

Digital Text Reuse Detection in Coptic Literature

A Progress Report

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MONB.XV, pag. 13, K 939, recto, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna

Aspects of study

Digital humanities and corpus linguistics study on Shenoute and Besa's text reuses (quotations, allusions, etc.) using a digital text reuse detection tool

- Formal characteristics of text reuses of Shenoute and Besa
 - Alternation in quotations
 - Quotation signals
- More unknown text reuses
 - Evaluation of text reuse detection tool (TRACER)
 - Contribution to Coptic Linguistics and Septuagint Studies
- Functions of the text reuses

SFB 1136 (2015–2020)

- German Research Foundation (DFG) Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) 1136 "Education and Religion in Cultures of the Mediterranean and Its Environment from Ancient to Medieval Times and to the Classical Islam"
- Project Area B 05 "Biblical Interpretation and Educational Traditions in the Coptic-speaking Egyptian Christianity of Late Antiquity: Shenoute, Canon 6" (Heike Behlmer, Julien Delhez, and So Miyagawa)



eTRAP (2015–2019)

- electronic Text Reuse Acquisition Project (PI: Marco Büchler)
- An Early Career Research Group funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- Producing the TRACER software for digital text reuse detection



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

History of digital text reuse detection

- Data mining: 1980's–
- Text mining and NLP: late 1980's–
- Plagiarism checker: 1990's–

Tesserae
INTERTEXTUAL PHRASE MATCHING

BASIC SEARCH | VERSION 2 | ABOUT TESSERAE | DEPT. OF CLASSICS | DEPT. OF LINGUISTICS

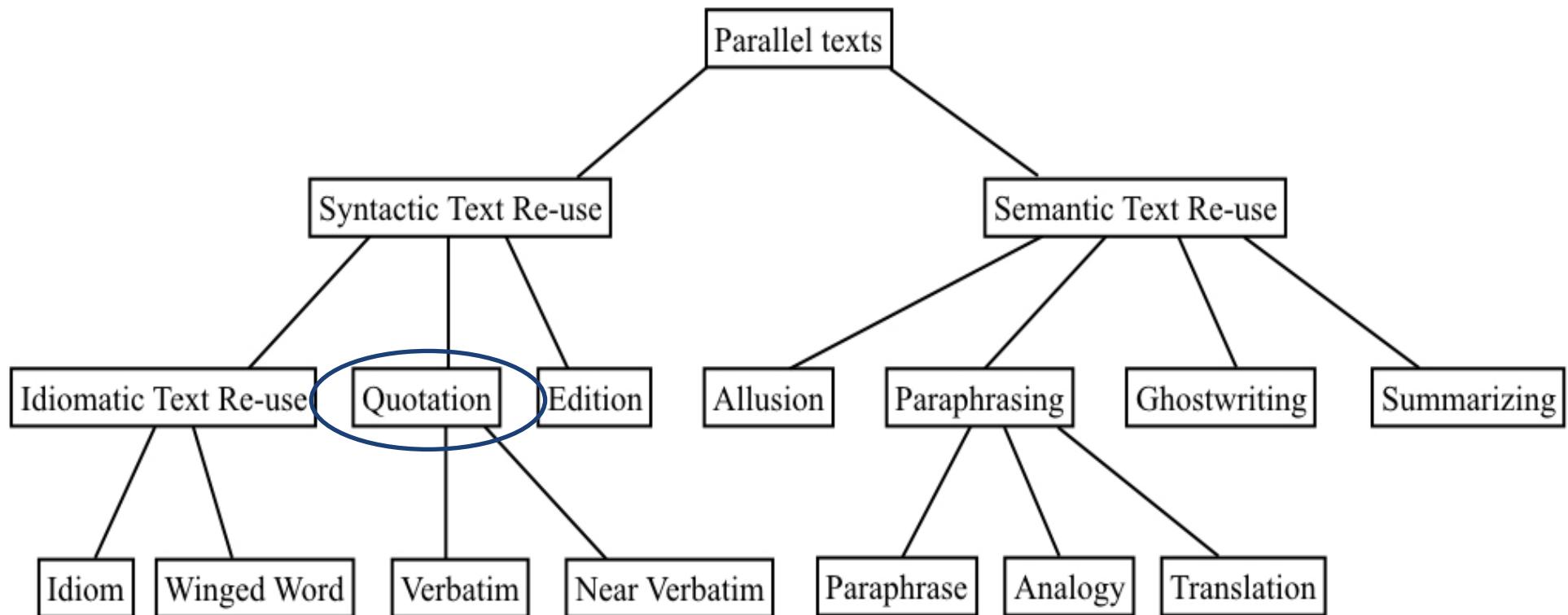
Sort by and format as [view session details](#)

	target phrase	source matches	matched on	score
1.	bella per emathios plus quam civilia campos iisque datum sceleri canimus populumque potentem in sua victrii conversum viscera dextra cognatasque acies et rupto foedere regni certatum totis concussi viribus orbis in commune nefas infestisque obvia signis signa pares aquilas et pila minantia pilis <small>luc. 1.1</small>	verg. sen. 1.5 multa quoque et bello passus dum conderet urbem inferretque deos latio genus unde latinum albanique patres atque altae moenia romae	multus, qui.2, bellum, bellus,	10

- Tesserae (since 2006) Coffee et al. (2012:3)
 - Detects text reuses in Latin literature
 - E.g., found 93 text reuses from Vergil's Aeneid in Lucan's Civil War, including 46 unknown in previous studies (Coffee et al. 2012:401)

Text reuse studies

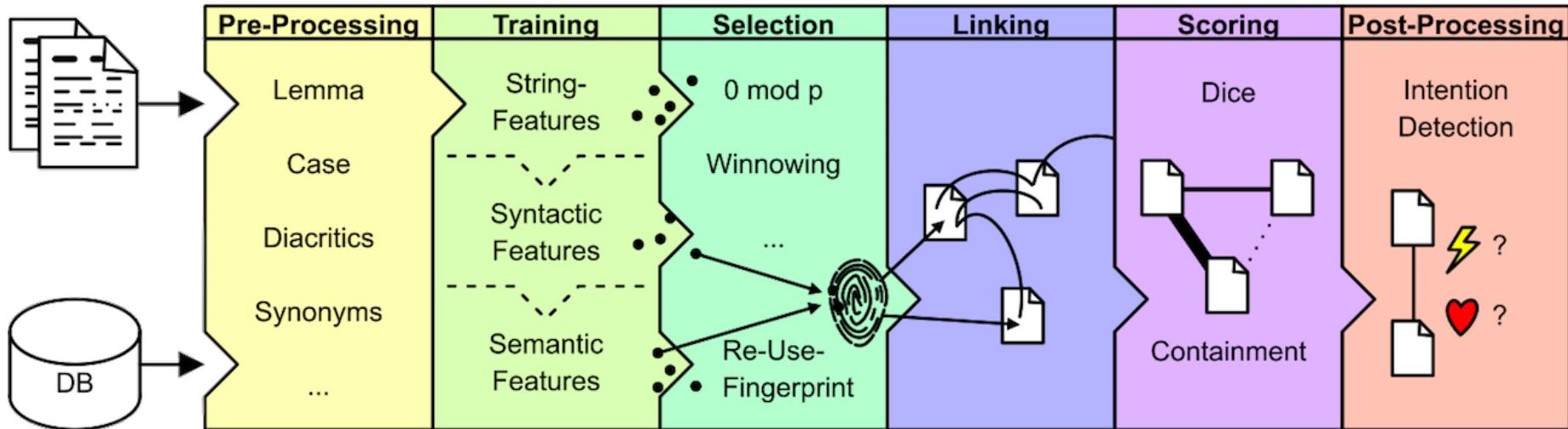
A field of computational linguistics



Büchler (2013), Franzini et al. (2016), Miyagawa et al. (2020)

TRACER

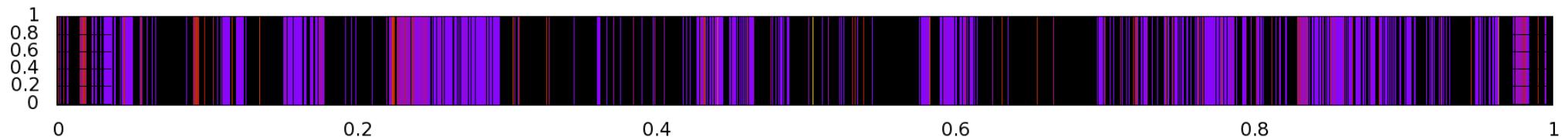
- The latest computer program to detect text reuses
- Developed by the eTRAP team, directed by Marco Büchler, and belonging to the Institute of Computer Science (University of Göttingen)
- Can automatically detect text reuses irrespective of how big the text corpus is



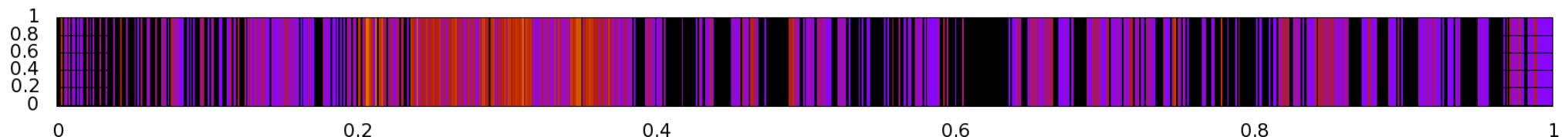
Hellenicus



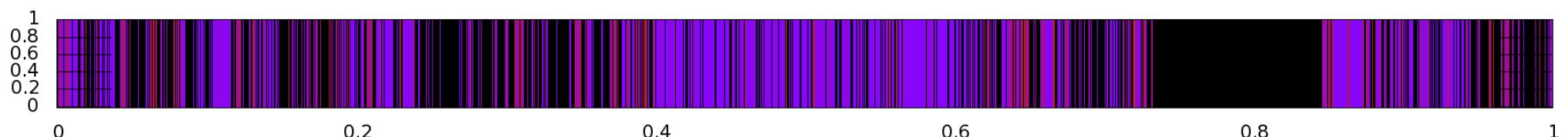
Xenophon



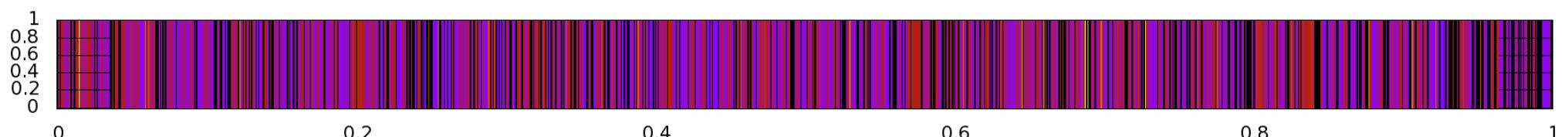
Plato



Ephorus



Aristoteles



Shenoute, Canon 6

Attestation:

- 6 codices (siglum: MONB = Monastero Bianco/White Monastery)
- MONB.XF, XL, XM, XV, YJ, YK (none complete)
- appr. 325 existing pages

Works (minimum of 5), incipits:

- He Who Sits upon His Throne
- Remember, O Brethren
- Is It Not Written
- Then Am I Not Obliged
- People Have Not Understood

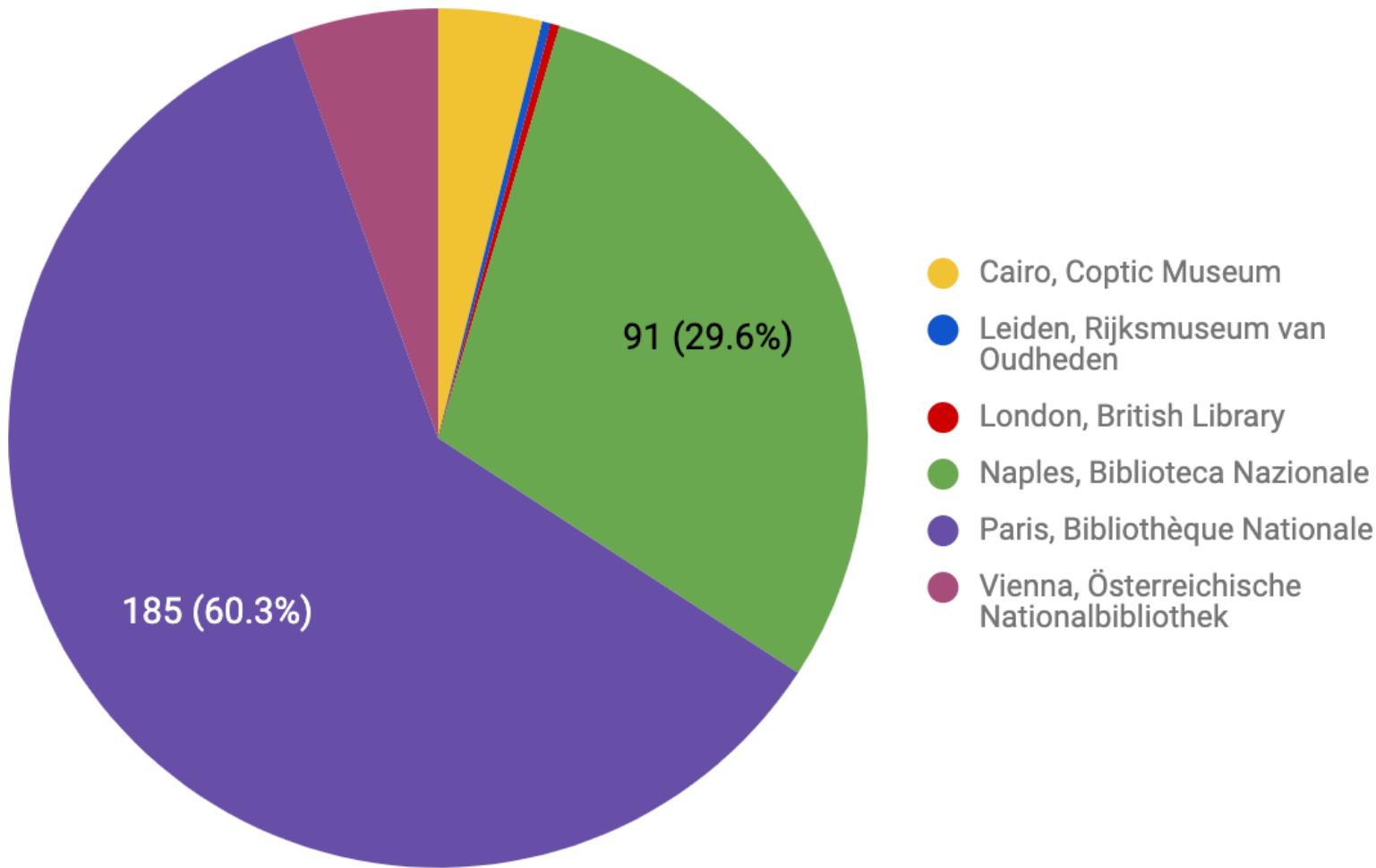
Themes:

- Accusations against Shenoute of excessive violence (and his defense)
- Shenoute's illness
- Problems of the female community
- Monastic rules

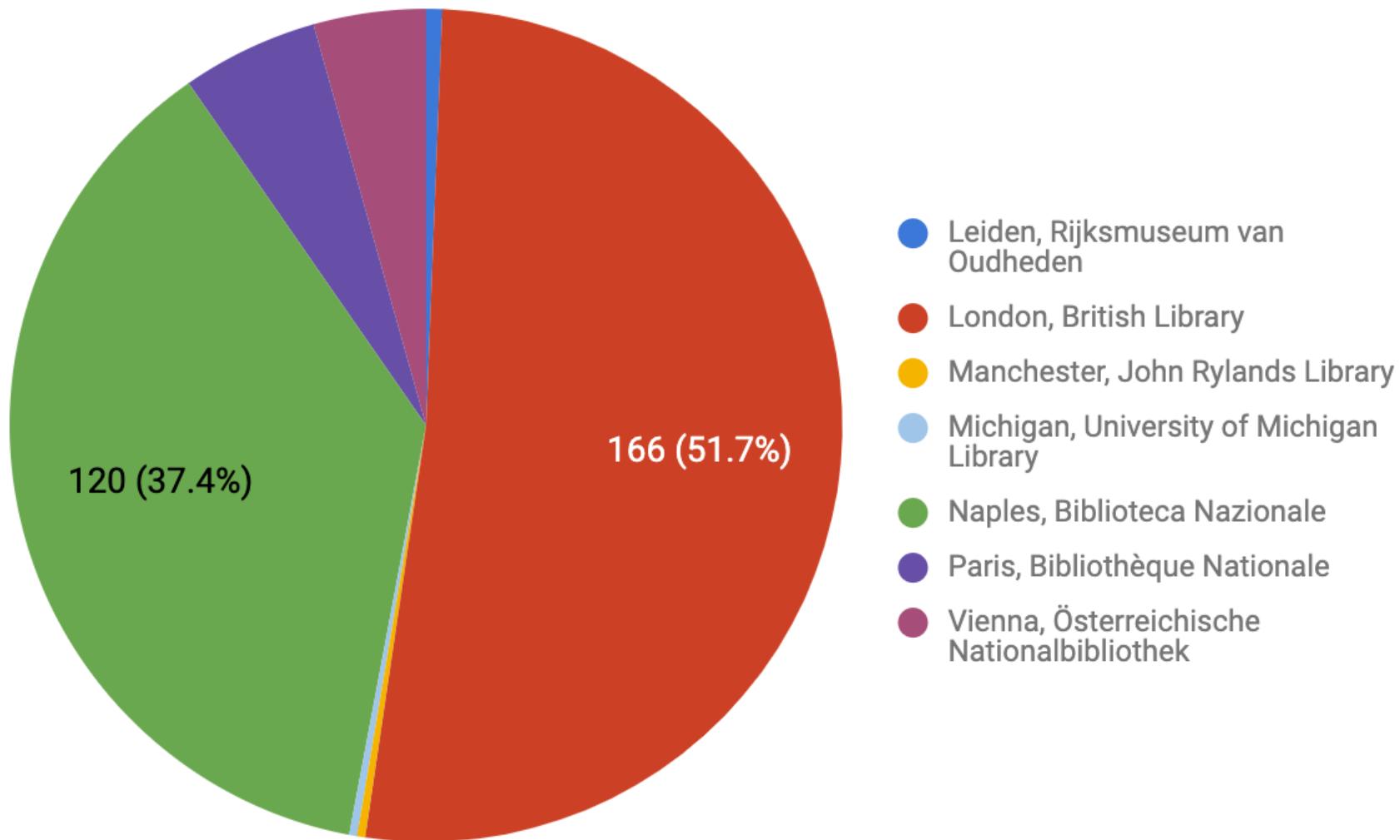


Shenoute
Relief, Bode Museum, Berlin

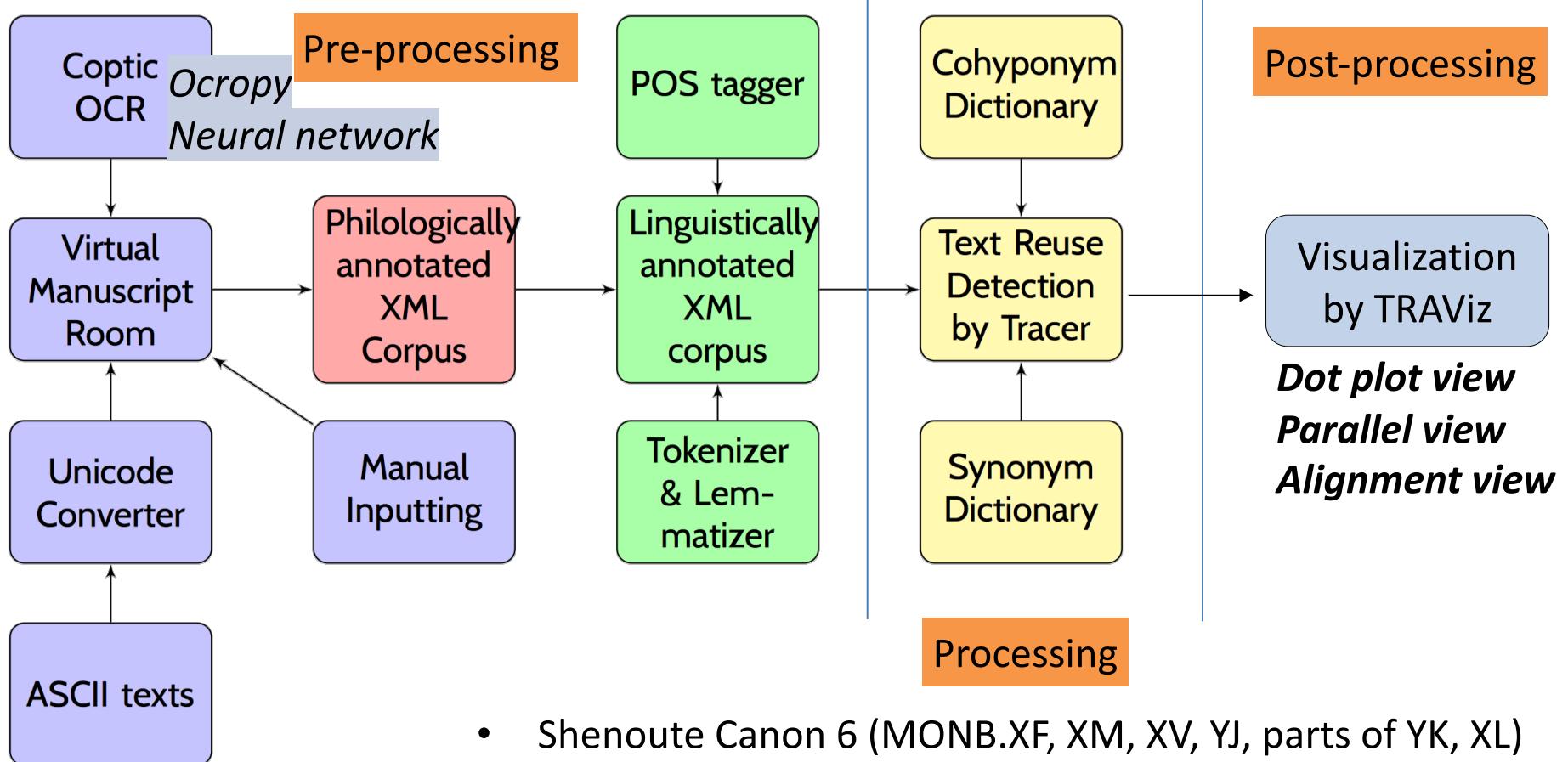
Shenoute, Canon 6



Besa, *Letters and Sermons* (Codices A and B)

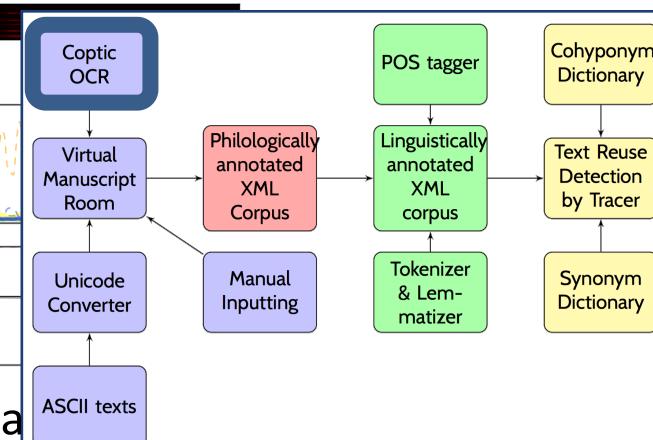
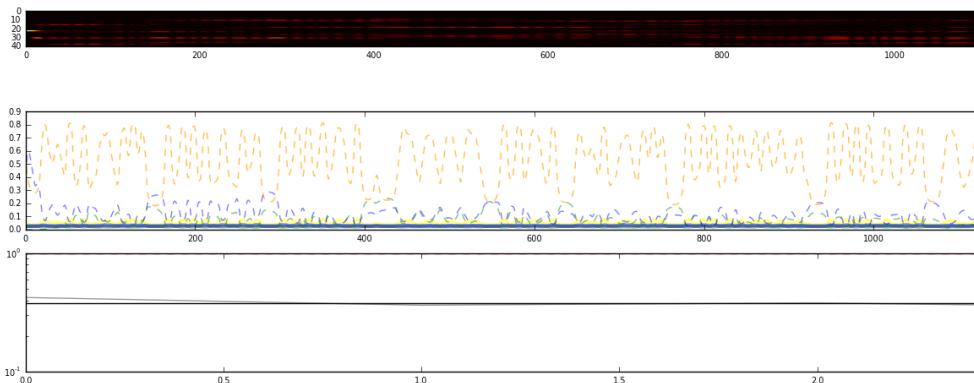


Workflow of the project



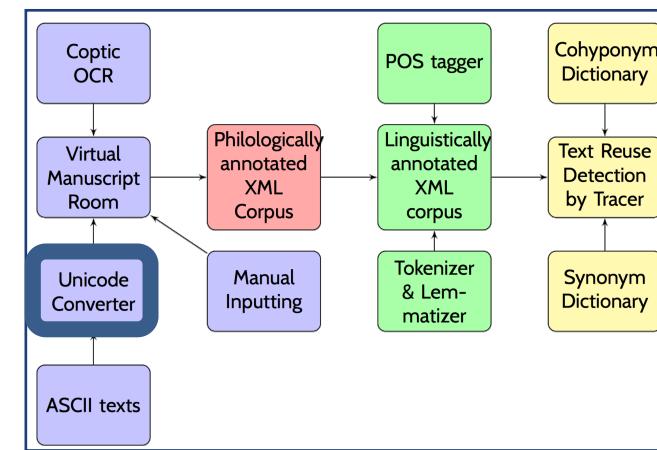
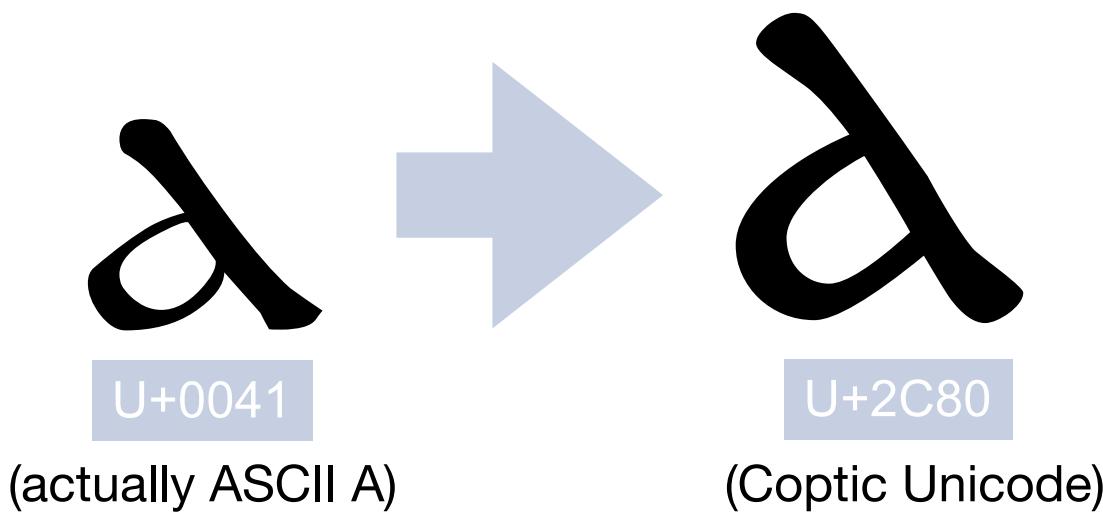
OCR with neural networks

- Lincke et al. (2019). “Optical Character Recognition for Coptic fonts: A multi-source approach for scholarly editions.” In: Proceedings of DATeCH 2019.
- Miyagawa et al. (2019). “Optical character recognition of typeset Coptic text with neural networks.” *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, Volume 34.



Unicode converter

- Zeldes, Amir, Caroline Schroeder and So Miyagawa (2013-2016)
“recode_coptic.pl”
(https://github.com/CopticScriptorium/converters/blob/master/recode_coptic.pl)
- Can convert old ASCII representation fonts of Coptic such as “Coptic,” “CopticLS”, “CMCL”, “NagHammadi”, “avva_shenouda”, “low” fonts into the proper Coptic Unicode.
- Written in Perl Script



Virtual Manuscript Room (VMR)

Dashboard Contacts Center Microblogs Messages My Documents Tasks Go To Admin 0 So Miyagawa

SFB 1136 'Bildung und Religion' and KELLIA

Home Calendar Documents Forums Blogs Wiki Members Workspace Transcribing Indexing NLP-Pipe Collate Trans for a big monitor **Transcribing 2** Transcribing 3

Transcription Editor

PB 4 fw
CB
1 01 01 > ΤΗΛΟΓΜΑΤΙ -
> ζε ΣΗΠΚΟ -
> ΣΜΟΣ ΝΘΕ Ν -
> ΝΕΤΟΝ -

Words: 208 Version: 2.1 (201)

Adaptive selection Version History Preview Last Saved Publish From Basetext

Transcription Display

Image Viewer

Transcription Editor Image Viewer

Virtual Manuscript Room Philologically annotated XML Corpus

```

graph LR
    A[Virtual Manuscript Room] --> B[Philologically annotated XML Corpus]
    C[Coptic OCR] --> A
    D[POS tagger] --> B
    E[Cohyponym Dictionary] --> D
    F[Text Reuse Detection by Tracer] --> E
    G[Linguistically annotated XML corpus] --> B
    H[Tokenizer & Lemmatizer] --> G
    I[Synonym Dictionary] --> H
    J[ASCII texts] --> I
    K[Unicode Converter] --> J
    L[Manual Inputting] --> K
    
```

Coptic NLP Service

*Everything
is done by
one click!*

Input Coptic texts:

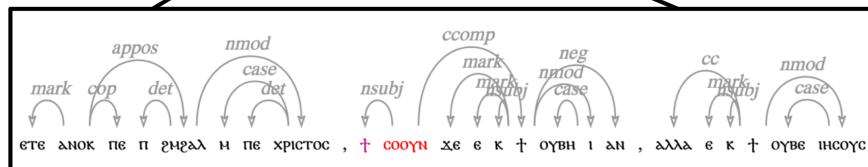
```
<hi rend="red">q</hi>сωτή нσι  
паггелос ̄ммн̄твбр
```



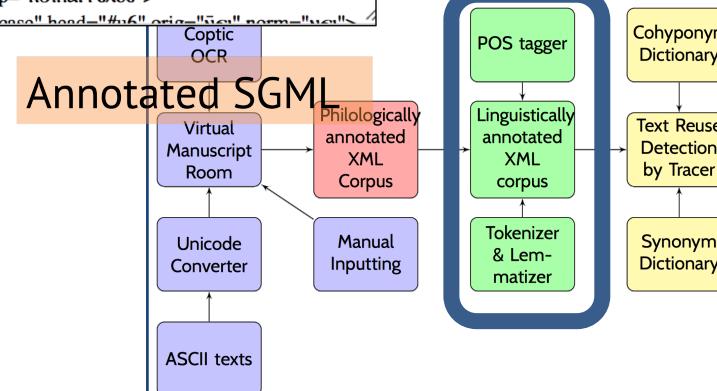
- Part of speech tagging
- Syntactic roles annotation
- Lemmatization
- Tokenization (Word segmentation for Coptic)

```
<norm_group norm_group="аqсωтή" orig_group="аqсωтή">  
<norm xml:id="u1" pos="APST" lemma="а" func="aux" head="#u3" orig="а" norm="а">  
а  
</norm>  
<norm xml:id="u2" pos="PPERS" lemma="нтоq" func="nsubj" head="#u3" orig="q" norm="q">  
<hi rend="red">  
q  
</hi>  
</norm>  
<norm xml:id="u3" pos="V" lemma="сωтή" func="root" orig="сωтή" norm="сωтή">  
сωтή  
</norm>  
<norm_group norm_group="нсипаггелос" orig_group="нсипаггелос">  
<norm xml:id="u4" pos="PTC" lemma="уел" func="case" head="#u6" orig="нсипаггелос" norm="нсипаггелос">
```

- Visualized as web corpus using ANNIS
- Drawing syntactic trees

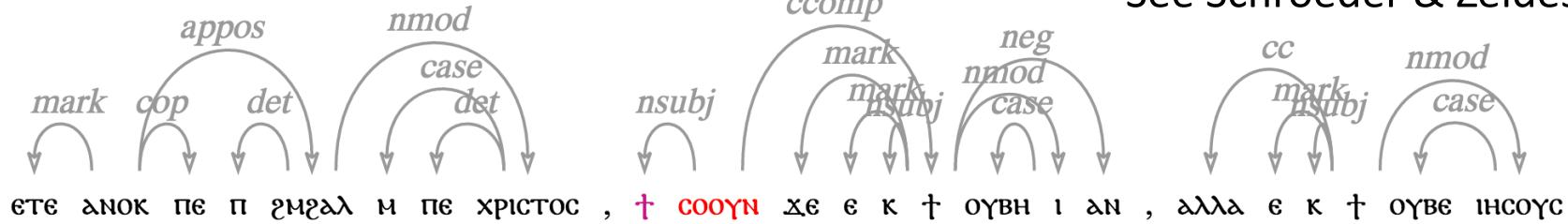


Annotated SGML



Coptic Scriptorium

See Schroeder & Zeldes (2016)



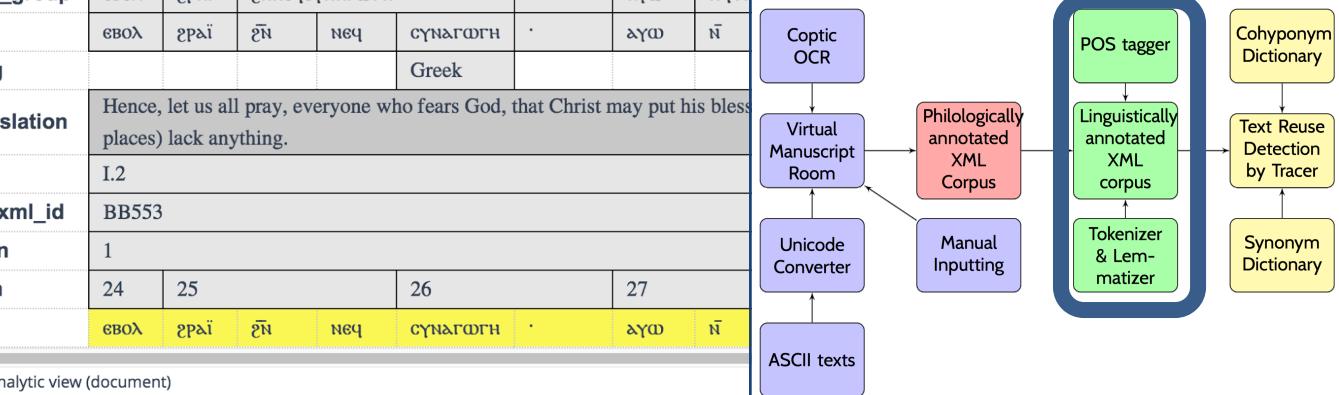
norm_group	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝΝΕΨΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	ΝΠΤΗΚΑΝΕΨΤΟΠΟC							
norm	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝ	Νεψ	ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	Ν	ς	ΤΜ	κα	Νεψ	ΤΟΠΟC
pos	ADV	ADV	PREP	PPOS	N	PUNCT	CONJ	ACONJ	PPERS	NEG	V	PPOS	N
lemma	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝ	πεψ	ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	ΝΤε	ΝΤΟψ	ΤΜ	κω	πεψ	ΤΟΠΟC
orig_group	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝΝΕΨΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	ΝΠΤΗΚΑΝΕΨΤΟΠΟC							
orig	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝ	Νεψ	ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	Ν					
lang						Greek							

Annotations (grid):

norm_group	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝΝΕΨΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	ΝΠΤΗΚΑΝΕΨΤΟΠΟC							
norm	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝ	Νεψ	ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	Ν	ς	ΤΜ	κα	Νεψ	ΤΟΠΟC
pos	ADV	ADV	PREP	PPOS	N	PUNCT	CONJ	ACONJ	PPERS	NEG	V	PPOS	N
lemma	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝ	πεψ	ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	ΝΤε	ΝΤΟψ	ΤΜ	κω	πεψ	ΤΟΠΟC
orig_group	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝΝΕΨΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	ΝΠΤΗΚΑΝΕΨΤΟΠΟC							
orig	εβολ	Σραι	ΣΝ	Νεψ	ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ	.	Δγω	Ν					
lang						Greek							

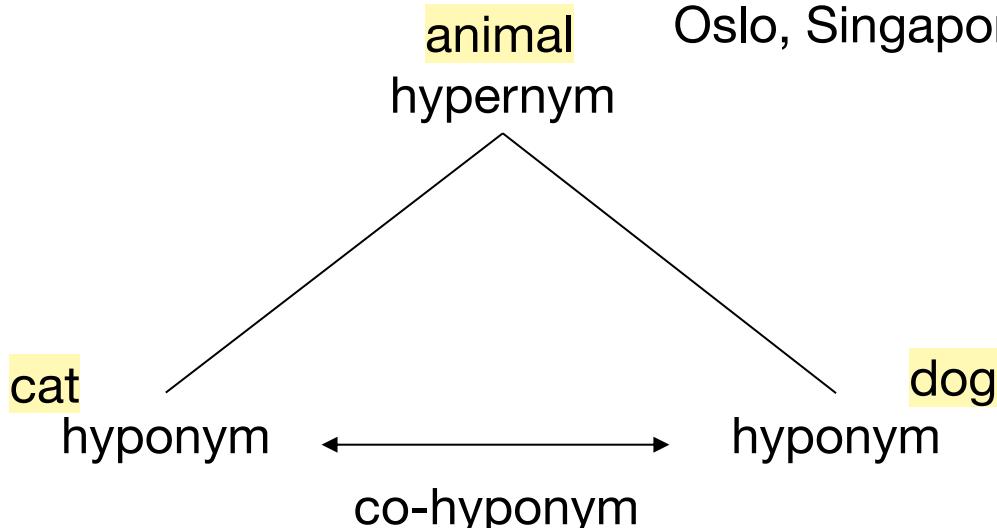
Corpus List: **scriptorium**
Visible: **scriptorium**

1 match in 1 document



Coptic Wordnet

Oslo, Singapore and Göttingen



Slaughter et al. (2019)

The Making of Coptic Wordnet

Laura Slaughter,[♦] Luis Morgado da Costa,[♦] So Miyagawa,[♦]
 Marco Büchler,[♦] Amir Zeldes,[▼] Heike Behlmer [♦]

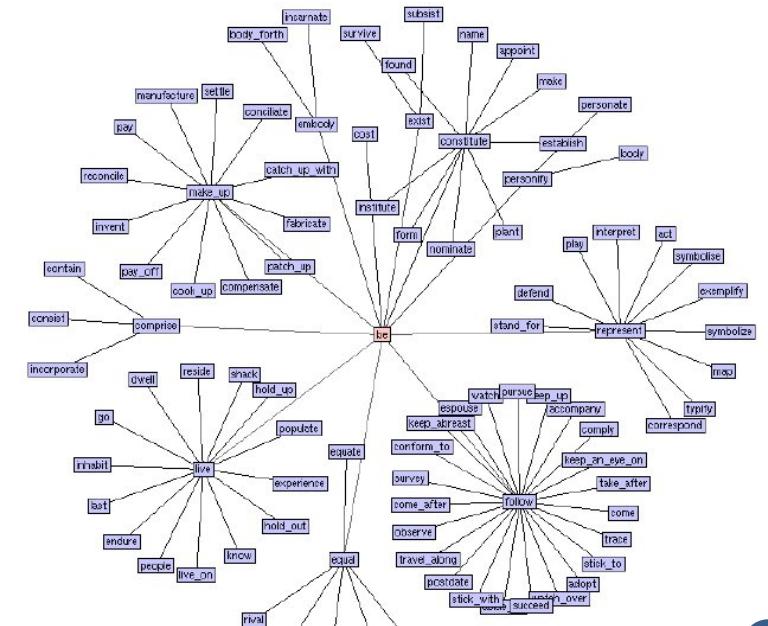
[♦] University of Oslo, Norway
[♦] Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
[♦] Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany
[▼] Georgetown University, USA

Abstract

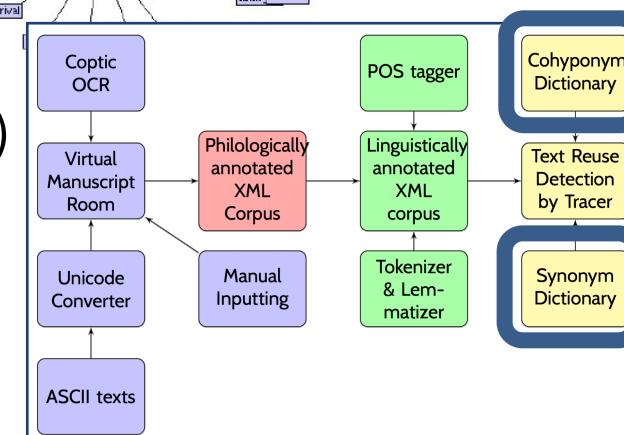
With the increasing availability of wordnets for ancient languages, such as Ancient Greek and Latin, gaps re-

Coptic: providing a wordnet for the language, which will also be the first wordnet for the Egyptian branch of the Afroasiatic languages.

Wordnet projects aim to provide a machine-tractable lexical resource for automated pro-



Kamps (2002)



TRACER processing

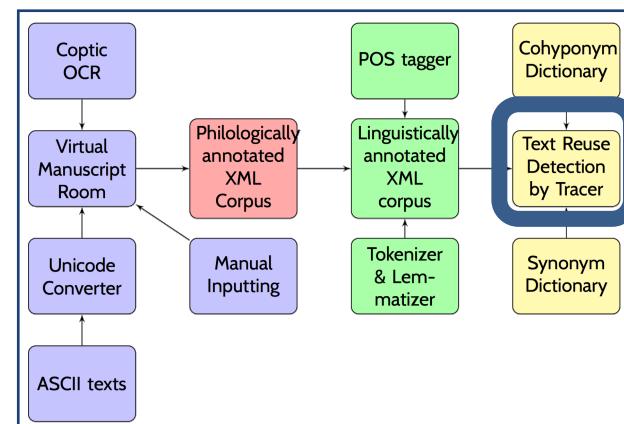
- Remote access to ROEDEL, a high-performance computer

TRACER ...

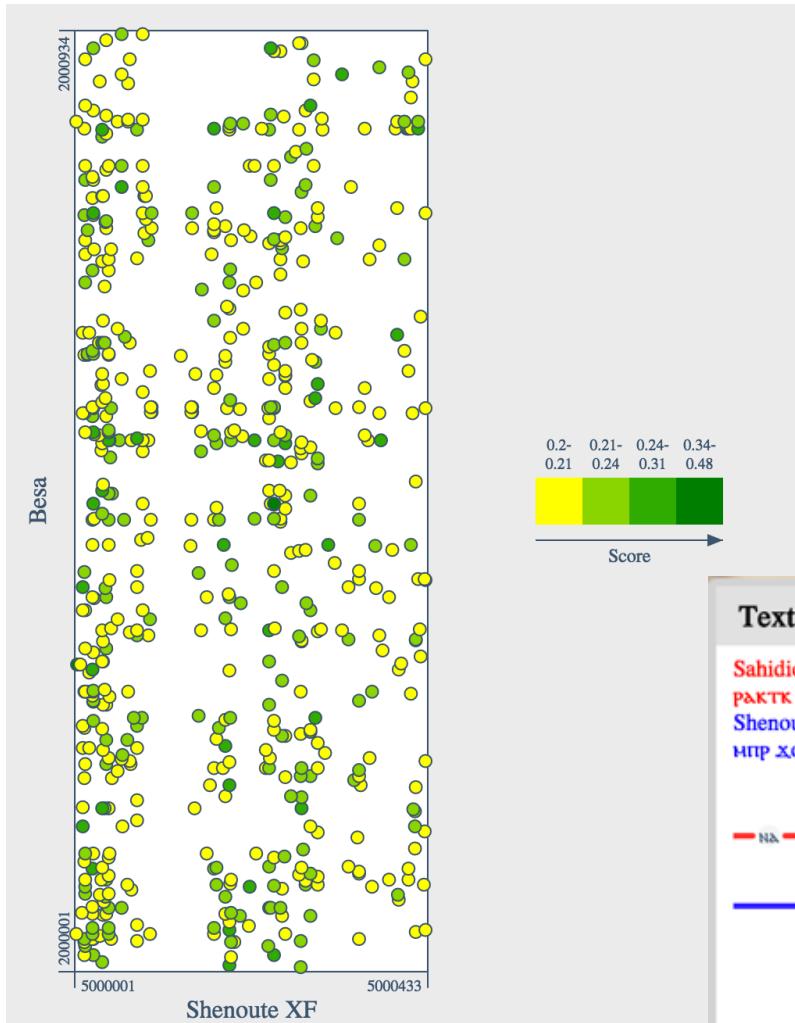
- is a Java program
- has 700 algorithms
- uses an XML config file
- has no graphical user-interface



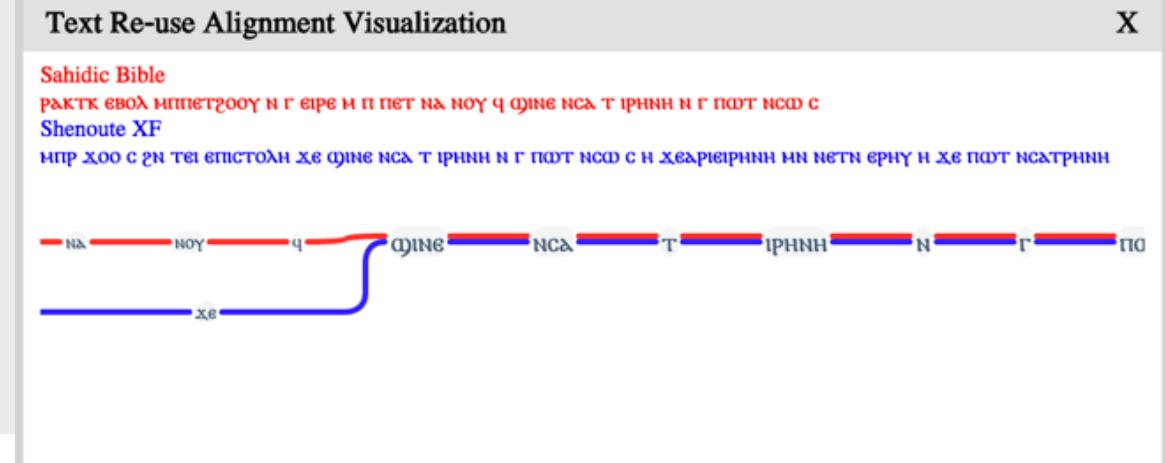
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für Bildung
und Forschung



TRAViz: Visualization of TRACER's results



- x-axis = Shenoute XF
- y-axis = Besa
- left and bottom = the start of the texts
- right and top = the end of the texts



TRACER's first results

Source Text	Target Text	TR Cand.
Sahidic Bible	Besa	13,835
Sahidic Bible	Canon 6	8414



Too many text reuse candidates!



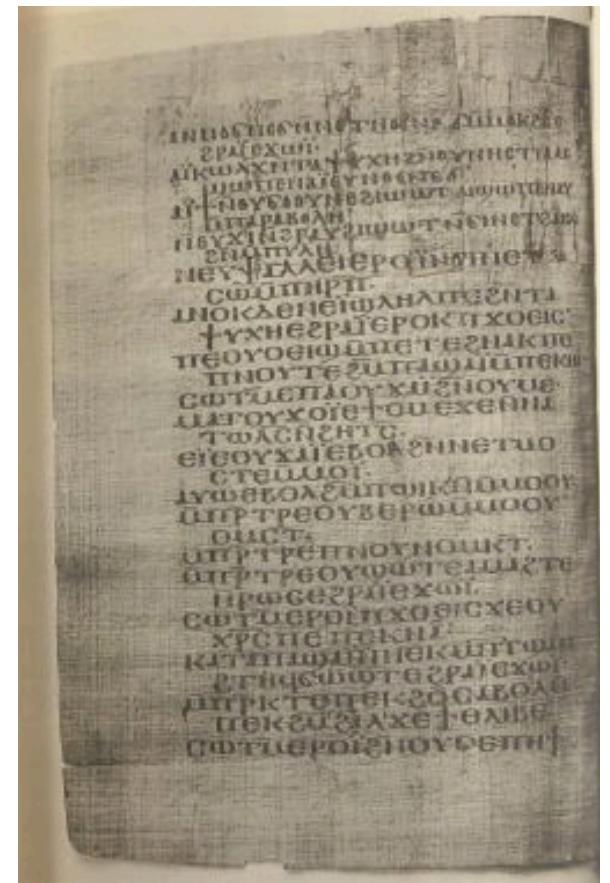
From the entire Sahidic Bible to the Sahidic Psalms

Psalms in Coptic monasticism

- Desert Fathers and Mothers
 - Both in solitude and with others
- Rituals and liturgies at coenobitic monasteries
- Pachomian Rules

Jürgen Horn (2000)'s typology of Coptic Psalm mss.

- (A) Manuscripts of the Psalms (Psalters)
- (B) Manuscripts for Rituals (e.g. lectionaries)
- (C) Quotations (e.g. by Shenoute)
- (D) Occasional uses (magic, school exercises etc.)



British Library, Or. 5000
"London Psalter"

TRACER's second results

Source	Target	TR Cand.
Psalms	Besa	629
Psalms	Canon 6	423

Canon 6 <i>Incipit</i>	TR Cand.
<i>He Who Sits Upon His Throne</i>	84
<i>Remember, O Brethren</i>	31
<i>I Am Not Obliged</i>	207
<i>Is It Not Written</i>	98
<i>People Have Not Understood</i>	3

- Newly found quotations unknown to previous research :

6 (Psalms–Besa), 14 (Psalms–Shenoute Canon 6)

See Miyagawa, Büchler and Behlmer (forthcoming 2020)

Many idiomatic text reuses...

Translation	Idiom	Frequency in Psalms	Frequency in Besa	Shared morphs
Fear the Lord	Ρ-χοτε ρητ-ρ μ-π-χοεις	7	7	7
Evil in the place of good	σεν-π-εθ-οογ ε-π-μα ν-χεν-π- ετ-νανογ-ογ	5	2	13
Fear God	Ρ-χοτε ρητ-ρ μ-π-νογτε	4	18	7
Before God	μ-πε-μτο εβολ μ-π-νογτε	4	10	7
Everyone who works for the lawlessness	ογον νιμ ετ-ρ-χωβ ε-τ-ανομια	4	1	8
Before the Lord	μ-πε-μτο εβολ μ-π-χοεις	2	8	7

Unknown quotation found by TRACER: 1 (Ps → Besa)

ε=κ-ε-πωτ ησω=ογ η-τει-γε γη-τε=κ-γατηγ αγω ε=κ-ε-ωτρτωρ=ογ γη-τε=κ-οργη
(Ps. 82:16, BL)

“you will pursue them in this way with your whirlwind and vex them with your wrath.”

αγω ον ρωμε ηιμ ετ=κ-ηα-†-γηγ ερο=ογ ηη γηαι γη-ηι-ηα ε=κ-ε-πωτ ησω=ογ
γη-τε=κ-γατηγ η=Γ-ωτρτωρ=ογ γη-τεκ-οργη ητε-ογ-ηατε ογομ=ογ (Besa 4:1:2)

“And all men from whom you will get no gain in this place, you will pursue with your whirlwind and vex with your wrath and a fire shall devour them.”
(Kuhn)

Deletion 1: η-τει-γε “in this way”

Deletion 2: αγω “and”

Auxiliary change: Future III (ε-κ-ε-) → conjunctive (η-Γ-)

Unknown quotation found by TRACER: 2 (Ps → Besa)

ε-κ-ε-ձձ-γ η-θε η-օյ-տրիր η-կաշտ ε-γ-օյօειω մ-պէկ-մտօ ևոլ π-ձօειс π-ձօειс κ-
նա-աւտրտար-օյ չն-տէկ-օրցη նտե-օյ-սաթէ օյօմ-օյ (Ps. 20.10, BL)

“You will make them like an oven of fire at the time of your presence. Lord,
Lord, you will vex them with your wrath and a fire shall devour them.”



ՃՅՈ ՕՆ ԲՎՄԵ ՆԻՄ ԾՏ-Կ-ՆԱ-Ւ-ՑՀԿ ԵՐՈ-ՕՅ ՃՆ ՃՐԱ ՃՄ-ՊՒ-ՄԱ Ե-Կ-Ե-ՊՈՎՏ ՆԿՈ-ՕՅ ՉՆ-
ՏԷԿ-ՃԱԹԻԿ Ն-Ր-ԱՎՏՐՏԱՐ-ՕՅ ՉՆ-ՏԷԿ-ՕՐՑΗ ՆՏԵ-ՕՅ-ՍԱԹԷ ՕՅՕՄ-ՕՅ (Besa 4/I/2)

“And all men from whom you will get no gain in this place, you will pursue
with your whirlwind and vex with your wrath and a fire shall devour them.”
(Kuhn)

Auxiliary change: Future I → conjunctive

Unknown quotation found by TRACER: 3 (Ps → Besa)

Ν-ΤΑΙ ΑΝ ΤΕ ΘΕ Ν-Ν-ΔΣΕΒΗС Ν-ΤΑΙ ΑΝ ΤΕ ΘΕ ΑΛΛΑ Ε-Γ-ΝΑ-Ρ-ΘΕ Μ-Π-ΩΦΟΕΙΑ Ε-ΩΦΑΡΕ-Π-
ΤΗΥ ΘΛΟ-Ψ ΕΒΟΛ ΓΙΧΜ-Π-ΞΟ Μ-Π-ΚΑΖ (Ps. 1:4, BL)

"This is not like the ungodly. It is not so but they will be like the dust which the wind scatters upon the face of the earth."



ΝΤΕ-Π-ΔΓΓΕΛΟС Ν-Τ-ΔΙΑΘΗΚΗ ΚΙΤ-ΟΥ Ν-Ψ-ΟΥΤΒ-ΟΥ Μ-Π-ΒΟΛ Μ-Π-ΣΟΒΤ Ν- Τ-
ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ Ν-Ψ-ΔΟΟΡ-ΟΥ ΔΕ ΟΝ ΕΒΟΛ Ν-ΘΕ Μ-Π-ΩΦΟΕΙΑ Ε-ΩΦΑΡΕ Π-ΤΗΥ ΘΛΟ-Ψ ΕΒΟΛ
ΓΙΧΜ-Π-ΞΟ Μ-Π-ΚΑΖ (Besa 4:1:2)

"The angel of the covenant shall take them and remove them outside the wall of the community, and shall moreover disperse them, even as the dust which the wind scatters upon the face of the earth" (Kuhn)

De-verbalization: Ε-Γ-ΝΑ-Ρ-ΘΕ... "while they will do like..." → Ν-ΘΕ... "like..."

Deletion, AUX change

Ps. 82:16

AUX change

Ps. 20:10

AUX change

Ps. 1:4

New text reuses
found by TRACER

(Exod. 23:20-3)

“as it is written”,

?

Ps.
108:17

Besa 4:1

Person change, AUX change

And all men from whom yon will get no gain in this place, **you will pursue with your whirlwind and vex with your wrath** (Ps. 82:16) **and a fire shall devour them** (Ps. 20:10). *The angel of the covenant shall take them and remove them outside the wall of the community, and shall moreover disperse them* (cf. Exod. 23:20-3), even **as the dust which the wind scatters upon the face of the earth** (Ps. 1:4), as it is written, ‘Forasmuch as ($\epsilon\beta\omega\lambda \chi\epsilon$) they loved the curse, it came upon them; they did not desire the blessing, it fled from them’ (Ps. 108:17) (Besa 4/I/2, translation by Kuhn)²⁸

Quotation Index Phrase (QIP)

- Inspired by the term “Quotative Index” by Tom Güldemann for African languages (2008), but a different concept

For example,

n-θε

OBL-DEF.SG.F:way.SG.F

ετ-χηξ

REL-write.STA

(εν-X)

(in-X)

(αε-QUOT)

(COMP-QUOT)

“as it is written (in X) (that QUOT)”

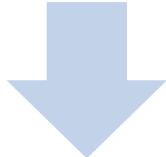
- Attested 49 times in Shenoute’s Canon 6 and 36 times in Besa
- 3 positions: preposed, inserted and postposed

Preposed QIP construction

Ps. 32(33):15

π-εντ-α=ψ-πλασσε μαγδα=ψ ι-νε=γ-ρητ π-ετ-ειμε ε-νε=γ-ρηγε τηρ=ογ

“The one who shaped himself their hearts, the one who knows all their works”



Shenoute, He Who Sits Upon His Throne

αλλα εβολ ρω χε-ντοψ π-εντ-α=ψ-πλασσε ι-νε=γ-ρη[τ] ι-θε ετ-σηρ γ-ν-νε-ψαλμος χε-π-

εντ-α=ψ-πλασσε μαγδα=ψ ι-νε=γ-ρητ (MONB.YJ p. 33)

“but because it is he who has shaped their hearts, as it is written in the Psalms: “the one who himself shaped their hearts”

Inserted QIP construction

1 Sam 16:7

πεδε-π-χοεις ο-σαμογηλ χε-μπερ-σωψτ εχμ-πε=ψ-σα ουδε εχν-τ-σοτ ο-τε=ψ-ωιη χε=ψ-
ρ-σωψκ ναχραι χε-ν-θε αν ετερε-νε-ρωψε σωψτ ε-π-χο ερε-π-νοψτε ψωψ=ψ σωψτ χε-
ερε-ν-ρωψε σωψτ ε-π-χο μματε π-νοψτε Δε ητοψ ε=ψ-σωψτ ε-π-χητ

“And the Lord said to Samouêl, Look not upon his beauty nor upon his stature; for he is despised in my sight; for not as men look at the face, does God also look; for men look at the face only and God looks rather at the heart.” (Drescher 1970:36)



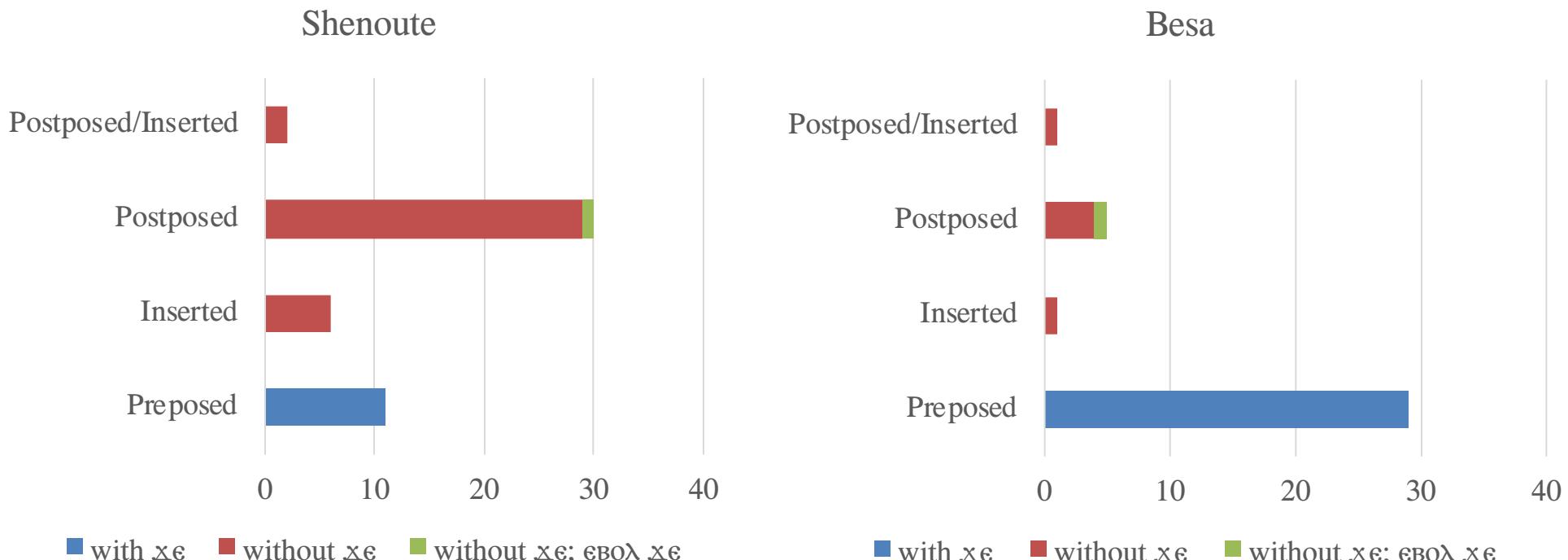
Shenoute, He Who Sits Upon His Throne

π-ρωψε ε=ψ-σωψτ ε-π-χο μματε ο-θε ετ-σηχ π-νοψτε ε=ψ-σωψτ ε-π-χητ[...]

“the man looks at the face alone,” as it is written, “it is at the heart that God looks [...]” (MONB.YJ p. 33)

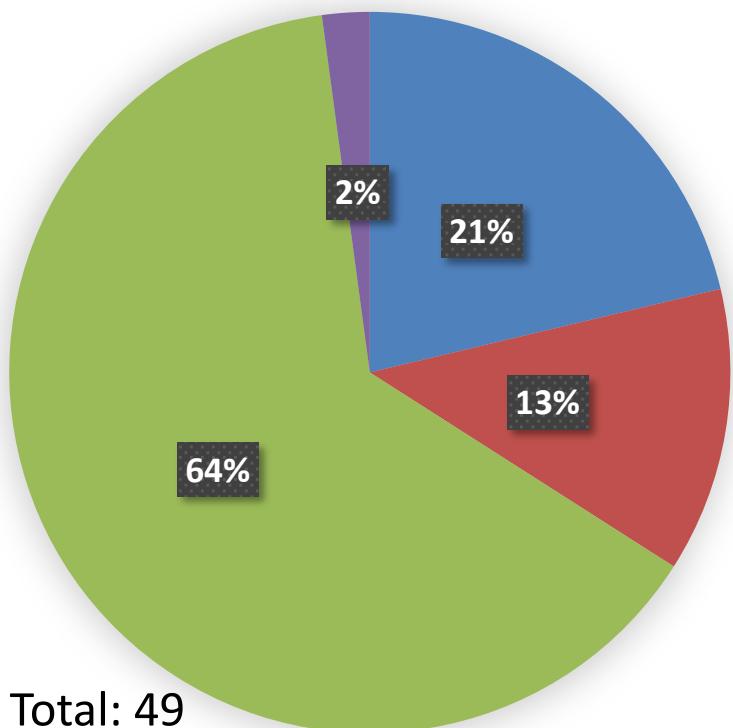
Corpus analysis of location of ή-ΘΕ ΕΤ-CHΩ

- Only ή-ΘΕ ΕΤ-CHΩ (ΣΗ-X) (xε-QUOT)
- Shenoute's Canon 6: 49,234 tokens vs Besa: 60,572 tokens
- Preposed QIP accompanied the complementizer always, but the others not

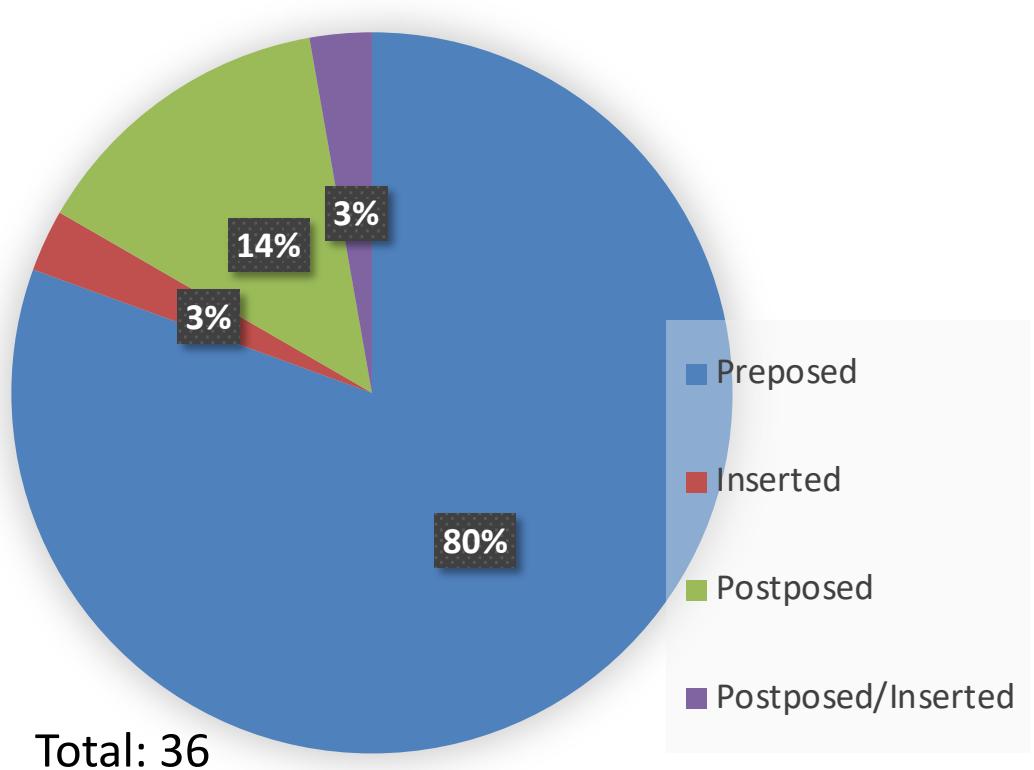


Proportion of locations of n-ee et-ch^g

Shenoute's Canon 6

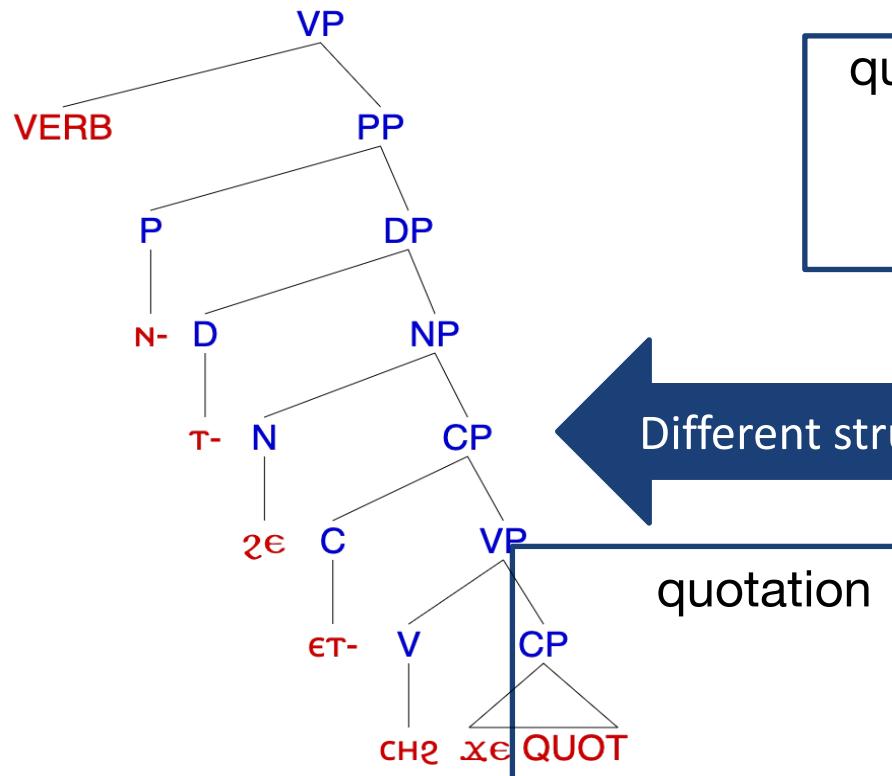


Besa

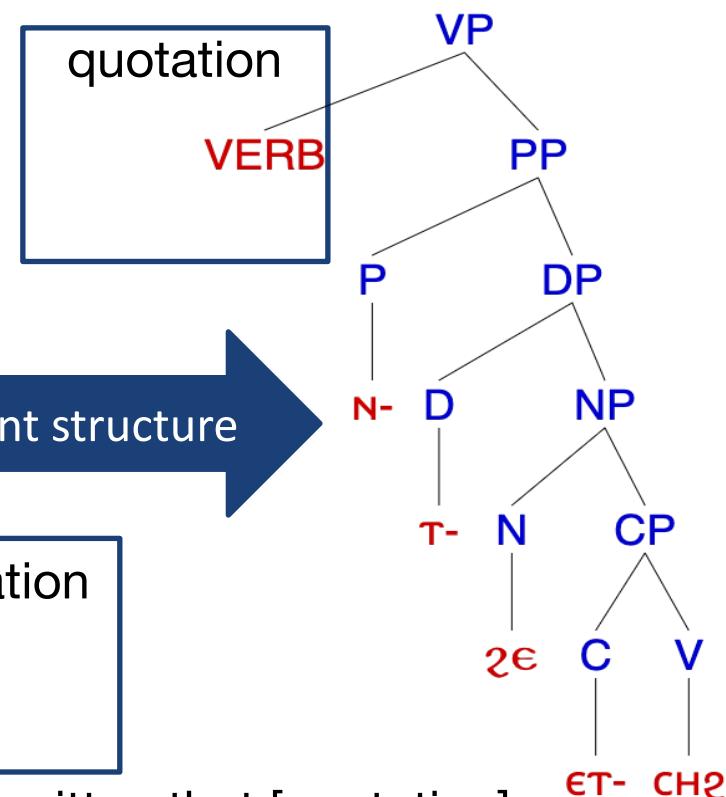


Difference of QIP constructions

Pre-posed QIP construction



Post-posed QIP construction



Different structure

Pre-posed:

[argument] as it is written that [quotation]

Post-posed/inserted: [quotation = argument], as it is written

[near verbatim quotation = argument] QIP [verbatim quotation] formula

- 4 times in Shenoute's Canon 6 and once in Besa
- Sort of a hybrid of pre-posed and post-posed QIPs.

Shenoute, He Who Sits Upon His Throne

αλλα εβολ ρω χε-ντοφ π-εντ-α=φ-πλασσε ν-νε=γ-γη[τ] ν-θε ετ-ση² γ-νε-ψαλμος χε-π-
εντ-α=φ-πλασσε μαγαδ=φ ν-νε=γ-γητ (MONB.YJ p. 33)

"but because it is he who has shaped their hearts, as it is written in the Psalms:
"the one who himself shaped their hearts"

- Shenoute's tendency to use postposed QIPs → more skillful than Besa (?)

Conclusions

- The project of SFB1136 and eTRAP have collaborated working on text reuses in Shenoute's Canon 6 and Besa's letters and sermons
- We found quotations unknown to the previous studies in both corpora
- With newly found quotations, we conducted a study on the location of $\text{ nomine et ceteris}$
- Besa uses more pre-posed $\text{ nomine et ceteris}$ than Shenoute
- Perhaps this indicates that Shenoute embedded biblical quotations more skillfully than Besa in monastic educational discourse
- Full application of Coptic Wordnet to TRACER is the next challenge

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Thank you!

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