CORPUS-BASED APPROACH FOR ANALYSIS OF THE STRUCTURE OF STATIC VISUAL NARRATIVES

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NARRATIVE

Narrative is "a **mentally** produced **organization** largely (..) dependent upon the cognizing activities of an experiential or perceiving subject" *(Flanagan, 2008)*

Static visual narrative — pictures, drawings, photography that can make **narrative mental model** (representation)

» In order to access and analyze the mental model of narrative, it must be presented in an external form of narrative — pictures or texts.

CATEGORIES

Narrative consists of:

» specific **characters**,

» two or more temporally or causally linked **events** represented and/or inferred,

» storyworld (**time** and **space**),

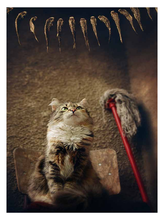
» **immersion** into the storyworld,

» narrator and narratee.

CATEGORIES
CHAR – visible character
ICHAR – imagined character
ACT – action, event
IPACT – imagined past action
IFACT – imagined future action
IACT – imagined action
OBJ – visible object
IOBJ – imagined object
SP – visible space
ISP – imagined space
TIME – temporal elements
EMO – emotions, immersion
KNOW – knowledge, memories
LINK – reference to the other narrative
OP – opinion
P – pause in the speach

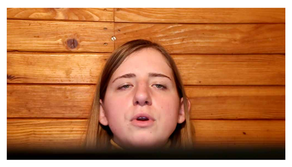
TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

1 PRESENTATION



Presentation of the picture
(on a computer screen)

2 DESCRIPTION



Describing picture
What do you see?
(protocol analysis)

3 TRANSCRIPTION

Transcribing
spoken text

*Cat's P biggest joy. P Fish P hung P on a thread. P Sitting and patiently guarding. P A broom in the background, P maybe for cleaning when the party is over.**

**translated from Latvian*

4 CODING

TEXT	CATEGORY	CODE	ANNOTATION
Cat's	CHAR	[CHAR]	<char>Cat's</char>
P	P	[P]	P
biggest joy.	EMO	[EMO]	<emo>biggest joy.</emo>
P	P	[P]	P
Fish	OBJ	[OBJ]	<obj>Fish</obj>
P	P	[P]	P
hanged	IPACT	[IPACT]	<ipact>hung</ipact>
P	P	[P]	P
on a thread.	IOBJ	[IOBJ]	<iobj>on a thread.</iobj>
P	P	[P]	P
Sitting	ACT	[ACT]	<act>Sitting</act>
and patiently	EMO	[EMO]	<emo>and patiently</emo>
guarding.	ACT	[ACT]	<act>guarding</act>
P	P	[P]	P
A broom	OBJ	[OBJ]	<obj>A broom</obj>
in the back-ground.	SP	[SP]	<sp>in the background.</sp>

Coding using categories
(content analysis)

5 TRANSFORMATION

Transformation

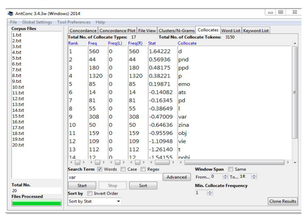
[CHAR] [P] [EMO] [P] [OBJ] [P] [IPACT] [P] [IOBJ] [P] [ACT] [EMO] [ACT] [P] [OBJ] [SP] [P] [OP] [IFACT] [TIME] [TIME] [IACT] [IPACT]

or annotation

<char>Cat's </char> P <emo>biggest joy.</emo> P <obj>Fish</obj> P <ipact>hung</ipact> P ...

6 CORPUS LINGUISTICS

2.1. [META] [P] [OBJ] [P] [OBJ] ...
2.2. [CHAR] [SP] [P] [OP] [P] ...
2.3. [CHAR] [LINK] [P] [OP] ...
...



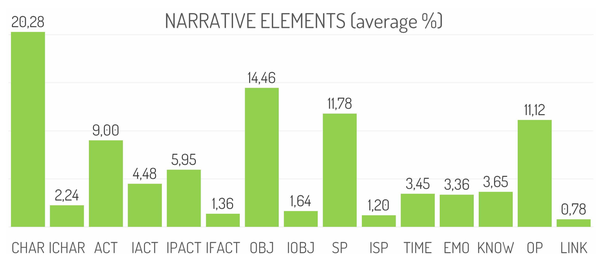
Corpus linguistics
tools (AntConc)

4 manual ( ) and 2 automatic ( ) steps = approx. 6 h transformation for each 20 min of the spoken text

RESULTS

50 pictures, 20 participants = 1000 texts

Frequencies of the elements in texts represent how important they are in the mental model of narrative



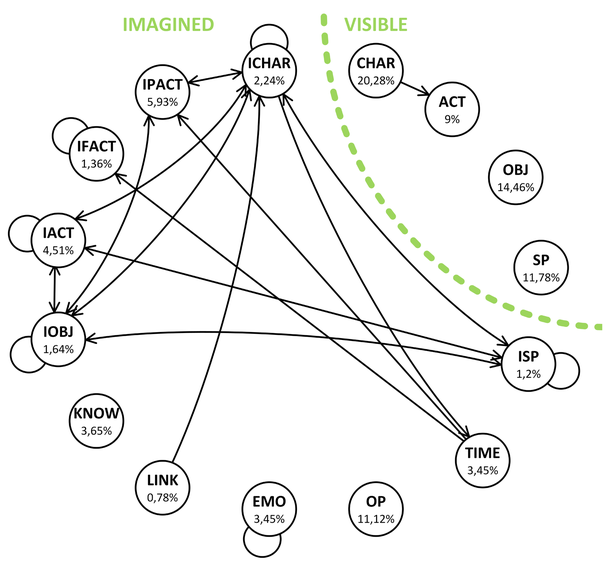
Collocations – how those elements are interrelated within the mental structure

» Close element relations in the spoken text can indicate close relations in mental model

» search window: 1 word to the right

» stat value: >1 (10% highest of all links)

» deeper qualitative analysis of the content of element pairs



CONCLUSIONS

» In the case when there are only a few texts to be analyzed, there is no need for using corpus methods because of the **manual processes** required for transforming the material into the proper format.

» In a case when there is a larger amount of texts that are similar in their length, content and structure, use of the corpus-based approach can offer a **faster and more precise way for obtaining empirically valid results**.

» The mental model of narrative in the case of static visual material consists of **all narrative elements**.

» Imagined elements have **stronger links** between them than visible elements.

REFERENCES

» References

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