

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Sherlock Holmes on the Radio Airwaves: A Digital Remediation and Analysis

JACQUELINE CHAN  
SPRING 2022

A thesis  
submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements  
for a baccalaureate degree  
in Digital Media, Arts and Technology  
with honors in Digital Humanities

Reviewed and approved\* by the following:

Elisa Beshero-Bondar  
Professor of Digital Humanities, Digital Media, Arts, and Technology  
Thesis Supervisor  
Honors Adviser

Amy Carney  
Associate Professor of History  
Thesis Reader

\* Electronic approvals are on file.

**ABSTRACT**

Start typing or insert file here ...(double space)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES .....	iii
GLOSSARY OF FILE TYPES .....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	v
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes.....	1
1.2 Sherlock Holmes on the Radio.....	1
1.3 History of Detective Genre .....	1
1.4 Source Selection: Accuracy and Authenticity.....	1
2. Interpellation.....	3
2.1 Definition.....	3
2.2 Examples .....	3
3. Methodology and a Primer.....	3
3.1 Editorial Methodology and Corpus Preparation.....	3
3.2 Stitchwork .....	6
4. Analysis.....	8
4.1 Evolution of Sherlock Holmes as a Character.....	8
4.2 Evolution of the Societal Setting.....	8
4.3 Sherlock Holmes's relationship to the State System.....	8
4.4 Linguistic Explanation and Description of the Series of Events.....	8
4.5 Linguistic Explanation of the Changes in Interpellation.....	8
5. Conclusion .....	8
5.1 New discoveries .....	8
5.2 Future directions.....	8
Appendix A Replace with Appendix Title.....	9

## LIST OF FIGURES

[The List of Figures is a "field" which can be updated: right-click on it, choose "update field," choose "update entire table." Delete these two lines of text.]

<a href="#">Figure 1. Atherton Hall, SHC Est. 1997</a> .....	1
--	---

## GLOSSARY OF FILE TYPES

### Plain Text file (.txt)

Plain text files do not contain any tags or code. The file can only contain text data and the formatting or styling of the text will not be retained once saved as a .txt file

### Schema file (.rnc)

Relax NG Compact Syntax is used for this project to create the schema file. Schema files are used to create formalized rules that put constraints on the XML code to ensure that the formatting is consistent and there is a repeated pattern across elements to allow data analysis in the future.

### XML file (.xml)

### XSLT file (.xslt)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Start here or [Insert]/(File) here ...

## **1. Introduction**

The character Sherlock Holmes, as created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is often known as the greatest detective, who aided the law enforcement agencies of the United Kingdom solve crimes and mysteries, as well as take on cases of miscellaneous natures at his own accord.

The original stories of Sherlock Holmes, as written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, were set in Victorian England, where London was considered one of the most powerful and wealthiest cities in the United Kingdom. In terms of law enforcement agencies, the Metropolitan Police was created by Sir Robert Peel (The Open University and Metropolitan Police Authority)

### **1.1 Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes**

### **1.2 Sherlock Holmes on the Radio**

### **1.3 History of Detective Genre**

### **1.4 Source Selection: Accuracy and Authenticity**

The text from the two corpora were sourced from the Generic Radio Workshop and Project Gutenberg for the radio scripts and the published story respectively.

#### **1.4.1 The Generic Radio Workshop**

The radio scripts were sourced from the Generic Radio Workshop, which included nine radio scripts from the radio show that was titled “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” that was aired by National Broadcasting Company from 1939 to 1946. The Generic Radio Workshop did not contain the most comprehensive account of all the scripts used in the radio show, as there were more episodes documented by the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia as part of the series that were not available on the Generic Radio Workshop website.

#### **1.4.2 The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia**

The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia is referenced to ensure authenticity of the source text from Project Gutenberg, as the website contains digital images and texts from the Strand magazine’s original publication of the Sherlock Holmes stories. However, the text is ultimately not taken from this website as there are missing typography and stylistic emphasis of texts from the text presentation on the website that are inconsistent with the transcripts as noted from the Strand magazine images. The Encyclopedia is also referenced for metadata of the radio plays, regarding the source of the plot in the plays, and the date aired on the radio channels.

#### **1.4.3 Project Gutenberg**

Comparing Project Gutenberg and the image files of the original publications on the Strand Magazine as published on the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia for an accurate but also clear data pool. PG's digital files = better preservation of typography for emphasis.



## **2. Interpellation**

### **2.1 Definition**

The analysis of the project is rooted in the theories of interpellation as founded by Louis Althusser, as well as the Marxist theories. According to Professor Robert Birdwell on the topic of individual recognition, interpellation can be defined as “the process of a subject being caught up in an ‘imaginary’ relation to other people and to the social whole”(Birdwell 315). From this definition, it can be understood that the name in which one person used to hail other people reflects the person’s viewpoint of the individual in relation to themselves and to the society, in turn also reflects the person’s view of themselves in relation to the community around them.

### **2.2 Examples**

In the context of this project, interpellation can be seen from the way that the characters in the stories hail Holmes, Watson and his clients: some refer to him as Mr. Holmes, some refer to him as Sherlock Holmes, and some refer to him as Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

## **3. Methodology and a Primer**

### **3.1 Editorial Methodology and Corpus Preparation**

The preparation of the digital project began with organizing two text corpora. The first corpus consists of the radio scripts obtained from Generic Radio Workshop. The files provided by the Generic Radio Workshop included metadata about the script as well as the narrated story

content in a downloadable plain text file (.txt) which was utilized to serve as the base of the corpus. The plain text files require varying levels of editing and markup in order to ensure a regular pattern across all the files for the purpose of performing queries over the data in the future. There were minor mistakes and discrepancies across the Generic Radio Workshop corpus that were noticed and corrected in order to ensure the most accurate depiction of the data. For example, some of the metadata elements were not listed in the same sequence in the original text file, so the elements were reorganized to follow the most consistent structure of “series”, “show”, “date”, and “cast”; any other elements that do not fit into the basic structure would be included after “cast”; spelling errors were fixed and tags of stage elements were regularized. The editorial changes were documented and formatted in a schema file (.rnc), which serves as a guideline or framework to the structure of the XML files, and ensures that the formatting and structure of the files are consistent across the radio script corpus. The details to the changes of the corpus, in terms of XML markup such as adding or changing of element names, as well as downloadable copies of the plain text and XML files, are detailed on the digital presentation of the project<sup>1</sup>.

The Generic Radio Workshop corpus includes nine radio scripts, of which four are direct adaptations and two are indirect adaptations from Conan Doyle’s stories. “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual”, “The Adventure of Silver Blaze”, “The Problem of Thor Bridge”, and “A Scandal in Bohemia” are the stories that were directly adapted into radio scripts, with structural and minor timeline changes that will be analyzed. “The Iron Box” and “The Murder in the Casbah” are indirect adaptations from “The Adventure of Silver Blaze” and “The Adventure of the Crooked Man” respectively. The edits and restructuring of the stories from the original

---

<sup>1</sup> For step-by-step documentation, see <https://radioholmes.newtfire.org/documentation.html#CP>

publications reflect the societal changes that could be observed from the 1880s (when Conan Doyle wrote the original stories) to the 1930s (when the radio scripts were aired). The remaining three scripts were original stories written specifically for the radio show with no known original source in Doyle's writings. While these scripts do not appear to contain any adaptations from the original print publications, there are still examples of interpellation that could be applied to these scripts that would aid the analysis of the other scripts.

The second corpus includes the marked-up text files obtained from Project Gutenberg and the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia that represent Doyle's published versions of the stories adapted for radio. This corpus was prepared in XML markup to facilitate the process of marking aligned passages and divergences with the radio scripts, a process I call "stitching". The "stitching" process also allows the comparison of how characters are interpellated or hailed in the different versions of the stories for print and radio. The texts for the corpus were pulled from the above-mentioned sources so as to adhere to the most original versions and publications of the stories, which guarantees accuracy and authenticity of the corpus. Minimal editorial changes were made to the files, as this portion of the corpus serves mainly as the anchor for which to link the radio scripts to original Doyle texts. As a result, the XML mark-up for the texts represented the structure of the document and could be prepared with programming tools that recognize regular patterns to capture paragraphs and sections of the documents. The code for the Doyle texts contains attributes that help to identify specific locations in the text:

`<p xml:id="SIB-p6">"Seven!" I answered.</p>`

No two paragraphs will have the same location identifier (SIB-p6). The xml:id is formatted as such: "[file id]-p[paragraph number]", where the file id is input at the root element `<xml>`, using initials of the story (in this case, "A Scandal in Bohemia" = "SIB"), so as to keep the file id clear

and concise. For more specific anchorage between the radio scripts and texts, <seg> elements were included in segments of the paragraphs in the following manner:

```
<p xml:id="SIB-p7">“Indeed, I should have thought a little more. Just a trifle more, I
fancy, Watson. <seg xml:id="SIB-p7-s1">And in practice again, I observe. You did not
tell me that you intended to go into harness.”</seg></p>
```

The @xml:id is formatted as “[file id]-p[paragraph number]-s[section number]”, which are manually tagged in the files to facilitate more precise stitchwork in the later process. <seg> elements are chosen over other element tags such as <span> since the <seg> element is generally used to group lines of text, while <span> is used to style the element. The <span> element does not inherently contain any relation to text data in a document, but the <seg> element can be related to segments of a text, which is also used in English literature where segments represent broken down elements with meaningful data. For this reason, <seg> element tags are more suitable for the marking up of segmented correlation between the two corpora.

### 3.2 Stitchwork

The aforementioned “stitching” is the process adapted to link the radio scripts and the original publications together in places where a correlation could be noticed, whether the correlation relates to the theories of interpellation, the plot, or the involvement of Sherlock Holmes to the state system. The process of stitching started with the manual matching of the lines from the radio script to the original publications. The two files were compared and marked for direct quotes, for paraphrased or summarized quotes, and for sequential changes to the plot, which includes the order in which dialogues were exchanged, from the original publications to the radio scripts. The nature of the changes are noted as “wording” for word choice or sentence

structure changes; “sig” for significant changes, specifically to the plot; and “interpel” for changes in interpellation. These values of changes are held in the @change attribute in the <ln> elements of each dialogue line, separated by white spaces if multiple values are needed,

```
<ln pull="#SIB-p51" change="interpel sig">
  <speaker>HOLMES</speaker>
    I was well aware of that fact, sir.
</ln>
```

The @pull attributes are applied to the radio script’s <ln> tags to indicate the location in the original Doyle text in which the matched segment can be found, where the content of the attribute is taken from the corresponding @xml:id of the Doyle texts. There can be multiple corresponding @xml:ids, which would also be separated by white spaces in the @pull attributes, as there are instances in which the dialogue from the radio scripts was taken from multiple sources in the original stories.

```
<ln pull="#SIB-p99-s2 #SIB-p99-s3" change="wording">
  <speaker>KING</speaker> Yes, and she will do it. Rather than let me marry
    another woman, there are no lengths to which she would not go. None.
</ln>
```

There are also several passages of the radio scripts that do not correspond to any of the texts from Doyle. These passages were given a different tag to apply to the <ln> element to indicate this divergence. These unmatched passages were given a @type="unmatched" on the <ln> elements, followed by the @change attributes that note the nature of the change from the original story.

The “stitchwork” serves as the basis in which analysis is performed; the discrepancies between the two versions of the stories shed light on the societal changes, highlighted by racism and legal issues that Holmes and his counterparts were involved in during their investigation. The stitchwork displays the frequency of interpellation and wording changes, which may reflect

social norms that differed between the two eras in which the original stories and radio scripts were written in respectively.

## **4. Analysis**

### **4.1 Evolution of Sherlock Holmes as a Character**

### **4.2 Evolution of the Societal Setting**

### **4.3 Sherlock Holmes's relationship to the State System**

### **4.4 Linguistic Explanation and Description of the Series of Events**

### **4.5 Linguistic Explanation of the Changes in Interpellation**

## **5. Conclusion**

### **5.1 New discoveries**

### **5.2 Future directions**



**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Camden House: The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. <https://ignisart.com/camdenhouse/canon/index.html>.

Accessed 8 Sept. 2021.

*The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. <https://sherlock-holm.es/html/>. Accessed 26 Jan. 2022.

*The Strand Magazine - The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia*. [https://www.arthur-conan-](https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/The_Strand_Magazine#By_Conan_Doyle)

[doyle.com/index.php/The\\_Strand\\_Magazine#By\\_Conan\\_Doyle](https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/The_Strand_Magazine#By_Conan_Doyle). Accessed 8 Sept. 2021.



## WORKS CITED

- “A Scandal in Bohemia.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/show/509HE4N1M>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- Birdwell, Robert Z. “From Interpellation to Recognition: Althusser, Hegel, Dahlberg.” *Symploke*,  
 vol. 25, no. 1–2, 2017, pp. 315–29. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.5250/symploke.25.1-2.0315>.
- “Episodes of Sherlock Holmes.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/series/sherlockholmes>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- “Murder in the Casbah.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/show/9LYP7YN2K>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- “Silver Blaze.” *Generic Radio Workshop*, <https://www.genericradio.com/show/OJERS2PBZI2>.  
 Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- “The Adventure of the Tolling Bell.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/show/2f0f3207661eb0f9>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- “The Case of the Dead Adventuress.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/show/60a46f164f8407f7>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- “The Case of the Iron Box.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/show/1QCKH47L33H>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- “The Elusive Umbrella.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/show/QAGC982LKHY>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.
- “The Musgrave Ritual.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,  
<https://www.genericradio.com/show/41a172cc238ddfe5>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.

“The Problem of Thor Bridge.” *Generic Radio Workshop*,

<https://www.genericradio.com/show/2IHNUOWQS>. Accessed 3 Mar. 2022.

“The Project Gutenberg Book of The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, by Arthur Conan Doyle.”

*Project Gutenberg*, <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1661/1661-h/1661-h.htm>. Accessed 29 Sept. 2021.

## ACADEMIC VITA

### Education

---

**Pennsylvania State University Erie, The Behrend College** Expected May 2022  
Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media, Arts and Technology  
Minor in Media Production Dean's List Spring 2019 - Fall 2021  
Minor in Data Visualization  
Minor in Transnational Perspective  
Minor in Management Information Systems  
Certificate in German Studies

### Professional Experience

---

**Business Analyst, Leadway Venture Limited** Summer 2019

### Leadership Experience

---

**Treasurer of Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity** Fall 2020 - Present  
Pennsylvania State University Erie, The Behrend College  
Established a budget at the beginning of each academic term  
Maintained and kept in custody all financial records of the chapter

**Public Relations of German Club** Fall 2020 - Spring 2021  
Pennsylvania State University Erie, The Behrend College  
Created social media platforms for the club  
Designed flyers and posters for the club and its events

**Student Organizer of International Photo Contest 2020** Fall 2020  
Pennsylvania State University Erie, The Behrend College  
Written the proposal documents for participants  
Organized and managed the competition for participants  
Designed flyers and posters for the event  
Managed the Instagram account and its polls for the event

### Additional Experience

---

**Part-time Student Supervisor** Fall 2018 - Present  
Pennsylvania State University Erie, The Behrend College

### Professional Organizations

---

Lambda Sigma National Honors Society (Alpha Eta Chapter) Fall 2019 - Spring 2020  
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Spring 2021 - Fall 2021  
Schreyer Honors College (SHC) at Penn State Fall 2020 - Present

### Languages

---

Cantonese, Native Language  
English, competent written and verbal communication  
Mandarin, speak with basic competence  
German, competence in basic written and verbal communication – achieved level A1 in Goethe Institut of Hongkong

### Software Skills

---

General: Excel, Microsoft Word  
Digital Media: AfterEffects, Canva, HTML, Photoshop, Premiere Pro, Illustrator, Maya, Blender  
Programming: Pascal, Python, XML  
Data Analytics: StatTools, NodeXL