

# Mapping Dickens's Fiction: Distant Reading & Text Analysis

田畑 智司  
(大阪大学)

Rank	Word	Frequency	DF	Prop.
1	the	247,918	24	5.11%
2	and	176,993	24	3.65%
3	of	131,982	24	2.72%
4	to	127,463	24	2.63%
5	a	109,554	24	2.26%
6	in	85,619	24	1.77%
7	i	81,763	24	1.69%
8	that	63,626	24	1.31%
9	his	61,492	24	1.27%
10	he	61,030	24	1.26%
11	it	59,889	24	1.23%
12	was	56,093	24	1.16%
13	you	49,429	24	1.02%
14	with	47,474	24	0.98%
15	as	41,528	24	0.86%
16	had	35,952	24	0.74%
17	for	34,902	24	0.72%
18	her	34,418	24	0.71%
19	at	34,126	24	0.70%
20	mr	31,444	24	0.65%
21	said	30,703	24	0.63%
22	on	30,205	24	0.62%
23	is	28,439	24	0.59%
24	him	27,839	24	0.57%
25	my	27,807	24	0.57%
26	have	27,329	24	0.56%
27	be	26,834	24	0.55%
28	not	26,217	24	0.54%
29	but	26,215	24	0.54%
30	me	22,573	24	0.47%
31	this	22,356	24	0.46%
32	by	22,266	24	0.46%
33	she	22,142	24	0.46%
34	so	20,992	24	0.43%
35	which	20,069	24	0.41%
36	all	19,595	24	0.40%
37	were	17,756	24	0.37%
38	they	17,640	24	0.36%
39	if	17,627	24	0.36%
40	no	17,441	24	0.36%
41	when	16,538	24	0.34%
42	from	16,316	24	0.34%
43	or	16,112	24	0.33%
44	there	15,851	24	0.33%
45	one	14,514	24	0.30%
46	what	14,488	24	0.30%
47	very	14,327	24	0.30%
48	who	13,778	24	0.28%
49	been	13,777	24	0.28%
50	an	13,670	24	0.28%

Table 1: 50 most frequent words in Dickens corpus

Rank	5-gram	Freq.	DF
1	as if he had been	96	22
2	in the course of the	94	23
3	his hands in his pockets	92	20
4	as if it were a	77	20
5	what do you mean by	73	18
6	at the bottom of the	71	21
7	the opposite side of the	70	19
8	on the part of the	69	20
9	in the middle of the	68	20
10	a quarter of an hour	67	19
11	what do you think of	65	18
12	at the top of the	63	22
13	with his hands in his	62	20
14	as if it had been	60	20
15	at the end of the	58	19
16	i beg your pardon sir	56	17
16	on the other side of	56	19
18	on the opposite side of	54	17
19	as a matter of course	53	18
19	the other side of the	53	19
21	as much as to say	52	17
21	in the midst of the	52	18
23	up and down the room	49	14
24	as if he were a	47	17
24	with the air of a	47	15
26	as if they had been	44	21
26	on the top of the	44	18
26	with his back to the	44	15
29	the father of the marshalsea	43	1
30	the greater part of the	42	14
30	very much obliged to you	42	14
32	as if he would have	41	13
32	hands in his pockets and	41	18
34	in the centre of the	39	14
34	the other end of the	39	14
34	to the top of the	39	18
37	to tell you the truth	38	15
38	in a corner of the	37	18
38	leaning back in his chair	37	13
38	the person of the house	37	3
38	to the best of my	37	11
42	i should like to know	36	19
42	i was going to say	36	15
42	in the midst of a	36	15
42	made up his mind to	36	16
42	the face of the earth	36	15
47	at the corner of the	35	16
47	at the head of the	35	17
47	i don't know what i	35	12
47	on one side of the	35	17

Table 2: 50 most frequent 5-grams in Dickens corpus

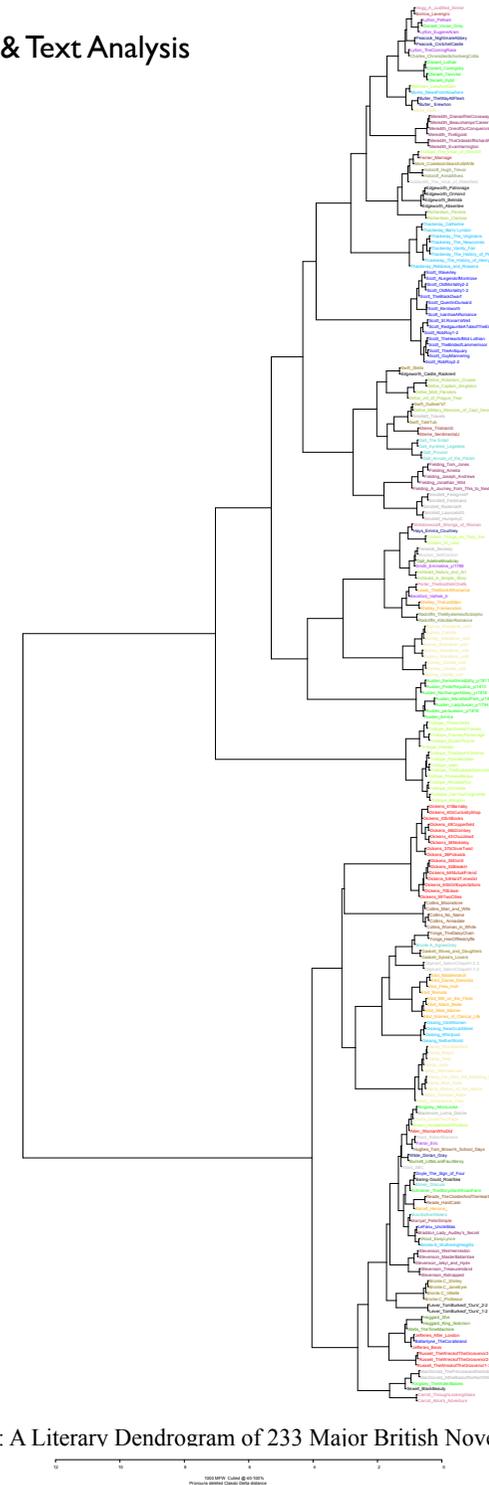


Fig. 1: A Literary Dendrogram of 233 Major British Novels in the 18th- & 19th-Centuries

**Positive Dickens Markers (words significantly overused by Dickens):**

eyes, hands, head, eye, gentleman, returned, said, looked, looking, old, until, little, hand, down, boy, his, if, when, out, again, are, these, under, right, yes, up, sir, child, together, here, back, it, at, am, long, quite, day, better, mean, why, turned, where, do, face, new, there, dear, people, they, door, cried, in, you, mrs, very, way, man, 'em, it's...

**Negative Dickens Markers (words significantly underused by Dickens):**

lady, poor, less, of, things, leave, love, not, from, should, can, last, saw, now, next, my, having, began, our, letter, had, I, money, tell, such, to, nothing, person, be, would, those, far, miss, life, called, found, wish, how, must, more, herself, well, did, but, much, make, other, whose, as, own, take, go, no, gave, shall, some, against, wife, since, first, them, word, ...



Joe Gargery kept a journeyman whose name was Orlick. He was a broad-shouldered, loose-limbed, swarthy fellow of great strength. On working-days he would come slouching, **with his hands in his pockets** and his dinner loosely tied in a bundle round his neck, and dangling on his back"

—Great Expectations

Fig. 4

Fig 2: Dickens markers

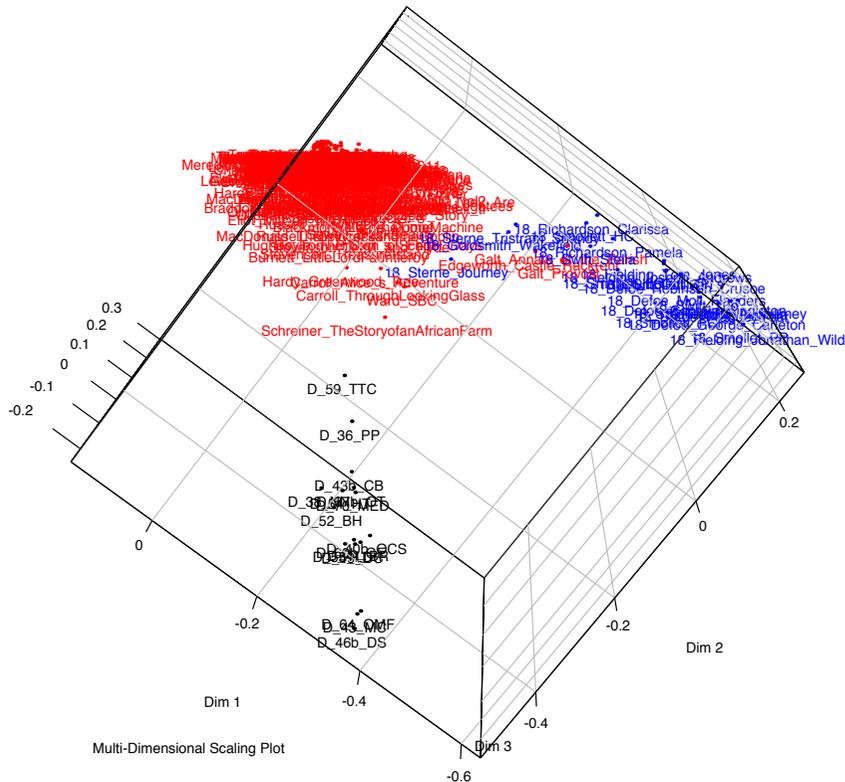


Fig 3: 3D Modelling of Textual Relationships



Mr. Minns and his Cousin

Coachman, are you going or not?' bawled Mr. Minns, with his head and half his body out of the coach window.

'Di-rectly, sir,' said the coachman, **with his hands in his pockets**, looking as much unlike a man in a hurry as possible.

'Bill, take them cloths off.' Five minutes more elapsed: at the end of which time the coachman mounted the box, from whence he looked down the street, and up the street, and hailed all the pedestrians for another five minutes.

'Coachman! if you don't go this moment, I shall get out,' said Mr. Minns, rendered desperate by the lateness of the hour, and the impossibility of being in Poplar-walk at the appointed time.—Sketches by Boz

Fig. 5

"When you think every one has retired to rest to-night," said Evenson very pompously, "if you'll meet me without a light, just outside my bedroom door, by the staircase window, I think we can ascertain who the parties really are, and you will afterwards be enabled to proceed as you think proper."

Mrs Tibbs was easily persuaded; her curiosity was excited, her jealousy was roused, and the arrangement was forthwith made. She resumed her work, and John Evenson walked up and down the room **with his hands in his pockets**, looking as if nothing had happened. The game of cribbage was over, and conversation began again.

—Sketches by Boz

Fig. 6