

Keegan Luckey-Smith

Ethnomusicology

Literature Review

In the search for resources for this project, I imagined that there would not be an extensive amount of writing about the linguistic properties of the language used by Auctioneers in the process of making a sale, however with some research into the subject I realized that this was not entirely true. Two works that stood out immediately were “On the Linguistic Properties of Formulaic Speech” by K. Kuiper and “What about the Auctioneer?” by W. Hoogestraat. Although both of these articles provide incredibly useful information on characteristics of auction speech, neither of these manuscripts fully address the issue of rhythm in the selling process. However, rhythm is briefly mentioned by Kuiper as a characteristic of this form of public speaking.

Because rhythm in speech is at the center of my argument, I decided to look at speech in a more general sense. In this realm, I located Chapter 8 (“Rhythm and Speech,” by F. Cummins) in the “Handbook of Speech Production” edited by M. A. Redford. I feel that this resource has been extremely helpful in expanding my knowledge of the relationship between rhythm and language. While it is the case that this resource does not provide a specific reference to my topic, this general treatment of rhythm and speech is useful in informing my analyses of the use of rhythm in auctioneer language.

Additionally, I will use the journal *Tractors on eBay: Differences between Internet and In-Person Auctions* by Diekmann to establish cultural importance of the auctioneer. Besides the

practical role of the auctioneer as aforementioned, there must also be other reasons why we chose to keep this position with a human rather than just allowing a computer to moderate.

At this point in my research the main diffidence in the literature of this subject seems to be in the direct connection between auctioneer talk and rhythm. It is my hope that this project will serve to fill the void in the characterization of a connection between auctioneer talk and musicology.

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