Graphing narrative data in Woolf, Richardson, and Fitzgerald

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Outline

My project

Data from three novels

Interpretations
My project

Annotating and then quantitatively analysing narrative techniques in fiction

Using XML

Today’s focus: <analepsis>
Literary modernism

~1890-1939

Known for experimentation with the form of the novel

In Europe and the US, a reaction to changes in society and technology

Attempt to faithfully represent a subjective experience of time and space
Process

Manual annotation of narrative features

Adding of locations of page breaks

Counting of words contained in <analepsis> tags on each page

Pages, unlike chapters or whole books, are roughly consistent in length, which makes them good for comparison
Words contained in <analepsis> tags per page in *To the Lighthouse*
The three sections of *To the Lighthouse*
Words contained in <analepsis> tags per page in *Pointed Roofs*
Chapter breaks in *Pointed Roofs*
Words contained in <analepsis> tags per page in *Tender is the Night*
The three “books” of *Tender is the Night*
The three “books” of *Tender is the Night*
Total number of <analepsis> tags

*To the Lighthouse*: 140 tags in 281 pages (0.49 per page)

*Pointed Roofs*: 123 tags in 185 pages (0.66 per page)

*Tender is the Night*: 119 in 459 pages (0.26 per page)
Words in `<analepsis>` tags per total number of words in each novel

*To the Lighthouse*: 9304 out of 70045 total words (13.28%)

*Pointed Roofs*: 8606 out of 55719 total words (15.44%)

*Tender is the Night*: 22714 out of 108714 total words (20.89%)

(although if we remove the longest analepsis in *Tender* this drops to 9393 out of 108714 total words (8.64%))
Breaking this down

Despite chapters not being useful for proportional comparison, they are a useful way to summarise what’s going on at a particular point in the story.

Can’t always add these to the existing graphs either because of inconsistent length (as in *To the Lighthouse*) or this simply not adding much to our understanding of the original graph.

Useful to graph on their own though.
When a graph is not useful: Chapter breaks in *Tender is the Night*
Number of words in `<analepsis>` tags per chapter in *To the Lighthouse*
Number of words in `<analepsis>` tags per chapter in *Pointed Roofs*
Number of words in <analepsis> tags per chapter in *Tender is the Night*
So, what’s going on in these chapters?

*To the Lighthouse* chapter 14
*To the Lighthouse* chapter 34
*To the Lighthouse* chapter 40
*Pointed Roofs* chapter 3
*Tender is the Night* chapter 27 and 28
*Tender is the Night* chapter 36

And what does all that tell us about how analepsis is used in these novels?
Conclusions from the chapter data

These chapters feature both long memories and many short ones

Various functions: reminiscing, processing, exposition

Shows an engagement between narrative time and the memory of characters
Time in modernist fiction

In the early 20thC, ideas about time were changing
  ◦ Telegraphy and air travel
  ◦ Science: Einstein and relativity
  ◦ Philosophy: Bergson and durée

Representing thought and the subjective experience of time is a characteristic of modernist fiction

So is a fascination with the effect of the past upon the present.
Overall Interpretations

Goal of representing subjective experience of memory

Style of narration

Order in which story is told
Works Cited


