Shared ‘Logical Form’or Shared Metaphysics? In Search of Corpus-Derived Empathy.

Bill Louw, University of Zimbabwe and Coventry University
Marija Milojkovic, University of Belgrade
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.”

is its * with *
One is its association with the rather questionable second feature of the rural economy is its relationship with urban labour markets. The idea that has come through to the public is its preoccupation with sex. The Knox distinguished feature of the model is its concern with the secular development of the e developed from these sketches is its interaction with social forces — literally. At the deepest level this is its symmetry with the social order within which we view are strengths of 123 For Windows is its compatibility with all the earlier versions. Mathematically, but that, such is its concern with the quantitative aspects of along a bay. What sets it apart is its situation, with the massive range of the set the TG100 apart. The first is its conformity with the General MIDI Specification. A common image of later life is its association with residential care and insurance. An integral part of Eo's strategy is its partnerships with the companies, it says, at strength, on the other hand, is its compatibility with Windows. It's a strength, an important feature of research is its concern with the nature of the event under

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