

MUMBLE IN THE BRONX: A SOCIO-CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF 'MUMBLE RAP' AS ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE

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ABSTRACT

Rap and hip-hop articulate a black rhetoric which is rooted in a legacy of resistance against white supremacy. This article provides an alternative theorization of 'mumble rap', linking the musical genre to Valentin Volosinov's seminal piece *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language*. Invoking a Volosinovian lens, I argue that mumble rappers challenge the unaccentual nature of language and infuse their art form with polyvocal and multiaccentual approaches to language. 'Mumble rap', then, serves as a cultural zeitgeist for resistance among contemporary rappers who hold contempt for racist institutions in the United States.

Keywords: Environmental Discourse, Mumble Rap, Resistance, Human Ecology, Hip-Hop; Black Culture.