A stylometric analysis of Mormon scripture and related texts


The development of text databases via the Internet has given impetus to research in computational linguistics towards the automatic handling of this information. In particular, the enormous amount of texts coming from heterogeneous sources revealed the need for robust text classification tools which are able to be easily ported to other domains and natural languages and be employed with minimal computational cost. Apart from the propositional content and the text, stylistic aspects can also be used as classificatory means. Biber studied the stylistic differences between written and spoken. A Stylometric Analysis of Mormon Scripture and Related Texts. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society – Series A, 155(1), pp. 91-120. At least three computer analyses have been completed to date in an effort to determine who wrote the Book of Mormon, and whether it was a single individual or a group. 1979 study by Mormon researchers indicates multiple authors: Statisticians at Brigham Young University completed a computer analysis of the Book of Mormon. D.I. Holmes, “A Multivariate Technique for Authorship Attribution and its Application to the Analysis of Mormon Scripture and Related Texts,” History and Computing, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1991, Pages 14, 20-21. Elinore H. Partridge, “Characteristics of Joseph Smith’s Style and Notes on the Authorship of the Lectures on Faith,” Task Papers in LDS History, # 14, 1976-DEC, Pages 1 & 2. Wayne A. Larsen and Alvin C. Rencher, “Who Wrote the Book of Mormon?”