

# Notebook 2 - Data Exploration

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**Course:** DS 2023 - Communicating with Data

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## Purpose

Explore lyrical complexity trends through preliminary visualizations and experimentation with different plot types.

In this notebook I focus on four lyric-complexity features—

- Number of Words
- Number of Unique Words
- Unique Word Ratio
- Number of Syllables

because my project question is about how vocabulary and repetition in lyrics have changed over time.

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## Contents

1. Load data
  2. Data preparation
  3. Single feature visualizations
  4. Multiple feature visualizations
  5. Data transformations for different plot types
  6. Experiment with plot variations
- 

## Import Libraries & Load Data

```
In [108]: from scipy import stats
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
```

```
import numpy as np

# Recreate df_clean with Decade column
df = pd.read_csv('bimmuda_per_song_full.csv')
df_clean = df[df['Number of Words'] > 0].copy()
df_clean['Decade'] = (df_clean['Year'] // 10) * 10
```

In [123...]

```
total_songs = len(df)
missing_words = df["Number of Words"].isna().sum()
zero_words = (df["Number of Words"] == 0).sum()
valid_lyric_songs = df["Number of Words"].gt(0).sum()

print(f"Total entries in BiMMuDa per-song dataset: {total_songs}")
print(f"Songs with missing word counts: {missing_words}")
print(f"Songs with zero words: {zero_words}")
print(f"Songs included in lyric analysis (Number of Words > 0): {valid_lyric}
```

Total entries in BiMMuDa per-song dataset: 379  
 Songs with missing word counts: 14  
 Songs with zero words: 0  
 Songs included in lyric analysis (Number of Words > 0): 365

In [110...]

```
df_clean = df[df["Number of Words"].gt(0)].copy()

df_clean.shape
```

Out[110...]

(365, 19)
-----------

In [111...]

```
df_clean["Decade"] = (df_clean["Year"] // 10) * 10

df_clean[["Year", "Decade"]].head()
```

Out[111...]

	Year	Decade
0	1950	1950
1	1950	1950
3	1950	1950
4	1950	1950
5	1951	1950

For this analysis I focus on `df_clean`, the subset of songs with positive word counts (Number of Words > 0). In the per-song BiMMuDa CSV I use, there are 379 rows representing 371 unique songs. Fourteen entries have missing lyric word counts, so my lyric complexity analysis covers the 365 entries (357 unique songs) with valid lyrics.

## Single Feature Exploration - Unique Word Ratio

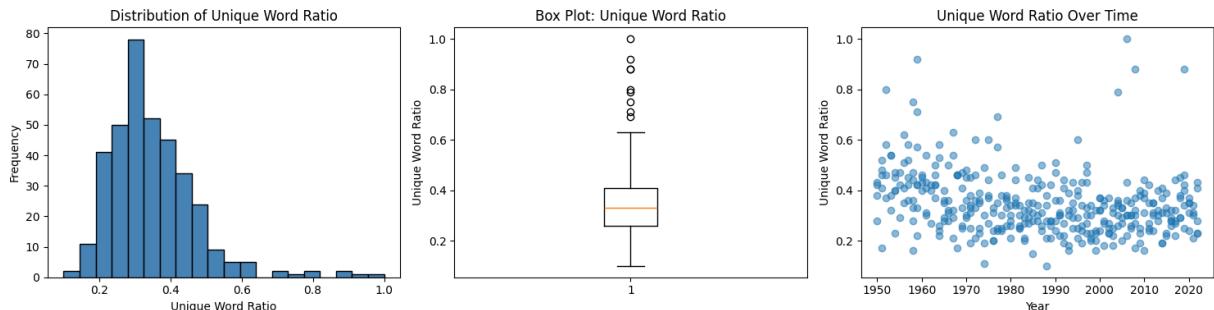
```
In [112...]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15,4))

# Histogram
axes[0].hist(df_clean['Unique Word Ratio'], bins=20, color='steelblue', edgecolor='black')
axes[0].set_title('Distribution of Unique Word Ratio')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Unique Word Ratio')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Frequency')

# Box plot
axes[1].boxplot(df_clean['Unique Word Ratio'])
axes[1].set_title('Box Plot: Unique Word Ratio')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Unique Word Ratio')

# Time series
axes[2].plot(df_clean['Year'], df_clean['Unique Word Ratio'], 'o', alpha=0.5)
axes[2].set_title('Unique Word Ratio Over Time')
axes[2].set_xlabel('Year')
axes[2].set_ylabel('Unique Word Ratio')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('single_feature_exploration.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()
```



**Observation:** The distribution shows most songs cluster between 0.2-0.4 ratio, with the box plot revealing several outliers above 0.6. The time series plot demonstrates a clear declining trend from higher diversity in early decades to lower diversity in recent decades, with increased scatter in the data over time.

## Single Feature Exploration - Number of Words

```
In [113...]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15, 4))

# Histogram
axes[0].hist(df_clean['Number of Words'], bins=20, color='coral', edgecolor='black')
axes[0].set_title('Distribution of Word Count')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Number of Words')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Frequency')

# Box plot
axes[1].boxplot(df_clean['Number of Words'])
axes[1].set_title('Box Plot: Word Count')
```

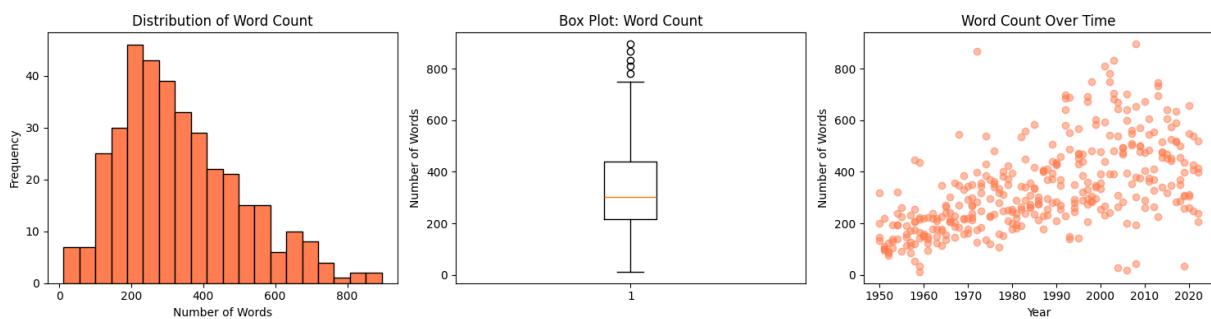
```

axes[1].set_ylabel('Number of Words')

# Time series
axes[2].plot(df_clean['Year'], df_clean['Number of Words'], 'o', alpha=0.5,
axes[2].set_title('Word Count Over Time')
axes[2].set_xlabel('Year')
axes[2].set_ylabel('Number of Words')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('words_exploration.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()

```



**Observation:** The histogram shows a right-skewed distribution with most songs under 400 words but a long tail extending past 800 words. The time series reveals both an upward trend and dramatically increasing variability over time, with recent decades showing the widest spread from shortest to longest songs.

## Single Feature Exploration - Number of Unique Words

```

In [114]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15, 4))

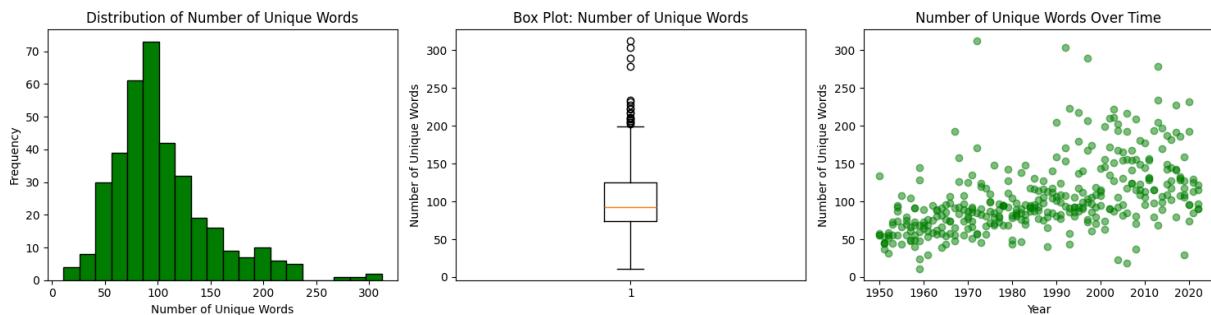
# Histogram
axes[0].hist(df_clean['Number of Unique Words'], bins=20, color='green', edgecolor='black')
axes[0].set_title('Distribution of Number of Unique Words')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Number of Unique Words')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Frequency')

# Box plot
axes[1].boxplot(df_clean['Number of Unique Words'])
axes[1].set_title('Box Plot: Number of Unique Words')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Number of Unique Words')

# Time series
axes[2].plot(df_clean['Year'], df_clean['Number of Unique Words'], 'o', alpha=0.5,
axes[2].set_title('Number of Unique Words Over Time')
axes[2].set_xlabel('Year')
axes[2].set_ylabel('Number of Unique Words')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('feature3_unique_words.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()

```



**Observation:** Unique vocabulary shows a modest upward trend over time, but the increase is much less dramatic than total word count. The distribution remains relatively concentrated around 100-150 unique words across all decades, though recent years show more high-vocabulary outliers.

## Single Feature Exploration - Number of Syllables

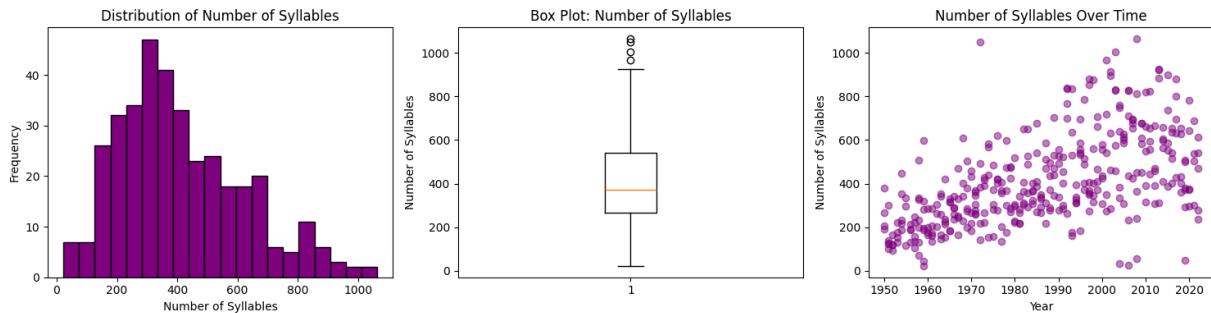
```
In [115...]: fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15, 4))

# Histogram
axes[0].hist(df_clean['Number of Syllables'], bins=20, color='purple', edgecolor='black')
axes[0].set_title('Distribution of Number of Syllables')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Number of Syllables')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Frequency')

# Box plot
axes[1].boxplot(df_clean['Number of Syllables'])
axes[1].set_title('Box Plot: Number of Syllables')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Number of Syllables')

# Time series
axes[2].plot(df_clean['Year'], df_clean['Number of Syllables'], 'o', alpha=0.5)
axes[2].set_title('Number of Syllables Over Time')
axes[2].set_xlabel('Year')
axes[2].set_ylabel('Number of Syllables')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('feature4_syllables.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()
```



**Observation:** Syllable count closely mirrors the word count pattern, showing similar upward trend and increasing variability. This parallel relationship suggests that average word complexity (syllables per word) has remained relatively stable despite songs getting longer.

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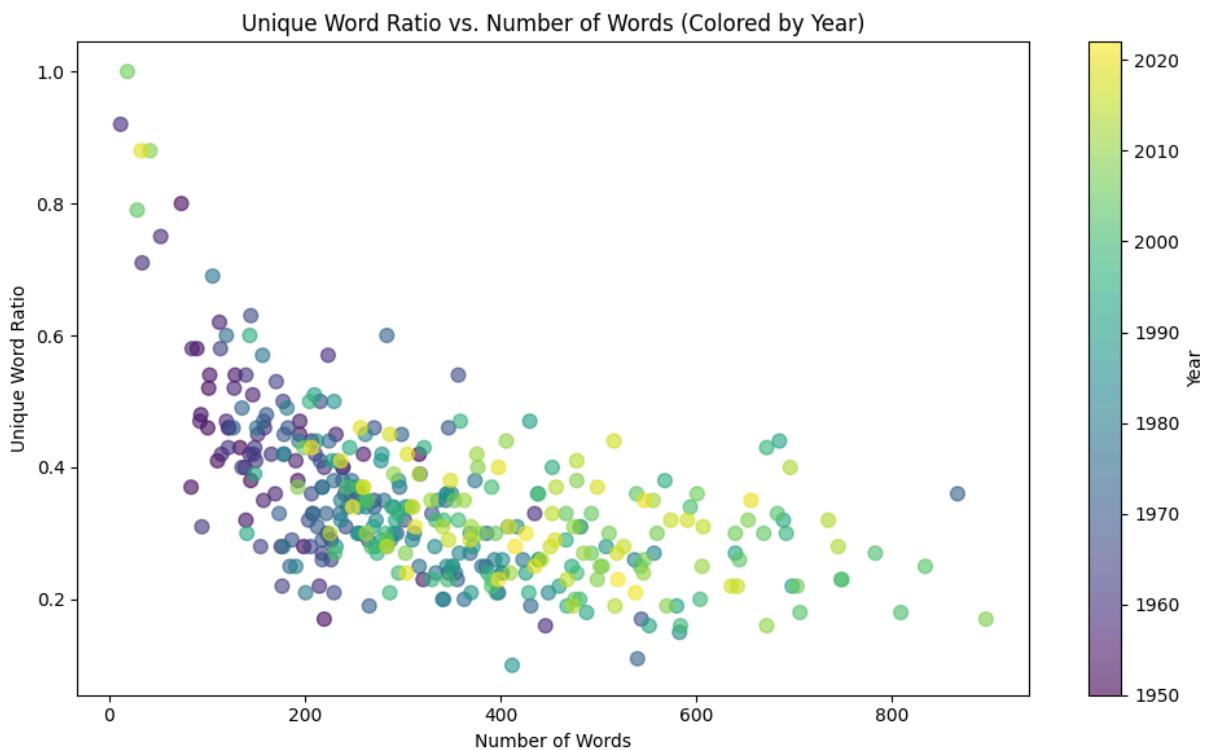
## Multiple Features - Scatter Plot

```
In [116]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))

scatter = ax.scatter(df_clean['Number of Words'],
                     df_clean['Unique Word Ratio'],
                     c=df_clean['Year'],
                     cmap='viridis',
                     alpha=0.6,
                     s=60)

plt.colorbar(scatter, label='Year')
ax.set_xlabel('Number of Words')
ax.set_ylabel('Unique Word Ratio')
ax.set_title('Unique Word Ratio vs. Number of Words (Colored by Year)')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('scatter_words_diversity.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()
```



**Observation:** The scatter plot reveals a negative relationship between song length and vocabulary diversity. The color gradient shows older songs (purple) concentrated in the

lower-left with high diversity ratios, while newer songs (yellow/green) spread toward the upper-right with lower diversity ratios despite higher word counts.

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## Multiple Features - Grouped by Decade

```
In [117]: # Calculate averages by decade
decade_avg = df_clean.groupby('Decade').agg({
    'Number of Words': 'mean',
    'Number of Unique Words': 'mean',
    'Unique Word Ratio': 'mean'
}).reset_index()

print("Average metrics by decade:")
print(decade_avg)
```

Average metrics by decade:

	Decade	Number of Words	Number of Unique Words	Unique Word Ratio
0	1950	167.937500	65.666667	0.443125
1	1960	216.869565	78.847826	0.381087
2	1970	297.313725	94.568627	0.343725
3	1980	315.220000	92.840000	0.310200
4	1990	402.132075	118.905660	0.309811
5	2000	463.264151	131.415094	0.327170
6	2010	442.960000	137.680000	0.329800
7	2020	391.357143	118.285714	0.311429

---

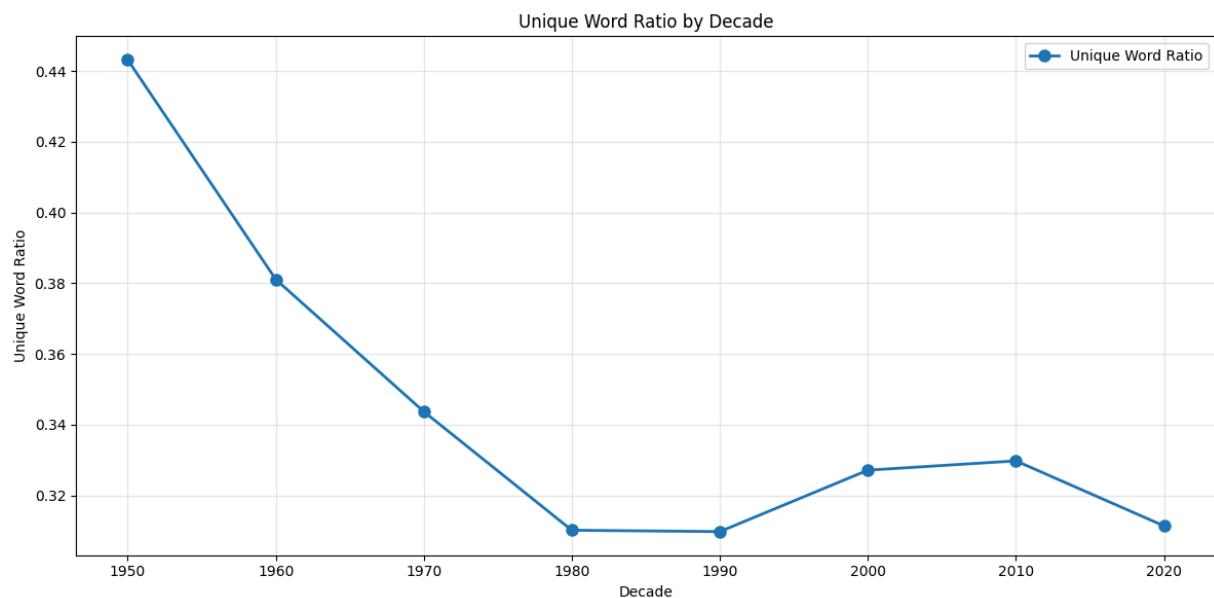
## Experiment - Line Plot (Trends by Decade)

```
In [118]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))

ax.plot(decade_avg['Decade'], decade_avg['Unique Word Ratio'],
        marker='o', linewidth=2, markersize=8, label='Unique Word Ratio')

ax.set_xlabel('Decade')
ax.set_ylabel('Unique Word Ratio')
ax.set_title('Unique Word Ratio by Decade')
ax.legend()
ax.grid(alpha=0.3)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('decade_trend_line.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()
```



**Observation:** The line plot shows a two-phase pattern: a sharp decline from 1950 to 1980, followed by stabilization around the same level from 1980 onward. This suggests vocabulary diversity dropped significantly in the early decades, then plateaued at a consistently lower level in modern music.

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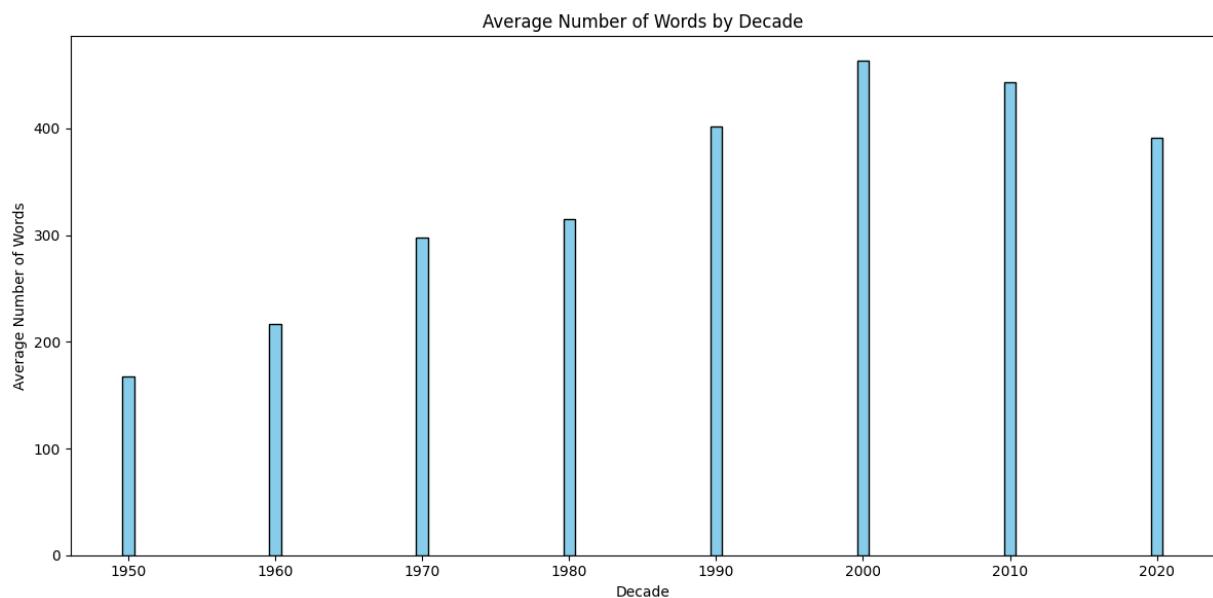
## Experiment - Bar Chart (Decade Comparison)

```
In [119]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))

ax.bar(decade_avg['Decade'], decade_avg['Number of Words'],
       color='skyblue', edgecolor='black')

ax.set_xlabel('Decade')
ax.set_ylabel('Average Number of Words')
ax.set_title('Average Number of Words by Decade')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('decade_bar.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()
```



**Observation:** The bar chart shows progressive increases in average song length from the 1950s through 2010, with the 2000s and 2010s representing the peak. The 2020s show a slight decline from this peak, potentially reflecting recent trends toward shorter, more streaming-optimized song formats.

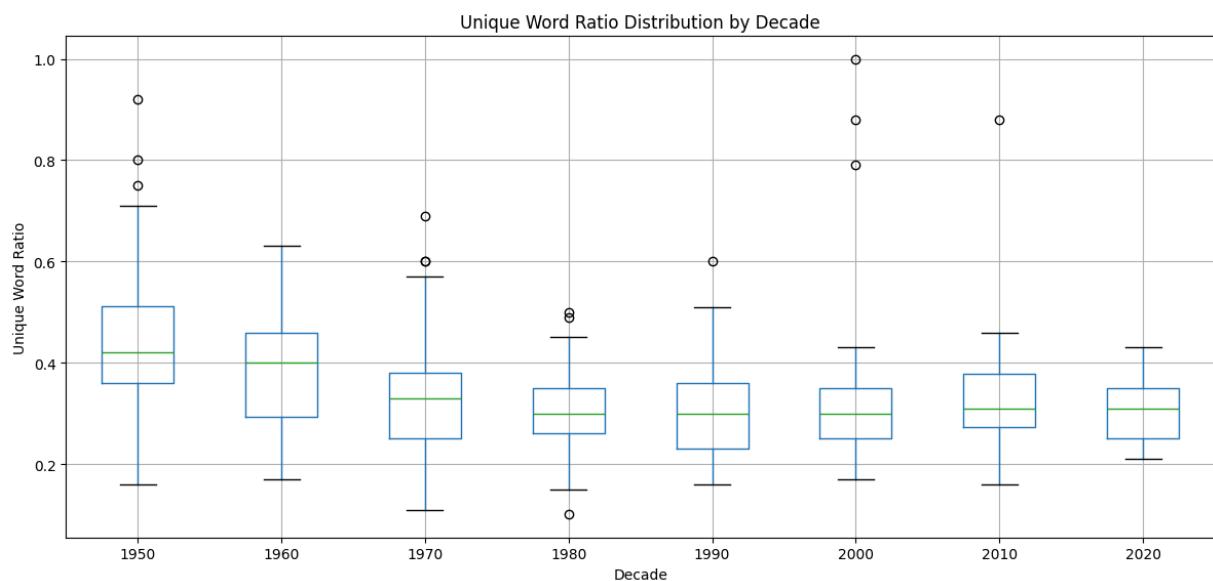
---

## Experiment - Box Plots by Decade

```
In [120...]: fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))

df_clean.boxplot(column='Unique Word Ratio', by='Decade', ax=ax)
ax.set_xlabel('Decade')
ax.set_ylabel('Unique Word Ratio')
ax.set_title('Unique Word Ratio Distribution by Decade')
plt.suptitle('') # Remove default title

plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('decade_boxplot.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()
```



**Observation:** The box plots reveal declining median diversity from the 1950s through 1980s, then stable medians across later decades. Notably, while the 1950s show the widest distribution suggesting varied songwriting approaches, later decades show tighter clustering around lower values, indicating industry-wide standardization of repetitive structures.

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## Data Transformation - Wide Table for Heatmap

```
In [121...]: # Transform data: Create pivot table for heatmap
# Average metrics by decade

heatmap_data = df_clean.groupby('Decade').agg({
    'Number of Words': 'mean',
    'Number of Unique Words': 'mean',
    'Unique Word Ratio': 'mean',
    'Number of Syllables': 'mean',
    'Number of Parts': 'mean'
}).T # Transpose so decades are columns

print("Transformed data for heatmap:")
print(heatmap_data)
```

Transformed data for heatmap:

Decade	1950	1960	1970	1980	\
Number of Words	167.937500	216.869565	297.313725	315.2200	
Number of Unique Words	65.666667	78.847826	94.568627	92.8400	
Unique Word Ratio	0.443125	0.381087	0.343725	0.3102	
Number of Syllables	213.125000	271.347826	363.549020	386.6000	
Number of Parts	2.437500	2.434783	3.019608	3.0400	
Decade	1990	2000	2010	2020	
Number of Words	402.132075	463.264151	442.960000	391.357143	
Number of Unique Words	118.905660	131.415094	137.680000	118.285714	
Unique Word Ratio	0.309811	0.327170	0.329800	0.311429	
Number of Syllables	487.490566	563.339623	557.940000	473.857143	
Number of Parts	3.122449	3.735849	3.591837	3.857143	

## Heatmap Visualization

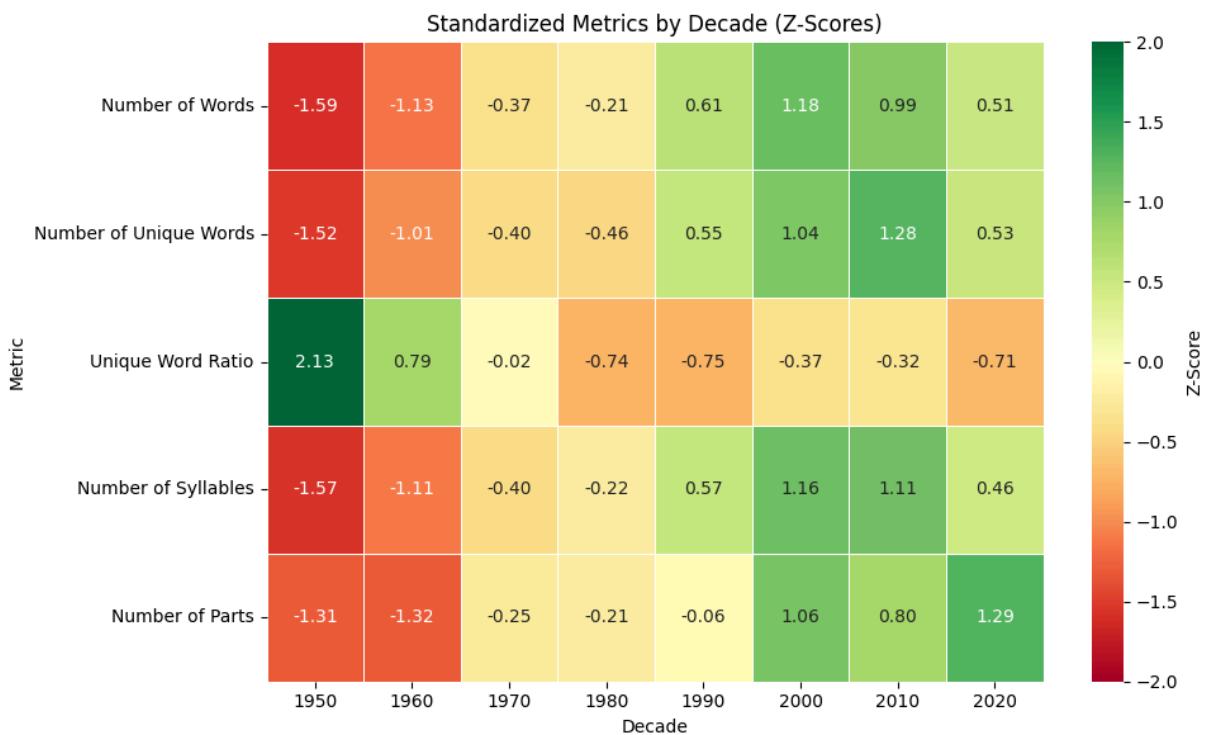
In [122...]

```
# Calculate averages by decade
heatmap_data = df_clean.groupby('Decade').agg({
    'Number of Words': 'mean',
    'Number of Unique Words': 'mean',
    'Unique Word Ratio': 'mean',
    'Number of Syllables': 'mean',
    'Number of Parts': 'mean'
}).T # Transpose so decades are columns

heatmap_normalized = heatmap_data.apply(
    lambda row: (row - row.mean()) / row.std(),
    axis=1
)

# Plot normalized heatmap
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))
sns.heatmap(heatmap_normalized, annot=True, fmt='%.2f', cmap='RdYlGn',
            linewidths=0.5, ax=ax, center=0, vmin=-2, vmax=2,
            cbar_kws={'label': 'Z-Score'})
ax.set_title('Standardized Metrics by Decade (Z-Scores)')
ax.set_xlabel('Decade')
ax.set_ylabel('Metric')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('decade_heatmap_normalized.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()

print("Z-Score Interpretation:")
print("• Dark Red (+2) = Much higher than average for that metric")
print("• White (0) = Average for that metric")
print("• Dark Green (-2) = Much lower than average for that metric")
```



#### Z-Score Interpretation:

- Dark Red (+2) = Much higher than average for that metric
- White (0) = Average for that metric
- Dark Green (-2) = Much lower than average for that metric

**Observation:** Colors show how each decade compares to the average for that metric.

- Unique Word Ratio (row 3): Green in 1950s → Orange in 2020s (Diversity DECREASED over time)
- Number of Words (row 1): Red in 1950s → Green in 2000s (Word count INCREASED over time)

## Plot Type Justification

This notebook uses various plot types appropriate to the data:

### For numeric features (word counts, ratios, syllables):

- Histograms → show distribution shapes
- Box plots → reveal quartiles and outliers
- Scatter plots → show relationships between two variables

### For temporal data (Year as independent variable):

- Line plots → show trends over time
- Scatter plots with time → show individual data points across years

### For grouped comparisons (by Decade):

- Bar charts → compare aggregate statistics
  - Grouped box plots → compare distributions
  - Heatmaps → show patterns across multiple dimensions
- 

## Summary

### Visualizations Created:

1. ✓ Single feature histograms, box plots, time series (4 features)
2. ✓ Multiple feature scatter plot
3. ✓ Decade comparisons (line, bar, box plots)
4. ✓ Heatmap (with data transformation)

### Data Transformations:

- ✓ Grouped by decade (aggregation)
- ✓ Pivot table for heatmap (wide format)

### Plot Experiments:

- Experimented with 6 different plot types
  - Tested multiple visualizations for same data
- 

## Main Finding:

**Modern songs use more words but repeat them more (lower diversity).**

**Next: Notebook 3 - Final Product**