Audionarratology deals with sounds experienced in silent reading. In prose, authors use direct speech to assign voices to their characters that can be heard in the reader’s imagination (Mildorf / Kinzel, 2016; Kuzmícová, 2013).

Hypotheses

H₀: There is a relation between women’s way of speaking and the growing emancipation of women in Europe’s society.

H₁: Female characters are quieter in the presence of men than in the presence of women compared to the behaviour of their male counterparts.

H₂: Loudness profiles differ with regard to the social class of a character.

Corpus and Loudness marker

18.10.1865  Foundation of the first German Association of Female Citizens by Louise Otto-Peters and Auguste Schmidt as the oldest German women’s rights organisation.

19.07.1889  The feminist Clara Zetkin speaks at the 2nd International Workers Congress of Paris about the emancipation of proletarian women

Corpus: Prose texts published in the 19th century around the two emphasized events

- 22 novels (1865 - 1875) (1 048 576 Tokens)
- 25 novels (1885 - 1896) (956 563 Tokens)

Verba Dicendi: Rule-based extraction using morphological properties (Comparison to a list of 79 German Verba Dicendi).

Found in Corpora:

1st Corpus 1865 - 1875:
- 60 Verba Dicendi (Types) (9283 Tokens)
- 663 discourse describing Adjectives/Adverbs (Types) (4391 Tokens)

2nd Corpus 1885 - 1896:
- 67 Verba Dicendi (Types) (12053 Tokens)
- 906 discourse describing Adjectives/Adverbs (Types) (4893 Tokens)

Most frequently occurring adverb: ‘leise’ (eng. quietly)

(142x in 1st Corpus (plus 56x ‘ruhig’ (eng. calmly)), but only 42x ‘leise’ in 2nd Corpus (plus 27x ‘ruhig’)

German Verba Dicendi

Example novel: Fontane’s Effi Briest

The 16 most frequently used verba dicendi

References


