

Xianggang Delight  
New Kowloon Joy

TRANSLATOR

The Who  
I Can't Explain

This translator demonstrates the process by which Xianggang Delight constructs songs from the various structural bases of The Who's early material, using the first song (and single) from each group as an example.

INTRO

**Intro**  
riff, a jumble of three chords,  
repeats twice – guitar only.

**Intro**  
riff, three chords –  
guitar only.

VERSE

**Verse Structure**  
sung line  
alternates with  
guitar/violin riff.

**Thematic Content**  
the inability to articulate  
feeling, a primary quality of  
adolescence underexplored  
by similar British Invasion  
bands, which tended to  
emphasize opposite traits of  
certainty and defiance.

**Verse Structure**  
sung line  
alternates  
with backup  
singing.

**Verse Lyric**  
TIED UP – IN A BOW IN MY – MOUTH IS A – TONGUE  
AND IT'S SWOLLEN – SUFFERIN – FROM EXHAUSTION  
WHEN I TRY TO KOWMUNICATE – WHERE I STAND  
THE WORDS DON'T – COME OUT – LIKE I – PLANNED

**Verse Lyric**  
GOT A FEELING INSIDE  
IT'S A CERTAIN KIND  
I FEEL HOT AND COLD  
WAY DOWN IN MY SOUL YEAH

BREAK

by the sound effect  
of a nickel being  
swished around a  
metal pot.

**Break**  
there is a  
"dizziness"  
communicated  
in this section.

by The Who's lyric (DIZZY  
INNA HEAD) and by the  
vertigo-inducing swoon of the  
"ooh-ooh" backup vocals.

**Chorus Lyric**  
THE NEW KOWLOON JOY IS ONLY INSIDE  
FEELS REAL GOOD WITH YOU BUT THEN I GET...

**Chorus Lyric**  
I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS BUT...  
I CAN'T EXPLAIN  
I THINK IT'S LOVE  
TRY TO SAY IT TO YOU  
WHEN I FEEL BLUE

SOLO

**Solo**  
Xianggang Delight once again compensate for lack of  
virtuosity with overdub upon overdub upon overdub

**Solo**

1

2

3

4 – the "ooh ooh"  
element in this part  
invokes the Who'd  
backup vocals from  
earlier in the song  
(see Break, above)

**Drum  
Fill**

**Drum  
Fill**

DRUM  
FILL

5 – this part begins by  
explicitly invoking the I  
Can't Explain riff and  
then breaks it open  
through various  
stuttering regurgitations  
and repetitions

SOLO  
PT. 5

**Second Chorus**  
Completes the rhyme, thus  
revealing the song's hidden refrain

**Second Chorus**

SECOND  
CHORUS

**Second Chorus Lyric**  
THE NEW KOWLOON JOY IS ONLY INSIDE  
FEELS REAL GOOD WITH YOU BUT THEN I GET...  
TONGUE-TIED