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A Study of the Presence of Evaluative Adjectives in 19th- and 20th-Century Romance and Terror Novels

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ABSTRACT

Based on corpus research, this study aims to investigate whether evaluative adjectives differ in frequency in the literary genres of romance and terror. The hypothesis is that the use of these adjectives is context-dependent, causing them to be more frequent in romance novels. The study also analyses the nouns that accompany these evaluative adjectives, classifies them into common, concrete, or abstract nouns, and compares them between the two genres. The second hypothesis argues that the nouns that accompany evaluative adjectives in the romance genre are more abstract than in terror. The analysis reveals that terror texts have 1.66% more evaluative adjectives than romance, contrary to the first hypothesis. This analysis also shows that there are more abstract nouns that accompany evaluative adjectives in terror novels than in the romance ones, negating the second assumption. As a main conclusion, the results prove that context is not relevant when analysing evaluative adjectives in this type of texts.

Keywords: Corpus, Evaluative Adjective, Noun, Genre, Novel.

RESUMEN

Basándose en la investigación de corpus, este estudio pretende investigar si los adjetivos evaluativos difieren en frecuencia en los géneros literarios de romance y terror. La hipótesis es que el uso de estos adjetivos depende del contexto, por lo que son más frecuentes en las novelas románticas. El estudio también analiza los sustantivos que acompañan a estos adjetivos valorativos, los clasifica en comunes, concretos o abstractos, y los compara entre los dos géneros. La segunda hipótesis sostiene que los sustantivos que acompañan a los adjetivos evaluativos en el género romántico son más abstractos que en el terror. El análisis revela que los textos de terror tienen un 1,66% más de adjetivos valorativos que los de romance, contrario a la primera hipótesis. Este análisis también muestra que hay más sustantivos abstractos que acompañan a los adjetivos evaluativos en las novelas de terror, negando la segunda hipótesis. Como conclusión principal, los resultados demuestran que el contexto no es relevante a la hora de analizar los adjetivos evaluativos en este tipo de textos.

Palabras clave: Corpus, Adjetivo Evaluativo, Sustantivo, Género, Novela

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIGURES

GRAPHS

TABLES

1. Introduction

Linguistics is a science used for studying human language. It is quite interesting that linguistics opens a world of possibilities for analysing languages, considering that, within languages, numerous factors can be studied, whether from a literary or linguistic point of view. These two aspects are the bases of this investigation which merge in the paper to analyse nouns and adjectives, since the main analysis is about evaluative adjectives and the nouns that accompany these adjectives. Xiao states that the corpus is an important tool for extracting linguistic data in natural language processing (147). Thus, the linguistic knowledge of evaluative adjectives can be gathered from available corpora or from a corpus that is compiled manually, which we did for the present study. Evaluative adjectives were searched in a compiled corpus of novels and linguistic tools were used to analyse these adjectives. The term evaluation has been used as defined by Hunston and Thompson, who see evaluation as a means of expressing the speaker or writer's attitude and feelings toward the language they produce (5). Marzá argues that although there are many linguistic features that can make a sentence evaluative, adjectives are the most commonly used and useful tool for evaluating a sentence (100). The author Gryzhak asserts that evaluative adjectives carry in their use an implication of positive or negative attitude or evaluation on the part of the writer. They give an emotive or subjective characterization of the qualities of the referent, revealing the personal attitude of the writer or speaker toward the described object (85).

In this paper, we analysed the evaluative adjectives that were extracted from forty novels, which belong to two genres, namely romance and terror. We know that novels have been studied from a literary point of view, since there are several works that analyse the characters in novels, or the clothes worn by these characters, for instance. It is important to declare that we have not found any studies from a linguistic point of view that are focused on the analysis of evaluative adjectives within the category of prose in these two genres, either in romance or terror novels; therefore, there is a great space to conduct research on this topic, and this is the reason this investigation was made. In this sense, the research shows how evaluative adjectives behave in two different genres. Considering these aspects, the present study has two aims; the first is to show that the presence of evaluative adjectives depends on the context and that these

adjectives are more frequent in romance texts than in horror texts, since the usage of these evaluative adjectives is conditioned by the context. The second aim is to analyse the classification of the nouns that accompany these adjectives, into common, concrete, and abstract, and to compare them in the novels of romance and terror, considering that there are more abstract nouns in the novels of romance than in the terror texts. The main idea is to show that in romance novels nouns are more abstract, as they describe romantic feelings, while in terror novels they are more concrete.

This work consists of five sections. The first one is the Theoretical background, where the main concepts of the study are explained and defined. It is followed by the State of the Art, where the previous studies that are related with the topic of the study are illustrated. Next, in Methodology and Materials, the different phases that were followed to carry out this study are exposed. The following section is Results and Discussion, where there is a complete analysis of the results and the proper explanations. Finally, in the Conclusion, there is a general interpretation of the paper.

2. Theoretical background

In this part, we can distinguish two different sections of ideas. The first refers to literature and genre and the second to linguistic aspects, where terms like adjectives, evaluative adjectives, and nouns are defined. Concerning the first section, as Rexroth argues, literature is a body of written works, which has traditionally been applied to those imaginative compositions of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of their authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of their execution. Rexroth considers that literature may be classified according to a variety of systems, including language, national origin, historical period, genre, and subject matter (Rexroth). In his definition we can see that literature can be classified in relation to genre, so first we must understand what genre means.

> To sum up, each genre is an instance of a successful achievement of a specific communicative purpose using conventionalized knowledge of linguistic and discoursal resources. Since each genre, in certain important respects, structures the narrow world of experience or reality in a particular way, the implication is that the same experience or reality will require a different way of structuring, if one were to operate in a different genre. While it is true that many professional writers do manage to exploit genre constraints to achieve effectiveness and originality in their writing, most of them still operate well within a broad range of generic rules and conventions." (Bhatia 53).

Literature has three different literary genres that are a category of literary composition, which are poetry, prose, and drama. "Prose is essentially identified as written text that aligns with the flow of conversation in sentence and paragraph form, as opposed to verses and stanzas in poetry" (Nordquist). Prose has a subgenre, the novel, which is a narrative work that tells a story about specific human experiences, which can be real or not. There are diverse types of novels, and in this research we have centred our analysis in terror and romance novels. Prahl explains that terror novels are created to induce a kind of fear, suspense, or psychological terror in the reader, while in the romance type, the main idea is love. They tell a story of romantic love, and their language is related to feelings of passion (Prahl).

Regarding the second area, where we have explored the linguistic aspects, we have focused our attention on the adjectives and the nouns. Biber et al. explain that there are three major families of words, according to their main function and their grammatical

behaviour (*Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English* 15). These are lexical words, function words, and inserts. Lexical words are the main carriers of information in a text or speech act, and they can be subdivided into these word classes: nouns, lexical verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

Adjectives and nouns have been the two targets of the study and we focused our attention on them. First on the adjectives and then on the nouns. Biber et al. maintain that the adjectives can be distinguished by its morphological, syntactic, and semantic features (*Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English* 188). The morphological characteristic is related to the form that a word has. There are several adjectives that can take the inflectional suffixes -er (comparative) and -est (superlative). Adjectives can also be complex in morphology, as derived adjectives with suffixes such as -able, -ful or -al, and compound adjectives like 'home-made' also exist. Syntactic characteristics refer to the syntactic roles that a word plays in phrases or other higher units, since adjectives can have attributive and predicative syntactic roles. Finally, the semantic features are applied to what type (s) of meaning a word conveys. The main feature of adjectives is the fact that they describe qualities, since they typically characterize the referent of a nominal expression such as 'good doctor'.

Biber et al. state that there are two important semantic categories of adjectives, classifiers, and descriptors (*Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English* 197). Classifiers limit or restrict the referent of a noun, rather than describing characteristics, while descriptors, which have been analysed in the paper, are adjectives that describe the characteristics of the referent, such as colour, size and weight, chronology and age, emotion, and other characteristics. There are two significant classifications of evaluative adjectives in two important English grammars. In the first, according to Quirk et al., we may distinguish a group of emotive, evaluative, or subjective adjectives such as lovely, nice, wonderful, terrible, horrible, or nasty (1339). In the second grammar, Biber et al. maintain that evaluative adjectives, also called emotive descriptors, denote judgements, emotions, and emphasis. Examples of these adjectives are bad, beautiful, fine, great, nice, good, or poor (*Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English* 197). Evaluative descriptors are usually more based on subjective opinions than objective ones, so the concept of subjective language must be explained.

In the words of Quirk et al. "Subjective language is language used to express private states in the context of a text or conversation. Private state is a general covering term for opinions, evaluations, emotions, and speculations" (205).

It has been explained what an adjective is in the previous paragraphs, so the following step is to define what a noun is. As well as adjectives, nouns also belong to the lexical category. Biber et al. argue that morphologically, nouns have inflectional suffixes for plural number and for genitive case like in 'Sara's clothes', syntactically, nouns can occur as the head of the noun phrase, and semantically, nouns commonly refer to concrete, physical entities such as objects or people. They can also denote abstract entities, such as qualities and states (*Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English* 21).Nouns are grouped into different classes, and in this research, the group of concrete vs. abstract nouns has been analysed. Biber et al. state that concrete nouns refer to physical entities or substances; these are more 'physical' than abstract nouns, while abstract nouns refer to abstractions such as events, states, times, and qualities (57). This paper has also focused on proper nouns, which, as Biber et al. argue, need no article or plural form because they only name an individual, more precisely, a specific person or place, like 'David' or 'Chicago' (57). Proper nouns refer to people, places, and organisations.

Finally, in this part, we explain what corpus Linguistics (CL) and corpus are. CL is a branch of applied linguistics that uses a large collection of natural texts, known as corpus, which are analysed to study the language in use through corpora. Therefore, the factor that is studied is the real use of the language, which can be said or written, rather than hypothesizing about what they may actually have produced. Corpus Linguistics analyses the actual patterns of use in natural texts and, to do this, it uses a corpus as the basis for analysis. The present paper is a corpus-based study because, as Bognini-Bonelli states, corpus-based studies typically use corpus data in order to explore a theory or hypothesis, aiming to validate it, refute it, or refine it (84-85). The definition of a corpus is explained by Wynne, who considers that a corpus is a collection of pieces of language that are selected and ordered according to explicit linguistic criteria in order to be used as a sample of the language. A corpus is a set of spoken or written texts of natural and unrestricted language, stored in an electronic format in a homogeneous way. (23).

Every linguistic analysis depends on both quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques. For this reason, this paper has a quantitative and qualitative investigation. Quantitative refers to the process of collecting, analysing, and interpreting the data, since there must be a detailed and complete description of the investigation. Qualitative deals with the opinion of the author, which is based on the data that he extracts from the analysis.

A principal criterion that must be considered when selecting the texts is the representativity, since it is a crucial point at the time of compiling a corpus. There are two types of representativeness, quantitative and qualitative. Both refer to the fact that the selection of texts, in addition to appropriate criteria, must be based on statistical parameters which ensure that the texts represent the variety of dialect that is being studied because the corpus must be a representative sample of the language. We should always bear in mind that the assumption of representativeness 'must be regarded largely as an act of faith' (Leech 2), as at present we have no means of ensuring it, or even evaluating it objectively (Tognini-Bonelli 57), since until now academics have failed to resolve the questions of representativeness and ideal size. We seem doomed to build larger and larger corpora at the risk of losing the wood for the trees (Williams 44). The size of a corpus is an internal criterion of each linguist since it is possible to determine that the corpus has an adequate size after the corpus has been compiled, during the compilation process, or even during the analysis.

3. State of the art

Previous research on evaluative adjectives has centered more on investigations from the grammatical point of view; however, there are not many studies that are applied to literary studies. Among the ones that are applied to these studies, they focus mainly on the genre of prose, and the closest investigations that were found are those described in the following lines.

In the study conducted by Paternoster and Fitzmaurice in 2019, the evaluative adjectives are analysed in the genre of prose, more concretely, in nine popular etiquette books published in the years 1877-1914, with the main purpose of examination of the positive evaluative adjectives related to politeness. The study of the semantic fields related to politeness allows the authors to create a conceptual map of evaluative adjectives that encapsulates the values that are important in that period. This kind of books are chosen as they contain a high number of evaluative adjectives to judge behaviour as good or bad, exemplary or not, preferable or avoidable. In this study, the evaluative adjectives are analysed to investigate how writers employed this kind of adjectives in the etiquette books (Paternoster and Fitzmaurice).

In the study by Gryzhak in 2018 in the genre of prose fiction, the purpose is the analysis of evaluative adjectives used in the description of physical appearance, clothing, personal qualities, intelligence and manners of female characters in English prose fiction of the nineteenth century. The purpose of the paper is to show how novelists of the Victorian era of the development of English literature described women characters. The first aim is to study what evaluative adjectives were mostly employed by the authors in the portrayals of women in each novel and whether the authors prefer positive or negative characterisation of female characters. The second one is to examine if there are any gender-specific peculiarities in the use of evaluative adjectives in the portrayal of women in the novels, to see if there are any gender differences. The research is based on the corpus of evaluative adjectives retrieved and classified from the four novels written in the Victorian era of the English literature (1830-1901): E. Bronte's Wuthering Heights, W. M. Thackeray's Vanity Fair, E. Gaskell's Cranford, and C. Dickens' Bleak House.

The corpus findings show that the examination of the corpus allowed Gryzhak to reveal that there are no significant differences between the writers in the choice of the most frequently used adjectives of positive evaluation and far more variations of adjectives giving a negative evaluation of women characters. The results also reveal that the authors' choice of the most frequent lexemes creates the image of a woman as a weak, helpless creature, which corresponds to the attitude towards women in Victorian society. Finally, it is also worth noting that male writers preferred to use adjectives that give a general positive or negative characterisation of female characters, while female writers preferred negative adjectives in portraying the emotional states or feelings of the heroines. All authors used the smallest number of adjectives to characterize the intellectual abilities and clothing of women in a positive or negative way. It may be concluded that the research only delineated the possible ways to study evaluative adjectives, and further investigations will allow a better understanding of these lexemes (Gryzhak).

In relation to the investigations made from the grammatical point of view, so far, adjectives have been categorized according to morphological, functional, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic criteria. In this aspect, there are several investigations that participate in the extraction of evaluative adjectives, and to do this, the researchers apply several methods and get different results. In this part, there are three studies that are related to the present analysis because they focus their research on analysing evaluative adjectives from a semantic and a syntactic point of view. The contents of each study are described, and the interpretations of the different analyses are displayed.

3.1. Corpus-Based Analysis of the Most Frequent Adjectives in Academic Texts (Kartal 2015)

Kartal considers that evaluative adjectives constitute a coherent semantic and syntactic class to look for evaluativity. The author argues that there are many linguistic features that can make a sentence evaluative; however, adjectives are the most frequently used and important tool for evaluating a sentence. Kartal bases his study on the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), and in his investigation he has three research questions. The first is to determine the most frequent adjectives used in academic texts, the second is to investigate whether the evaluative adjectives differ in frequency and

function in social sciences, technology, and medical sciences, and the third is to see how many of the frequent adjectives in academic texts are evaluative. To do this study, Kartal identified evaluative adjectives from a list of 100 adjectives that are used most frequently in the texts.

In relation to the first research question, a total of 839 adjectives were searched, comprising the list of frequently used adjectives in Coca, and 334 of the adjectives were found to appear more frequently in the academic subcorpus than in other subcorpora (spoken, fiction, magazine and newspaper). It shows that almost 40% of the most frequently used 839 adjectives are mostly found in the academic subcorpus of COCA.

Regarding research question two, Kartal wonders if there are differences between social sciences, technology, and medical sciences in terms of frequency and functions of the evaluative adjectives, and he found that evaluative adjectives in humanities and social sciences are used more frequently than in the natural sciences. Finally, in relation to research question three, the frequency of evaluative adjectives in 100 adjectives most frequently used was also listed and it was found that almost 40% of the adjectives are evaluative. Of the 839 adjectives preliminarily taken from the top 5,000 frequent words in COCA, 334 of the adjectives were evaluative. The percentage of evaluative adjectives was 39.80%.

3.2. Evaluative adjectives in a corpus of Greek opinion articles (Fragaki 2011)

The aim of the paper is to help to make a right description of the category of evaluative adjectives, which are obtained from the Corpus of Greek texts (CGT), a reference corpus of Greek, more concretely, from opinion articles that account for 450,576 words. The main idea of Fragaki is that either these evaluative adjectives belong to the category of descriptive adjectives or that they have the primary features of descriptive adjectives, like positive or negative meaning, or gradability. This category consists of four subgroups, namely, modal adjectives, comment adjectives, intensifying adjectives, and adjectives of importance. The author chooses the adjectives to analyse evaluation, since they are typically considered as a particularly important and frequent means of evaluation.

The results of the analysis of Fragaki show that evaluative adjectives are not a category within descriptive adjectives, as there is a special category of adjectives that have evaluation as an exclusive function, so evaluative adjectives belong to a category, and descriptive adjectives to another category. All adjectives have the potential to function as devices of evaluation by being used in patterns or by acquiring features that are characteristic of evaluative adjectives. This idea is summarized in the figure below, where evaluative adjectives are used for evaluation relating to the parameters of comment, modality, intensification, and importance, while descriptive adjectives are mainly restricted to serve the parameter of value.
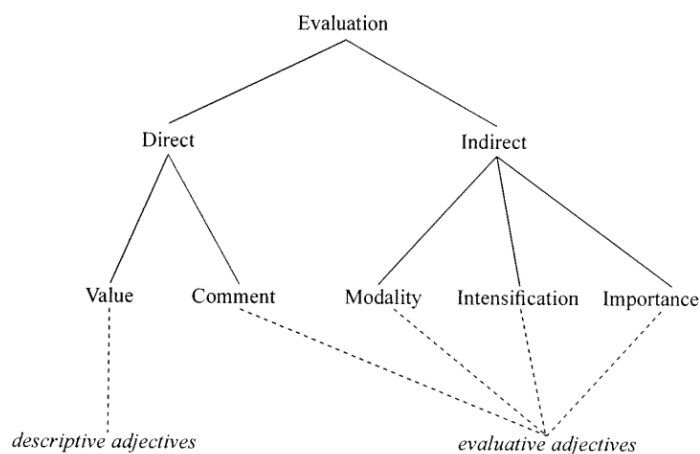

Figure 1 Adjectives and evaluation parameters in the corpus. Source: Fragaki (2011)

The author concludes that the study of evaluative adjectives with the use of corpora can offer a systematic view of evaluation based on the categorization of adjectives according to their unique features and functions. In particular, several categories of adjectives have been proposed to have an evaluative role, although a separate category of evaluative adjectives has been identified with this specialized role. Thus, relating adjective categories to functions can help to predict their potential and their specific role as devices of evaluation in text.

3.3. Comprehensive corpus-based Study of the Use of Evaluative Adjectives in Promotional Hotel Websites (Marzá 2011)

The purpose of the paper is to analyse and qualify the expected high incidence of evaluative adjectives in promotional hotel websites. The paper is a study of a corpus,

which investigates the role that these adjectives play in this genre, how they work, their actual usage, and possible classification, as well as the role they take in persuading the reader. The author states that although there are many linguistic features that can make a sentence evaluative, adjectives are the most frequently used and valuable tool for evaluating a sentence. This analysis is based on their syntactic behaviour, how they are structured in the sentence, and on their recurrent collocational patterns. It also provides a clearer understanding of the way they are portrayed in the genre (hotel websites) and in the type of discourse being analysed, which is promotional. As this paper tries to show, adjectives seem to play a paramount role both in argumentation and persuasion; when convincing, reasoning, narrating, and telling, adjectives are always present, and thus have a strong interpersonal dimension. Adjectives can account for merely objective or more subjective features, and as such, they can reveal much of the speaker/writer's attitude towards textual content. Consequently, they are widely used in those instances of discourse aimed at persuading the reader that the topic being dealt with is of interest and that what is being put forward is valuable and worth seeing.

The identification of adjectives (in general) among the 2000 types[1] of highest frequency in the corpus resulted in 290 types of adjectives. From these 290 preliminarily retrieved "general" adjective types, a subsequent manual selection showed that 130 of them were evaluative adjective types, that is, 45.2% of the most frequent adjective types in the corpus would be purely evaluative. According to these corpus counts, it can thus be stated that the evaluative adjectives accounted for approximately half of the adjectives (in general) in the corpus. Nevertheless, this frequency is still a bit lower than the author expected, since it was initially hypothesised that in promotional genres subjective persuasive language in the form of adjectives would play a more relevant role.

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[1] Number of different words appearing in the corpus or in a part of it.

Universidad de Valladolid   Celia Remacha García

4. Methodology and Materials

In this part of the paper, we explain the materials and tools, like the corpus and the other digital resources, that have been used to do the analysis. These are followed by the methodology used to perform the analysis.

The corpus was manually compiled from forty texts written in British English, making it a monolingual corpus. This study is specialized by genre (novel) and topic, which are romance and terror. These texts describe the general use of the language of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Since the novels were written by different British authors, there is no bias towards a specific writer. The authors are not 'novel', but they are reputable in literature, and they are renowned people from those centuries. They have been studied broadly in the literature of the past and present. These writers appear in the syllabus of the subjects of British novels of the degrees of English Studies of Valladolid, León, and Madrid, which makes them important authors to study. The criteria followed were to search for forty British novels in total, twenty written in the nineteenth century, and twenty written in the twentieth century, obtaining a total of forty novels written by different British authors. They are useful to describe the language used by the people of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Since the novels belong to two different centuries, it is a diachronic corpus. For the analysis, the use of computers and the usage of automatic and interactive techniques have been fundamental.

The principal material of the study is the corpus, which in this case is named 'Corpus of British Novels'. The criteria of selection were considered by the investigators before the process of compilation of the corpus, as the texts that form the corpus have been selected according to a certain principle for the purpose of the research, to be used as a representative sample of the British language for the study of the linguistic analysis. The following tools and resources were used in this research:

  Project Gutenberg is an American online library of free eBooks. This library was the first provider of free electronic books in 1971, when Michael Hart founded Project Gutenberg. The repository was developed with the aim of creating a library of free eBooks from books that already exist physically.

These eBooks have been available on the Internet ever since, and they are free of charge. New Project Gutenberg eBooks are typically digitized versions of books that have been published in the past years and for which any US copyright has expired (Project Gutenberg).

 ReCor (LexyTrad), a software application which is an effective solution to determine a posteriori the minimum size of a corpus or textual collection, independently of the language or textual genre of that collection, thus establishing the minimum threshold of representativeness through an algorithm (N-Cor) of analysis of lexical density as a function of the incremental increase of the corpus for the first time.

 Sketch Engine (Adam Kilgarriff, Jakubíček and Kovář) is a valuable tool to explore how language works. Its algorithms analyse authentic texts of billions of words (text corpora) to instantly identify what is typical in language and what is rare, unusual, or emerging usage. It is also designed for text analysis or text mining applications.

 Excel (Microsoft) was used to analyse all the data and to show the results graphically. Three workbooks were generated: 'Adjectives.xlsx', 'Nouns.xlsx', and 'Texts.xlsx'.

With regard to the methodology, Biber, Conrad, and Reppen assert that there are four steps when compiling a corpus *(Corpus Linguistics: Investigating Language Structural and Use* 250). The first is finding the data, the second is downloading the texts, then cleaning them (erasing the hyperlinks, images, etc.), and finally storing the data. This results in having the texts in an electronic format, and they can be analysed by different programs, which is convenient for the linguist. This corpus consists of forty novels that were searched in Project Gutenberg. Twenty texts of each genre, terror, and romance, were used to create the Corpus of British Novels. They were downloaded from the online library Project Gutenberg and cleaned, so they were saved as TXT files with UTF-8 encoding. The pictures, or hyperlinks that they had were eliminated, so the texts were cleaned and ready to be read by the different programs. After this process, they were stored in two different subfolders, each one for each subcorpora named romance and terror within the Corpus with an identification code that includes information about the texts. The elements that are included in the name of the files to identify the texts are

13

as follows: first there is the number of the text (from 01 to 20), followed by an "R" if the text belongs to romance, or a "T", if the text belongs to terror. Then comes the author's surname and finally the publication date. An example would be: "01RAusten1813". The novels are ordered in such a way that the first one that was published is the first. This information is available on 'Texts.xlsx'.

#	Title	Author	Year	Word Count	Percentage
1	Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen	1813	121,538	2.58%
2	The Bride of Lammermoor	Walter Scott	1819	122,635	2.60%
3	Jane Eyre	Charlotte Brontë	1847	184,457	3.91%
4	Wuthering Heights	Emily Brontë	1847	115,909	2.46%
5	The Moorland Cottage	Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell	1850	41,322	0.88%
6	Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	1860	184,355	3.91%
7	The Mill on the Floss	George Eliot	1880	206,058	4.37%
8	She	H. Haggard	1886	112,108	2.38%
9	Perlycross: A Tale of the Western Hills	R. D. Blackmore	1894	183,806	3.90%
10	Jude the Obscure	Thomas Hardy	1895	144,034	3.05%
11	A Room with a View	E. M. Foster	1908	66,430	1.41%
12	The Blue Lagoon	Henry de Vere Stacpoole	1908	62,059	1.32%
13	Ann Veronica	H. G. Wells	1909	96,020	2.04%
14	Only a Girl's Love	Charles Garvice	1911	139,061	2.95%
15	His Official Fiancée	Berta Ruck	1914	79,918	1.69%
16	The Young Visiters	Daisy Ashford	1919	12,660	0.27%
17	The Sheik	Edith Maude Hull	1919	87,822	1.86%
18	Night and Day	Virginia Woolf	1919	166,184	3.52%
19	The Lost Girl	D. H. Lawrence	1920	135,359	2.87%
20	The Black Moth	Georgette Heyer	1921	92,817	1.97%
Total				2,354,552	49.93%

Table 1 Romance novels in the romance subcorpus

| #	Title	Author	Year	Word Count	Percentage
1	Nightmare Abbey	Thomas Peacock	1818	27,330	0.58%
2	Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	1818	74,981	1.59%
3	Melmoth the Wanderer: A Tale	Charles Marturin	1820	238,414	5.06%
4	The Phantom Ship	Captain Frederic Marryat	1839	139,404	2.96%
5	Varney the Vampire	Thomas Peckett Prest	1845	327,659	6.95%
6	The String of Pearls	James Malcom Rymer	1847	436,573	9.26%
7	Uncle Silas	J. S. Le Fanu	1864	162,184	3.44%
8	The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hide	Robert Louis Stevenson	1886	25,584	0.54%
9	The Beetle	Richard Marsh	1897	109,735	2.33%
10	Dracula	Bram Stoker	1897	160,815	3.41%
11	The Enchanted Castle	E. Nesbit	1907	68,351	1.45%
12	The Ghost Pirates	William Hope Hodgson	1909	47,431	1.01%
13	The Return	Walter de la Mare	1910	79,680	1.69%
14	Widdershins	Oliver Onions	1911	78,328	1.66%
15	The Ghost Ship	Richard Middleton	1912	52,172	1.11%
16	Animal Ghosts	Elliot O'Donnell	1913	65,269	1.38%
17	Day and Night Stories	Algernon Blackwood	1917	72,660	1.54%
18	Tales of Terror	Arthur Conan Doyle	1922	35,480	0.75%
19	The House of Souls	Arthur Machen	1922	86,571	1.84%
20	Visible and Invisible	E. F. Benson	1923	72,809	1.54%
Total				**2,361,430**	**50.07%**

Table 2 Terror novels in the terror subcorpus

Table 1 and Table 2 show the different novels with their names, author, year when they were published, quantity of words that they have, and the percentage that they represent in the corpus.

The next step was to examine whether the corpus had the right size to be representative since it is essential to ensure that the achieved number of documents and words is sufficient. To measure the size, a reliable and objective method had to be used; for this reason, an analysis of lexical density related with the number of texts to be included was made.

Universidad de Valladolid   Celia Remacha García

To observe the level of representativeness, ReCor was used. The program illustrates the level of representativeness in a simple graph form. The ratio type/token is used in the program ReCor, as the relation between the actual number of different words (types/tokens) is an indicator of lexical density or richness.

For the correct functioning of ReCor, apart from the selection of the files of the corpus, it was necessary to create three output files before starting the procedure. In each of them, specific parameters were saved: statistical analysis, words in alphabetical order, and words in frequency order. In addition to this, two graphs A and B are printed on the screen. The lines grow exponentially at first and stabilize as they approach zero, which proves that the corpus is representative.
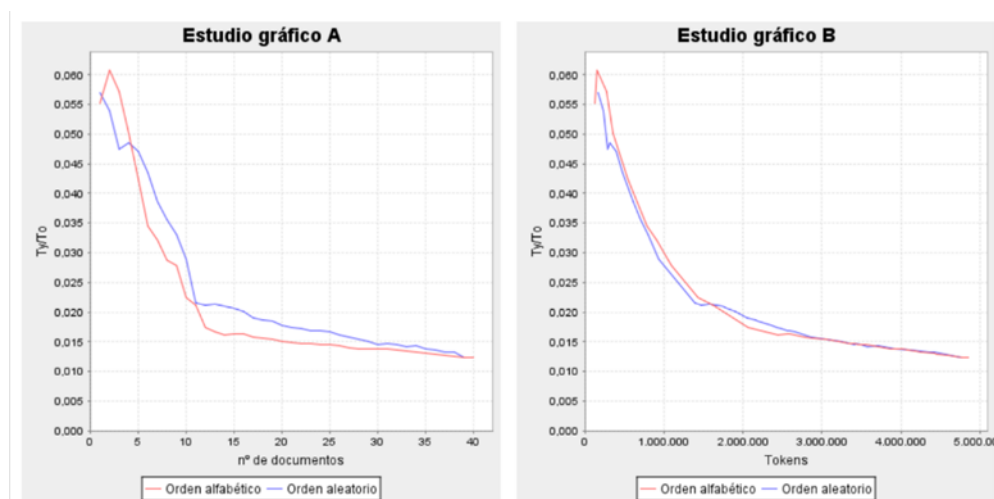
Graph 1 Graphical representation of the whole corpus (LexyTrad)

We can observe in Graph 1, in the Graphical Representation A, that the number of files selected is shown on the horizontal axis, while the vertical axis shows the proportion of the types, that is, the ratio between types and tokens. The red line indicates the ordered files alphabetically, while the blue line indicates the files introduced randomly. At the point where both lines stabilize, it is possible to state that the corpus is representative and to see how many texts and words (tokens) produce this result. In the Graphical Representation B, the number of tokens is shown on the horizontal axis. This graph can be used to determine the total number of words that should be set for the minimum size of the collection. According to Graph A, the corpus begins to be representative from the point of the inclusion of 15 documents, since the curve hardly varies either before or after this number, in other words, this is the point where the lines stabilise and are

Universidad de Valladolid   Celia Remacha García

closest to zero. To conclude, Graph B shows the minimum total number of words (tokens) necessary for the corpus to be considered representative, which in this case is approximately 1200000 words.

The next step was uploading the corpus to the program Sketch Engine (Adam Kilgarriff, Jakubíček and Kovář). The first problem that was encountered was that this program only allows the user to upload a corpus with one million words, so after asking the supervisor of the University of Valladolid, we were granted more space to compile the corpus. With this program, the corpus was lemmatized and annotated by POS (part of speech) automatically, which gives value to the texts, and adds information. In this way, the program simplified the search for researchers and made it easier to perform an in-depth analysis.

Using Sketch Engine, adjectives were searched first, and with the tool 'Word List' a list of the most frequent adjectives was obtained. With this list of the most frequent adjectives, following the criteria of the Grammar of Biber et al. the evaluative adjectives were obtained, and they were classified following this criterion *(Student Grammar of Spoken and Written English* 197). After analysing the evaluative adjectives of the novels, with the tool 'Word Sketch Difference' we analysed the nouns of the two subcorpora that follow these evaluative adjectives, and we classified them into proper, common, and abstract, following the criteria of this Grammar (57-58).

5. Results and Discussion

5.1. Adjectives

The length of both subcorpora, romance and terror, is the same (the difference of tokens is of 0.003%), the total sum of tokens is approximately 4.7 million. Absolute frequencies have been used for the operations since the size of both subcorpora is similar and the results are almost identical. After the compilation of the corpus, all the adjectives composing it were extracted and the evaluative adjectives were searched. The main objective was to evaluate the adjectives to analyse the evaluativity, as expressed in the studies of Kartal, Fragaki, and Marzá, who identify and analyse the evaluative adjectives. The 25 most frequent adjectives were chosen and a representativeness of 55.28% was achieved, since the sum of the occurrences of all the adjectives up to the last one selected accounted for this percentage of the total number of adjectives in the corpus. After this, the absolute frequency and the relative frequency of the 25 most frequent evaluative adjectives were collected. The information of the adjectives can be visualized in 'Adjectives.xlsx'.

	Frequency	Number of different adjectives
Total number of adjectives	307,881	12,784
Total number of adjectives analysed (to the last one analysed)	170,191	154
Percentage evaluative adjectives (to the last one analysed)	17.61%	16.23%
Representation (adjectives analysed/total)	55.28%	1.20%

Table 3 Results of the general corpus

In Table 3, the first row shows the total number of adjectives without considering their classification, whether they are evaluative or not. In the second row, we can observe that 154 adjectives in total were analysed, all of them adding up to a frequency of 170,19. Finally, in the fourth row, we can see that only a 1.20% of the number of different adjectives accounts for a 55.28% of the total occurrences.

In the previous researches by Kartal and Marzá, they found that there are 40% (8) and 45.2% (106) respectively of evaluative adjectives in their analyses. It contrasts with the results of the present study, where the percentage of evaluative adjectives is 17.61%. This difference occurs because in the present paper the number of evaluative adjectives was analysed in a different way, following a different approach from the one that these authors followed. Since in the present study the data that were taken into account are what we can observe in the second row, where 154 different adjectives achieve a representativity of 55.28%, and this representativity was enough for us to determine that we did not want to keep analysing more adjectives. This way of analysing the adjectives differs from what Kartal did, who identified evaluative adjectives from a list of a hundred most frequently used adjectives, and in most frequently one hundred adjectives, he found that the total percentage of evaluative adjectives is 39.80%. In her study, Marzá also analyses the adjectives in this way. She obtained first a frequency of 2000 adjectives in total, from which there is a total of 290 types of adjective, and of these adjectives 130 are evaluative adjectives, which accounts for 45.2% of the most frequent evaluative adjectives.

Total frequency of romance adjectives	Percentage romance/total	Assessed adjectives (up to evil)	Percentage of evaluative adjectives romance
158,195	51.38%	95,684	15.60%

Table 4 Results of the romance subcorpus

Total frequency of terror adjectives	Percentage terror/total	Assessed adjectives (up to calm)	Percentage of evaluative adjectives terror
149,686	48.62%	78,041	19.27%

Table 5 Results of the terror subcorpus

From the extracted data from Table 4 and Table 5 we can conclude that although romance texts have a higher number of adjectives for the same number of words (a higher density), in terror texts the number of evaluative adjectives is much higher. This clashes with my thesis and makes it necessary to look for an explanation. Romance texts have 2.76% more adjectives than terror texts, but terror texts have 1.66% more evaluative adjectives than romance texts.

Universidad de Valladolid   Celia Remacha García

Adjective	Total Frequency	Total Relative Frequency	Romance Frequency	Romance Relative Frequency	Terror Frequency	Terror Relative Frequency	Romance Percentage	Terror Percentage
good	7505	1308.44	3978	1386.85	3527	1230.00	53.00%	47.00%
great	4742	826.73	2313	806.38	2429	847.08	48.78%	51.22%
poor	2242	390.87	1056	368.15	1186	413.60	47.10%	52.90%
dear	1952	340.32	935	325.97	1017	354.67	47.90%	52.10%
bad	1741	303.53	962	335.38	779	271.67	55.26%	44.74%
happy	1191	207.64	675	235.33	516	179.95	56.68%	43.32%
beautiful	1148	200.14	677	236.02	471	164.26	58.97%	41.03%
glad	944	164.58	572	199.42	372	129.73	60.59%	39.41%
dreadful	691	120.47	217	75.65	474	165.30	31.40%	68.60%
terrible	651	113.50	246	85.76	405	141.24	37.79%	62.21%
sweet	625	108.96	340	118.53	285	99.39	54.40%	45.60%
pleasant	620	108.09	327	114.00	293	102.18	52.74%	47.26%
mad	617	107.57	212	73.91	405	141.24	34.36%	65.64%
horrible	617	107.57	153	53.34	464	161.81	24.80%	75.20%
awful	561	97.81	208	72.52	353	123.10	37.08%	62.92%
sad	493	85.95	288	100.41	205	71.49	58.42%	41.58%
extraordinary	483	84.21	154	53.69	329	114.73	31.88%	68.12%
wonderful	481	83.86	266	92.74	215	74.98	55.30%	44.70%
nice	470	81.94	281	97.97	189	65.91	59.79%	40.21%
noble	397	69.21	243	84.72	154	53.71	61.21%	38.79%
miserable	394	68.69	150	52.29	244	85.09	38.07%	61.93%
warm	377	65.73	223	77.74	154	53.71	59.15%	40.85%
simple	347	60.50	196	68.33	151	52.66	56.48%	43.52%
calm	342	59.62	131	45.67	211	73.58	38.30%	61.70%
evil	337	58.75	125	43.58	212	73.93	37.09%	62.91%
Total	**29,968**	**5,224.68**	**14,928**	**5,204.35**	**15,040**	**5,245.01**	**49.81%**	**50.19%**

Table 6 Top 25 most relevant evaluative adjectives of the corpus

Table 6 presents nine columns. In the first column, the name of the adjectives is written, being 'good' the first word, since it is the one that has more frequency in the whole corpus, as we can observe in the second column. The third column shows the relative frequency (frequency per million words) of the adjective in the whole corpus. The fourth column presents the frequency of the adjective in the romance subcorpus, and in the fifth column, there is the relative frequency of the adjective in this subcorpus. In the next two columns, the same occurs, in this case in the terror subcorpus. In the last two columns, we can appreciate the percentage of each of the subcorpus in the total number of adjectives. Finally, in the last row we can see the total analyses of these evaluative adjectives.

To calculate the relative frequency, the general formula is the following.

$$f_i = \frac{n_i}{N}$$

Being n_i the absolute frequency, N the total number of events and f_i the relative frequency.

In my case, the used formula was this (Sketch Engine):

$$\frac{numberOfHits}{corpusSizeInMillionsOfTokens} = frequencyPerMillion$$

The number of hits being the frequency of a specific adjective, the corpus size in millions of tokens the total number of tokens in the corpus (4,742,428 in the case of the general corpus, 4.742428 for the calculations) and the result is the frequency per million or relative frequency as shown in Table 6. The same method is used for each one of the sub corpora, but the corpus size changes, 2,868,369 (2.868369 in millions) for romance and 2,867,487 for terror (2.867487 in millions). Sketch Engine has used these formulas to give the results.
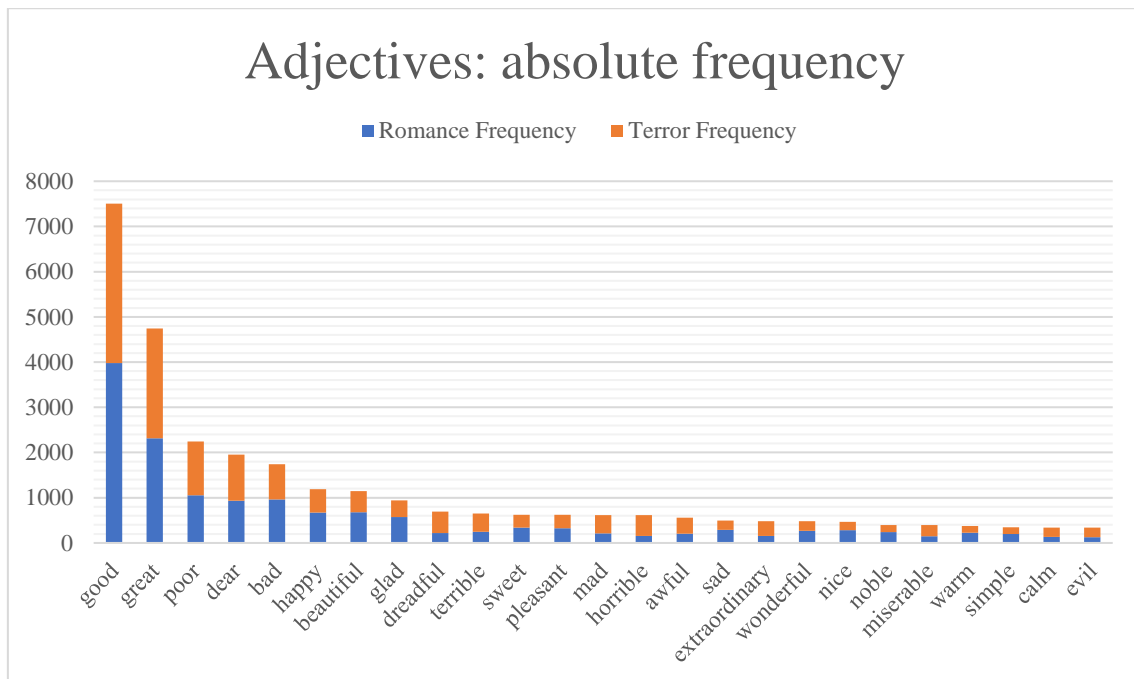
Graph 2 Total frequencies distributed between each type of text for each evaluative adjective

Universidad de Valladolid   Celia Remacha García

Graph 2 displays the absolute frequency of the evaluative adjectives with the representation of each subcorpus. The fourth and sixth columns of the table show these results.
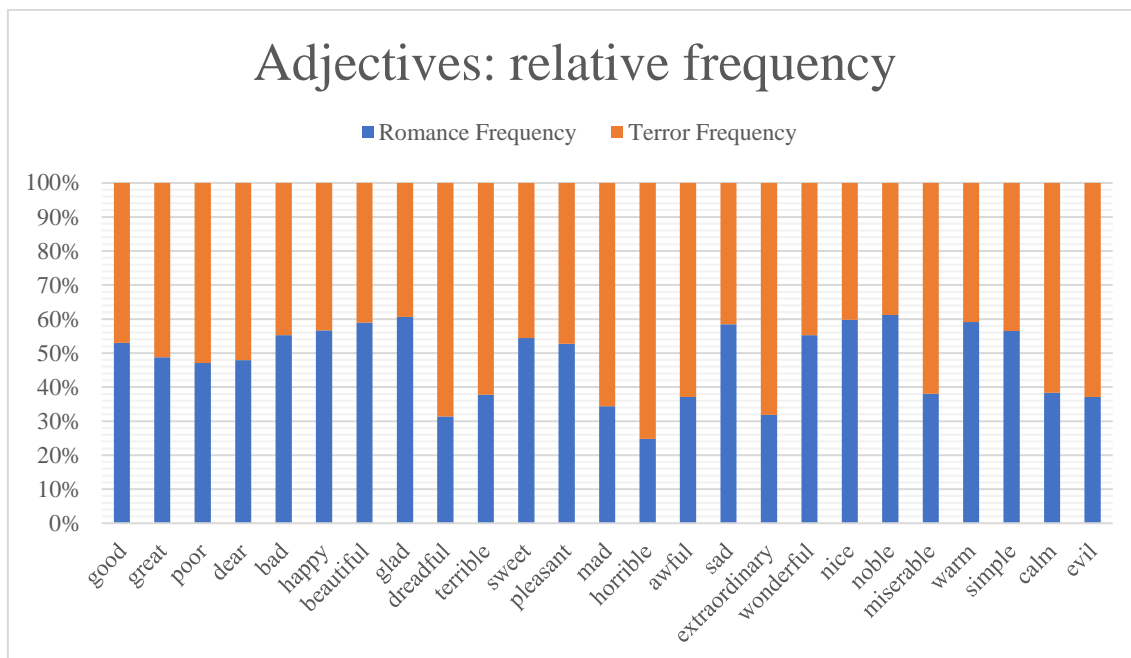
Graph 3 Comparison of each frequency by type of novel

Graph 3 shows the distribution of each adjective for each subcorpus, as the last two columns of the table show. We can observe that the most positive adjectives tend to be related to romance texts and the opposite to the case for terror texts.

Adjective	Class	Romance Percentage	Terror Percentage	Complies with the thesis
good	p	53.00%	47.00%	True
great	p	48.78%	51.22%	False
poor	n	47.10%	52.90%	True
dear	x	47.90%	52.10%	Neutral
bad	n	55.26%	44.74%	False
happy	p	56.68%	43.32%	True
beautiful	p	58.97%	41.03%	True
glad	p	60.59%	39.41%	True
dreadful	n	31.40%	68.60%	True
terrible	n	37.79%	62.21%	True
sweet	p	54.40%	45.60%	True
pleasant	p	52.74%	47.26%	True
mad	n	34.36%	65.64%	True
horrible	n	24.80%	75.20%	True

22

Adjective	Class	Romance Percentage	Terror Percentage	Complies with the thesis
awful	n	37.08%	62.92%	True
sad	n	58.42%	41.58%	False
extraordinary	p	31.88%	68.12%	False
wonderful	p	55.30%	44.70%	True
nice	p	59.79%	40.21%	True
noble	p	61.21%	38.79%	True
miserable	n	38.07%	61.93%	True
warm	p	59.15%	40.85%	True
simple	x	56.48%	43.52%	Neutral
calm	x	38.30%	61.70%	Neutral
evil	n	37.09%	62.91%	True
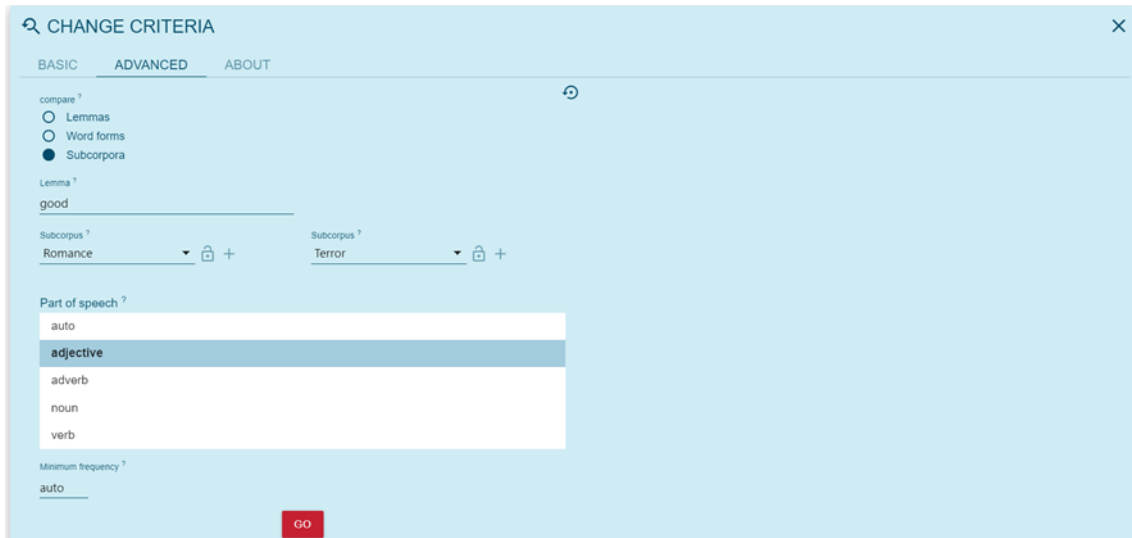
Table 7 Classification of adjectives in positive (p), negative (n), or neutral (x)

In Table 1 we can observe that, in general, there are more positive adjectives than negative ones. These positive adjectives have a higher frequency in romance novels because in these texts prevail descriptions related to pleasant states, or to describe people who have likable traits, while in terror the adjectives are more used to describe things related to fear, or supernatural elements. We have chosen to show some of the most prominent uses of these adjectives. With the positive adjective 'noble' in the romance novels there are several instances like 'noble place' in the novel by Austen, 'noble animals' in the novel by Scott, or 'noble son' in the novel by Blackmore. To make a differentiation, the adjective 'horrible' is used primarily in a negative way. Like in 'horrible place' in the novel by Marryat, in 'horrible scene, of the novel written by Shelley, or in 'horrible anxiety' of the novel written by Maturin.

We can also notice that the distribution of positive and negative adjectives is similar (12 for the first one and 10 for the second one), the latter being much more numerous than those classified as neutral. It should be noted that this classification of positive and negative adjectives is based on our criteria. We consider that positive adjectives describe people, places, and things in a positive way. This type of adjectives can express emotions such as satisfaction, love, amusement, or hope. While negative adjectives are used to express sad, unpleasant, or unhappy situations or emotions.

5.2. Nouns

The other objective of this dissertation is to analyse the nouns that accompany the most frequent evaluative adjectives. To this end, 'Sketch Engine' (Adam Kilgarriff, Jakubíček and Kovář) has been used, more particularly, its tool called 'Word Sketch Difference'.

Figure 2 Example of the use of Word Sketch Difference

In the 'lemma' line, as can be observed in Figure 2, every adjective was searched, the first being 'good', as it is the first adjective that has a higher frequency in the corpus. Then, as this corpus has two subcorpora, in the lines we wrote 'romance' and 'terror', to obtain data on the behaviour of every adjective, in this case 'good'.
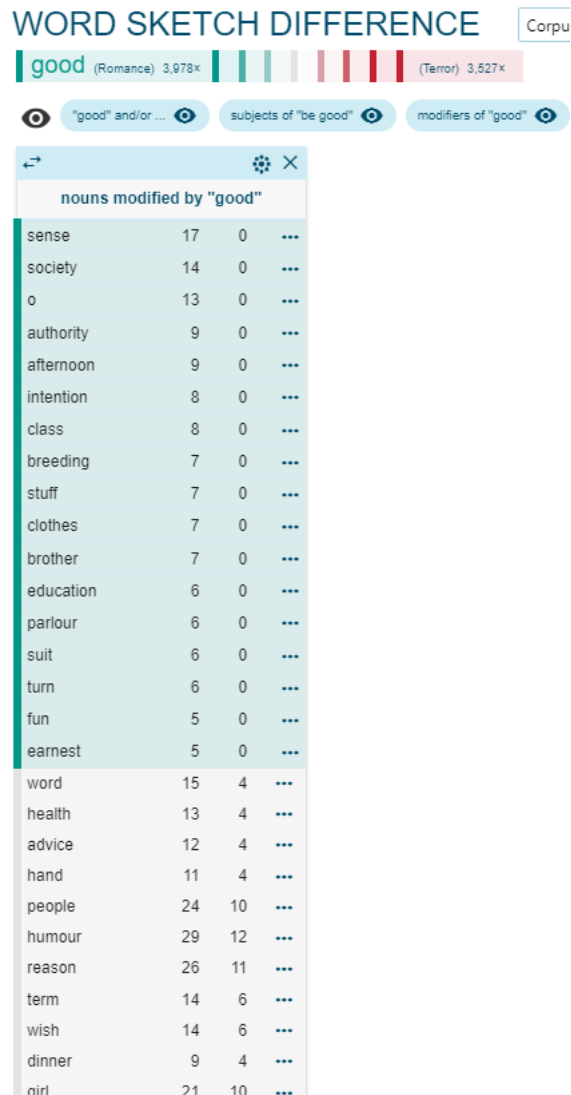
Figure 3 Result of the query in Figure 2

In Figure 3 we can observe that the adjective 'good' accompanies several nouns such as 'sense', which appears 17 times in romance and zero times in terror. This process was made with every adjective, and all the nouns that these adjectives accompany were written in 'Nouns.xlsx' workbook, each adjective in one sheet. After this process, it was observed that there are 1800 different nouns in total.


Figure 4 Example of nouns and its classification

Afterwards, as it has been explained in the methodology, these nouns were manually classified in 'concrete', 'abstract', 'proper', and 'remove', which we can observe in the Figure 4. The last item, 'remove', refers to characters that the program classified as nouns; however, these are not appropriate nouns, so they had to be eliminated. In Figure 4 we observe an example of how the nouns were classified.
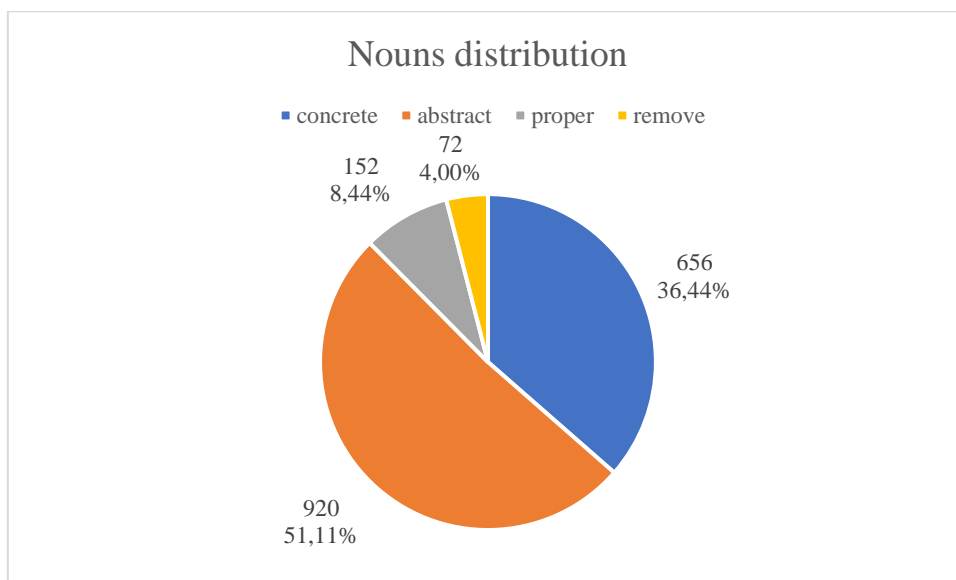
*Graph 4 Original results of the Nouns Distribution*

This graph shows the distribution of all the different types of nouns in the entire corpus.
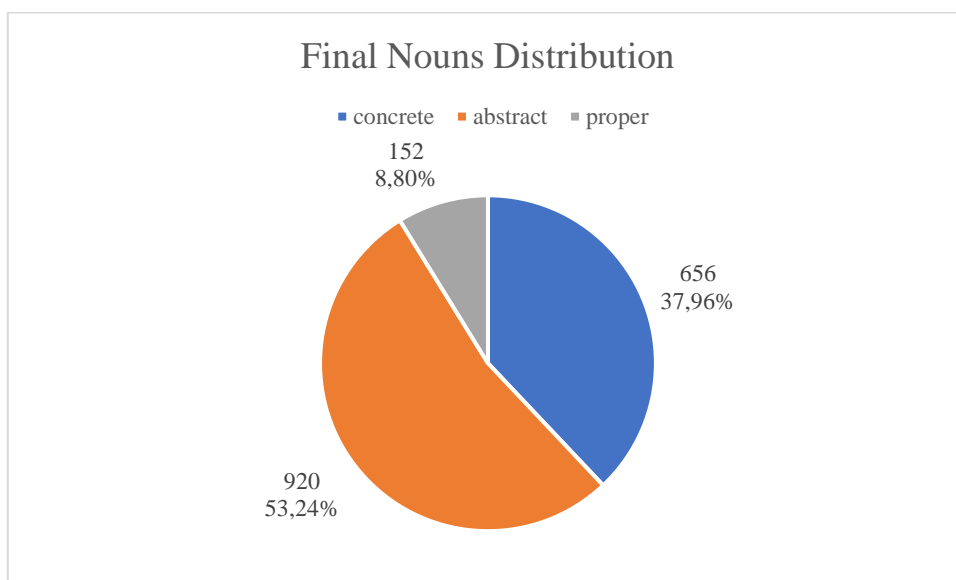

Graph 5 Final results of Nouns Distribution

After erasing the type called 'remove', we can observe in Graph 5 that abstract nouns are much more common, although this may be related to the selected literary categories.

Also noteworthy is the relevant presence of proper nouns, which, although not analysed in depth like the other two groups, are nonetheless counted. With this classification, the data obtained in the previous step were analysed and the nouns that accompany each adjective were classified.
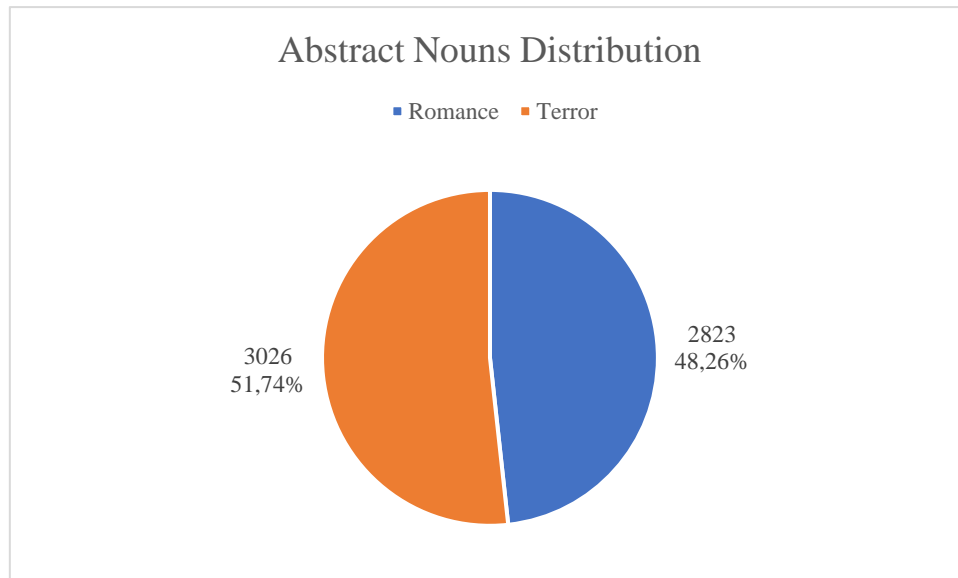
*Graph 6 Abstract Nouns Distribution*
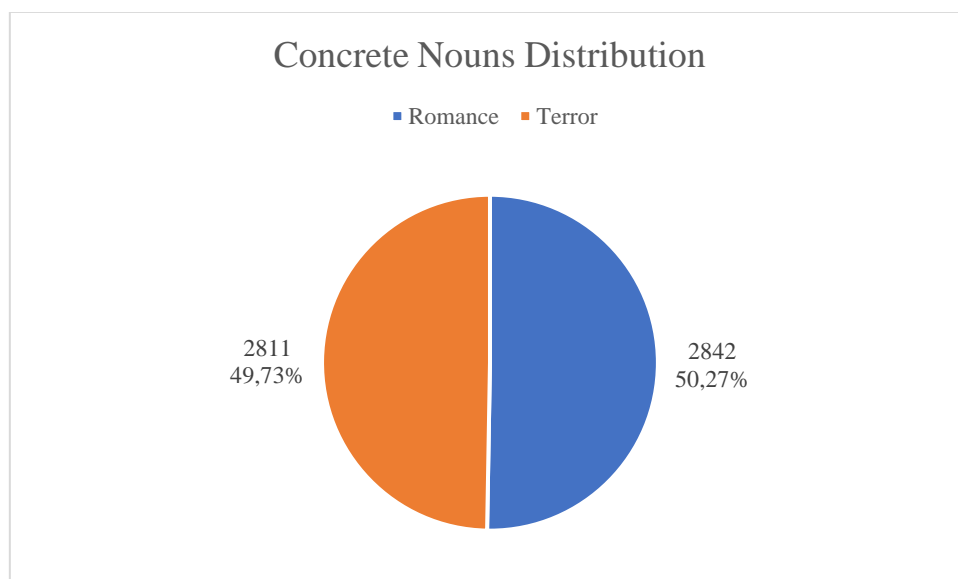
Graph 7 Concrete Nouns Distribution

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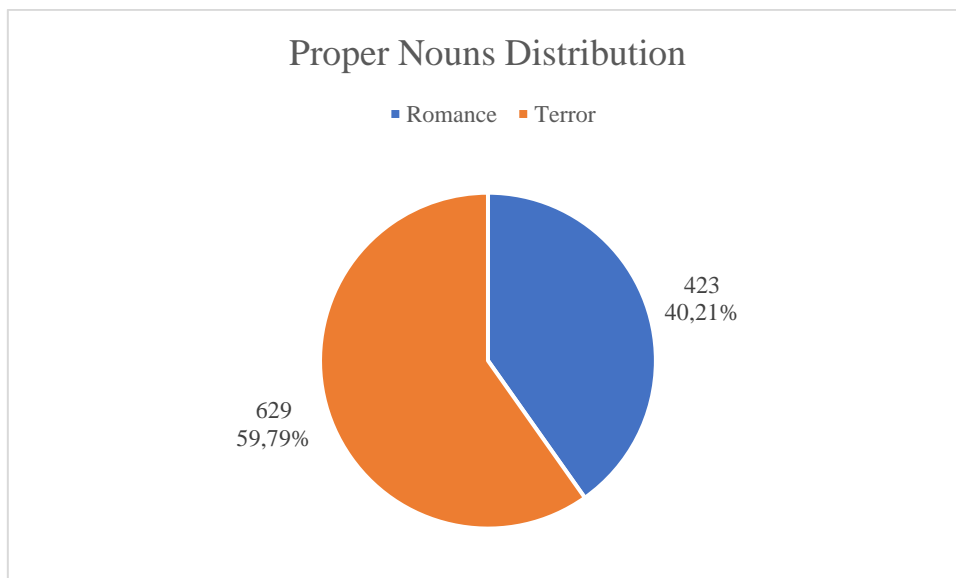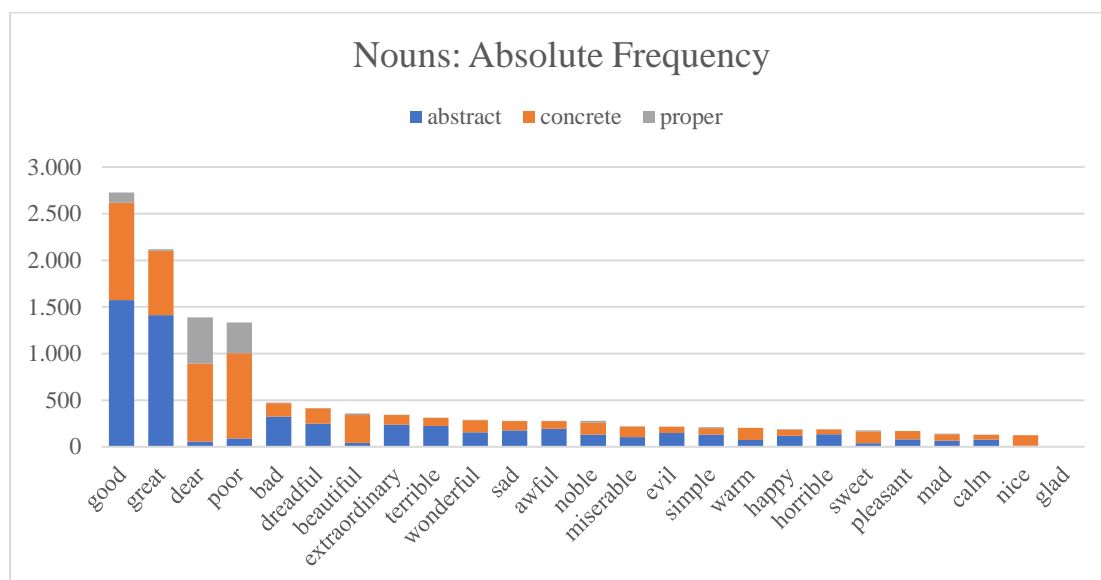
Graph 8 Proper Nouns Distribution

In Graph 6 we can see that the distribution of abstract nouns is higher in the terror novels, while in Graph 7 there is a higher incidence of concrete nouns in romance texts. Although the difference is small, this difference stands out in the case of abstract nouns. These results led us to wonder whether the presence of concrete and abstract nouns is not as context-dependent as previously thought, or whether the selected texts are not sufficient to demonstrate this.

Finally, we can observe a higher incidence of proper nouns in the terror texts, which will be analysed later.
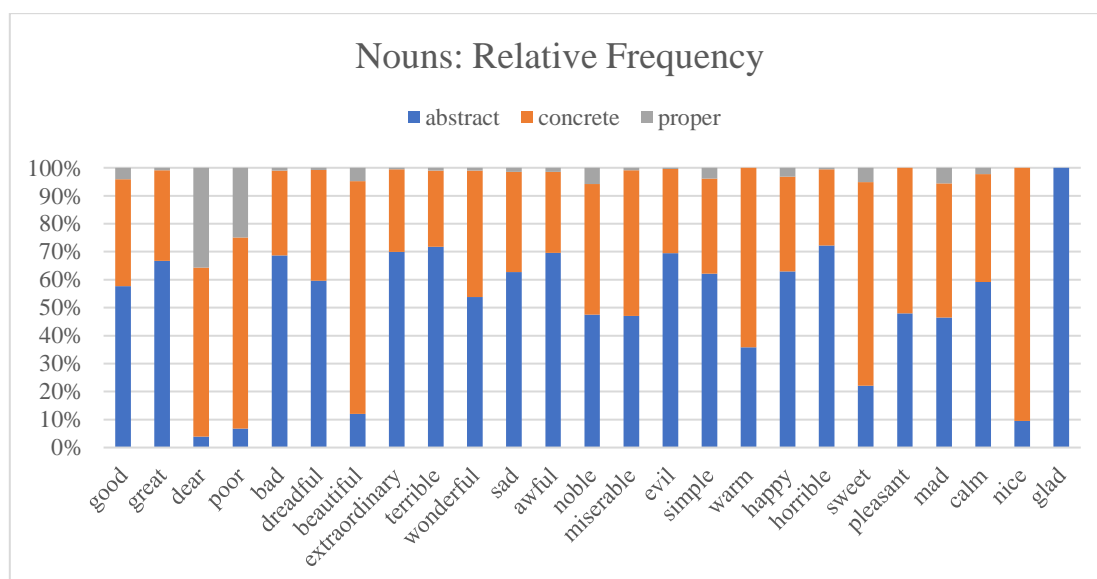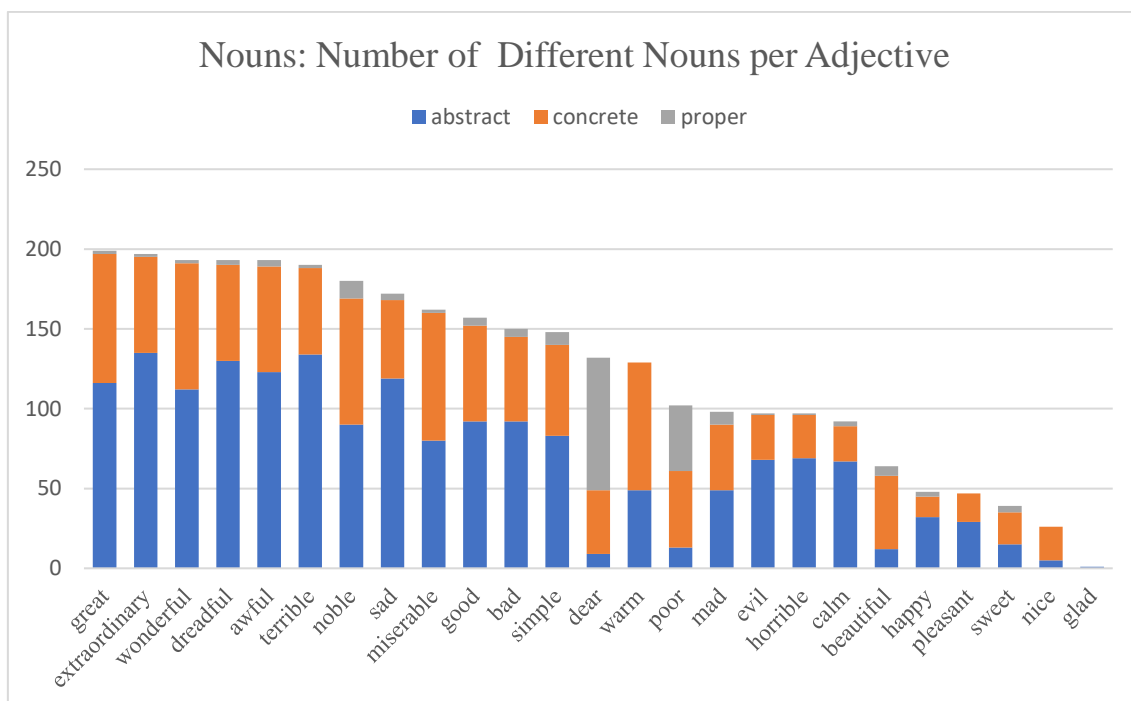

Graph 9 Percentage of each type of noun

In Graph 9 we must highlight the presence of proper nouns with the adjectives 'dear', and 'poor', which is much higher than the presence of proper nouns in the rest of the adjectives. It may occur because in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the texts used to be written in a more polite way, since people used to talk more respectfully, which was captured in the novels. This way of writing differs from the way novels are written today, where the writers use a more informal style. The presence of appellatives before nouns is greater in horror texts, which is influenced by the novels that have some correspondence within them. These are included in some of the horror novels (The Beetle) or affectionate appellatives (Nightmare Abbey or Frankenstein), more present in nineteenth century novels.

Graph 10 Frequency Distribution per Adjective

Graph 10 shows the total frequency of the nouns accompanied by each adjective. We can observe the frequency of every type of noun (abstract, concrete, proper) with each adjective on an absolute scale. There is a significant difference in frequency between the first 4 adjectives and the rest, with a few adjectives having the greatest presence. The adjectives 'good' and 'great' are more used with abstract nouns such as 'good sense', 'good will', 'great truth', or 'great deal'. While 'dear' and 'poor' are hardly used with abstract nouns, as their main use is with concrete nouns, and, in the second place, with fewer frequency, with abstract nouns. These two adjectives are mainly used with concrete nouns that designate people, such as 'boy', 'girl', or proper nouns.

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Nouns: Number of Different Nouns per Adjective

Graph 11 Number of different nouns per adjective

Graph 11 shows the number of different nouns that each adjective accompanies. Being 'great' the adjective that accompanies more nouns and 'glad' the adjective that accompanies fewer nouns. In this graph, we observe a significant difference from the previous one. There are adjectives that have fewer frequencies than in the previous graphic, such as 'extraordinary', 'wonderful', 'dreadful' or 'awful'; however, these adjectives accompany a higher number of nouns. In contrast, there are adjectives that have a higher frequency, such as 'good', 'dear', 'poor' or 'bad', and they go with fewer nouns. This variety of nouns makes it even more enriching to look at these adjectives to learn how evaluative adjectives behave with nouns.

Another remarkable fact is that the adjective 'glad' does not accompany many nouns, as it only has a frequency of 2% in romance. The only noun that 'glad' accompanies is 'sense', as in 'I cried, with a glad sense of relief', in the novel written by Lefanu, or in 'We all felt a glad sense of relief', an example extracted from the novel witten by Stoker. These results are as expected, as this adjective is usually followed by other grammatical forms, and the most commonly used grammatical structure with glad is: 'glad to + verb'. This is an example of the adjective 'glad' in the novel written by

Universidad de Valladolid   Celia Remacha García

Austen: 'I dare say Mr. Bingley will be very glad to see you', where we can observe the usual structure that this adjective follows.

Contrary to what was considered in the thesis, the results show that even though there are more adjectives in romance novels, the presence of evaluative adjectives is a bit higher in terror novels. From these results we can see that the presence of evaluative adjectives is not so influenced by the theme of the novels, which may be the reason for these results. An explanation could be that, as in terror novels, there are more supernatural elements, the author needs to give a more detailed explanation of these events, so he uses more evaluative adjectives to get an accurate explanation. Another reason why this happens could be the difference of evaluative adjectives between these two genres, as it is only 1.66%. So, even though the corpus does manage to be representative, as we can see with the ReCor programme, a larger number of novels would be needed to analyse and obtain more specific results. In this case, future work is needed to obtain more detailed results.

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6. Conclusion

This study investigated adjectives with the help of several tools and programs. The initial research hypothesis was that there are more evaluative adjectives in romance than in terror novels. To perform the analysis, 25 evaluative adjectives were identified from the list of extracted adjectives automatically. The analysis of the corpus revealed that terror novels have 1.66% more evaluative adjectives than romance texts, proving that the main hypothesis of the paper is wrong. The difference is so small; it may be due to the selected corpus; however, due to its representativeness and the number of tokens, this possibility is small. The analysis of all the information extracted from the corpus thanks to the Sketch Engine tool has been essential to obtain the results shown in this work. The linguistic research has been accurate to try to give an explanation for the results presented below. During the reading of texts throughout my studies, I have always thought that romance texts have a more intense *adjectivation* (has been fulfilled), with more frequent evaluative adjectives (has not been met) and with a higher frequency of positive adjectives (has been fulfilled). The lack of work delving into the subject matter of evaluative adjectives in British romance and horror literature in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries complicates obtaining clear explanations of these questions. It is necessary to continue with this research to provide a more concrete and accurate answer to this question.

In addition, the nouns that accompany each adjective were extracted, with the main idea that there is a higher presence of abstract nouns in romance than in terror novels. However, the analysis proved that there are more abstract nouns accompanying the evaluative adjectives in terror novels, which is contrary to the hypothesis. As in the previous conclusion, more research is needed on this area of study to obtain better results. Having analysed 1800 nouns manually, it was possible to introduce an error rate in the classification, since there is no official list or specific and exact criteria for classifying them as concrete or abstract nouns. There are nouns whose classification falls more into philosophy than in English studies, and this is a remarkably interesting line of research for the future. Thus, even if the hypothesis has turned out to be wrong, it has been an excellent starting point for future research, which, for one reason or another, has not taken place so far.

Universidad de Valladolid   Celia Remacha García

We must state that we considered that terror novels would have less evaluative adjectives; however, our results prove the contrary. It may be due to the fact that since the evaluative adjectives used in terror are more abstract, they are more related with supernatural things and other events that we cannot explain in a right way, so in this case this type of adjective acquires more importance. These circumstances are out of our control since they seem incomprehensible and not subjected to the reality, so a right usage of the abstract evaluative adjectives for these events makes them more understandable for the human mind.

It is necessary to declare that the correct analysis of evaluative adjectives is useful to see how these adjectives behave in the genres of romance and terror, as well as for the correct understanding of the message. This corpus-based study of evaluative adjectives would help any learner to understand how they act in romance and terror novels and may help them to understand basic information about this type of adjectives from a semantic point of view.

Probably the most important learning I have gained from this work is the variety of techniques and studies involved in linguistics. Literature, Grammar, Semantics and other techniques more distant from our field of study, such as statistics and computer science, are merged; these last two are very useful for the study of corpora. Undoubtedly, these new information technologies constitute a basic aid for the modern study of linguistics, without which this work would not have been possible. They have been a great help since the beginning of this work. The category of computational linguistics has become much more interesting to me. The need to explore branches of grammar and linguistics that I had not explored before has, of course, also become a challenge. This study is possibly an initial step for further research on evaluative adjectives in romance and terror novels.

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