TITLE: Gender, Language and Animation Resource (GLARe)

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Johnny Unger

PROJECT REFERENCE: UngerSPRINT

DATE(S): June 2024 (SPRINT)

JOB DESCRIPTION: You will help Johnny continue to develop GLARe, an online resource designed to help students and other researchers who want to investigate how gender is represented and how gender stereotypes are used in animated films. In doing this, you will contribute to the creation of new blog posts about gender and animated films which will be aimed at students interested in this area, and also finding new relevant resrach. Your duties may include
• Making/checking transcripts (both of verbal text and audiovisual features) of animated films
• Coding and analysing specific features (eg. Identifying gendered forms of address, stereotypically gendered language features or gendered aspects of the visual representation of characters)
• Doing literature searches for recent literature on gender and animated film
• Writing drafts of or sections of the blog posts (you will be credited as a contributor in this case)
GLARe is a work in progress, but there's a fair bit of content already, which you can see here: wp.lancs.ac.uk/glare/

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:
- Interest in discourse analysis, language and gender, and analysis of visual texts
- Keen eye for detail and systematic approach to data analysis
- Organised and able to keep references, data and findings organised
- Writes in an accessible and engaging way

NOTES: You will have the chance to give some input/make suggestions regarding the choice of films to analyse. Training on coding and analysis will be provided. To get an idea of the kind of analysis you might end up doing, you can look at the two analyses already on GLARe or Unger & Sunderland 2005 (available here tinyurl.com/shrekpaper).

TITLE: BOT OR NOT? DETECTING HUMAN VERSUS GENERATIVE AI AUTHORSHIP

SUPERVISOR(S): CLAIRE HARDAKER AND GEORGE BROWN

PROJECT REFERENCE: HardakerBrownSPRINT

DATE(S): Summer

JOB DESCRIPTION: The overall purpose of this project is to investigate how good (or bad!) humans are at detecting human-authored versus Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) texts. The successful intern will create multiple "bot or not?" tests to challenge respondents and then gather their feedback on their level of confidence and the features that led them to their conclusion. Specifically, the duties will include:

- Creating multiple short "bot or not?" texts using human- and ChatGPT-authored samples
- Uploading those tests to, e.g. Qualtrics
- Promoting those tests to gather responses
- Undertaking a preliminary analysis of the results

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- An interest in generative artificial intelligence and authorship analysis
- An ability to use, or a willingness to learn how to use ChatGPT, Qualtrics, etc.
- The motivation to disseminate the "bot or not?" test and gather as many results as possible
- A willingness and ability to work unsupervised
- The ability to present preliminary findings on the results

TITLE: EN CLAIR: FORENSIC LINGUISTICS, LITERARY DETECTION, AND LANGUAGE MYSTERIES PODCAST

SUPERVISOR(S): CLAIRE HARDAKER

PROJECT REFERENCE: HardakerSPRINT-a

DATE(S): Summer. (Delete as appropriate for TRINITY/SPRINT)

JOB DESCRIPTION: The overall purpose of this project is to investigate cases that involve forensic linguistics (e.g. the Derek Bentley case), literary detection (e.g. who wrote Shakespeare?), and/or language mysteries (e.g. the Voynich Manuscript). The successful intern will undertake the research necessary to create engaging scripts for one or more podcast episodes. Specifically, your duties will include:

- Agreeing on a number of cases from a long-list that you will focus your efforts on
- Undertaking substantial open source intelligence gathering, including finding, reading, and saving media articles/broadcasts, court documents, case data, biographies, and so forth
- Creating a thoroughly well-evidenced timeline of events from the inception of the case to its conclusion
- Interns with a gift for writing will have the opportunity to write scripts

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- A very keen eye for details, inconsistencies, and alternative perspectives
- The tenacity to investigate complex cases far beyond simple media reports. This will include, e.g. reading legal documents, analysing data, listening to police interviews, etc.
- A high standard of evidence-collecting, sifting, and presenting
- A willingness and ability to work unsupervised
- Good discretion. The successful candidate will be asked to maintain a sensible degree of confidentiality about all aspects of the upcoming episodes until their formal launch

NOTE 1: This position will involve looking in detail at one or more cases. Some cases on the overall long-list involve subjects that some will find distressing. The shortlist of cases will be agreed between supervisor and intern at the start of the project, so there is no requirement to engage with distressing topics, but applicants should bear in mind that it will be necessary to briefly discuss what they feel comfortable investigating.

NOTE 2: If this runs as a SPRINT (summertime) project, the successful candidate is welcome to work for the entire duration remotely. All meetings and contact can be carried out via Teams and/or email.

TITLE: COLLOCATION WORD GAME

SUPERVISOR(S): CLAIRE HARDAKER

PROJECT REFERENCE: HardakerSPRINT-b

DATE(S): Summer

JOB DESCRIPTION: The overall purpose of this project is to begin to create a web-based linguistics word association game similar to those such as Gramle and Wordle, with some similarities to the (old!) television quiz show, Family Fortunes. The project will seek to:
- Catalogue the formats of current and similar word games
- Identify potential formats for this game
- Work out the probable background architecture
- If the project is particularly successful, create and test alpha and even beta releases

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:
- An interest in word games and corpus linguistics
- An ability to code in, e.g. Java script
- The willingness to trial various possible formats to find the best one
- The willingness and ability to work unsupervised
- The ability to discuss and describe the ongoing results of the project

TITLE: THE EDWARDIAN POSTCARD: DEVELOPING A CITIZEN HUMANITIES APPROACH

SUPERVISOR: Prof Julia Gillen

PROJECT REFERENCE: GillenSPRINT

DATE(S): Project will run in June or August 2024 (as the student prefers).

JOB DESCRIPTION: The Edwardian Postcard Project is a research project which is particularly geared to communicating with public audiences. Older generations are interested in local or family history dimensions and younger people often respond to parallels with today's social media. The project has a collection, including transcriptions, of 3000 postcards with Lancaster Digital Collections. You will also be involved with a citizen humanities approach on a bespoke platform, working to recruit and communicate with people willing to upload scans of their cards, or transcribe cards, or access project data for their own purposes.

Your main duties include:
- Operating the citizen humanities platform (full training given)
- Using social media to recruit new participants and publicise the project
- Transcribe some postcards
- Contribute to an in person or online event

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:
- A systematic approach to work including record-keeping
- Good communication skills in written and oral modes
- Good overall time-management skills
- Experience of using social media for other than purely personal purposes is desirable but not essential

TITLE: Visualization of linguistic data and materials development

SUPERVISOR(S): Vaclav Brezina, Raffaella Bottini

PROJECT REFERENCE: BrezinaBottiniSPRINT

DATE(S): Project will run in June or July 2024

JOB DESCRIPTION:
The ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS), Lancaster University is a world leading research institution for the corpus analysis of language. It supports development of new tools and techniques of linguistic analysis as well as the application of corpus methods to a range of areas including healthcare communication, sociolinguistics, and language teaching.
The main aim of this project is 1) to support engagement activities of CASS with the wider community and 2) to make our tools and techniques accessible to a wide range of users. For this, we will be producing a series of handouts, booklets, and other materials, including content for social media. Join our team and learn how we carry out high-impact research and how we communicate about this research with a range of stakeholders.
We are looking for a candidate who:
- Can write clear descriptions and explanations.
- Is creative and can use MS Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint).
- Pays attention to detail and likes producing handouts and other materials.
- Has good communication skills and can work in a team.

Training will be provided.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:
- General interest in linguistic methods and innovation.
- Good level of computer literacy, knowledge of social media.
- Strong ability to work independently and as part of a team.