

Charles Darwin Annotated Bibliography #4

Antovic, Mihailo

2009 Musical Metaphors in Serbian and Romani Children: An Empirical Study. *Metaphor and Symbol* 24(2009): 184-202.

This study looked at how young people metaphorically conceptualize music. They had five hypotheses which included: that the language used to describe the music would be based on the student's bodily interaction with the environment, that there are significant differences between the responses of musicians and no musicians, there are significant differences between Serbian and Romani, and mapping the metaphors may provide a universal system of musical metaphors. The researchers played 5 different opposed stimuli to ninety randomly selected 11 year old students (30 from a musical school, 30 Serbians, and 30 Roma). They asked each student to describe the first and second part of each stimuli. They then coded the responses based on conceptual metaphor theory (quantity in terms of directionality). The coding process proved difficult due to the variety of answers. They had a "no answer" and "unclear" (did not fit in their categories) code for responses as well. They organized the responses by vertical orientation, force, links, and motion. For example, a response might be "*lower and higher*" this would be categorized as "Pitches are Heights". The statistics provided were merely descriptive, describing how many students in each category (Roma, Serbian, Musician) answered in a certain coded category (i.e. "Pitches are Sizes). They provided this data for each of the five stimuli responses, and then attempted to map the responses to show how the students used visual constructs as target domains. They consented that their coding might have proved limiting and further research on cultural differences on metaphorical understandings of music exist.