

Sense and Sensibility Wordcloud

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Abstract

In this article we construct a wordcloud, using the tidytext R package for Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.

Sense and Sensibility is a novel by Jane Austen, written and published in 1811¹. Below we construct a word cloud for the most common words appearing in the novel.

1 The Jane Austen Package

There is a relatively new package for R, *janeaustenr*, that gives one access to all of the novels written by Jane Austen. One first has to install this package and bring it in with the `library` function. You may then call the following function and store the result. The result will be a dataframe.

```
library(janeaustenr)
sns<-austen_books()
```

This dataframe has two columns, one for each line in Austen's novels, and one indicating which book the line is from. Let's first filter, using *dplyr*, so that we have only the lines from *Sense and Sensibility*.

```
library(dplyr)
sns<-sns%>%
  filter(book=='Sense & Sensibility')
head(sns)

## # A tibble: 6 x 2
##           text                book
##           <chr>          <fctr>
## 1 SENSE AND SENSIBILITY Sense & Sensibility
## 2                      Sense & Sensibility
## 3      by Jane Austen Sense & Sensibility
```

¹The novel was published anonymously.

```
## 4          Sense & Sensibility
## 5      (1811) Sense & Sensibility
## 6          Sense & Sensibility
```

Now we are ready to clean the data.

2 Data Cleaning

We would like to remove all of the ‘Chapter’ lines. We can use dplyr again, along with package stringr.

```
library(stringr)
sns<-sns%>%
  filter(!str_detect(sns$text, '^CHAPTER'))
```

Next, we would like to remove the front matter. By inspection, we have determined that the front matter ends on line 11. Therefore, we can redefine sns to begin on line 12.

```
sns<-sns[12:12574,]
```

3 The Wordcloud

To make the wordcloud, we first have to break up the lines into words. We can use a function from the tidytext package for this.

```
library(tidytext)
words_df<-sns%>%
  unnest_tokens(word, text)

words_df

## # A tibble: 119,850 x 2
##       book      word
##   <fctr> <chr>
## 1 Sense & Sensibility the
## 2 Sense & Sensibility family
## 3 Sense & Sensibility of
## 4 Sense & Sensibility dashwood
## 5 Sense & Sensibility had
## 6 Sense & Sensibility long
## 7 Sense & Sensibility been
## 8 Sense & Sensibility settled
```

```
## 9 Sense & Sensibility      in
## 10 Sense & Sensibility     sussex
## # ... with 119,840 more rows
```

We can remove common, unimportant words with the `stop_words` dataframe and some `dplyr`.

```
words_df <- words_df %>%
  filter(!(word %in% stop_words$word))

words_df

## # A tibble: 36,225 x 2
##       book      word
##       <fctr>   <chr>
## 1 Sense & Sensibility family
## 2 Sense & Sensibility dashwood
## 3 Sense & Sensibility settled
## 4 Sense & Sensibility sussex
## 5 Sense & Sensibility estate
## 6 Sense & Sensibility residence
## 7 Sense & Sensibility norland
## 8 Sense & Sensibility park
## 9 Sense & Sensibility centre
## 10 Sense & Sensibility property
## # ... with 36,215 more rows
```

Now we need to calculate frequencies of the words in the novel. To do so, we can use standard `dplyr` techniques for this.

```
word_freq <- words_df %>%
  group_by(word) %>%
  summarize(count = n())

word_freq

## # A tibble: 5,844 x 2
##       word count
##       <chr> <int>
## 1      1      1
## 2      2     200
## 3      3    70001
## 4 abandoned      1
## 5 abatement      1
## 6 abbeyland      1
## 7      abhor      1
## 8     abhorred      2
```

```
## 9 abhorrence 4
## 10 abilities 9
## # ... with 5,834 more rows
```

Finally, it is time to generate the wordcloud.

```
library(wordcloud)

## Loading required package: RColorBrewer

wordcloud(word_freq$word, word_freq$count, min.freq=25)
```



References

silge, J. and Robinson, D. (2017). *text Mining with R: A Tidy Approach*. O'Reilly Media.

Wickham, H. and Golemund, G. (2017). *R for Data Science: Import, Tidy, Transform and Model Data*. O'Reilly Media.