

Cultural Analytics

ENGL 64.05

Fall 2019

Prof. James E. Dobson

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“He who regards poems only as objects to be ‘processed’ according to one or another method should admit to himself that the processing of leather into shoes is more useful to mankind than the processing of poems into interpretations.”

—Sigurd Burckhardt, *Shakespearean Meanings*

Reading

- What do we read for and why?
- What strategies do we have for reading?
- Which ones can be automated? How do these work with our reading goals?

Key Concept: Close Reading

- Subjective act of interpretive reading (close attention).
- Assumes significance of text on the page (close to the text).
- Examination of patterns, such as repetitions.
- Tends not to read part in relation to whole.
- Tends to be observation.
- Tends to be formal.
- Tends to be ahistorical.

READING SCORE

66.27

TTR

0.4377358490566038

COLLOCATIONS

divided among; hard earnings; hundred dollars

LDA-Derived Topics

Topic #0:

merchandise, cents, purpose, given, numerous, cooking, older, hard, binding, loan, requests, skilful, help, treasure, terms, great, home, mother, assisted, grandmother

Topic #1:

line, trusting, year, begged, offered, st, white, money, moment, midnight, fund, war, demanded, bake, story, neighborhood, southern, seamstress, heard, affectionate

Topic #2:

died, nurse, handsome, year, affairs, safe, purchase, moment, asked, people, uncle, promise, till, woman, officiating, fared, nice, desirous, hold, blow

Topic #3:

service, writing, neighborhood, knew, respects, obtained, carried, dollars, augustine, derived, hard, midnight, cooking, heirs, oldest, supporting, southern, away, lived, master

Yohei Igarashi's "Statistical Analysis at the Birth of Close Reading"

- “[I.A.] Richards was able to view close reading and word frequency lists as complementary because both could be oriented toward the social aim of improved widespread literacy” (486).
- “Digital affordances allow for enlightening, valuable forms of statistical analyses of literary works and literary history, but this account suggests that there is also an opportunity for those in literary studies once again to learn from and contribute to reading research, which has studied interpretation and used statistics all along” (500).