A Corpus-based Concordances Analysis of Tommy Orange's There There in Relation to Monistic Philosophy

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Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to discuss monism in Tommy Orange's There There by using selected concordance occurrences. Monistic philosophy rejects the post-modern concept of pluralism and instability. Using the Antconc toolkit, the concordance of the terms such as story, history and its plurals too were found and the relation of these words to the signs, situations, characters and themes was tested for textual monism. In addition, if these words help to make the novel a coherent whole, the concordance plots of those words have also been closely studied. The choice of the text for these words was due to the author's own argument that the story of the urban Native American is to be considered within the context of its histories. Despite the fact that characters seem to be fractured 'stories' under the influence of their violent history, phrases that exist in multiple ways, incidents and themes seem to serve as links and turning points to maintain a connected and coherent overall narrative about the urban Native American community.

Keywords: corpus-based concordances, coherence, monistic philosophy, postmodern pluralism.

1. Introduction

According to Craig (2015), postmodern pluralism helps one to consider the knowledge in a more nuanced way. In other words, all the aspects of the knowledge aren't the final and absolute reality. This is not a meaning that is given priority. The idea of pluralism has been used in political, religious and social contexts in discourse related to communities. It is clear from evidence that the fields in which they work are full of multiplicity and variety. (Nwaomah, 2017). Cuddon (2013) states that the text contains a myriad of significant meanings in literary deconstruction, which has no stable meaning and can disown itself. In the beginning of the twentieth century critics tried this view

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of instability of context in a text against the idea of unity. Plurality thus contributes to heterogeneity and contradictory indeterminacy.

According to Eshelman (2008), the text is broken down by fragmentation and indetermination and its meanings. The other element that is implied is a monism, which tries to combine signs, themes and characters in a text. One can find various meanings in a single text and the unity of the reading is not lost in any way (Vandevelde, 2005; Kumar, 2022). Pluralists argue that the text has many reliable interpretations as the readers have diverse backgrounds in education and culture. To some degree the readers are like monists, but they are very different from monists and hold a different view of the text. Monism and pluralism are two distinct theoretical ideologies. Where, monism is considered to be act, pluralism is taken as event.

2. Literature Review

Corpus Linguistics

According to Kennedy (1998), Corpus is a methodically compiled collection of text or transcribed speech that is used to portray a certain aspect of language as the basis for linguistic analysis and representation. Corpus Linguistics is thus one of the origins of the structure and usage of language and of a number of applications, such as the processing of natural languages in computer science or language learning. The corpus linguistic method allows linguistic analysis of output rather than capacity, description rather than linguistic universal, quantitative and qualitative language models and a more analytical approach, since corpus linguistic focuses on large text systems and on assessing the occurrence of such linguistic units (Leech, 1992; Ajmal et al., 2022). Due to the strong and versatile methodological approach, the spectrum of corpus linguistics, the boundaries of corpus linguistics and other linguistic areas has become interdisciplinary and fluctuating.

The variety and number of interfaces to other academic disciplines have recently been divided into corpus-linguistic ones. However, corpus linguistics has become an important technique in the field of linguistics and its related disciplines. For example, in view of the Chomskian vision of language science and the second phase of the establishment of the corpus linguistic until today, McEnery and Hardie (2012) expect a third phase after the first phase of struggle and growth in the late 1980s. Corpus linguistics is gradually being used in its study in other disciplines. Furthermore, the methodologies of corpus linguistics will be a crucial step in enhancing rigorous integration of both linguistic and non-linguistic fields.

Concordance tools and analysis

To study English-language corpora, concordance is the most essential tool used. A concordance may be used to locate a particular corpus, which includes a word, a part of a word, or a phrase, a series of characters of any length. It is then shown as an output, usually in one example per line, where the background can be clearly shown before and after each example.

Depending on the method that is being used, the concordance can look different. WordSmith is possibly the most widely-used third-generation concordant, or more properly WordSmith Tools developed by Mike Scott. It was available in different versions. Laurence Anthony's AntConc tool has almost the same range of attributes as WordSmith, but a different user interface style. Mark Davies' corpus.byu.edu method is a fourth generation concordancer, unlike WordSmith and AntConc. It is a web-based service that is accessed via a browser, rather than a programme that runs locally on computer. 'Corpus Query Processor' (CQP) is developed by Corpus Workbench. It is a form of a concordance used from a command line (McEnery & Hardie, 2012).

Concept of Monistic Philosophy

It can be somewhat known to say that monism among modern philosophers is contentious. The vast majority of those philosophers, who took the time to think of it as false, but as simple and even absurdly false, make fun of it. Monism, according to Jonathan Barnes is "at best absurd and at worst unintelligible" (1979; p. 1).

According to Inwagen (2002), monism is a belief of philosophy that believes that only one truth exists in the universe. Making it more clear Brugger (1972) asserts that all objects have a source that can be distinguished from them. In this view, only one component is ontologically integral to everything else. This situation is called priority monism. Also "the whole is prior to its parts" or "the world has parts, but the parts are dependent fragments of an integrated whole" (Schaffer, n.d.). Substance monism is "the view that the apparent plurality of substances is due to different states or appearances of a single substance". It also asserts that a variety of existing things can be explained in terms of a single reality or substance (Cross, 1974; Kumar, 2020). Attributive monism is "the view that whatever the number of substances, they are of a single ultimate kind". Partial monism is "within a given realm of being (however many there may be) there is only one substance" (Urmson, 1991). Contrary to this, existence monism is "the view that there is only one concrete object token" (Schaffer, 2015). According to Strawson (2014), existence monism

claims that there is only one thing, the universe, which can be broken into several objects only artificially and arbitrarily.

It is also revealed in literature through some constructive theme related to the concept of monism dominates a text. According to Eshelman (2015), monism is characterised as a specific three-way unity involving signs, situations and characters' traits. Monists see wholes as more important than their parts. Pluralists see parts as more important than the whole (Schaffer, 2010; Kumar 2021; Jabeen et al., 2022; Fathurohman, Purba, & Trimarjoko, 2021; Pimonratanakan, 2022). This concept i.e. distinction between monism and pluralism makes a point in literature.

This article, which diverges from postmodern practises, attempt to argue that the text itself attempts to create monism, especially contemporary texts, apart from the background's historic, social and cultural and biographical elements. It is aims at arguing that the charge of postmodern pluralism has been increasingly discharging the burden of contemporary literary writers who seem to express the unity of textual monism, hence our utilisation of the word here. This is not to say that all current texts are aimed intrinsically at monism.

Eshelman (2008) asserts that the disintegration and pluralism of themes and worlds in literary texts in the 20th century was often and consciously underlined in literature. However, with the turn of the 21st century and the controversies about the paradigm shift of literary theory, literary writers are now more focused on projecting monistic unity.

The researcher has tried to look at a novel in view of the theoretical viewpoint of unity if it exists in contemporary literary writings at present. For this reason, because postmodernism is highly expressed in American literature, There There a popular novel by Tommy Orange (2018) was chosen for evaluation. Only a year after its publication, this book has generated a stir among different sections of the society.

The use of corpus-based research for the study of literature was discussed in detail by Mahlberg (2010) by discussing the instances of Victorians' fiction and analysing the variations between the Victorian fiction and different theories. Mahberg and Smith (2010) assert that the initial step for such a corpus-based literary analysis is the assessment of keywords that lead to more relevant terms that are more important for a broader understanding of the texts. In this paper, the debate goes towards discovering the trends in the usage of the terms story and stories, history and histories and linearly aligning various sections of the storey to observe whether the idea of postmodern fragmentation and pluralism is being attempted to dispel a cohesive whole (Kumar et al., 2022).

Corpus linguistics uses "generating frequency word lists, concordance lines, collocate, cluster and keyness lists and others to analyse the text". It compares the word in general way and also standardises word sense. For example the meaning of the word story is "an account of events and incidents". In this context, it was first applied in the 14th century, although the earliest use of the term was synonymous with 'history' in the 13th century. Thus, the researcher has taken into consideration both the aspects for effective analysis and discussion.

3. Methodology

Research Design

This novel uses the scientific method to explore hypotheses and is able to establish broad general explanations the corpus based application to the famous novel, There There, the debut novel by Tommy Orange. The text uses the idea of monistic to manipulate the word comparison of the text in this contemporary fiction. The aim of examining the analysis of the singular and plural form of the words studied is to see how these words have been used differently in the novel.

Instruments

In order to explore how the narrative is interconnected with the support of the words 'story' and 'history', corpus data analysis methods have been used to investigate and analyse the concordance between these two words. According to Orange (2018) " the world was made of stories, nothing else, just stories, and stories about stories" (p. 47). In the lives of people and in this world as a whole, the text itself points to the relevance of tales. Using textfixer software available online at textfixer.com, the data was processed by eliminating line spaces and page breaks. The researcher used the AntConc software, the corpus analysis toolkit for the concordance analysis of various lines have been collected, analysed and discussed.

4. Results and Findings

Text Analysis Process

A computer with Windows, Linux, etc with adequate hardware resources is usually needed for corpora analysis. To examine plain text files with it, a concordance or concordancer programme may be used. The researchers must also know the fundamental concepts of corpus linguistics, such as word list, type, frequency, concordance and token as these are the most fundamental concepts in the corpus-based analysis. Making a word list is the first thing the researcher needs to do. It is typically arranged between the highest and lowest types of

frequency. A type is a form of a word that is specific. An illustration of the word list of concordance software named Antconc is given below:

Figure1: AntConc 3.2.1w (2007 version)
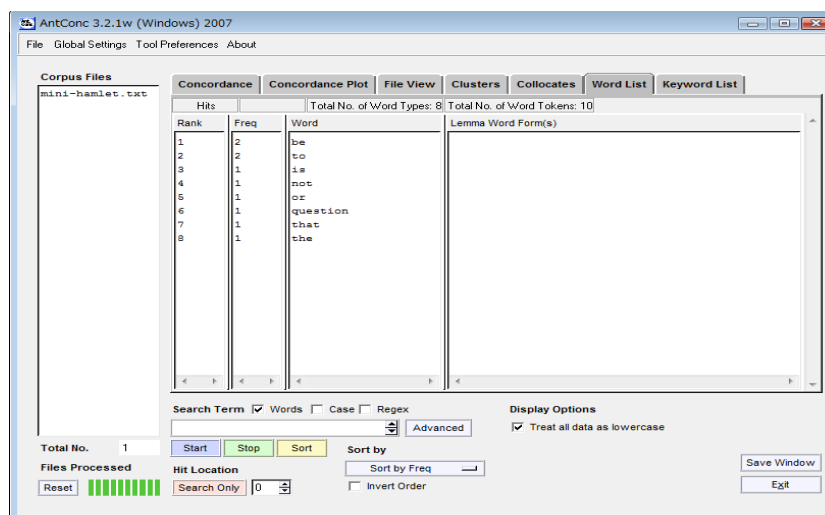
For example if one do corpora based concordance analysis of the statement "to be or not to be; that is the question", one finds that has 8 types: to, be, or, not, that, is, the, question; the types 'to' and 'be' are 2 because they appear twice. Also there are 10 token as every word counts is ten. Making a concordance will put the word in the middle of the text and show one what it looks like. The concordance lines are typically ordered by a selection procedure. This helps one to see patterns in the lines easily. It is named Keyword in context or KWIC if the type in question is put in the middle to establish concordance lines. It is termed as keyword in context or KWIC if the type of compliance is placed in the middle. Having a corpus analysis implies making a plain-text file. First to analyse the analogy of word, a text editor or Notepad is used in Window. Some text will be typed into a word processor programme, and then saved into a location where it can be found later. This file will then be viewed at Antconc software.

Selected Text Analysis

There There by Tommy Orange is a novel that examines the urban Native American living in Oakland and seeking to find their identity in the pretext of their history, turmoil of the past and current encounters, family relations, relations and problems, opportunities, adjustment ability, economic considerations, substance use and violence and stories from their past and present. Each character is respectively referred to using first person (I), and third person (he/she) pronouns.

The story of each character is told under different heading of his/her name using first person and third person pronoun. Powwow, Oakland's native Red Indian cultural festival, is the focus of the plot, where almost all characters begin thinking about it at first, come to an abrupt end knowingly or unknowingly, and face some other devastating shooting encounter at Powwow's site. During the shooting, characters such as Tony, Charles, Octavio and Charles die while Edwin and Orvil are taken to the hospital injured and the rest are alive as witnesses to this terrible incident. The novel is segregated into three sections. Most of the first two sections turn between the past and the present, while to bring denouement and closure to the floor, most of the last portion delves into the present.

At first, the concordance analysis of the word 'story' is done using Antconc software. In this novel, the word story has been used 45 times; however the plural of the word story is used 40 times. After analysis, the concordance hits of the word 'story' were found in the phrase "old Cheyenne story about a rolling head". This word was repeatedly found at various situations. The word is accompanied by a series of events about drinking all the water and still wanting to be more connected to the woman's rolling head. The events begin with the husband's love for his wife, to brush her hair, to paint her face, to look at her clean face when she came in the evening, to follow her in the evening, to see the husband 'capture' with her with a water demon, to kill her and his wife, to cook the woman's flesh, and the head to follow his family, to drink all the water and to roll all the time. Thus, the word 'story' refers to events and events that follow, or which also relate to events that have taken place in the past.

Figure 2: a concordance analysis for word story
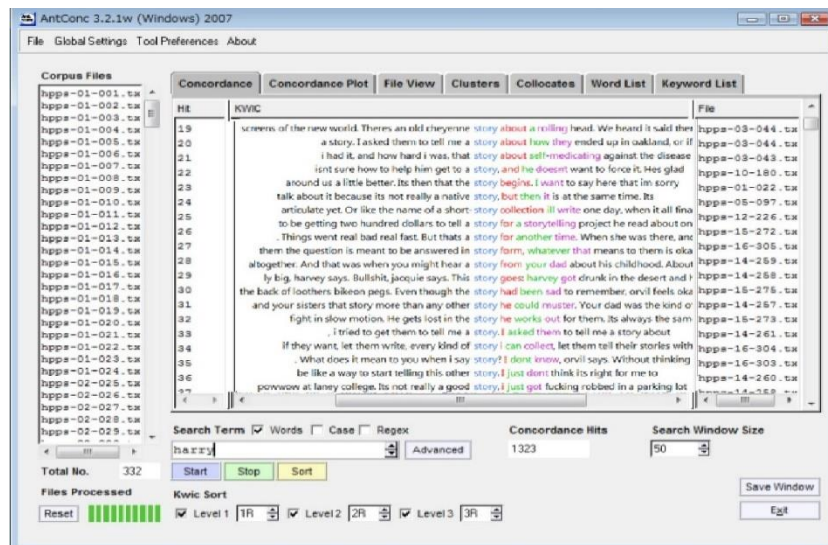
The second time the term 'story' appears, to represent historical events: "I asked them to tell me a story about how they ended up in Oakland" (Orange. 2018; p. 21). The use of the word here stands for historical facts. But it corresponds either to the real events and occurrences of the whole Native American group or to the specific characters. Lucas informs him during Dene's conversation with his uncle about his film project that he asks the urban Native American to tell them about themselves in the form of a storey while documenting whatever they say. To refer to the accounts of specific characters here, the word 'story' is used. It also refers to a specific incident, such as the reference to the 'hunting story' of Mr. Roosvelt, which is portrayed as a lover of nature, but actually divided the throat of the old bear and stuffed it.

The word 'story' is used for the personal accounts of specific characters here. It also refers to a specific incident like the reference to the 'hunting story' of Mr Roosvelt (p. 35) who is portrayed as lover of nature but in fact slit the throat of the old bear and got it stuffed. Orange ironically uses this kind of narrative in the form of specific kinds of images and concepts, not to be told to the public, but to circulate contrasting variants.

The groupings of the word 'stories' primarily deal with historical stories of the past. The highest frequency of this word is with preposition 'about' which is 4 times in the novel referring to the history of the Native Red Indians. The maximum number of this word was for the 'about' preposition, which has been used times and corresponds to the history of the Native Red Indians.

The word is accompanied as well by words such as 'children', 'document', 'invaluable', 'massacres', sweat and bleed' 'stories', 'people', and 'Oakland'. Those terms facilitate the connection to historical context of the word. The word is used for the first time in the text, in the sense of a violent historical past, to speak of the genocide of the Red Indians by the white race: "Some of us grew up with stories about massacres. Stories about what happened to our people not so long ago" (Orange, 2018; p.5). The Native American genocide is defined as a text that is still alive to people in their minds since its predecessors have listened to these stories. Historical events and stories are still alive and productive. Dene continues the practise of storytelling and is still linked to the past, and is also brought forward in Dene's novel as he persuades the film grant committee to document the narratives of urban Native Red Indians: "let them tell their stories with no one else there, with no direction or manipulation or agenda" (Orange, 2018; p. 27). Furthermore, it suggests that the native Red Indian's historical accounts have been violated by European settlers. In history, the stereotyping of Native Red Indians has been

exacerbated, making the narratives miserable. Therefore, the Urban Red Indian narrative needs to observe the society and its problems in a fresh way. The words spoken by Dene 'the stories are invaluable' reads the significance of their history. It is important to reinterpret the actual meaning behind the stories. The narratives which have not been revealed here are contrasted with those which have not been healed. The text thus simply means telling the true events, which are like injuries that must be cured. The fact is that the wounds cannot be healed until the real stories are not told: "All these stories that we haven't been telling all this time, that we haven't been listening to, are just part of what we need to heal" (Orange, 2018; p. 96). Because, the stories propagated to the people today are "shitty versions from outdated history textbooks" (Orange, 2018; p. 103). In fact, these are obsolete textbooks those tell conventional story about Native Red Indian . Therefore, the other version of urban Red Indian needs to be said. In the narrative of these books, one finds differences among these Native American but in reality it is not.

Dene doesn't need any more stories after capturing people's stories in Oakland for the Powwow project. He is equally unaware of what happens to the stories he collects in a way that "the content direct(s) the vision" (Orange, 2018; p. 168). The word 'story' has duel meaning thus. At some places, the meaning of this word is related to the happenings in people's lives, but it refers to the historical evidence of native Americans in most parts of the novel.

 The analysis of the word 'history' on concordance basis shows that the novel used the word 'history' 20 times. However the plural of this word has been used 6 times. The word also applies to the previous incidents and events that took place with Native Americans.

In the text, the use of the term 'history' applies to the incidents and events of the entire Native Red Indian American community. The word implies both the past and the present events. In the text of the novel, the word history has been associated to books, biographies, heroic, pretty, textbooks, and trapped. All the words in the sentences stand for past events and incidents that have occurred with the community. The histories are actually documented as well as undocumented. The undocumented history of urban Red Indians in particular is invaluable and needs to acknowledge.

Figure 3: Concordance analysis for the word history
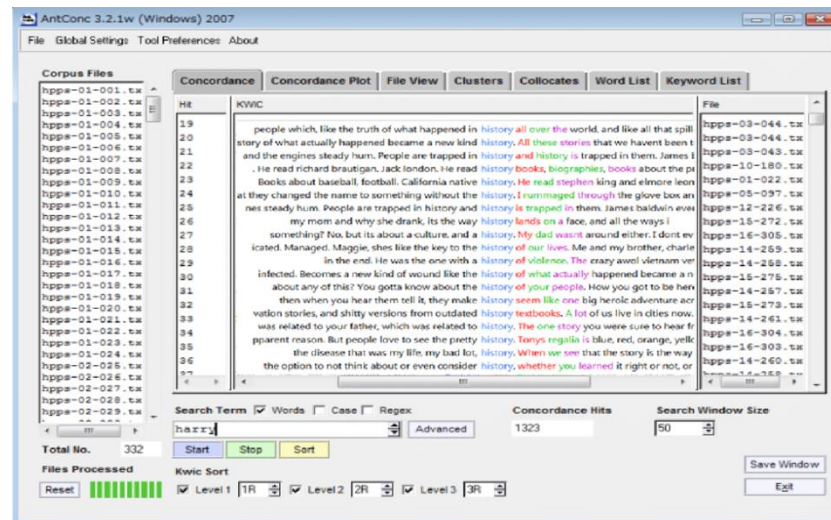
The word 'histories' is applied solely for incidents in the entire community. From the past stories of the entire society, one can see concordances between past stories of what they search on the internet and current accounts of what has been happening in recent time, indicating that what they are searching on the internet represents their impressions of recent real-world occurrences. The other events also whether they represent current and past events and incidents, they are for the entire community. It can be compared to the way the word 'stories' is used in the text. This can be an example of how the events and incidents, of the current and past, of the entire community or great number of Native Red Indian Americans are represented.

4. Discussions

As in the novel, Powwow is the location where any character finally gathers together, the sentences concerning story, history, stories, and histories in this story all seem to serve the singular purpose of making a perfectly whole, interconnected whole within the complex web of interrelated as smaller parts of the stories of a particular group of characters and incidents. The characters are striving for coherence and change in their lives in the midst of indications of urban life and Red Indian culture. The novel ends on a bittersweet note — it reveals the world in which there are endless stories to be told, between the ferocity and unrest, marriages and redemption, homicides and family reunions. The story starts with the genocide of the native Red Indians

by white people and then comes to an end the slaughter of the white men by the Native Red Indians at Powwow.

Through the use of the words story, history, stories, and histories, the link between different events, characters and themes is often established and maintained until the end. The use of these words throughout the novel in the plot of concordance shows that the words are used as links and inverse links to make the novel a cohesive whole. The concordance analysis indicates that the word story spread throughout the novel in contrast to the word stories in high number, particularly in the first two sections of the novel. Also, in the text, the meanings of the words stories and histories are identical.

The concordance plot of the word 'story' indicates that there are 40 hits for the word story and these are scattered all over the novel, even in the third part of the novel. Each character seems to tell his or her narrative in episodic form , through their cultural tradition and the chain of events in the dynamic storytelling design.

The frequency of the word 'stories' is very high in the first two sections of the book, reflecting the cultural and historical significance of the person, which drives characters into the present and the past. The word has been used appropriately in such a way that it express a coherent meaning, opposed to retaining the concepts distorted and fractured, as in post-modernism. The text of the novel also offers a unified narrative in its own way. Here is some instances from the novel that shows a unified narrative:

 "We haven't seen the Urban Indian story. What we've seen is full of the kinds of stereotypes that are the reason no one is interested in the Native story in general, it's too sad, so sad it can't even be entertaining, but more importantly because of the way it's been portrayed, it looks pathetic, and we perpetuate that" (Orange, 2018; p. 26).

The novel thus tells a story of an urban setting, which comprises and connects the multiple dynamic plots in one unified story. The text of the novel tells profoundly relevant ideas that the objects, events, and characters integrate into the broad framework of the word 'story'.

5. Conclusion

A study of the novel, There There under corpus based concordance shows that in the novel, different sections and features of the novel make a complete ensemble in the light of   textual monism that is applied with the motive of comprehension and consistency of the text, against the postmodern plurality and fragmentation. The existence and lifestyle of the characters in the novel appears to be dispersed in the fringes. However, historical events and incidents, and Powwow,

are at the centre of each character's mind. Many characters would prefer to forget or remain away from the centre. But they can't do as per their wish. The centre brings them back and puts them in a position where they seem to experience cultural and individual ideologies and identities. They are forced to lead such an unfavourable life, from which they have to come out and try for better and deserving identity. They are at various advantages at present as they have not only the opportunity to be in family but getting the opportunity to mix up with 0lded together, but above all one overarching tale is dominating, concerning lower class community and their unconsciousness aspiration to do well in society.

This kind of research can be further formulated and applied to the other literary works of contemporary time. Researches in this line will bring paradigmatic change in the stylistics analysis in the field of languages, literature and cultural studies.

Acknowledgement:

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