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Breaking Down the Misheard Lyrics of Hozier's "Take Me to Church"

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Breaking Down the Misheard Lyrics of Hozier's "Take Me to Church"

What Hozier said: "I'll worship like a dog at the shrine of your lies"

What people heard: "I'll wash you like a doll in the Saturday light"

"Worship" vs "Wash you"

- Start with voiced, gliding /w/
- Contain central position /a/ sound
- Two syllables
- Second syllable starts with /ʃ/ sound

"Dog" vs "Doll"

- Hozier drops the /g/ in dog, a hard, voiced, stop.
- Both words share the stop /d/
- And similar vowel sounds /a/ and /ɔ/
- The listener's brain explains its absence by putting an approximate /l/ sound in its place.

Poster by Sophie McLaughlin

Segment Insertion - Inserting an additional sound by mistake when pushing air in or out of your mouth.

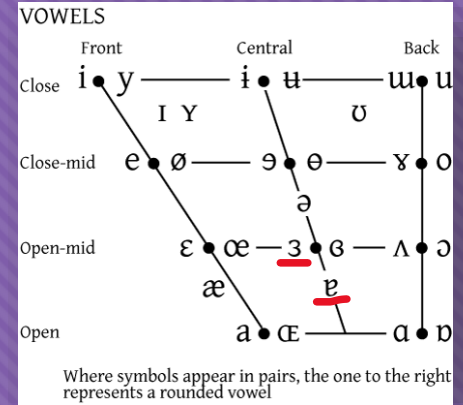
- Hozier does this when he emphasizes the break between syllables in /wɜː-ʃɪp/, making them sound like two separate words.

Segment Deletion - Dropping sounds from a word to make pronunciation easier.

- Hozier nearly drops the /r/ in worship's first coda. Since /r/ is an approximant and doesn't cause audible friction, it's more difficult to enunciate and the voicing requires more effort. Instead, Hozier blends it with the more recognizable fricative of /ʃ/.

"Lies" vs "Light"

- Hozier doesn't pronounce the alveolar /z/ in lies
- Our brain replaces it with the alveolar /t/.



"Shrine of your" vs "Saturday"

- /s/ and /ʃ/ are very similar sounds
- Both have 3 syllables:
 - /ʃraɪn əv jʊər/
 - /Sæ-tər-de/
- "Saturday" is simpler and easier to say
- /ai = /æ/
- /ʊər/ = /ə/
- fricative /v/ = approximate /r/



THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2015)

CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

© 2015 IPA

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ		n		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ			r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ⱱ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.