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Digital Shakespeare

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Think about what we have desire for

1. Hypothesis

People naturally have a desire to do something that they want. Because it is a natural phenomenon to do what we want to do. I wanted to know how the word ‘desire’ expressed in William Shakespeare’s tragedies. My hypothesis is that desire is something that cannot come close to happiness because it causes negative situations in Shakespeare’s tragedies.

2. Methodology

To prove my hypothesis, I used the AntConc first. I counted how many times the word ‘desire’ came out in Shakespeare’s four tragedies: *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*. Also, I uploaded Shakespeare’s four comedies: *Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and *As You Like It*. I counted the frequency of the word ‘desire’ in the comedies. And I compared with each other and found out what context the word ‘desire’ used in by looking for cluster of 4 words. All the text I uploaded was taken from Shakespeare Drama Corpus in Dracor.

Row	FileID	FilePath	FileTokens	Freq	NormFreq	Dispersion	Plot
1	1	shake000009-the-merchant-of-venice.spoken-text.txt	21014	11	523.461	0.656	
2	2	shake000010-as-you-like-it.spoken-text.txt	21702	11	506.866	0.656	
3	0	shake000008-a-midsummer-night-s-dream.spoken-text.txt	16384	9	549.316	0.579	
4	3	shake000011-the-taming-of-the-shrew.spoken-text.txt	20796	2	96.172	0.333	

Row	FileID	FilePath	FileTokens	Freq	NormFreq	Dispersion	Plot
1	0	shake000031-macbeth.spoken-text.txt	16708	6	359.109	0.631	
2	1	shake000032-hamlet-spoken.txt	30092	8	265.851	0.592	
3	3	shake000034-othello.spoken-text.txt	26350	2	75.901	0.333	
4	2	shake000033-king-lear.spoken-text.txt	25671	3	116.863	0.289	

3. Results and Implications

Contrary to expectations, desire in the comedies was more frequent than the tragedies. It means that desire can work positively. Also, I did a cluster comparison both in the comedies and in the tragedies. It was used a lot in a positive context in comedies, but there were negative contexts in tragedies. Therefore, what kind of mind you have determines whether desire works tragically or comically. If the character changes his or her mind in a tragic situation, it can lead to good results. I only used four tragedies and four comedies, so my research can be limited. More works and different ways of researching will be required to get more validity for this hypothesis.

4. Reflection

First, choosing the topic was the most difficult for me. I spent the most time choosing the topic. I wanted to enforce justification for my hypothesis. Because only frequency cannot justify my hypothesis. So, I tried to understand what words come with the word 'desire' by setting cluster parameter. Second, it was a little bit difficult for me to use AntConc. I studied how to use

this program, but I was afraid that if I edit something wrong, I cannot return because this program works based on English. However, I was able to manipulate it easily by reviewing the instructions which my professor gave me. Later, I was having fun dealing with the program. I decided to use AntConc because the Voyant Tools are more focused on visual representation, but I was focusing on frequency and context. Also, I was more familiar with the AntConc. The reason why I think about this topic is my concern about myself these days. As a person, I always want to do something that I want. But sometimes people around me ask me to give up my plans and say that I'm greedy. So, I don't know what to do, and now I feel like I'm tired of myself, and I still do. But my thoughts have changed as I've analyzed the word 'desire' through text mining in data analysis assignment. Of course, if I try to do something too much, I'll be stressed, and I cannot do something perfectly. If I have a desire based on the right mind like Shakespeare's comedies, I can make good results.