Syuzhet Sentiment of Sacred Texts

2016-11-21 BY GENE

These graphs show the "emotional valence" or sentiment over narrative time percent.

That is, they chart the positive and negative valued sentences from beginning to end. A positive valued sentence would be, "I feel good." A negative one of equal value would be, "I feel bad." A neutral sentence would be, "I feel okay." If a positive sentence follows a positive sentence, the chart goes up (and vice versa).

To start off, here is the simple R code to generate the following charts:

```
library(syuzhet)

file        <- '~/Documents/lit/The-Bible.txt'
mytext      <- get_text_as_string(file)
mysentences <- get_sentences(mytext)
mysentiment <- get_sentiment( mysentences, method = 'bing' )
myvalues    <- get_percentage_values(mysentiment)

plot( myvalues, type = 'l', xlab = 'Narrative time %', ylab = 'Emotion', ma
abline( h = 0, col = 3, lty = 2 )
```
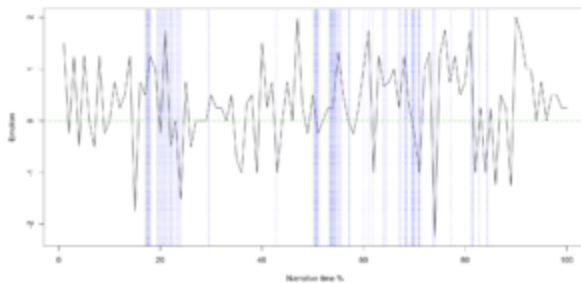
The KJV Bible:

This chart is divided into books by blue lines. The beginning of the New Testament is marked with a red line.

Notice that the books of the Old Testament fluctuate, positive and negative, but the New Testament stays neutral and then climbs into the positive. Also, even though it is considered a darker book, Revelation scores very high. Curious…

Here is the Syuzhet analysis of the Book of Revelation in isolation, with the mentions of the word "beast" highlighted:
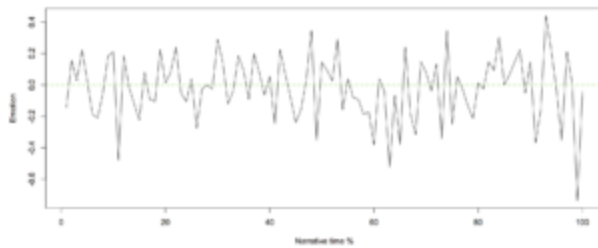

Okay. The graph is not "mostly positive" as the analysis of the entire KJV would seem to indicate. Curiouser and curiouser…

And here are the most positive (max) and most negative (min) things said:

```
R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == max(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "The Second General Epistle of Peter   1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and a

R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == min(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "55:2 Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a
[2] "27:28 The suburbs shall shake at the sound of the cry of thy pilots.
```
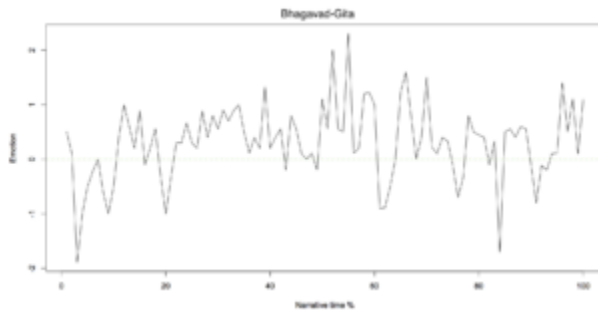
The Quran:


```
R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == max(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "Well pleased now hath God been with the believers when they plighted f

R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == min(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "Then sought they help from God, and every proud rebellious one perishe
```
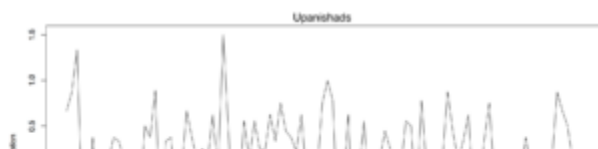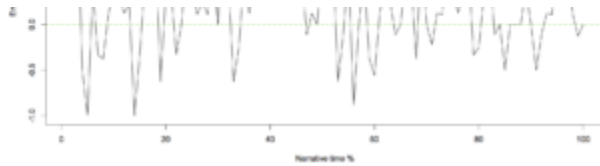
The Bhagavad Gita:


```
R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == max(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "Wisdom Supreme of what is wise,   Words on the uttering lips I am, and

R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == min(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "Deceitfulness, and arrogance, and pride,   Quickness to anger, harsh a
[2] "And there be evil doers; loose of heart,   Low-minded, stubborn, fraud
```

The Upanishads:

```
R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == max(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "II  The good and the pleasant approach man; the wise examines both and
```

```
R> mysentences[ which( mysentiment == min(mysentiment) ) ]
[1] "Those who are devoid of discrimination and fail to distinguish between
```

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