

# Shared 'Logical Form' or Shared Metaphysics? In Search of Corpus-Derived Empathy.

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Part 1

Research on Reader Responses

native speakers of the same language vary significantly in

- brain structure
- character traits
- personal histories
- education levels and
- backgrounds
- talents

# Fialhoe (2007)

Six evaluators

15 advanced students of literature

15 students of engineering

Results:

Same reaction to foregrounded passages

Similar feelings related to the foregrounded passages

# Subtext

Subtext – (a state of affairs, or a literary world) arrived at through the list of the most frequent content words within or around a grammatical string. Subtext is shared logical form.

‘That is no country for old men’: ‘that is no \*  
for’ >> reason; excuse

# Philip Larkin 'When first we met, and touching showed...'

**But when did love not try to change**

**The world back to itself – no cost,  
No past, no people else at all –  
Only what meeting made us feel,  
So new, and gentle-sharp, and strange?**

**Is this an optimistic attitude to love? YES/ NO**

**Banks, insurance brokers and estate agents sell their products and there's  
nothing wrong with that. But when did a car salesman ever tell you  
that you would be better off walking or taking a bus?**

**(1995 Times reference corpus)**

# Prospection in the first line

When first we met...

'when first we \*'

Unless he doesn't know she living with someone. (SP:PS1HH) You know that saying Jean? (SP:PS1HJ) (unclear) (SP:PS1HH) No. Oh what a tangled web we weave (pause) **when first we** practice to deceive. (SP:PS1HJ)

That part of me which, **when first we** met, I should willingly have made over to Jean-Claude -- and which he seemed to make no attempt to acquire -- was, of course, no more available to him than the source of his being was to me.

'If I have a motive,' she pursued, her belligerence lessening,' it is no different from that which led you to aid me **when first we** met.

Nigeria, for example, produces oil which is similar to ours. Nigerians accuse Britain of leading a cut-price war against them. That was their view **when first we** reduced our North Sea oil prices, and now they think it again.

Part Two

New Aspects of Empathy in Subtextual  
Corpus Stylistics.



# Splitting the Atom of the Vienna Circle: Collocation finds the *a priori*

The transformation that corpus-derived subtext brings into Corpus Stylistics is well described in the following paragraph:

“Whether particular things exist or not is a matter of **experience**. But **logic** is *prior* to **all** experience. Therefore, whether a sentence has meaning or not can never depend on whether particular things exist or not.”

Anthony Kenny (1973: 78)

# Truth and Empiricism

“What we accept as an adequate ground on which to accept a statement as *true* reflects the current state of our knowledge. And, obviously, the grounds upon which we accept our statements as true can change in response to empirical discoveries.”

(Ellenbogen, 2003. *Wittgenstein's Account of Truth*. New York: SUNY Press.)

**is its \* with \***

MicroConcord search SW: is its \* with \*

80 characters per entry

Sort : 1R/SW unshifted.

1 er in section 3.6. </p> <p> One is its **association** with the rather questionable  
2 er feature of the rural economy is its **relationship** with urban labour markets. T  
3 everal attractive features. One is its **con&rehysonance** with what is generally ac  
4 has come through to the public is its **preoccupation** with sex. The idea that dre  
5 inguishing feature of the model is its **concern** with the secular development of t  
6 e developed from these sketches is its **interaction** with social forces – literall  
7 ion). At the deepest level this is its **symmetry** with the social order within whi  
8 eat strength of 123 For Windows is its **compatibility** with all the earlier versio  
9 mathematically, but that, such is its **concern** with the quantitative aspects of  
10 along a bay. What sets it apart is its **situation**, with the massive range of the  
11 set the TG100 apart. The first is its **conformity** with the General MIDI Specific  
12 p> A common image of later life is its **association** with residential care and ins  
13 integral part of Eo's strategy is its **partnerships** with the companies, it says,  
14 st strength, on the other hand, is its **compatibility** with Windows. It's a streng  
15 n important feature of research is its **concern** with the nature of the event unde

Source: BNC

# The Imitation Game as Verification of Empathy

Alan Turing wrote in 1950

“We can only see a short distance ahead,  
but we can see plenty there that needs to  
be done.”

(in Anderson, 1964: 7)

# A Proposal for an Imitation Game

## Steps

1. Create a subtext from any line by using Russell's assertion that a perfectly logical natural language will have a grammar (logic) but no vocabulary (metaphysics) at all.
2. Determine the most frequent lexical variables.

# Steps : continued

3. Select a variable that does not occur in the given sentence.
4. The computer crafts a reply to the questioner using the variable that does not appear.

Shared logical form produces an empathetic, aloof and well-informed response.

Thank You