

## Contents of Glottometrics 2, 2002 (including abstracts)

### Uhlírová, Ludmila

The case of Czech possessive adjectives and their head nouns: some distributional properties 1

**Abstract.** If a word is defined on the basis of its co-occurrence with another word class in texts, then its ranking distribution may be modelled well by the negative-hypergeometric probability distribution, and the interaction of the two classes can be described by the same type of model as well as with the help of some procedures, such as the non-linear regression. Possessive adjectives and their head nouns in a Czech corpus are taken to demonstrate those properties.

### Best, Karl-Heinz

Der Zuwachs der Wörter auf *-ical* im Deutschen 11

**Abstract.** Since 1955 the number of German words having the ending *-ical* has been increasing. The paper shows that this process abides by the Piotrowski law.

### Hrebicek, Ludek

The elements of symmetry in text structures 17

**Abstract.** The present paper refers to general theory which is based on the Menzerath-Altmann law. This law defines the mutual relationships between the language levels inside a given text. They have important semantic consequences. The structure is observed from the view-point of possible changes (transformations, movements) in the treatment of the structural relations. We want to know what is invariant when such changes are applied. This approach follows the classical work on symmetry by Hermann Weyl (1952/1968).

### Lehfeldt, Werner / Altmann, Gabriel

Der altrussische Jerwandel 34

**Abstract.** The article shows that the fall of the reduced vowels in weak positions in Old Russian is the consequence of a process controlled by Menzerath's law holding for the relationship between construct (phonetic word) and constituent (syllable). That process reduces excess redundancy.

### Andersen, Simone

Freedom of choice and the psychological interpretation of word frequencies 45

**Abstract.** To what extent are word frequencies in texts manipulable by text producers? The expected word frequency is regarded as a conditioned probability. This allows showing that observed frequencies are only partly frequencies of choice. When

comparing frequencies, confoundation with frequency of conditions, here called occasion, has to be avoided. The amount of free choice is discussed.

### **Krause, Marion**

Subjektive Bewertung von Vorkommenshäufigkeiten: Methode und Ergebnisse

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**Abstract.** Word frequency effects play an important role in speech production and perception as well as in language change processes. In most cases, frequency data are taken from text corpora. After discussing some results of the traditional procedure, the paper presents an alternative method of gathering subjective frequency data. This method was developed by R. Frumkina and her colleagues in the 1960s - 1970s. It is directed to the so-called "frequency index" that is assumed to treat frequency data from input and output and store it with the lexical representations in the individual's internal lexicon. The paper describes the experimental procedure and the underlying statistical methods and illustrates them on the basis of two experiments conducted with German words. Their outcome - two word frequency lists comprising 642 and 144 words resp. - is listed according to frequency as well as in alphabetic order.

### **Körner, Helle**

Der Zuwachs der Wörter auf *-ion* im Deutschen

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**Abstract.** This paper shows that the number of German words having the ending *-ion* increases in accordance with the Piotrowski law.

### **Rottmann, Otto**

Syllable lengths in Russian, Bulgarian, Old Church Slavonic and Slovene

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**Abstract.** This paper presents empirical syllable length data (with "syllable length" being based on the number of phonemes) from Slovene, modern Bulgarian, Old Church Slavonic (= Old Bulgarian) and modern Russian. The data analysed give evidence of the following adequate models: Hyperpoisson in Old Church Slavonic, modern Bulgarian and Slovene and Conway-Maxwell-Poisson or Morse in modern Russian.

### **Books Reviews**

Best, K.-H. (Hrsg.), *Häufigkeitsverteilungen in Texten*. By Simone Andersen

Best, K.-H., *Quantitative Linguistik. Eine Annäherung*. By Gabriel Altmann

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## Herausgeber/Editors:

G. Altmann	<a href="mailto:02351973070-0001@t-online.de">02351973070-0001@t-online.de</a>
K.-H. Best	<a href="mailto:kbest@gwdg.de">kbest@gwdg.de</a>
L. Hrebicek	<a href="mailto:hrebicek@orient.cas.cz">hrebicek@orient.cas.cz</a>
R. Köhler	<a href="mailto:koehler@uni-trier.de">koehler@uni-trier.de</a>
O. Rottmann	<a href="mailto:otto.rottmann@t-online.de">otto.rottmann@t-online.de</a>
G. Wimmer	<a href="mailto:wimmer@mat.savba.sk">wimmer@mat.savba.sk</a>
A. Ziegler	<a href="mailto:arneziegler@compuserve.de">arneziegler@compuserve.de</a>

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