

Shakira Language Analysis

California State University Monterey Bay

Linguistics 392-Section 2

Shakira Interview:

1. No, thank you for having me. (laugh)
2. Their will
3. I'm ready. I'm all yours.
4. I love that he is wearing the Waka Waka t- shirt
5. ¹Hmm. My favorite song? Wow! That's a tough one.
6. I have to say, I'm very excited about the new album, which is about to come out in September, **hmm because** it reminds me of different **eras** of different stages of my career.
7. **Hmm, it** like a synthesis of all these 20 years.
8. It's got songs that remind me of, Pies Descalzos and Ladrones and Laundry Service and it's got a strong rock side and also romantic songs, and Latino-- Latino songs, Latin sounding songs too.
9. A little bit of everything.
10. Yeah, it's like I said before, a good synthesis of it.
11. But one of the songs that I like--I love from my repertoire is Sombra de Ti.
12. It's on one of the B sides of one of my past albums.
13. I usually like the B side, **you know²**, the songs I never get to play on radio.
14. **Humm, Yeah³**, that's one of my favorite songs for sure.
15. But I could dare to say that the new material that's coming now is probably not my favorite, it's not my favorite, **yeah.**
16. I'm so thrilled about it.
17. It's been like a re-encounter.

¹ **Hmm**; It's repeated nine times throughout the interview

² You know; it's repeated eight to nine times as well

³ Yeah; repeated at ending sentences and in the middle as well

18. It's been like-- it's been quite interesting to make this new album.
19. I've been reconnecting with myself and with my sensibility and it's very introspective, but at the same time, it's very joyful.
20. It's got a lot of joy in it.
21. **Humm**, I suppose the beginning when I was 13 in Colombia, which was a country-- which is a country that back then didn't have a pop scene or at least a local pop scene, **you know**.
22. **Humm**, Most of the music that was playing on radio, music generated by local artists was folkloric music, you know, tropical music, but I wanted to do rock, I wanted to do pop songs and that didn't have an outlet at that time, so it was very difficult.
23. I was very young.
24. And being a woman also in this business is not easy. **hmm**.
25. Thank God, I had an amazing family surrounding me, supporting my dreams, encouraging me, my mother, my dad.
26. **You know** when I was 13? I released my first album with Sony Music, which back then was CBS. **hmm**
27. And, as soon as I graduated from high school--I graduated very young when I was 15-- I decided to move to the **Capital, to Bogota** to pursue my dreams, my career.
28. And so I told my parents, "Guys, I'm leaving. I have to make it happen."
29. And my mom said, "You're leaving? I'm going with you." (laugh)
30. And so she came with me to **Bogota** and I remember that those **beginnings** were quite hard, **you know**, to convince my record company to be listened...**you know**, being so young and having already so many ideas and certain criteria too, **hmm, you know**.

31. It wasn't easy to-to be respected, to earn the respect.
32. As soon as I got that, I felt that I was over the fence.
33. Hello, Etienne.
34. Thank you so much.
35. I see my poster there in the back.
36. That's so sweet.
37. Etienne, I think you and I have the same taste because that's probably my favorite song in the whole, She Wolf album.
38. But, it didn't get to be a single.
39. So I don't think I want to make--I'm going to be making any video for that song anytime soon since I'm already moving on to another album.
40. But if you want, you can make your own video, I'd love to receive that.
41. Yeah, but definitely one of my favorite songs in the album, if not, my favorite one.
42. Wow, Aw, It's amazing, Aw.
43. Oh my God.
44. It's so moving.
45. In this new album, it's very personal this album
46. It's very much about my feelings and my-- the thought and the times in which I felt that my heart has broken and it gets-- and the pieces get sewn in again and recovering and surviving and going through struggles **hmm** and coming out of those struggles, **hmm** feeling stronger.

47. It's about also the joy of celebrating my own culture, **you know**, because I decided to go to Dominican Republic and rescue-- and kind **of of** understand a little bit of that part of the Caribbean, **you know**, and get some of those sounds and mix them in my music.
48. So it's very exciting from a sonic point of view.
49. But also it's so personal and so much of **hmm** a reflection of the way I feel, or the way I felt this past two years that I didn't really get into **■** speaking about social issues.
50. Not in this particular album. I guess because I've been speaking so much publicly.

Shakira was born and raised in Barranquilla, Colombia. She was born on February 2, 1977. Shakira's official name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll. Shakira is Colombian pop singer and dancer and has won multiple Grammy, Latin Grammy and American Music Awards. Shakira is known for her songs, "Hips don't lie" and "Whenever, Wherever". She learned English when Gloria Estefan started to work with her and told her that if she wanted to become a great star, she needed to sing in English too. Shakira said to VH1 in an interview, "I wanted to know how English grammar works...I had to read Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass in English just to understand the language a little more. It was too important to me to write my own material like I always did."

Shakira is fluent in English, however, she does have an accent which you can easily tell when she says, Barranquilla, Bogotá on sentence number 27 and 30. As we were analyzing Shakira's interview we noticed that she often repeats herself. It was very interesting to see how Shakira as she speaks she bites her lips and I'm assuming it's because she is giving out an interview in a language that is not her native language. We compared this interview with another interview in Spanish and she is faster to speak with less repetition. In Spanish she does not have to analyze if she is saying it correctly.

Shakira tends to use words like hmm, yeah, and you know, when she is speaking in English. In 30 minutes that she was interviewed she repeated those words at least nine times each word. When she is starting to speak she has a nervous laugh and then she'll start with hmmm, and then begin with her sentence. Also, when she is making her sentences she mixes past and present tense. We can see that in sentence number 47; It's very much about my feelings and my-- the thought and the times in which I felt that my heart has broken and it gets-- and the pieces get sewn in again and recovering and surviving and going through struggles **hmm** and coming out of those struggles, **hmm** feeling stronger.

Another finding very interesting of Shakira is her way of speaking. She uses a lot the -ing ending in all her verbs. In sentence number 46 again we can see it “ recovering and surviving and going through struggles **hmm** and coming out of those struggles, **hmm** feeling stronger.” We noticed that she takes a long time to come out with her sentence so we came to the conclusion that she first thinks what she wants to say in Spanish and then she translates it into English.

Overall, we learn and know that as English learners it is often common that we will make mistakes. We often over think what we want to say, or first think what we want to say in our first language and then translate in English and sometimes the order of the sentence does not come out as we thought it was.

Work Cited

<https://youtu.be/I3xW0ZFos0I> Interview Video

<https://www.cheatsheet.com/entertainment/shakira-how-walt-whitman-changed-the-trajectory-of-the-singers-life.html/>