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Asking Big Questions with Digital Tools

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Using AntConc to Answer Historiographical Questions

Michelle Moravec @professmoravec

Daring to be Bad 1989

Echols' trajectory of radical feminism's decline into cultural feminism one of the most influential interpretations of the women's liberation movement.

My Project

Off Our Backs " the best-known newspaper of the 'radical feminist' " family and *Chrysalis* a magazine of women's culture conceived of by Rennie and Grinstead as a "new national feminist magazine." They claimed *OOB* left behind radical feminist movement to focus on intra-movement schisms from a "predominantly male left perspective."

Digital analysis

word frequency = # times word appears

collocates = words that appear together at frequency greater than random chance

clusters = words that appear together

keywords = unusually frequent words in a corpus when measured against reference corpus

What does digital reveal?

Critical discourse analysis, defined by Van Dijk as "the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context."

Are there/what are similarities & differences in discourses of *OOB* & *Chrysalis*?

culture in context

follow "culture" through *OOB* & *Chrysalis*

word frequency

collocates

cluster

concordance

keyness

	A	B	C	D
1	culture	OOB	Chrysalis	
2	word frequency	463	356	
3	collocates	and	the	
4		is	s	
5		that	women	our, women and dominant
6		which	a	that, which to of as
7		to	of	
8		of	and	70% in common
9		as	in	
10		The	is	
11		in	our	
12		s	dominant	
13				
14	Clusters	s culture	s culture	feminist v female culture
15		our culture	a culture	male culture v dominant culture
16		and culture	our culture	
17		a culture	culture and	
18		the culture	the culture	
19		their culture	dominant culture	half in common
20		feminist culture	s Culture	
21		of culture	culture which	
22		this culture	culture is	
23		own culture	female culture	
24		male culture	and culture	

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	the	the	women #7	her #12	women	her
2	of	of	her #27	women #15	gay	she
3	and	and	she #30	she #17	conference	art
4	to	to	woman #54	woman #43	page	female
5	a	a	feminist #57	new #54	info	artist
6	in	in	people #60	work #64	washington	publishing
7	women	is	men #63	book #68	abortion	book
8	that	that	new #65	life #76	lesbian	freud
9	is	i	work #66	feminist #77	march	century
10	for	s	time #71	men #84	groups	life
11	i	as	lesbian #75	time #88	lesbians	self
12	s	her	first #87	female #94	workers	nature
13	it	it	black #88	self #96	rights	poet
14	on	for	movement #91	first #98	prison	poems
15	are	women	page #99	world #101	people	diary
16	was	with	year #102	art #102	state	theater
17	with	she	issue #105	male #108	police	anthony
18	as	by	group #106	mother #109	union	own
19	by	on	years #110	people #113	national	rich
20	we	are	political #115	love #119	send	goldman
21	be	this	white #121	years #124	box	mystery
22	have	was	children #123	man #125	against	vision
23	not	we	groups #127	press #132	issue	poem
24	from	not	male #129	books #136	support	body
25	they	from	conference #132	old #145	prisoners	language
26			state #137	black #149	group	transsexual
27			book #140	power #150	gays	novel
28					rape	goddess
29					anti	love
30					collective	woolf
31					job	writer
32	OOB Freq	Chrysalis by Freq	OOB Lexical	chrysalis Lexical	local	books
33			13 common	13 common	coalition	
34					health	
35					call	
36					music	
37						C Keynes

Nature

Keyword for Chrysalis, strongly associated with definitions of cultural feminism

Frequency 348

nature of top collocate & cluster

oob 215 (#817)

less frequent in larger corpus

"Nature of" also top collocate & cluster

File Global Settings Tool Preferences About

Concordance Concordance Plot File View Clusters Collocates Word List Keyword List

Hit	KWIC
49	s more impersonal and general as she explores the nature of the mind, the body, the cellular memo- ry, "the a
50	antasy of a lesbian family, a book exploring the nature of passion among women, a shrine of the Goddess as l
51	oad category of a lesbian sensibility. The basic nature of relationships in feminist, lesbian/feminist, or
52	r its contemporary use to conceal the authentic nature of women. of "the popular associa tion of erudi
53	ng device. Subliminal carries, but in its very nature of causing us to divide our minds. penetrate w
54	rtha Harris' Lover); insistent questioning of the nature of "reality" and of which events within the context
55	h as she learns about, among other things , the nature of Irene's privileges. They both finish in a differe
56	world of the aged and the dying. What was the nature of this world that was dying? What did it mean for a
57	ifest a female vision. The suprem ely subversive nature of any writing by women, the dangerous defiance of t
58	umcan's writing any sign that the stereotypical nature of these images of women was being confronted and
59	n. I understand from very personal experience the nature of the institution that employs me and the boundari
60	briefly . And there is another obstacle: the very nature of desire. Desire for the unicorn, or for any other
61	Elena states the purpose of her journey. Yet the nature of Elena's search tempts us to supply our own ending
62	vement deals with these tasks will determine the nature of its impact on society. granted , most movements
63	the beginning closely reflected the contrasting nature of the groups their founders had been in. The women
64	e a highly successful exploration of the layered nature of the book: "There is an edge which marks where
65	r esh evidence in Beal's book which changes the nature of those actions . As I point ed out in the review,
66	nger and confusion stem from a vague grasp of the nature of spirit. This leads to a focus on learned ritual r
67	d both protect their position by mystifying the nature of their skills. As individuals with integrity, we
68	from a clear understandin g of the funda- mental nature of feminism: "The conflict is on the level of being
69	those energies being riveted unflinchingly on the nature of interrelationships among women. In previous volum
70	aith , not only to understand and speak about the nature of dialogue , but to under- take it, risking, possib
71	... Without contemplating last and late the true nature of poetry . The drive to connect. The dream of a co
72	othing which buttoned down the back: The physical nature of their garments provided a daily reminder of their
73	m- peri shable. Now if rights are founded in the nature of our moral being, then the mere circumstance of s
74	of a racial politics that denies the fundamental nature of sexual politics and gender- oppression. Througho
75	tled The Acci- dental Profession: "The accidental nature of publishing contributes to its spontaneity, liveli
76	experience of seen culture is shaped b of the nature of Wt alien to us which' being. She talks a , whic
77	ulture is shaped by a patriarchal idea if the nature of women, by an idea alist to us which attempts to
78	a history of patri- archy's judgments about the nature of matter, or the nature of nature, and places these
79	y's judgments about the nature of matter, or the nature of nature, and places these judgments side by side,
80	e, chronologically, with men's opinions about the nature of women. It continues the analogy between woman and
81	an reflect; the change that is inexorably in the nature of things; the change that each of us desires, if w
82	the same time , the Self becomes conscious of the nature of this knowledge and, seeing itself being itself,
83	f being itself, develops consciousness about the nature of consciousness. Then the journal is reflexive as
84	974) reminds us, causes us to wonder about the nature of man as well as the nature of lions and, Levi-Str
85	to wonder about the nature of man as well as the nature of lions and, Levi-strauss (1966) of the human to the ani- mal k
86	ld add, to ask all sorts of ques- tions about the nature of the rela- tionship of the human to the ani- mal k
87	ted images created for women by men. The hermetic nature of the journal permits the expulsion of public image
88	eaning of life's precariousness, the irrevocable nature of death (December 1915). After fate strikes, she re

File
chrysalis 4 No. 4 Article 15 Pg 111.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 Article 2 Pg 19.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 Article 2 Pg 19.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 Article 4 Pg 35.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 Article 4 Pg 35.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 Article 9 Pg 67.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 Article 9 Pg 67.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 (1) Table of Contents.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 (1) Table of Contents.txt
chrysalis 4 No. 4 (1) Table of Contents.txt
chrysalis 5 No. 5 Article 11 Pg 93.txt
chrysalis 5 No. 5 Article 4 Pg 37.txt
chrysalis 5 No. 5 Article 4 Pg 37.txt
chrysalis 5 No. 5 Article 5 Pg 43.txt
chrysalis 5 No. 5 Article 5 Pg 43.txt
chrysalis 5 No. 5 Article 8 Pg 71.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Table of contents.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Article 1 Pg 9.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Article 1 Pg 9.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Article 11 Pg 77.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Article 13 Pg 103.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Article 13 Pg 103.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Article 13 Pg 103.txt
chrysalis 6 No. 6 Article 6 Pg 39.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 1 Pg 9.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 1 Pg 9.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 11 Pg 87.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 12 Pg 103 (1).txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 12 Pg 103 (1).txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 12 Pg 103 (1).txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 12 Pg 103 (1).txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 12 Pg 103 (1).txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 12 Pg 103 (1).txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 4 Pg 39.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 4 Pg 39.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 4 Pg 39.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 4 Pg 39.txt
chrysalis 7 No. 7 Article 6 Pg 55.txt

Search Term Words Case Regex Concordance Hits Search Window Size

nature of 97 50

Start Stop Sort

Kwic Sort Level 1 1R Level 2 2R Level 3 3R

Total No. 156

Files Processed

Reset

Save Window

Exit



video of talk

available [here](#)

Presentation Notes:

Thank two people Heather Froelich and Whitney Esson as well as the many many digital historians and humanists mostly on twitter who helped me along the way. Started this during my sabbatical last year

Started out working on this question about women's culture in the early 1990s had the same question 20 years later origins of this idea. I had a pretty good idea after so many years of working with primary sources. In particular addressing historiographical question, what happened to women's liberation, centering on this idea advanced in the late 1980s that something called cultural feminism derailed the women's movement historically, while at same time feminist theorists argued cultural feminism was shoddy theory. According to historian Alice Echols "cultural feminism insisted on women's essential sameness to each other" "vilified" male "values" and "valorized" female bonding (244) and "evaded" rather than 'engaged' patriarchy."(5) The year before, Linda Alcoff argued cultural feminism "is an ideology of a female nature or a female essence used to "revalidate undervalued female attributes"

Connected to Daly female energy Rich the female body

Started looking at various digital ways of answering this first google books, then academic digitized periodicals, finally started digitizing my own, but still wasn't sure what I could do with them. I considered topic modeling but the more I got into things I realized I wanted to know HOW talked not just what they talked, which got me to corpus analytics and critical discourse analysis

Deconstruct to reconstruct, literally take apart these documents into their constituent elements, words the look at various

relationships. Added benefits of doing what I started doing as an oral historian during my undergraduate honors finding a way to capture what I believed to be most important about women's liberation movement, the way it transformed society in broad reaching and wide spread ways, which get lost in histories that reduce movement to certain people or groups (as we saw recently in PBS makers documentary)

Not much interested in definitions of digital history although admit a partiality to that of Princeton's' center for digital history, we find connections, was digital does is allow me to find things that I couldn't do with the my brain alone, which I got from Ted Underwood, as well as to look for that which is not there as much as what is there from Heather.

So here was a new methodology I could use on sources . CDA Critical discourse analysis, defined by Van Dijk as "the way social power abuse, dominance, and inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context."

Could I take an established way to look at discourse in linguistics, could I find a grammar of women's liberation, to figure out were various activists speaking the same language? Are there/what are similarities & differences in discourses of *OOB* & *Chrysalis*?

Introduce terms

word frequency = # times word appears

collocates = words that appear together at frequency greater than random chance

clusters = words that appear together

keywords = unusually frequent words in a corpus when
measured against reference corpus

OOB 1837 Files, 1525881 words

Chrysalis 156 files, 734,479 words

date matched Oct 1978 to April 1980

walk through spreadsheet collocates clusters

is 70% similar enough to say speaking the same language in
both periodicals? What about 50% similar? What about how
language is used as revealed by keyness and concordances?