

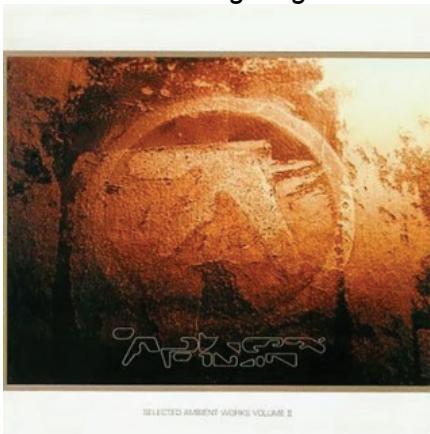


MUSICMAIL 7

El significado de 'chill out'

The first part of our class today is more about music than linguistics as I have just played two very different tracks. And why do I say 'tracks' instead of songs. Well, because we're listening to electronic music, and as a lot of electronic music such as techno and house has no lyrics - 'no letra' - we usually call them 'tracks' (pistas) instead of songs.

Anyway, these two tracks illustrate two very different styles of music – but two styles of music that have both become part of a broader term (un termino mas amplio) called 'chill out.' The first was ambient music from the Aphex twin and a track called *Lischen*, the second was a trip hop track from DJ Shadow called *Changeling*.



Aphex Twin

The Aphex twin – our example of ambient music – is similar to classical music in that it would be very difficult to dance to. Percussion – drums – are often of little importance in this type of music – therefore there is no beat to dance to. It is music for listening and thinking and relaxing – not moving, but it is related to dance music because it is almost always electronic and heavily dependent on synthesizers and technology.

THE MUSIC

The second track by DJ Shadow is more closely related to dance music because of its beat. Trip hop uses downtempo beats, hip hop and jazz samples and will make your feet move up and down. It falls into the category of 'chill out' because of its dreamy qualities and the fact that it is of course, clearly slower than techno, house or other dance music.

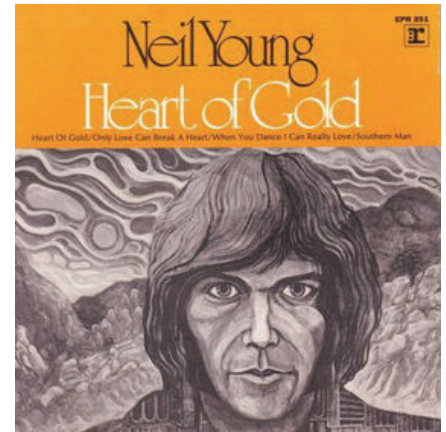
Before we explore the linguistics of the word 'chill out,' though, let's listen to one more example of ambient music. This is called *Rhubarb* and it's from the The Aphex Twin's album *selected ambient works 2* and it is very very good.



DJ Shadow

THE LINGUISTICS

The word chill out undoubtedly comes from the word 'cool.' Cool means 'frio' and 'chilly' or 'chill' means 'frio'; if you are very emotional or excited or angry you become hot so I say to you 'cool down, chill,' this is the origin of the word 'chill.' 'To chill out' meant originally 'to relax'... 'hey, let's smoke a joint and chill out.' That was the 1960s and that was where the word stayed for a few decades, then came dance music and electronic music. And during the birth of the rave scene and the club scene (and remember that in ingles no decimos 'discotec' – discoteca es de los años setenta – decimos 'club) empezaron a crear una zona de club para que la gente relax. This zona was called 'the chill out area.' Then musicians began to create music for that area. Then what happened was that some marketing fuckers took the word and created a million shit cds and albums called *chill out*, *chill out Ibiza*, *chill out*, *my arse*, *chill out jimmy jinx* – sorry Jimmy.



However, if we forget the bastardization of the term by marketing executives and return to the spirit of chill out I think we can see its true meaning. Chill out can be any type of music which is basically downtempo. That's why I'd like to finish this class with two songs which aren't strictly chill out but because they are slow and beautiful and relaxing they are, in my opinion, chill out. The first is by Neil young 'heart of gold'... corazon de oro, and the second is by Gorillaz 'empire of the ants' imperio de las hormigas...

And that brings us to the end of the show, I hope you now understand the terms chill out, trip hop and ambient. Remember to listen to the Street Philosophy podcasts and to buy the book that accompanies the show. Also, if you want to talk to me... make friends with me on facebook – username Vocatic Lynch... thank you guys, it is always truly a pleasure to speak to you. See you soon.



Neil Young – Heart of gold

I want to live, I want to give
I've been a miner for a heart of gold.
It's these expressions I never give
That keep me searching for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old.
Keeps me searching for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old.

I've been to Hollywood I've been to Redwood
I crossed the ocean
for a heart of gold
I've been in my mind,
it's such a fine line
That keeps me searching
for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old.
Keeps me searching
for a heart of gold
And I'm getting old.

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Gorillaz – Empire of the ants

Oh joy's arise
The sun has come again too hold you
Sailing out the doordrums of the
The polyphonic prairies here, it's all around you
It's all around you, out here

And if the whole world is crashing down
Fall through space out of mind again
Where the emptiness we leave behind on warm air rising

Lose all the shadows far away

The falling alcohol empire, is here to hold you
Ruling out and haunted till it sinks

Little memories, marching on
Your little feet, working the machine
Will it spin, will it sore
My little dream, working the machine

Little memories
Your little feet, working the machine
Will it spin, will it sore
My little dream, working the machine