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### **Nonsense Morphemes: How Nonsense Lyrics Can Evolve into Meaningful Morphemes**

Mikayla Braden

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# Blue- Eiffel 65

Original Lyrics: I'm blue Da Ba Dee Da Ba Die

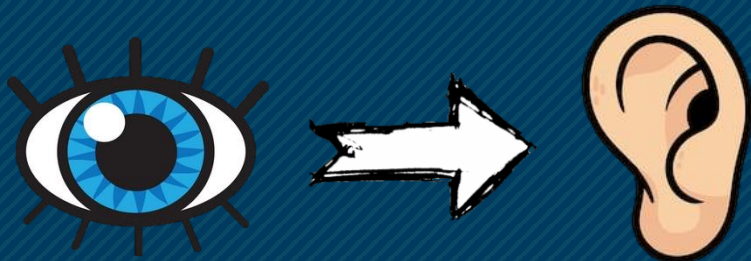
Misheard Lyrics: I'm blue if I were green, I would die

[Link to Blue by Eiffel 65 and the McGurk Effect:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78LMDe-78q4)

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## The McGurk effect:

a phenomenon that involves visual information, in video or written form, influencing the auditory information that one ultimately perceives



# Nonsense Morphemes: How Nonsense Lyrics Can Evolve into Meaningful Morphemes

-Mikayla Braden

This video demonstrates how the McGurk effect functions; however, these misheard lyrics originated without a visual aspect in play.

The lyrics are particularly interesting because the original is not made up of coherent morphemes.

Hypothesis: The nonsense utterances of the real lyrics became meaningful morphemes because humans have a need to understand a grouping of sounds, whether or not they are made up of real morphemes, especially in a music context.

In this way what I call nonsense morphemes form without a prompted visual as a reaction to hearing a group of unmeaningful sounds that would not typically make sense to the listener.