

APPALACHIAN DIALECT AND MUSIC

Brittany S. Paxton, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Marvin Smith, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Language is directly shaped by culture, but it also can be said that culture is shaped by language. In Appalachia, the dialect and the way of life are clearly intertwined. Two major features involving the area are the dialect and the music, and since the region's genesis, both have supplemented the other. This complimentary relationship occurred because several cultures came together within one locality, and there were conflicts with each group's manner of speaking. To help rectify the situation, a certain type of music was born: bluegrass. In addition to the unique sound that was shaped in Appalachia, a specific dialect was also developed. To those who are native, this special manner of speaking is insignificant; however, to those from the outside, the sounds of the region are exclusive. Research involving these two elements was accomplished through literature written by local authors, interviews with those who reside in the area, and through several articles from other researchers.