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Song Analysis
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Eng 102-002

Everything You Want...

The song I chose is called "Les Champs-Elysées." When translated to English it means "The Champs-Elysées." The Champs-Elysées is one of the most famous streets in the world. It is a street in Paris with many restaurants and shops. My favorite version of the song is by Joe Dassin. This song shows how everything you want you can find on the Champs-Elysées.

The first example of this comes from the second stanza.

You said to me "I have a date in a basement with men
Who keep guitars-in-hand from dusk till dawn"
So I came with you, people sang, people danced
Any we did not even think to kiss

It may sound a bit sketchy when translated from English, but it tells of a boy and a girl who met. After meeting, she told him she was going to a show from sunset until sunrise. Most major cities have shows and concerts, but I cannot think of any city where you can find a show that goes from dusk until dawn. That would have to take a lively city, where music lovers could go. On the Champs-Elysées music lovers can find all sorts of music ranging from stores to buy more CD's to all night shows.

Next, Dassin sang that the boy and girl sang and danced all night, but never thought to kiss. They met on the Champs-Elysées and spent all night together. They seemed to fall in love during the night, but they never even kissed. It is shown that the boy has fallen in love. In the last stanza



Dassin says that all the birds sang of love, the point of the day. Everyone wants to find true love, or at least most people want to, and know this the song proves that one could be able to find true love on the Champs-Elysées.

The repetitive chorus of this song translates quite easily. The first two lines simply say “on the Champs-Elysées.” The last line translates to “there is everything that you could want on the Champs-Eylsées.” Which easily proves the point that anything anyone could want would be found on this famous street.

The first picture is that of a night shot looking down the Champs-Elysées during the winter season. Many decorations are up for all holidays making this place a cultural center for all of France and many tourists. The second picture shows Lance Armstrong riding in the Tour de France in 2005. Many people hope to see a part of the Tour de France, whether it is on TV or in real life, making it even more a center of culture.

With such a big street in one of the best cities in the world, it should be no surprise



that anyone can find anything they like on this street. Whether it be their favorite music, or the love of his or her life, or even learning about the French Culture, it is all there on the Champs-Eylsées. When translated I feel the song loses a little bit of it’s meaning. However, to a native French speaker I think the original meaning is conveyed quite well in this song. “Il y a tout ce que vous voulez aux Champs-Elysées!”

Les Champs-Élysées
Joe Dassin

Je m'baladais sur l'avenue le coeur ouvert à l'inconnu
J'avais envie de dire bonjour à n'importe qui
N'importe qui et ce fut toi, je t'ai dit n'importe quoi
Il suffisait de te parler, pour t'apprivoiser

Aux Champs-Élysées, aux Champs-Élysées
Au soleil, sous la pluie, à midi ou à minuit
Il y a tout ce que vous voulez aux Champs-Élysées

Tu m'as dit "J'ai rendez-vous dans un sous-sol avec des fous
Qui vivent la guitare à la main, du soir au matin"
Alors je t'ai accompagnée, on a chanté, on a dansé
Et l'on n'a même pas pensé à s'embrasser

Aux Champs-Élysées, aux Champs-Élysées
Au soleil, sous la pluie, à midi ou à minuit
Il y a tout ce que vous voulez aux Champs-Élysées

Hier soir deux inconnus et ce matin sur l'avenue
Deux amoureux tout étourdis par la longue nuit
Et de l'Étoile à la Concorde, un orchestre à mille cordes
Tous les oiseaux du point du jour chantent l'amour

Aux Champs-Élysées, aux Champs-Élysées
Au soleil, sous la pluie, à midi ou à minuit
Il y a tout ce que vous voulez aux Champs-Élysées
Il y a tout ce que vous voulez aux Champs-Élysées

Les Champs-Élysées
Joe Dassin
Translated by: Nick Vranizan

I walked on the avenue my heart opened to the unknown
I wanted to say hello to no matter whom
No matter whom, it could be you, I'd said anything to you
It was enough to speak to you, just to calm me down.

On the Champs-Élysées, on the Champs-Élysées,
In the rain, under the sun, at midnight, or at noon,
There is everything that you could want on the Champs-Élysées

You said to me "I have a date in a basement with men
Who keep guitars-in-hand from dusk till dawn"
So I came with you, people sang, people danced
Any we did not even think to kiss

On the Champs-Élysées, on the Champs-Élysées,
In the rain, under the sun, at midnight, or at noon,
There is everything that you could want on the Champs-Élysées

Yesterday evening two unknowns and this morning on the avenue
Two in love all dazed by the long night
And to the Star of Concord, form an orchestra with thousand cords
All the birds at day-break singing for love

On the Champs-Élysées, on the Champs-Élysées,
In the rain, under the sun, at midnight, or at noon,
There is everything that you could want on the Champs-Élysées
There is everything that you could want on the Champs-Élysées