

# Long Tan Legs: A Pentadic Analysis of Women in “Bro” Country Music

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## Why Country Music?

- According to an analysis completed by CMA in 2013, “42% of American adults – or more than 98 million people - are Country Music fans”
- Scholarship on country music is not representative of it’s popularity

## Methodology: Pentadic Analysis

- Developed by Kenneth Burke
- A flexible framework for analyzing rhetoric with the goal of understanding the motives of the communicator
- Made up of **Act, Scene, Agent, Agency** and **Purpose**
- Through pentadic analysis two points will be most prevalent
- One part of the pentad, in this case the scene, will be most prevalent and will “contain” or change the way that the other is viewed or judged.

## Sample Songs

- “That’s My Kind of Night” - Luke Bryan
- “Cruise” - Florida Georgia Line
- “Little Bit of Everything” - Keith Urban
- “Boys’ Round Here” - Blake Shelton



## Research findings

- Women are categorized as scenery through
  - The way they are described
  - Ratio as subject compared to other aspects in song
  - Placement of women in the song
  - Lack of agency
- The actor is contained and transformed by the scene
- This reduces the responsibility of the male actor to communicate with women in mechanic, commanding way

## Implications

- Decision making power is shifted to men
- Women are told their function is to be quiet, be beautiful, and most of all be functional

## Some Key Research

- Birdsell, D. S. (1987). Ronald Reagan on Lebanon and Grenada: Flexibility and interpretation in the application of Kenneth Burke’s pentad. *The Quarterly Journal of Speech*. 73(3), 267-279.
- Fox, A. A. (2004) *Real country: Music and language in working class culture*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Wolfe, C. F., Akenson, J. E. (2003). *The women of country music*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky.