Music forms a big part of our identity and as such, people with a shared preference for certain kinds of music may also share similar traits. In this study, we explore differences in the emotional language of fan communities of different music genres.

In focusing on Reddit, we analyze the comments on online community forums of different music genres using lexicon-based sentiment analysis and a neural emotion detection model. Upon clustering Subreddit forums based on the emotion analysis results, we found that forums discussing genres like Rock, RnB, Blues, and Jazz were found to have a higher abundance of positively valenced emotions and a lower amount of negatively valenced emotions compared to forums discussing genres like Punk, and Rap, which had a lower amount of positively valenced emotions and a higher abundance of negatively valenced emotion.

We found that the comments posted by the same user on different Subreddit clusters had significant differences in the amount of anger, disgust, fear, and joy being expressed.

We observed a high correlation between counts in lyrics of a genre and counts in a fan community for the emotions of anger and joy.

In sum, we found differences in the emotional language of fan utterances by genre, and these can be partially attributed to the emotions contained in the lyrics.