

MTO 28.2 Examples: Wallmark, Analyzing Vocables in Rap

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

<https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.22.28.2/mto.22.28.2.wallmark.html>

Example 1. Megan Thee Stallion, “Circles” (2020), 0:17–0:21

Why you wan-na do the bad bitch wrong? (Huh?) 'Bout to make this ev-ery bad bitch song (Ay)

Example 2. Megan Thee Stallion, “WTF I Want” (2018), 0:30–0:43

(Huh) To - day I woke up in my act (Huh) Look at these bit - ches they whack

(Ugh) Now look at Me - gan she bad (Ay) N* - **** in love with this ass

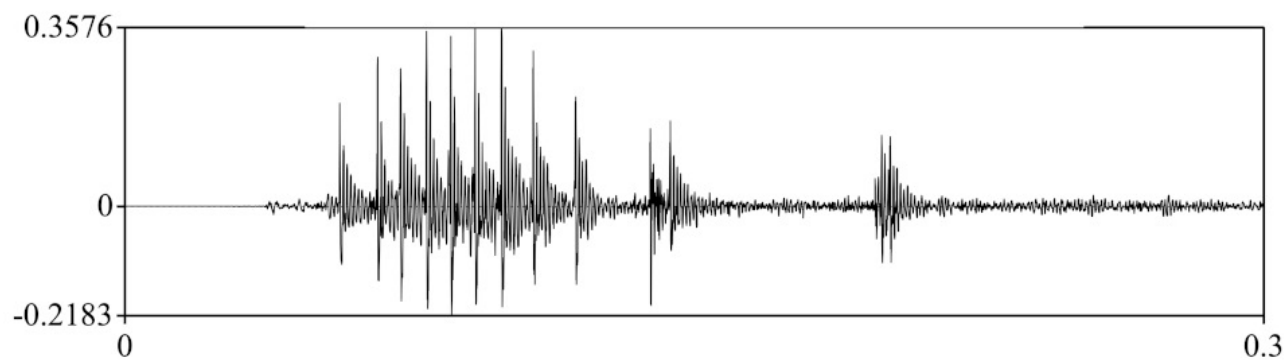
(Ay) Ride___ you ride you like a beat (Beat) Want me next t'ya like a B

(Huh) Col - lege - gi - rl like Mo - e___ sha (Woo) with tit - ties like Mi - a Kha - li - fa

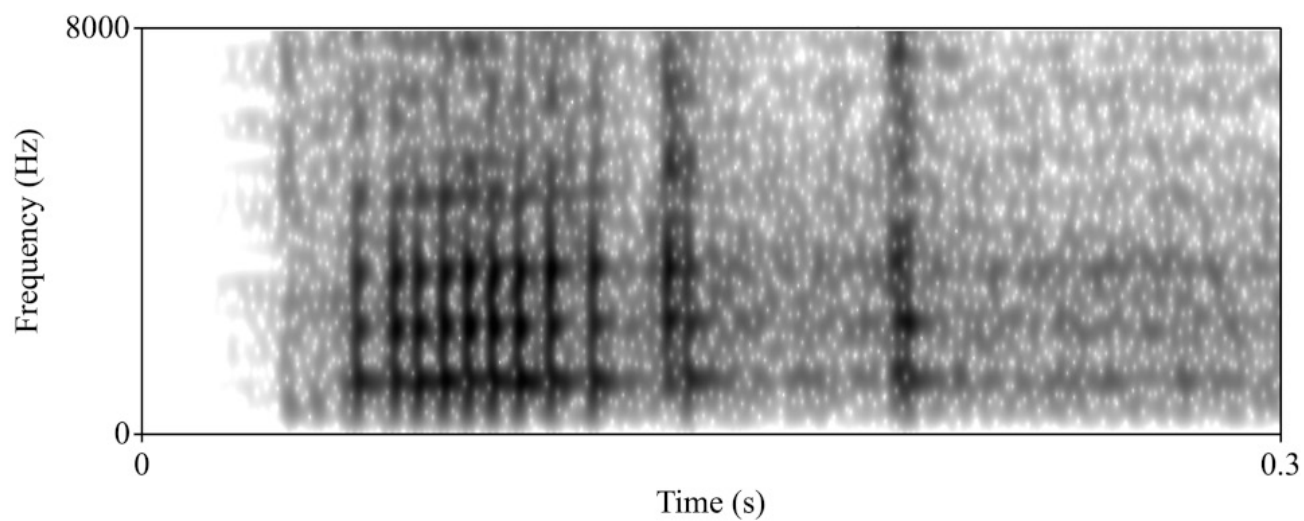
Example 3. Emoji tweet (August 29, 2019); cover images of Suga (2020) and “WAP” (2020; Cardi B feat. Megan Thee Stallion)



Example 4. Waveform (top) and spectrogram (bottom) of Megan Thee Stallion's [æ] vocable



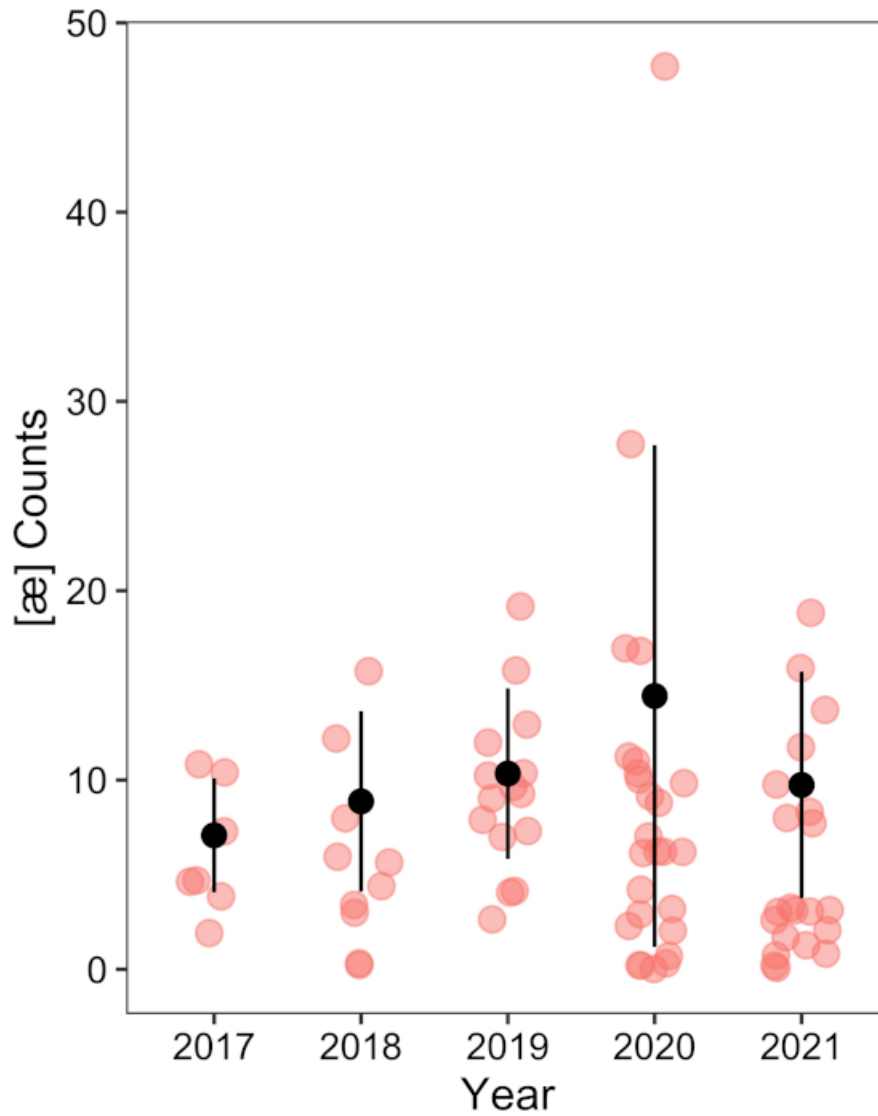
[æ]



Example 5. Data collected for the [æ] microcorpus

Variable	Data type
Album	categorical
Year of release	categorical
Track name	categorical
Time stamp	time (m:ss)
Total frequency (per track)	numeric (count)
Local frequency (per musical event)	numeric (count)
Measure placement (within 4-bar hypermeter)	ordinal (1–4)
Beat placement (within measure, as 8 th -note)	ordinal (1–8)
Metrical position (within 4-bar hypermeter, as 8 th -note)	ordinal (1–32)
Placement in song structure (intro, verse, chorus, etc.)	categorical
Beat dropout	logical (T/F)
Total track time	time (m:ss)
Frequency per minute	ratio (freq/time)
Lyrical context	string
Total Spotify streams (as of August 2021)	numeric (million)
Total official YouTube plays (as of August 2021)	numeric (million)
Classification (rhythmic, formal, trademark)	categorical
Miscellaneous notes	string

Example 6. Frequencies of the [æ] vocable by year



Example 7. Megan Thee Stallion, “Work That” (2020) chorus (0:25–0:30)

Vox

Ad lib

Chords: E \flat , Dmin, Cmin

Lyrics: Got my tongue all like Poke it out like He look-in' like a snack I'm try' na lick him like

Vocables: [æ], [æ], [æ], [æ]

Example 9. Megan Thee Stallion, "Sugar Baby" (2020) second verse (1:07–1:19)

Rap

4/4

I ain't play-in' nice for no fuck-in' plane tick-et (uh-uh) and I ain't com-in' o-ver 'til I know how big your dick is.

Hi-hat

Kick Snare

Synth Bass

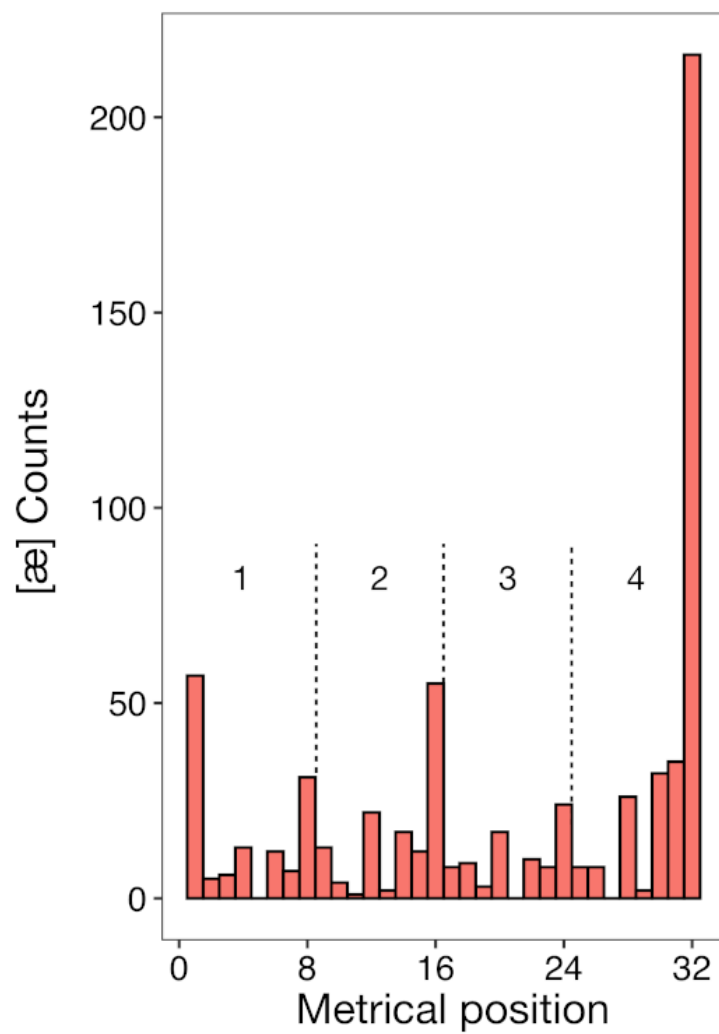
3

He can call me lame and he can get an a-tti-tude but I still ain't do-in'-no-thin' I don't wa-nna do [æ]

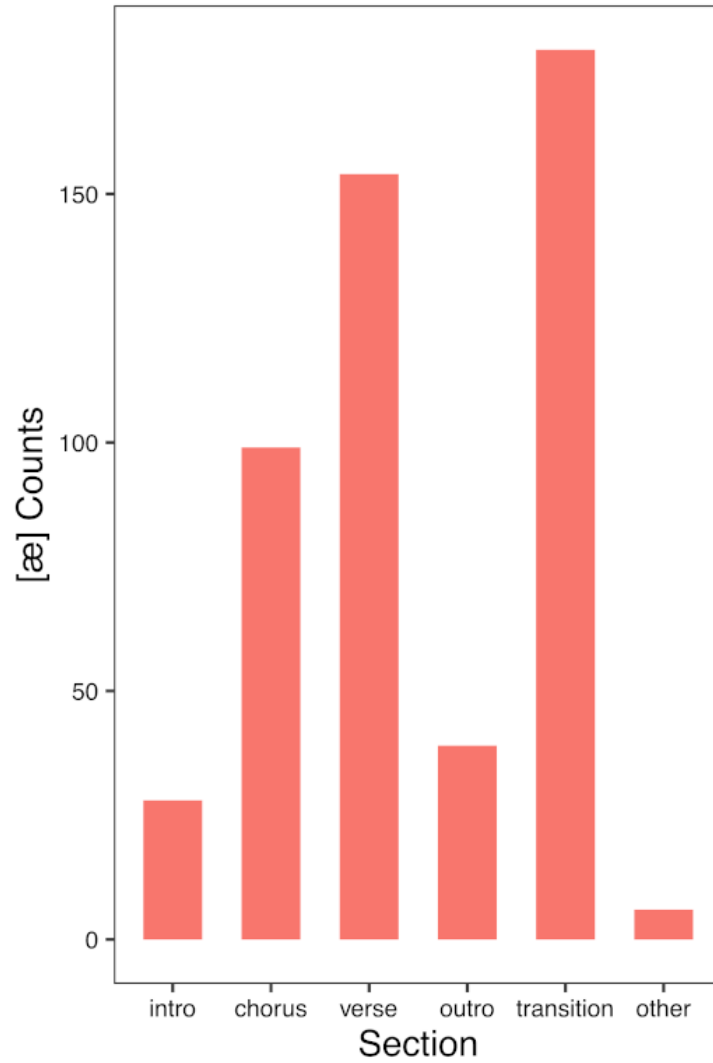
3

3

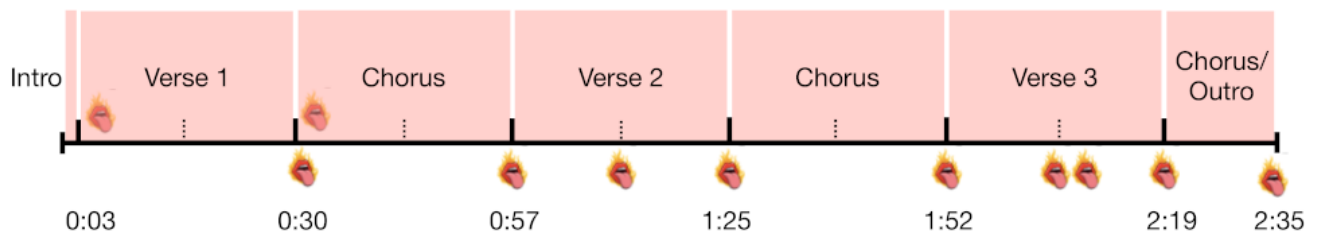
Example 10. Frequency of the [æ] vocable in each metrical position of the 4-bar hypermeter]



Example 11. Frequency of [æ] vocables in each song section




Example 12. Form chart of Megan Thee Stallion, "What's New" (2020)



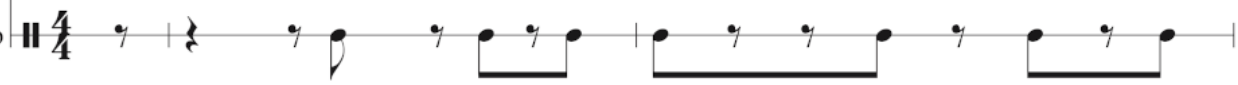
Example 13. Word cloud of lyrics preceding the [æ] vocable (frequency of 9+ only)



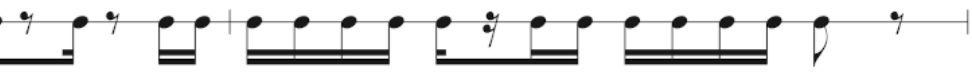
Example 14. Megan Thee Stallion, "Rich" (2020), chorus (0:27–0:45)

Rap  4/4

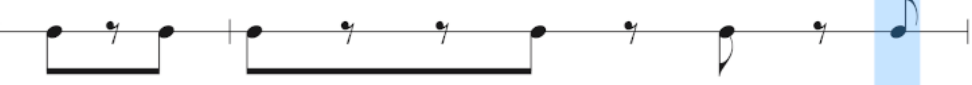
I'm a rich bitch with some rich friends if he buy it for me he got to buy it for them I'm a

Ad lib  4/4


ya ya hey ya baow baow baow

3  4/4

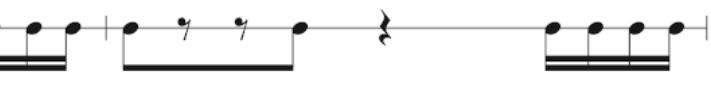
3 boss bitch I don't need help I'm a tell him to buy it but I can get it my-self.

 4/4


baow ya ya yee ya ya oo [æ]

5  4/4


5 Rich li - l' bitch don't be spea-king if you broke rich ass bitch get-ting mo-ney on my own

 4/4

hey hey spea-king if you broke oh mo-ney on my

7  4/4

7 rich li - l' bitch don't be speak-ing if you broke I'm a rich ass bitch get-ting mo-ney on my own.

 4/4

own hey hey hey ya ay ay [æ]

Example 15. Association between frequency of [æ] vocables (y-axis) in each song and total Spotify streams (x-axis)

