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Assignment 3 Reflections

Part 1:

After making these two word clouds, I noticed that there really was not much of a difference between the most frequent words in each genre. There were some differences, though, like how the word “master” only appears in the comedy word cloud, and how the word “father” only appears in the tragedy word cloud. There are other differences like these, but both clouds share many words that are somewhat commonplace and general, like “thee”,” ’tis”, “hath”, or “thy”. This makes me think that I could have done this procedure without those words and gotten much more contrasting results.

The procedure itself was very interesting and I believe that it still can show difference in language choice between comedy and tragedy, but it is not reliable. Coming from a background in theatre, I know that the best way to distinguish Shakespearean tragedies and comedies is 1. the amount of death that occurs (many deaths = tragedy, little to no death = comedy) and 2. whether or not there is a happy ending (tragic ending = tragedy, happy ending/resolution = comedy). To detect these qualities, though, would be a monumental task to program because it would have to take into account context and meaning, rather than just look at the statistics. The program would have to understand what actually happens in each play and then interpret the plot in a distinguishable way. This is why it would make sense not to assign us a monumental task.

Overall, this part was interesting and I very much liked the visual aspect of it.

Part 2:

The parsing and chunking was a bit strange for me. Firstly, I couldn’t find a set of rules that accounted for all grammar and word types that the parser could use to make the tree. I ended up just using the rules set by the notes in class, mixed with some help from my colleagues. The parser did end up making mistakes with the Shakespearean language (example: it thought that “ ‘tis” was “ ‘t” and “is” and separated them), but I didn’t see anything necessarily wrong with the Dumbledore speech. I think that we needed a better set of rules to make this one return it’s best possible outcome. The fact that I couldn’t find such a rule set even after hours of searching really disappointed and frustrated me because if there is one, they sure made it difficult to find.

Part 3:

For this part, I decided to have the model generate “passages” that are 100 words in length and start with words that I give it. I have given them the correct punctuation in these “passages”. This is because if I tried to make NLTK not separate certain words with apostrophes would require me to write an extremely long list of possible words from Shakespearean text with apostrophes. I did not have the time to do so.

“Passages”:

Initial word of “I”:

I have an offering forth The gods do it it is guilt defeats my eye and we forget a COURTEZAN and there they’ll gossip’s ear That’s poison mix’d runagate doth most unhappy Beautie but hear them repaire to my estate your hovel thee betimes IAGO Why if thou GHOST To pay the head off If I yet again I a Tartar’s dear If thou hear that I gone And I heard Each drop forth to He will compel me not spread for now Cassio well deriv’d her with him ply his unmast red in this.

Initial word of “He”:

He went with thine ear to please a tender it raineth every inch narrow for my gracious acceptance whose powers of Athens shall not spit on the grace Thou offer up Knocking within Then pleaded I have a dolphin’s hit him for nothing Our flesh But in his heart with their own shadow of more careful hours come then your straw my lord I am sure my mimic comes the knights Alow’st not express’d your bearing up and makes me no answer Ham What colour’d from Venice GRATIANO What Oswald the lion Sue to such coz coz.

Initial word of “She”:

She gave thee linger here I defy thee lady And quickly should see Till I hope a sad brows your daughter shown But I say to leave you are my child Cordelia Gon Never did she holds the way to captivity me You are red Why you The King Let us all the cheer may play The promise of the air Cassio and with your train’d me to be true love Romeo Here is and ears my bond and danger I hop a man to the earth Spring times seeing sense ‘tis very false BRUTUS No this while she is.