m from the hood stupid what type of facts are those
If you grew up with holes in your zapatos
If you grew up with holes in your shoes
You’d celebrate the minute you was havin’ dough
You’d celebrate the minute you had some money
I’m like fuck critics you can kiss my whole asshole
I say, “Forget about you, critics! I have no respect for you!”
If you don’t like my lyrics you can press fast forward
If you don’t like my lyrics you can press ‘fast forward” on the CD player
Got beef with radio if they don’t play they show
Radio stations get angry with me if I don’t play on their show
They don’t play my hits well I don’t give a shit so
They don’t play my hits well I don’t care
Rap mags try and use my black ass
Rap magazines try to use me
So advertisers can give’em more cash for ads…fuckers!
So advertisers can give them more money for ads…losers!
I don’t know what you take me as
I don’t know what you think I am
Or understand the intelligence that Jay-Z has
Or if you understand the intelligence that I have
I’m from rags to riches nigga I ain’t dumb
I got rich after growing up poor, black man, I am not stupid
I got 99 problems but a bitch ain’t one
I’ve got 99 problems but a woman isn’t one of them
Hit me
Play it!

Available at: http://www.slangcity/songs/99problems.htm

TASK 6 – Writing activity
1. In your opinion how do songs influence the youth’s way of speaking today?
2. Is this influence good or bad? Write a paragraph about it?
HIP HOP IN BRAZIL

The hip-hop was officially introduced in Brazil in the year of 1984. At that time there were no movements to represent the meaning of this culture, so a fever, that the media called “break dance”, was spread all over Brazil and sooner this fever became known as hip-hop. In Brazil, in the 80’s, those who became fond of this culture were influenced by the images of the film “Flashdance”, by Lionel Richie’s video clips and mainly by Michael Jackson’s back-slide (a type of dance movement). It was on May 16, 1983, in the USA, that Michael Jackson sang his song “Billie Jean” and performed the break dancing to an audience. The Rolling Stone magazine described that moment as “the most electrifying minutes of the evening. He showed off moves that owed as much to the street ‘break’ dancing as to traditional Motown choreography: stop-on-a-dime spins, some astonishing backward walks”. Although the hip-hop already existed it wasn’t popular, so Michael Jackson’s performance was useful to introduce aspects of that culture to the world. Afterwards, it became known in Brazil as “the fever”. In 1989, a man called Milton Sales created the MH20 (Movimento Hip Hop Organizado). He has been very important because of his involvement with the movement, he promotes free presentations and hip hop workshops for the ghettos and also spreads the RAP to the public in general. He is responsible for the Companhia Paulista de Hip Hop and he still supports the spread of the hip-hop culture. (Adapted from http://www.dancaderua.com.br/historia.htm) Accessed on December, 2008.

TASK 7 – Group activity

1. Search on a singer you like most. Try to find as much as possible about his/her life.
2. Choose a song written by him/her.
3. Search on the Internet for the translation of the song you chose or translate it yourself.
4. Is there any connection between the subject of his/her lyrics and his/her real life? What’s the hidden message of the song (if there is any)?
5. Practice pronunciation as much as you can.
6. Present the song to the class and invite your friends to join you.
Have fun!

References:


MACMILLAN PRESS. Primary Hits: Songbook & audio CD pack.


Sites:


