Zombies for Tools

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Venice Street Art

With support from SSHRC Text Mining the Novel project led by A. Piper
Smith, “Image and Imagery in Joyce's Portrait” (1973)

VOLUME PLOT: PORTRAIT

NOTE: Roman numerals refer to chapters.
Smith, “Image and Imagery in Joyce's Portrait” (1973)
Outline

• Introducing Smith’s Visualization
• Reviving John B. Smith
• Some asides about Voyant
• Reflect on Replication

Replicants
Smith’s Tool
(according to the article)

• Custom dictionary of 1300 words with emotional valence
• Divided text into 500 word chunks
• Frequency of words per chunk
  – (Some weighting)
Comparison
### Imagery And The Mind Of Stephen Dedalus

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John B. Smith and Imagery in Joyce's *Portrait* (1973)

In 1973 John B. Smith published an article entitled “Image and Imagery in Joyce's Portrait: A Computer-Assisted Analysis” in a collection called *Literary Criticism: Contemporary Approaches to Literature*. In this article Smith presents a thesis about the use of imagery by James Joyce through a computer-generated distribution graph of image words.

Smith Imagery

Acquiring the Text

We'll begin by fetching the edition of Joyce's *Portrait* that's available from the Gutenberg Project. It's always worth noting that other editions may be preferable for various reasons, but the Gutenberg edition has the benefit of convenience and longevity.

Fetching a URL can be very quick and easy in Python, but we'll take a detour to first check if there's a local copy of the text file -- this avoids problems of connectivity and access management.

```python
In [46]: import os, urllib.request

# get the text from a filename (if it exists) or fetch the contents (and cache it for next time)
def get_text_local_or_url(filename, url):
    # do we have a local copy? if so read it in and return it
```
Literary Attention vs. City Population

Measure relationship between literary attention as measured by geographic location occurrence between 1790 and as late as 1990. There's a fuller write-up on my blog.

Preliminaries

```python
import matplotlib inline

import pandas as pd
pd.set_option('max_columns', 50)

import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
```

Data

```python
cities = pd.read_csv('https://gist.githubusercontent.com/wilkens/9d6e2db80d0277df1b1a7c6f5d6d5a27/raw/cities.csv')
cities.head()
```

```
city   year  population  literature
------- ----- ----------- ------------
New York 1790           33100        10603
```
We were discussing you -- not me.

Whether or not you can read yourself then depends on you more than on me.

Perhaps in your fantasies we depend on each other.

You believe I can interpret fantasies don't you?

"When my hunger was appeased, I directed my steps towards the well-known path that conducted to the cottage.

Does that suggest anything else which belongs to you?"
We were discussing you -- not me.

Have you read Frankenstein?

Concordance of father

You want to see a concordance of "father"?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Left</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Right</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Other...</td>
<td>sum in prize-money, the</td>
<td>fat...</td>
<td>of the girl consented to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Other...</td>
<td>was poor, and that her</td>
<td>fat...</td>
<td>would never consent to the</td>
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<td>1) Other...</td>
<td>himself solicited the young wo...</td>
<td>fat...</td>
<td>to consent to her marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Other...</td>
<td>who, when he found the</td>
<td>fat...</td>
<td>inexorable, quitted his country...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Other...</td>
<td>counsellors and syndics, and my</td>
<td>fat...</td>
<td>had filled several public situatio...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11) Other...</td>
<td>became a husband and the</td>
<td>fat...</td>
<td>of a family. As the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hello, I'm Veliza, and I'm here to talk to you about your texts (you may know my sister Eliza, she's a famous psychotherapist). I'm just learning to talk about text documents, but please, let me know about any anxieties you're feeling about your texts. Type a message in the box below and hit enter. Or, if you're feeling playful, hit the from text bottom in the lower right-hand corner to fetch a sentence from the corpus.

Have you read Frankenstein?

We were discussing you -- not me.
It has been remarked, my HERMISSUS, that though the ancient philosophers conveyed most of their instruction in the form of dialogue, this method of composition has been little practised in later ages, and has seldom succeeded in the hands of those who have attempted it. Accurate and regular argument, indeed, such as is now expected of philosophical inquirers, naturally throws a man into the methodical and didactic manner; where he can immediately, without preparation, explain the point at which he aims; and thence proceed, without interruption, to deduce the proofs on which it is established. To deliver a SYSTEM in conversation, scarcely appears natural; and while the dialogue-writer desires, by departing from the direct style of composition, to give a freer air to his performance, and avoid the appearance of Author and Reader, he is apt to run into a worse inconvenience, and convey the image of Pedagogue and Pupil. Or, if he carries on the dispute in the natural spirit of good company, by throwing in a variety of topics, and preserving a proper balance among the speakers, he often loses so much time in preparations and transitions, that the reader will scarcely think himself compensated, by all the graces of dialogue, for the order, brevity, and precision, which are sacrificed to them.
sp PAMPHELUS

It has been remarked, my HERMIPPUS, that though the ancient philosophers conveyed most of their instruction in the form of dialogue, this method of composition has been little practised in later ages, and has seldom
Figure 3. The DISTRIBUTION command in ARRAS produces a bar graph showing the number of times a specified word or category occurs in a given interval of text. In this case, the occurrences of all words in the fire category are accumulated and plotted for each two-percent interval of text. The column of asterisks indicates more than 20 occurrences for that two-percent interval of text. Again, the program's response is printed here in color.
Part of the reason instruments have largely escaped the notice of scholars and others interested in our modern techno-scientific culture is language, or rather its lack. Instruments are developed and used in a context where mathematical, scientific, and ordinary language is neither the exclusive vehicle of communication nor, in many cases, the primary vehicle of communication. Instruments are crafted artifacts, and visual and tactile thinking and communication are central to their development and use. (p. XV)
Zombie Interpretation

The Novel
Interpretation
Joyce's Theory
Implementation (Modelling)
Tool(s)

Reinterpret
Visualization
Analysis
Re-Re Words

Revivification, Recapitulation, Replication, Reproduction, Relive, Respond, Reinterpretation, Recreate
Enculturational Model

The model which seems most appropriate is one which involves the transmission of a culture which legitimates and limits the parameters requiring control in the experimental situation, without necessarily formulating, enumerating or understanding them, and which ipso-facto generates the set of anomalous experiments (failures which can't be explained by uncontrolled legitimate parameters).

An important corollary of this model is that the transfer of knowledge is not directly monitorable."

(Collins, “The Seven Sexes”, 207)
Exploratory Archaeology

• Lack of clear aims
• Insufficient detail on materials and methods
• Compromises over authentic materials
• Inappropriate parameters
• Lack of academic context

Outram, “Introduction to experimental archaeology” 2008
Silents Now

http://silent-no.co.uk
John B. Smith and Imagery:
https://github.com/sgsinclair/epistemologica/blob/master/Smith-Imagery.ipynb

Are you a replicant?