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Contents of

Glottometrics 23, 2012 (including abstracts)

Karl-Heinz Best

Längen von Komposita im Deutschen

1-6

Abstract. The aim of this paper is to show that the lengths of compounds in German abide by a law. The findings lend support to the theory of word length distributions (Wimmer et alii 1994, Wimmer & Altmann 1996) once more.

Reginald Smith

Distinct word length frequencies: distributions and symbol entropies

7-22

Abstract: The distribution of frequency counts of distinct words by length in a language's vocabulary will be analyzed using two methods. The first, will look at the empirical distributions of several languages and derive a distribution that reasonably explains the number of distinct words as a function of length. We will be able to derive the frequency count, mean word length, and variance of word length based on the marginal probability of letters and spaces. The second, based on information theory, will demonstrate that the conditional entropies can also be used to estimate the frequency of distinct words of a given length in a language. In addition, it will be shown how these techniques can also be applied to estimate higher order entropies using vocabulary word length.

Sven Naumann, Ioan-Iovitz Popescu, Gabriel Altmann

Aspects of nominal style

23-55

Abstract. Using the sequence of nouns and verbs different methods are applied to show some aspects of analysis of text nominality. Though nouns can be opposed also to adjectives in order to show the ornamentality of texts, we adhered to the classical duality. The article uses 85 texts in 9 languages, shows the commonalities of text-sorts, differences in style and authors, and presents regression, runs and their empirical distributions as well as the positioning of texts in the Ord-scheme. The study gives merely some stimuli for further research.

Karl-Heinz Best

Zur Verslänge bei G. A. Bürger

56-61

Abstract. In this contribution the distribution of word numbers in poetic texts by G.A. Bürger is tested. The displaced binomial distribution seems to be the best model. There was only one case in which the empirical findings deviate from this model. Evidently some boundary conditions valid in this case must be found.

Sergey Andreev

Literal vs. Liberal Translation – Formal Estimation

62-69

Abstract. The article tackles the problem of measuring the degree of correspondence of verse translation from one language into another. To this end a number of formal features are taken into consideration and different tests are performed using Coleridge's texts and their translations into Russian.

Peter Grzybek

Michail Lopatto: *Attempt at an Introduction into the Theory of Prose* (1918)

70-80

Abstract. This article presents an early scientific paper, published by Michail Osipovič Lopatto (1892-1982) in 1918. It goes back to a presentation he gave in a 1915 seminar on Puškin, held at Sankt Petersburg University. This seminar, led by the renowned Puškin expert S.A. Vengerov, has been referred to as one of the off-shots of the Russian Formalist School. Lopatto's article has been largely neglected in works on the history of Russian Formalism as well as on the history of Quantitative Linguistics. In it, the author attempts to lay the foundations for a general theory of prose, distinguishing between material, form and content, on the one hand, and postulating quantitative methods, on the other. The analyses offered, and the ideas presented as to the need of quantification, are far from being what might be called 'ripe', from a modern point of view. Yet, they are not only far ahead of their time, but largely wait for an answer still today.

Haitao Liu

Review of Peter Grzybek, Emmerich Kelih, Ján Mačutek (Eds.),

81-83

Text and Language: Structures · Functions · Interrelations. Quantitative Perspectives. Wien: Praesens Verlag, 2010. ISBN 978-3-7069-0625-8, 251pp.

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