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Reading Response: Genre Identification and Analysis

The three genres I elected to investigate were tablature (commonly called 'tabs') for stringed instruments (with frets), OKR's (Objectives and Key Results) used in the workplace, and math textbooks. The most interesting genre, of the ones I researched, is the tabs for stringed instruments tablature. The purpose of this genre is to communicate how to play songs and smaller licks for the given string instrument. Writers and readers of the genre use this form of writing because it simplifies musical notation and makes learning new moves on a stringed instrument and explaining them much easier. The other alternative to tabs is to use actual musical notation, however this requires much more learning than the use of tabs. The readers hope to accomplish a new skill to play on their respective instrument and writers hope to accomplish sharing a skill to others so that they can learn how to play the skill. The subject of the genre is musical communication, and tabs are very good at communicating where to put your hands and what strings to hit. Some pitfalls of tabs include timing as it is much harder to express how to time the notes to be played then to just show them. Another issue with tabs is expressing how to bend a note, when does it release, how quick to get to the end of the bend, how quick to fall back down on the bend. The genre expresses music in an easy to digest format and answers the questions of players on how to play something. The audience of this genre is players of stringed instruments. I can tell that this is the audience because it is only relevant to this group. I am sure because someone outside of this audience reading tabs is like reading an instruction manual for something you don't own, while you can, there isn't much of a point too. The sort of content you would find in this genre are either songs or licks to play on a string instrument. The structure of the texts of this genre are structured in row's with each row having a certain number of lines to represent the strings on the fretboard and numbers on the lines to represent the fret number that needs fretted for that string. Tabs are read left-to-right and can include one row to multiple rows. Tabs can be found in books or online yet are visually the same. The appearance of tabs communicates to us where to position the players fretting hand, what string to be played, and what fret to be fretted. Languages are used in tabs to explain tempo and certain techniques that the player should use at that point in the tabs. Tabs are universally understood and accepted across most languages making them almost completely translingual except for certain explanations which may be in a different language. Tabs also occasionally includes code-meshing as in one tab you can find the word slide (or s) to tell the player to slide their finger to a note which is

in English and tremolo which is an Italian word which basically tells the player to quickly repeat the same two notes. The diction that is used include titles and verbs to tell the player how to play. I would describe the tone of tabs as flat as there isn't much lingual expression. When there are sentences, they are usually passive sentences that are short in length and simple as the focus is the musical notation. I would be interested in learning more about tabs but I am not fully positive that it would fit the scope of the class. I believe that studying OKR's as mentioned above would be an interesting topic of research or more broadly the different ways companies organize their goals with paradigms such as OKR's.