Tracking Literary Reputation with Text Analysis Tools

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Introduction

This project marries two different research tracks
- Literary reputation
  - § How is reputation made or lost?
- Sentiment extraction
  - § How can computational tools calculate the sentiment expressed in a document?

Literary reputation

- "Why does some literature supposedly transcend the ages and so constitute 'culture' while other once-popular books languish in disuse?" (Tuchman & Fortin 1989: 1)
- Can we correlate what is written about an author and his/her work to the author's reputation and subsequent canonicity?

Goals of the project
- Examine the critical reviews of six authors writing in the first half of the 20th century
  - § Three are no longer part of the canon, although they were once considered important

John Galsworthy (1867-1933) Marie Corelli (1855-1924) Arnold Bennett (1867-1931)

  - § Three have an upward trajectory to their careers

D. H. Lawrence (1885–1930) Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)

- Map information contained in the critical texts to the authors' reputation

Sentiment extraction

  - § 330 documents scanned (480,000 words)

Methods

Contribution