John Cochran

ReadME Essay 3

My process of encoding the text began with identifying all of the people, places, objects, events, dates, and times that were seen throughout the interview. This text was an interview of Mary Miles Minter by a reporter from the district attorney's office. In order to identify the various specifications listed above, I typed out a tag that then made it obvious where the specifications were throughout the text. However, I did not tag every single one of these words. For example, I did not tag any pronouns because the people they represent would have already been tagged in that same sentence or at a minimum, in the sentence prior. Though I did not tag pronouns, I did tag all the names that were shown throughout the text. The most common names that appeared throughout the text were William Desmond Taylor, Marshall Neilan, and Mary Miles Minter. I used the @ref tag when tagging people, and the @type tag when tagging every other specification. Using the "ref" and "type" tags allowed me to easily distinguish which words were people and which were not when quickly scanning through the text. Using these tags allowed me to identify the frequency of each of the different specifications. Once I finished tagging all of the terms, we gathered into groups in class and created consensus terms. Through this process, I learned a more efficient way to tag all of my terms. My new tagging process was one that simplified the terms and put them in lowercase to make the encoding easier and faster. Through the consensus building process, I learned how to analyze the text in a more efficient manner, allowing me to adjust my original text more effectively. I felt my voice was heard and that my opinions mattered, and that we, as a team, were able to come up with the best and most effective terms.

After analyzing the interview, I came across tension and confusion surrounding what did and didn't occur during the time before and after Taylor's murder. In the interview, Mary Miles Minter expresses Marshall Neilan's concerns about Taylor's mental state and presents several instances where Taylor made completely false or complicated claims. The primary example of this discussed in the interview was one in which Taylor insisted that Neilan's ex-wife had confronted Gloria Swanson at the Sunset Inn, however, Gloria does not recall this ever occurring, nor was Neilan ever there when this allegedly occurred. Another instance mentioned in the interview was one of which Taylor claimed that Blanche Sweet had sent him an obscure letter, which she later stated that it was only a thank-you note. Another allegation that came from Taylor was one claiming that Mary Miles Minter had come into his apartment undressed. She had allegedly come seeking his affection, but he rejected her. Neilan believes these rather obscure incidents demonstrate the poor mental state of Taylor. However, we never see the response of Mary Miles Minter to this allegation in my part of the interview. Mary Miles Minter, the interviewee, has a particularly close relationship to William Desmond Taylor. She confessed earlier in the interview that she is in love with Taylor, and she is also the recipient of the allegation expressed above. This indicates that she may have a relatively great deal of information regarding the murder, and the events that occurred before and after this fateful incident took place.

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<head>Interview with Leslie Henry</head>
<byline>John Cochran</byline>
<p> STATEMENT OF MISS MARY MILES MINTER. G.H BOONE OFFICIAL REPORTER IN THE DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, February 7, 1922, at five o'clock P.M. [Part 3] </p>

<p> DORAN: I understand the <date type="dark">night of the murder</date> you were with <persName ref="neilan">Mr Neilan</persName>. </p>

<p>MINTER: No, I was not. I was at <placeName type="residence">home</placeName> with my <persName ref="miles">grandmother</persName> and <persName ref="sister">sister</persName>. </p>

<p> DORAN: I mean after the <eventName type="death">murder</eventName>, after you learned of the <eventName type="death">murder</eventName>. </p>

<p> MINTER: Yes, <date type="end">Friday</date>. </p>

<p> DORAN: The next <date type="dark">night</date>, was it?</p>

<p> MINTER: No, it was the <date type="friday">night after Thursday</date>. <persName ref="neilan">Mr Neilan</persName> -- I mean <persName ref="taylor">Mr Taylor</persName> was found
dead <date type="early">Thursday morning</date>, was he not? </p>

<p> DORAN: Yes.</p>

<p> MINTER: <date>Thursday</date> was such a long day. <time>Friday night</time> I saw <persName ref="neilan">Mr. Neilan</persName>.</p>

<p> DORAN: Did he. communicate wl th you or you with him? </p>

<p> MINTER: Why, he communicated with me; he tried to, but it was because of me he did
that. On <time>Thurdday night</time> I was worried about <persName ref="taylor">Mr Taylor</persName>; I was worried about <persName ref="neilan">Mr Neilan</persName>
and called <persName ref="mother">Marshall's mother</persName>.</p>

<p> DORAN: This was after the <eventName type="death">murder</eventName>?</p>

<p> A Yes, this vas <time>Thursday night</time> after the <eventName>murder</eventName>. I said, "Please tell <persName ref="mickey">Mickey</persName> not to
drive that <objectName type="vehicle">green car</objectName> so reckless; I am so afraid that he, too, will fall into
trouble. And she thanked me and said, "I will tell him. That is just exactly what I
havebeen thinking lately myself, and I want to see you soon, <persName ref="minter">Mary</persName>." With that I
thought no more about it. In fact, I didn't even think [page 14] <persName ref="neilan">Marshall</persName> would call
me. He had not caled me in three week or more. I thought no more about it and I was
surprised the <date>next day</date> to learn -- yes, <date>Friday</date> -- that he had tried to get me at
<time>five-thirty</time>. My <persName ref="sister">sister</persName> was at our old <placeName type="residence">home</placeName> where there is a <objectName type="communication">telephone</ob
<placeName type="residence">home</placeName> has no <objectName type="communication">telephone</objectName>, and when he happened to call there she was there.</p>
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As you can see in the image above, none of the pronouns are tagged. For example, in the

sixth line, Taylor is referred to as "he", but I found it not necessary to tag him because it is very

clearly referring to Taylor as he is mentioned only words before. Later in the text, seen in the final paragraph of the screenshot, Neilan is referred to as "he." Once again, I did not believe it necessary to tag that because it is obvious and Neilan had already been tagged in that same sentence.

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<p> <persName ref="taylor">Mr taylor</persName> and he had quite a friendly argument over it, and he said, "I know it is
so; I was there myself and heard what you said upon this greeting between those two
<persName ref="girls">girls</persName>." <persName ref="neilan">Marshall</persName> said he thought perhaps he had lost his mind. The next day he called
up, haVing that in mind, <persName ref="swanson">Miss Swanson</persName> and he said, "<persName ref="swanson">Gloria</persName>, am I going crazy? Have I
lost my mind? Do you remember of ever being at <placeName type="hotel">Sunset Inn</placeName> with me when <persName ref="bambrick">Gertrude
    Bambrick</persName> passed our <placeName type="table">table</placeName> and spoke to us pleasantly and railed at my <persName ref="ex">former wife</persName> for
having spoken to you pleasantly and told her not to speak to you again?" And she
said, "What on earth are you talking about? What is this? I don't understand you,"
And he said, "Do you ever remember seeing <persName ref="taylor">Bill taylor</persName> there near us at any time on
any such occasion?" And she said, "Certainly not, !the oniy time I ever saw <persName ref="taylor">William
    taylor</persName> at <placeName type="hotel">Sunset Inn</placeName> was the <date>night</date> I was with" -- I don't know his name, some <persName ref="person">friend
of hers</persName> -- "and <persName>Bill taylor</persName> was sitting away over on the other side by the <placeName>wall</placeName> and
we were by the <placeName type="musical">orchestra</placeName> on this side." He said, "Was I there?" And she said, "No.
Don't you remember you were in <placeName type="city">New York</placeName> at the time?" He said, "That is one instance,
<persName ref="minter">Mary</persName>, of <persName ref="taylor">Bill</persName>'s failing mind, I have never cleared that up. <persName ref="taylor">Bill</persName> and I have discusse
it many times since, and I have always gone away puzzled, amazed, that he still stuck
to his version of my having spoken to my <persName ref="ex">former wife</persName> as I did. I didn't see her;
neither <persName ref="swanson">Miss Swanson</persName> saw her on that occasion." Then he said, "On another <eventName type="occasion">occasion</eventName>,
<persName ref="taylor">Bill</persName> told me he had received a <objectName type="letter">letter</objectName> from <persName ref="sweet">Blanche Sweet</persName>; that she told <persName
that she was grieved he was sick;" that <persName ref="neilan">Marshell Neilan</persName> was calling on me and she
intended to sue him. <persName ref="neilan">Marshall</persName> said that sounded so unlike <persName ref="sweet">Miss Sweet</persName> that he went to
her and questioned her, and he said, "<persName ref="sweet">Blanche</persName>, have you writtn to <persName ref="taylor">Bill</persName> lately?" She
said, "Why, yes, I wrote him a little <objectName>note</objectName> not so long ago thanking him for some
<objectName type="flowers">poinsettias</objectName> he sent me <date>Christmas</date>." He aa1d, "Did you say anything else?" She said,
"No, not that I can remember." He said, "Did you ever say that you regretted my going
about with <persName ref="minter">Miss Minter</persName> and that you intended to sue me?" She said, "Perfectly
ridiculous. What do you mean? I certainly did not say any such thing."</p>
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In the screenshot above, Mary Miles Minter claims that Marshall Neilan thought that Taylor had lost his mind. This is an idea that is brought up a significant amount throughout the interview. Taylor being in an unstable mental state can make some of the things he said prior to his death have less validity. If this is true, some of the conclusions that people have come to could have been with misleading information.

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<p> And he said, "<persName ref="neilan" > Mr Neilan</persName> ia at the <placeName type="station">Salt Lake Station</placeName>." <persName ref="scarborough">Mr Scarborough</persName> and l drove
down there in my runabout. He was very hard at work and had been all <time>night</time>, it seemed
he had [page 15] been working all night for four nights past. They were all just dead
tired. <time>Night and day</time> they had been working. He finished about <time>two-thirty</time>, and then
there were several in the party, <persName ref="swanson">Gloria Swanson</persName>, <persName ref="jpickford">Jack Pickford</persName>, <persName ref="urson">Frank Urson</persName> -- <persName re
Frank Urson</persName> is now associated with <persName ref="neilan">Mr Neilan</persName> as <persName ref="director">director</persName> -- and <persName ref="neilan">Marshall</persName> and myse
We went to his <placeName type="residence">mother's home</placeName> where he lives with <persName ref="mother">his mother</persName> and we tried to make <objectName type="eggs">eggs</objectName>
and things. It was very amusing; we only had four <objectName type="eggs">eggs</objectName>, and I tried to fry two of
them and ruined the <objectName type="things">things</objectName>, adn we didn't have enough to go around and we made so
much noise <persName ref="mother">his mother</persName>, who was ill <placeName type="location">upstairs</placeName>, told us we must behave ourselves.
<persName ref="neilan">Marshall</persName> said, "There is only one thing to do; I have got to talk to you. We have had
all of this foolishness, and I have got something very important to say to you, <persName ref="minter">Mary</persName>.
Let's drive to the <placeName type="studio">studio</placeName> where we can talk." We drove down to the <placeName type="studio">Hollywood studio</placeName>
and we sat there in the <placeName type="office">office</placeName>, the <objectName type="lights">lights</objectName> burning and the <persName ref="watchman">watchman</persName> was there and th
<persName ref="property man">property man</persName> was not around. He was outside. We talked until <time>dawn</time>; it was <time>dawn</time> when
we came out of the <placeName type="office">place</placeName>.</p>
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In the paragraph above, I have several "type" and "ref" tags. This makes it significantly easier for me to understand and grasp the text when I am quickly scanning through or skipping through in order to find a specific moment or quote. For example, the "type" tags of office and lights allow me to know where exactly in the interview I am. The tags, overall, allow the reader to follow the flow of the interview at a quicker pace, while also doing so more efficiently.

Link to Interview: Here