

Song Lyrics Emotion Classification: Annotation Guidelines

Group 25

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1 Overview

The task is to classify song lyrics into their dominant emotional content using the six basic emotions by Paul Ekman. Each lyric should be assigned one and only one emotion label that best describes the overall emotional tone of the text.

2 Label Definitions

2.1 Happiness

- **Definition:** Expressions of joy, pleasure, contentment, or satisfaction
- **Key indicators:**
 - Positive words (love, joy, happy, smile)
 - Celebratory themes
 - Optimistic outlook
 - Romantic fulfillment

2.2 Sadness

- **Definition:** Expressions of sorrow, loss, longing, or melancholy
- **Key indicators:**
 - References to crying, tears
 - Themes of loss or separation
 - Words like “missing,” “alone,” “gone”
 - Descriptions of emotional pain

2.3 Anger

- **Definition:** Expressions of rage, frustration, or aggressive feelings
- **Key indicators:**
 - Confrontational language
 - Aggressive imagery
 - Themes of revenge or conflict
 - Strong negative emotions directed at someone/something

2.4 Fear

- **Definition:** Expressions of anxiety, worry, or dread
- **Key indicators:**
 - References to darkness, unknown
 - Words like “scared,” “afraid,” “terrified”
 - Descriptions of threats or danger
 - Uncertainty about future

2.5 Surprise

- **Definition:** Expressions of shock, amazement, or unexpected realizations
- **Key indicators:**
 - Sudden revelations
 - Unexpected events
 - Words like “wow,” “suddenly,” “never saw it coming”
 - Dramatic discoveries

2.6 Disgust

- **Definition:** Expressions of revulsion, aversion, or strong dislike
- **Key indicators:**
 - Strong negative physical reactions
 - Themes of rejection
 - Words like “sick,” “hate,” “revolting”
 - Descriptions of repulsive things/actions

3 Annotation Rules

3.1 When confused:

Please do not base your label on the tone of the song that you already know, pay attention the the lyrics as text that you are reading for the first time and see what emotion it invokes based on the guidelines.

3.2 Choose Dominant Emotion

- If multiple emotions are present, select the most prevalent emotion.
- Consider both, the literal meaning and metaphorical expressions
- Look at the overall message and not just individual words

3.3 Context Matters

- Read the entire lyric segment before deciding
- Consider the tone and intensity of the expression
- Account for genre conventions (e.g., metal lyrics may seem angry but express other emotions)

3.4 Challenging Cases

- For mixed emotions, select the one that drives the narrative
- For ambiguous cases, consider the intended emotional impact on the listener
- Sometimes, one or two lines might not be enough to obtain the emotion conveyed. So for those cases, use more lines until the conveyed emotion is obtained.
- When truly uncertain, mark for review ('r')

3.5 Special Considerations

- Irony/sarcasm: Label based on the true emotional content and not the surface meaning
- Metaphors: Interpret the emotional meaning behind the figurative language
- Repetitive lyrics: Consider the emotional impact of the repetition

4 Additional Examples with Explanations

1. "Cause I'm happy, clap along if you feel like a room without a roof."
 - Label: Happiness
 - Explanation: This lyric expresses pure joy and celebration.
2. "I get those goosebumps every time, I need the Heimlich, throw that to the side..."

- Label: Sadness
 - Explanation: Here, "goosebumps" provide some notion of a sentimental effect of an emotional eruption connected to the states of anxiety and/or depression during moments of loss or during deep contemplation
3. "I don't really care if you cry / On the real, you should've never lied"
- Label: Anger
 - Explanation: This is anger for a sense of betrayal; frustration of the speaker focuses on a person who lied, and he does not express any sympathy for their emotional response.
4. "I'm terrified of what I'll become / When I'm alone"
- Label: Fear
 - Explanation: This lyric expresses the fear of inner demons and losing control.
5. "But what he saw made him start to cringe and stutter, 'Cause he was starin' into the eyes of his own mother"
- Label: Surprise
 - Explanation: Here, the character is surprised to see his own mother in front of him, creating an unexpected twist in the narrative.
6. "I'm just sayin', you could do better / Tell me, have you heard that lately?"
- Label: Disgust
 - Explanation: This lyric reveals a sense of disgust with superficial relationships, in reference to how some people settle for situations that aren't healthy/fulfilling.

5 Contact Information

For questions or clarification during annotation:

- Contact: Joel Varghese, Jai Mehta, Sarath Menon, Swaleha Jasmine
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- Response Time: Within 24 hours

6 Technical Instructions

1. Each annotation session should last no more than 2 hours
2. Take a 5-minute break every 30 minutes
3. Mark the emotion in the corresponding column of the CSV file in the same row as the lyric.

Remember: Quality is more important than speed. If you're unsure about a label, it's better to mark it for review than to make a rushed decision.