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CAMU221 BACHELOR IN MUSIC COMPOSITION (HONS)

MUF655 RESEARCH PROJECT

RESEARCH PROJECT

CAN HIP HOP GENRE BE CONSIDERED AS MUSICAL LITERATURE  
OR JUST NOISY MUSIC?

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SONG: SOUND OF DA POLICE BY KRS-ONE

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTIONS

### 1.1 Background of the study

Lawrence "Kris" Parker, better known by his stage name KRS-One, was born in New York on August 20, 1965. He is an American rapper, poet, and sporadic producer. He became well-known as a member of the hip hop crew Boogie Down Productions, which he co-founded in the middle of the 1980s with DJ Scott La Rock. The biggest songs of KRS-One are "Sound of da Police", "Love's Gonna Get'cha (Material Love)" and "My Philosophy". Early on, Boogie Down Productions won many accolades and earned favorable reviews. When fellow musician Scott La Rock was murdered and killed soon after the group's debut album, *Criminal Minded*, KRS-One carried on with the band, essentially as a solo endeavor. In 1993, he started issuing music under his own name. He established the Stop the Violence Movement after Scott's killing, demonstrating his political engagement.

"Sound of da Police" is a song by American rapper KRS-One. It was the second and last single to be released from KRS-debut One's solo studio album *Return of the Boom Bap*. It was recorded at D&D Studios in New York City with production handled by Showbiz. It reached its peak on the US Billboard Hot 100 at position 89. Systematic racism and police brutality are both condemned in the song. KRS-One whoops twice at the start of the song to simulate a police siren (the "sound of the police"), and he does this repeatedly throughout the song. Grand Funk Railroad's interpretation of "Inside-Looking Out," the last track on their album *Grand Funk*, served as the inspiration for the powerful bass sample loop and a portion of the guitar solo. Sly and the Family Stone's "Sing a Simple Song" is used in part of the drum beat.

Since the song tackle some very serious issues about the world we living in, so the word used in the lyrics are very strong and somehow vulgar in a few listeners opinion. This is what we will dive into throughout this research.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Hip-Hop music is one unique genre as it contains distinct characteristics if compared to another genre. Technically, it is a winning factor for liking the genre. Most music in this genre has a few elements that can be considered unpleasant to some ears. So, the consequences of this are there would be different opinions from different person hence not everyone will like to listen to this type of music. Bode Omojola draws attention to the fact that "the notion of worth... does not depend on how complicated or how basic a piece of music is" in African society (Omojola, 2006). The degree to which a musical form is legitimate among the audience heavily influences its relevance and longevity. Or, to put it another way, "each work of art establishes its own standards for artistic appraisal, related to the convention of its cultural and social milieu." A piece of music is not considered to be of intrinsic greatness because it has a complicated structural design or was created for the elite (Omojola, 2006). This type of mind perspective is the sole reason why we cannot enjoy music to its best because we could not understand the music itself. Understanding and analysing a song's musical components, structural characteristics, and emotional content in order to acquire insights into its meaning and effect on listeners is the problem statement for this particular research. This may entail looking at a song's instrumentation, lyrics, melody, harmony, rhythm, and other components to spot patterns and trends that contribute to the song's overall style and effectiveness. With this research, in hope to shine a light to better understand Hip-Hop music.

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

1. To find out the composition technique that has been used in the making of the song The Sound of Da Police by KRS-One.
2. To find out the relationship between the lyrics and musical elements of Hip Hop songs?

## **1.4 Research Question**

1. What is the composition technique that has been used in Sound Of Da Police by KRS-One, including music arrangement, chord progression and lyrics writing?
2. What is the relationship between the lyrics and musical elements of Hip Hop songs?

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study resides in its capacity to:

1. Enhance musical appreciation: A deeper understanding of the melodic components of a song can enhance musical enjoyment.