

## **Beyond all reasonable transgression: Lexical blending in alternative music**

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This paper approaches the issue of blend formation by focusing on a subcorpus of blends naming bands and singers belonging to alternative musical styles. Therefore, the study puts forward an analysis of the main trends in blend formation in this subfield from the point of view of form, underlying structure and purpose. In general terms, items formed out of two bases (*Medieval*) are the most common, and so are combinations that keep the initial source word intact, or even both source words (*Obscener*). Likewise, there is a tendency towards high constituent integration (*Apocalipstick*), and the sources seem to favour an underlying grammatical relationship of modification (*Sexorist*). Finally, the analysis shows that transgressive semantic combinations are used to reinforce the images of violence, sacrilege or chaos which define a band's ideology (*Atheretic*, *Assassinner*). In conclusion, the study reveals that lexical blending is a powerful aesthetic device to catch the audience's attention by striking the eye and the ear. However, it also arises as a handy tool to satisfy intellectual and social needs, since the items thus formed convey valuable information about the artists' views on life, society or their art, and contribute to representing the subculture those artists belong to, thus reinforcing group bonds.

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