LING 4-460 APPLICATIONS OF CORPUS LINGUISTICS TOOLS TO THE STUDY OF ANGLOPHONE LITERATURE

Learning Outcomes

This course aims to provide an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of Anglophone literature. It seeks to introduce students to the field of Digital Humanities, by means of employing corpus linguistics methodologies and quantifiable data to the analysis of literary texts. Consisting of lectures as well as of laboratory sessions, the course aims to familiarize students with the affordances of corpus linguistics software (SketchEngine, WordSmith, AntConc) and, subsequently, apply this knowledge to the compilation and analysis of literary corpora. The corpora in question will consist of short stories and novels; these will subsequently be discussed during the lectures, drawing upon the lab findings, as well as upon narratological notions and literary theories to be presented during the sessions. Students will be encouraged to productively and creatively combine knowledge gained during their studies, bringing together the fields of both linguistics and literature in a balanced fashion, as well as offer new perspectives to literary texts. Corpus design and methodological criteria will also be focused upon, while the primary material (i.e., the literary texts) will be discussed in detail, and will constitute the main structural elements of the syllabus.

Syllabus

Week 1:   Introducing key terminology: the field of Corpus Stylistics
              The Tell-Tale Heart, Edgar Allan Poe (1843)

Week 2:   Key narratological concepts and corpus design criteria
              Frankenstein, Mary Shelley (1818)

Week 3:   Testing Hypotheses Research Questions
              Frankensterin, Mary Shelley (1818)
              Case study: Hemingway's authorial style

Week 4:   Testing Hypotheses and Research Questions:
              Frankenstein, Mary Shelley (1818)

Week 5:   Methodological decisions and corpus compilation criteria: working on
              Frankenstein

Week 6:   Presentation of Findings and Research design
              Introduction to the final project: Essay (Case Study)

Week 7:   The notion of genre I:
              The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stephenson
              (1886)

Week 8:   The notion of genre II:

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stephenson (1886)

Week 9:   Methodological decisions and corpus compilation criteria: working on *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886)
Guidance session on the final project

Week 10:   Focalization, character, and plot: examining *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood (1985)
Guidance session on the final project

Week 11:   Quantitative and qualitative corpus stylistic analysis
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood (1985)

Week 12:   Making sense of significance: keyness, collocation, semantic prosody
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood (1985)

Week 13:   Guidance session on the final project

Course Bibliography

McIntyre, D. and Walker, B. (2019). *Corpus stylistics: Theory and practice*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Baossi, G. (2015). *A corpus linguistics approach to literary language and characterization: Virginia Woolf's The Waves*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Study Pack of Selected Short Stories and Novel Excerpts

Additional bibliography for study

Barry, P. (2009). *Beginning theory: an introduction to literary and cultural theory*. 3rd edn. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Brooker, P. and Widdowson, P. (Eds.). (1996). *A practical reader in contemporary literary theory*. London: Prentice Hall.

Burke, M. (Ed.). (2014). *The Routledge handbook of stylistics*. London: Routledge.

Caws, C. and Hamel, M.J. (Eds). (2016). *Language-learner computer interactions : theory, methodology and CALL applications*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Childs, P. and Fowler, R. (Eds.). (2006). *The Routledge dictionary of literary terms*. London: Routledge.

Drucker, J. (2021). *The Digital Humanities coursebook: An introduction to digital methods for research and scholarship.* Abingdon & New York: Routledge.

Easthope, A. and McGowan, K. (Eds.). (2004). *A critical and cultural theory reader.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Fischer-Starcke, B. (2010). *Corpus linguistics in literary analysis: Jane Austen and her contemporaries.* London: Continuum.

Gibbons, A. and Whitley, S. (2018). *Contemporary stylistics: language, cognition, interpretation*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Herman, D. (2007). *The Cambridge companion to narrative.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

McEnery, T. and Hardie, A. (2012). *Corpus linguistics: method, theory and practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.