

BAG OF WORDS

Sanika Damle

Computational Analysis: -

We performed a computational analysis of the marriage parts of two autobiographies of maharanis, Vijayaraje Scindia and Sunity Devi, women that ended up marrying into royal families and compared the frequencies of the words they used.

The word 'father' is repeated a lot in both the texts, which isn't that surprising as fathers usually had a huge say in their daughters lives especially when it came to things like marriages. However, we can see that Vijayaraje Scindia relied on her uncle and grandmother more compared to Sunity Devi, mostly because her mother had died when she was young and left her with them.

The word 'one' is used a lot in Sunity Devi's autobiography because she refers to a lot of things with the word 'one', like instead of saying 'my silk sari', she says 'one of my silk saris', which doesn't happen as often with Vijayaraje Scindia.

Both women mention the place they ended up as rulers of, quite a lot. College was an important part of Vijayaraje Scindia's life, unlike Sunity Devi as she got married at an incredibly young age (14).

Vijayaraje Scindia was born around 50 years later than Sunity Devi, so we can see subtle changes in the mindsets of the people based on the things they give importance to.

In regard to the Indian independence movement, it affected Vijayaraje Scindia during her marriage years a lot more than Sunity Devi. We can see the use of the word 'British' a lot more in the former's autobiography. Even the word boycott is mentioned in her case.

Religion, and God had more impact on Sunity Devi, as we can see that the word 'god' is used a lot more in her text (11 versus 3).

The word 'us' is present a lot more in Vijayaraje Scindia's autobiography (33 times) a lot more, mostly because she had a greater say in who she would marry and they their family made the decision as a whole, instead of just her father, which was not the case with Sunity Devi (15 times).

For recognising patterns in the text, computational analysis works really well as there is no chance of human error.

Textual Analysis: -

This consisted of us reading and understanding the text and analysing it based on that.

Textual analysis gives us a more in-depth knowledge of the lives they led, and about their personalities, which we cannot get through the computational analysis part. We notice a lot of minor differences while reading in their daily lives, including their style of writing

Conclusion: -

If you look at the results of the bag of words exercise, you can't really tell how extravagant Vijayaraje Scindia's lifestyle was. But on reading her autobiography you see how lavish it was compared to Sunity Devi's.

Differences like these aren't that apparent from analysing the frequency of words, you just get the basic theme of the text.

Overall, to really understand a piece of text, reading and understanding seems like a better method, but that's not always feasible, especially if the text is large.

In cases like that, computational analysis tools help a lot as they can help you get an overview of the writing.