Corpus Assignment: Digital Textual Analysis of Shakespeare NYU ABU DHABI

ELIZABETH DOAN

Objective: Choose a corpus of three texts to create a digital textual analysis using tools such as Voyant Tools and R Markdown, then assemble & present the evidence through written work with visuals



SPRING 2024

Intro to Digital Humanities

Choice of Dataset

- -Previously familiar with all three plays
- -Shakespeare's popular works
- -All tragedies

Methods

- -Searched the three plays on Project Gutemberg
- -Imputed their URLs into Voyant Tools
- -Made and analyzed each play's word cloud

Findings & Insights

- -Frequency of character names showed their prominence in dialogue and the play
- -High frequency in thematic words relevant to the play's plot
- -Some words had different spellings in one play compared to another; offered insights into historical language usage and the evolution of language
- -Using digital analysis tools made analyzing much easier than manually going through each play to analyze information

Reflections

- -Might've not worked as well if it was in a character-based language, such as Chinese
- -This assignment showed different ways to analyze and present data that would otherwise be hard to visualize
- -Word clouds are much more engaging, appealing and light on the eyes compared to a lengthy, bulky spreadsheet
- -Having prior familiarity with the texts made it easier to analyze the word clouds

Romeo and Juliet



Hamlet



Macbeth

