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# Glottometrics

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## Contents of Glottometrics 17, 2008

**Thomas Jahn, Annika Uckel**

Verteilung von Wortlängen in englischen Spam-E-Mails

1-7

**Abstract.** The present paper deals with word length in twenty English spam e-mails and is part of the Göttingen *Projekt Quantitative Linguistik*. In order to get a homogenous text sample, all of the e-mails are impersonal mails with a length between 75 and 304 words. We show that the *Hirata-Poisson* distribution appears to be a good model in the majority of texts analyzed. This paper tries to make a contribution to the hypothesis that word length in texts abides by certain distribution laws.

**Karl-Heinz Best**

Das Fremdwortspektrum im Türkischen

8-11

**Abstract.** In this paper, Altmann's (1993) model for rank orders will be tested as model for the diversification of loanwords in Turkish. The data are taken from Aktaş (2008).

**Katharina Meuser, Jana Madlen Schütte, Sina Stremme**

Pluralallomorphe in den Kurzgeschichten von Wolfdietrich Schnurre

12-17

**Abstract.** In this contribution the negative hypergeometric distribution has been fitted to the ranked distribution of plural morphemes in short stories of Wolfdietrich Schnurre. This paper brings a further corroboration of the hypothesis that the frequency distributions of entities contained in linguistic classes abide by laws.

**Ioan-Iovitz Popescu, Ján Mačutek, Gabriel Altmann**

Word frequency and arc length

18-42

**Abstract.** In the present article we try to exploit the arc length of the rank-frequency distribution of words for characterization of texts and typological purposes. Several indicators and functions are proposed and tested on 100 texts in 20 languages.

**Karl-Heinz Best**

Zur Diversifikation lateinischer und griechischer Hexameter

43-50

**Abstract.** The aim of this paper is to show that different forms of the Latin and Greek hexameter abide by the diversification law, too. The negative hypergeometric distribution can be fitted successfully.

**Relja Vulanović**

A mathematical analysis of parts-of-speech systems

51-65

**Abstract.** The classification of parts-of-speech systems, introduced in Hengeveld (1992), is generalized to include other theoretical possibilities, regardless of whether they are realized in natural languages or not. In the new classification, there are three flexible parts-of-speech types which contain several possible subtypes. Those are analyzed from the point of view of grammar efficiency. It is shown that the most efficient systems have free word order and use the same word class for both the head of the predicate phrase and the head of the referential phrase. This structure is not attested in natural languages. As for attested systems, they occupy the highest position on the grammar-efficiency scale only in some special cases and when word order is fixed.

**Fengxiang Fan, Gabriel Altmann**

On meaning diversification in English

66-78

**Abstract.** Individual meanings (senses) of words have different frequencies of occurrence. They form rank-frequency distributions with different properties. To capture these properties the Shenton-Skees-geometric distribution and the Popescu-formula are used. Semantic concentration is determined by a concentration measure and expressed by Ord's criterion.

**Fengxiang Fan, Ioan-Iovitz Popescu, Gabriel Altmann**

Arc length and meaning diversification in English

79-86

**Abstract.** We try to characterize meaning diversification using the relationship of some properties of the empirical diversification distribution and defining a coefficient  $c$  whose mean holds true for all examined words and which allows us to compute the theoretical arc length.

**Karl-Heinz Best**

Sinismen im Deutschen und Englischen

87-93

**Abstract.** The paper deals with two topics: The process of borrowing of Chinese words in German and English. It can be shown that the borrowings in English abide by the Piotrowski law (logistic law).

**Ioan-Iovitz Popescu, Gabriel Altmann**

On the regularity of diversification in language

94-108

**Abstract.** Diversification seems to abide by a strong regularity which does not depend on language but rather on the language level (category). The regularity is evidenced using a relationship between some indicators of the rank-frequency distribution.

## **History of Quantitative Linguistics**

**K.-H. Best**

XXXV. Moritz Wilhelm Drobisch (1802-1896)

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