

“How now, Sir John?”  
Locating social class in  
Early Modern drama

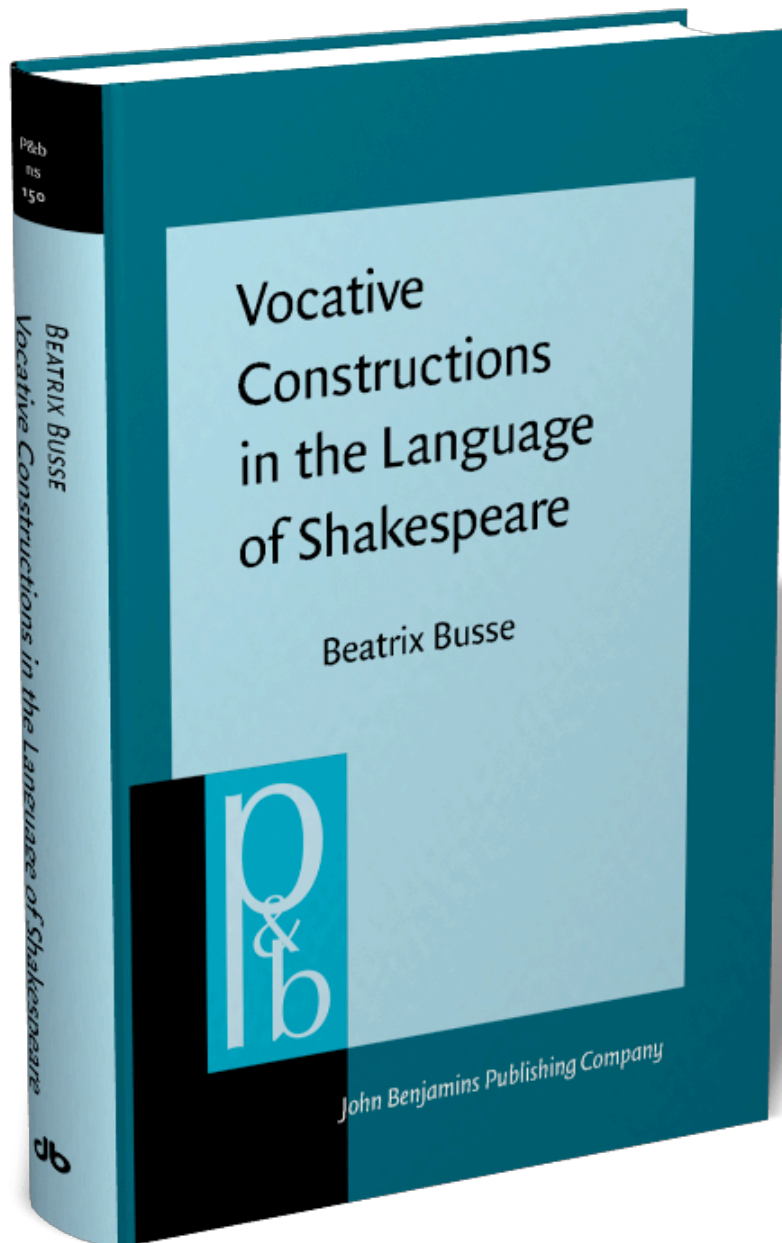
Heather Froehlich

@heatherfro

How does Shakespeare's use of male and female vocatives for social class compare to his contemporaries?

# What are vocatives?

- Nouns addressing social relations and emotive attitudes towards the addressee. Include:
    - Status terms (your majesty, madam, sir)
    - occupational terms (officer, vicar)
    - general terms (gentlemen, ladies)
    - terms of endearment (darling, dear)
    - derogatory terms (imbecile, idiot)
    - personal names (John, Jane)
    - compound determinatives (any, no, every, some)
- (Huddleston & Pullum 2002, 522-523)



MR. WILLIAM  
**SHAKESPEARES**

COMEDIES,  
HISTORIES, &  
TRAGEDIES.

Published according to the True Originall Copies.



L O N D O N  
Printed by Isaac Iaggard, and Ed. Blount. 1623.



# Early modern dramatists, 1514-1662



anonymous



bale



barry



beaumont



beza



cary



cavendish,  
margaret



cavendish, william



chapman



chettle



daniel



davenport



dekker



fletcher



ford



gascoigne



glapthorne



goffe



greene



greville



heywood, john



heywood, thomas



jonson



kempe



killigrew



kyd



lodge



lupton



lyly



marbury



markham



marlowe



marston



massinger



may



mayne



middleton



munday



nabbes



nash



peeke



rowley



sampson



seneca



shakespeare



shirley



smith



tompkins



tourneur



udall



webster



wever



wilson



yarrington



zouche

# From Shakespeare to Early Modern Drama

- Corpora
  - Shakespeare (36 plays)
    - Folger Digital Texts Shakespeare
    - WordHoard Shakespeare
  - Standardized Spelling WordHoard Early Modern Drama (335 plays, includes Shakespeare)
    - EEBO-TCP phase I, curated by Martin Mueller (Northwestern)

# Social class in EM Drama

- 2 dominant sociohistorical models of social class
  - Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg 1994, revised 1996
    - (Corpus of Early English Correspondence)
  - Culpeper & Archer 2003, 2005
    - (Sociopragmatic corpus)

Table 1. Rank and Status in Stuart England (From Nevalainen and Ramoulin-Brunberg 1994, 140, table 1, based on Laslett, 1983, 38)

Grade		Title	Occupational name	
G	N	1. Duke	Lord, Lady	None
	o	Archbishop		
	b			
E	l	2. Marquess	Lord, Lady	None
	e	3. Earl		
	m			
N	e	4. Viscount	Lord, Lady	None
	n			
		5. Baron		
T		Bishop	Sir, Dame	P r o f e s s i o n s
	G	6. Baronet		
	e	7. Knight		
R	n	8. Esquire	Mr, Mrs	P r o f e s s i o n s
	t	9. Gentleman		
	l			
Y	e		Mr, Mrs	P r o f e s s i o n s
	m			
	n			
		Clergyman		
		10. Yeoman	Goodman, Goodwife (Goody)	Husbandman
		11. Husbandman		(Name of craft)
		12. Craftsman Tradesman Artificer		Carpenter, etc
		13. Labourer	none	Labourer
		14. Cottager Pauper		none



Table 2. Models of social stratification in Tudor and Stuart England (Nevalainen and Raumolin-Brunberg 1996, 58, Table 4.1)

Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4?
<i>(Royalty)</i>	<i>(Royalty)</i>	<i>(Royalty)</i>	
Nobility	Nobility	Nobility	
Gentry	Gentry	Gentry	‘Better sort’
	- Upper	- Upper	
	- Lower	- Lower	
	<i>Professions</i>	<i>Professions</i>	
		→ <b>Gentry</b>	
		→ <b>Non-Gentry</b>	
Clergy	Clergy	Clergy	‘Middling sort’
	- upper	→ <b>Nobility</b>	
	- lower	→ <b>Gentry</b>	
		→ <b>Non-Gentry</b>	
Merchants	Merchants	Merchants	
		→ <b>Gentry</b>	
		→ <b>Non-gentry</b>	
	<i>Social Climbers</i>	<b>Social Climbers</b>	
Non-gentry*	Non-gentry*	Non-Gentry	
			‘Poorest sort’

---

\* i.e. excluding the intermediate ranks of professionals, clergy and merchants

# Sociopragmatic Corpus annotation scheme

- Social class ranked from 0-5
  - Nobility = 0
  - Gentry = 1
  - Professionals = 2
  - Other middling groups = 3
  - Ordinary commoners = 4
  - Lowest groups = 5

(Archer 2005, 113-114; Archer and Culpeper 2003, 48-49)

“For example, we could not use the whole array of address terms, a theoretically rich source of social information ... (even if we could be sure about the social value of a particular term of address). We allowed ourselves two areas of exception here, occupational terms and high status titles. In both these areas, the meanings of the terms are relatively unambiguous and have remained relatively unchanged over time.”

(Archer & Culpeper 2003, 53)

01.15.21.04.01.02.02 | the external world > abstract properties > action or operation > behaviour or conduct > good behaviour > courtesy > courteous forms of address or title > [noun] > title

www.oed.com/view/th/class/92704

Search

Digg Reader myplace.strath.ac.uk Facebook Budget Bytes amazon.co.uk Evernote Web EM theatre network Folger Digital Text... Markdown Spotify Dear Data

Stumble! All I like it! Share List Info Likes Connections Tools

Home About What's new Contact us Subscriber services Help

My OED (personal profile): Sign in Create profile

OED Oxford English Dictionary  
The definitive record of the English language

Quick search: Find word in dictionary GO  
Lost for Words? Advanced search Help

Browse:

Dictionary Sources  
Categories Historical Thesaurus  
Timelines

Historical Thesaurus

Search: Within Historical Thesaurus GO Words Headings Both

the external world

- the universe
- the earth
- the living world
- sensation
- matter
- abstract properties
  - existence
  - creation
  - cause
  - present events
  - action or operation
    - [noun]
    - [adjective]
    - [adverb]
    - [verb (intransitive)]
    - [verb (transitive)]
    - [phrase]
    - of action or operation [preposition]

the external world > abstract properties > action or operation > behaviour or conduct > good behaviour > courtesy > courteous forms of address or title > [noun] (105)

Subcategories:

- for people generally (1)
- for a man (34)
- for woman (18)
- title (52)

My entries (8)

My searches (1)

About Historical Thesaurus

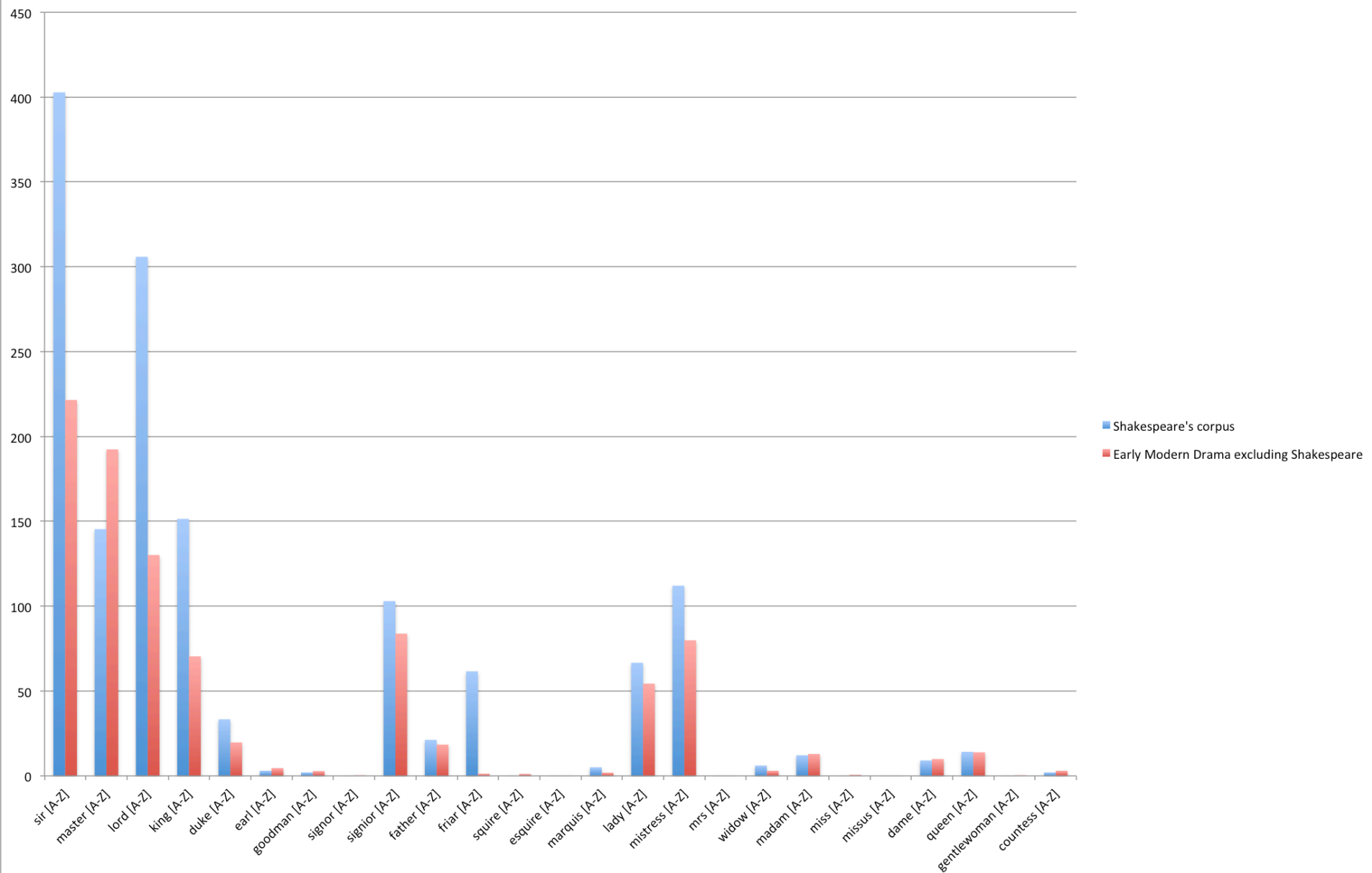
The Historical Thesaurus is a taxonomic classification of the majority of senses and lemmas in OED Online. It can be thought of as a kind of semantic index to the contents of the OED.

The Historical Thesaurus can be used in OED Online to navigate around the dictionary by topic, find related terms, and explore the lexical history of a concept or meaning.

Each class (a list of senses and lemmas sharing a particular meaning) is arranged chronologically, giving a historical overview of the concept represented by

lord [A-Z]|sir [A-Z]|  
master [A-Z]|duke [A-Z]|  
earl [A-Z]|king [A-Z]|  
signior [A-Z]|lady [A-Z]|  
mistress [A-Z]|madam [A-  
Z]|queen [A-Z]|dame [A-Z]

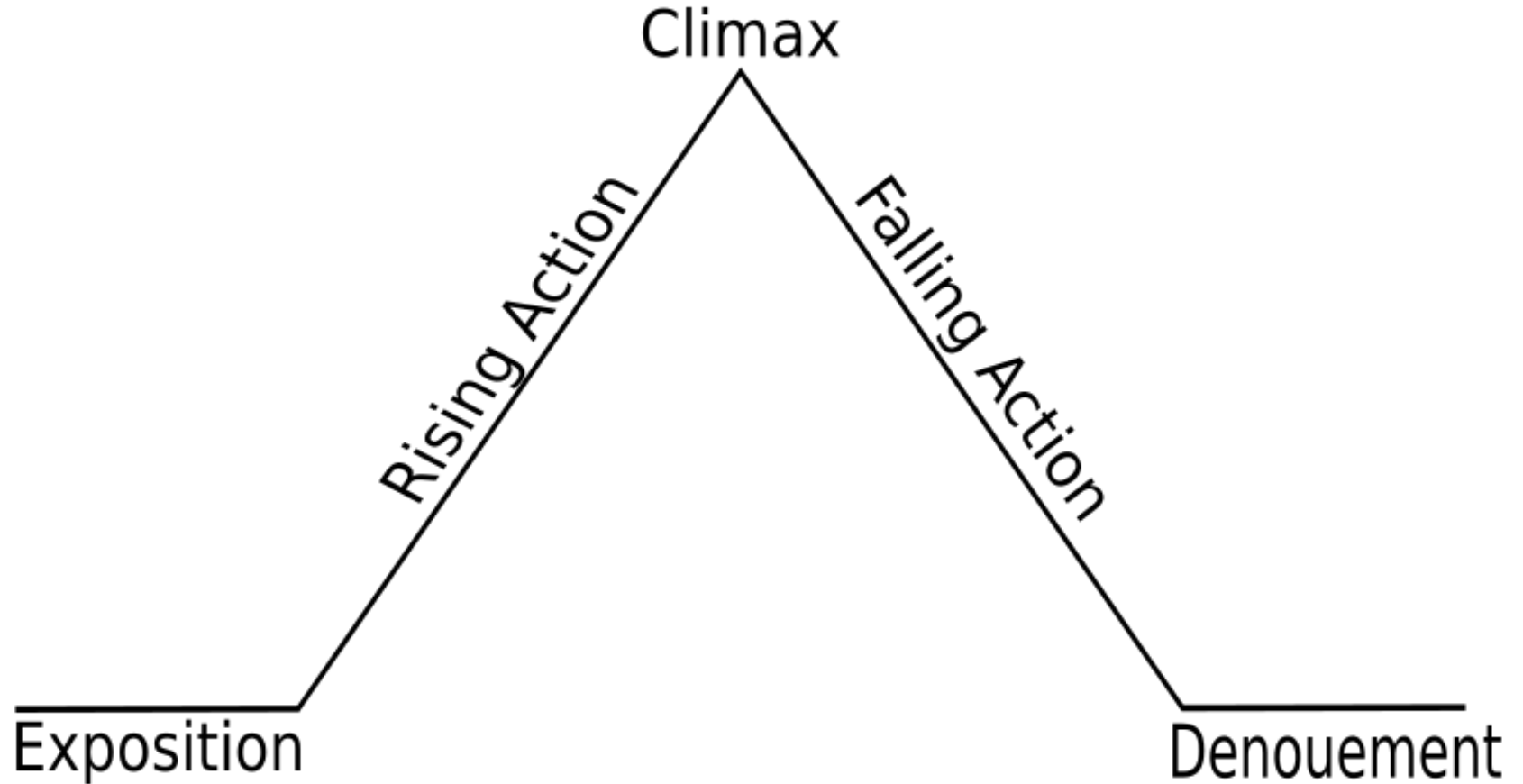
Frequency of gentry titles in Shakespeare and the reference corpus of Early Modern Drama excluding Shakespeare, normalised to parts per million



So where in Early Modern plays will  
vocatives for social class appear?

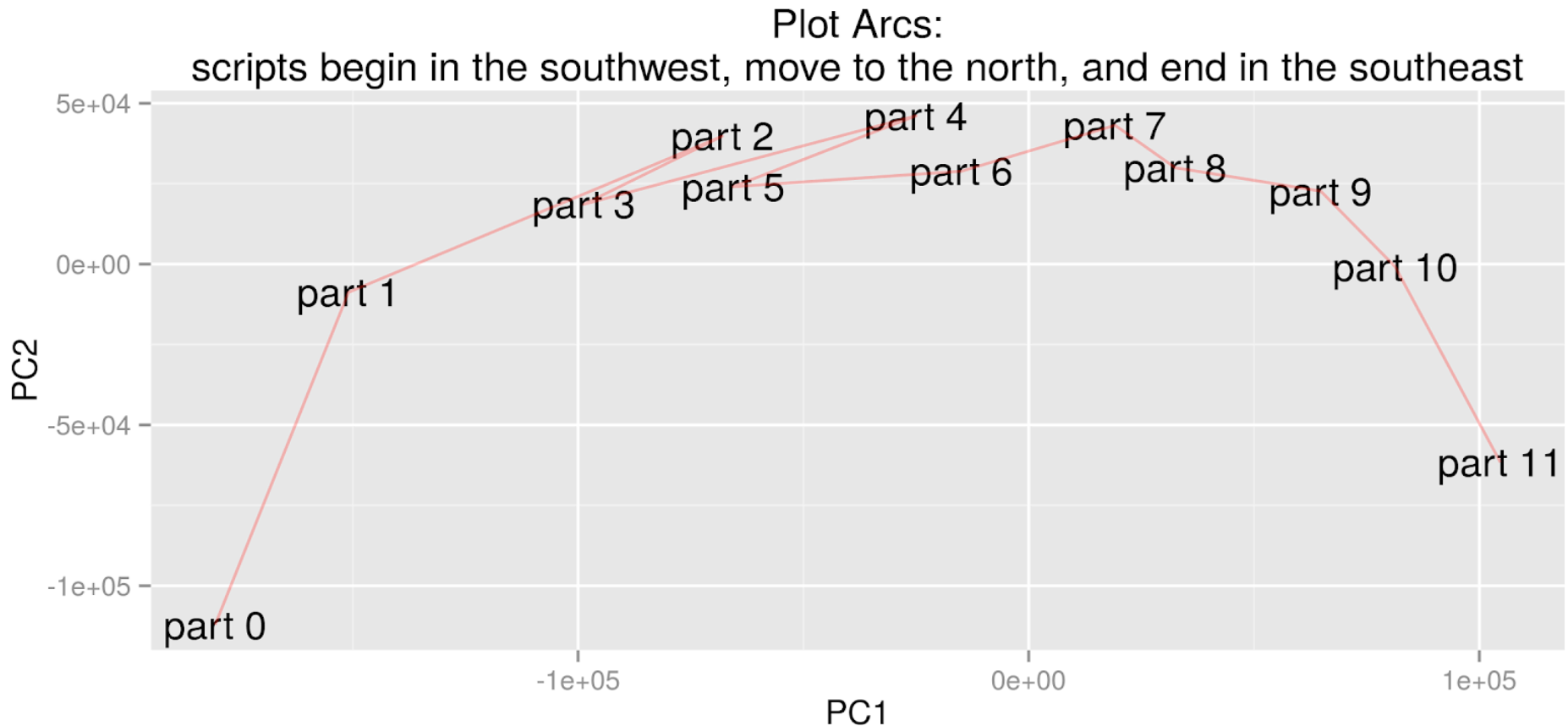


# Freytag's dramatic pyramid (1863)



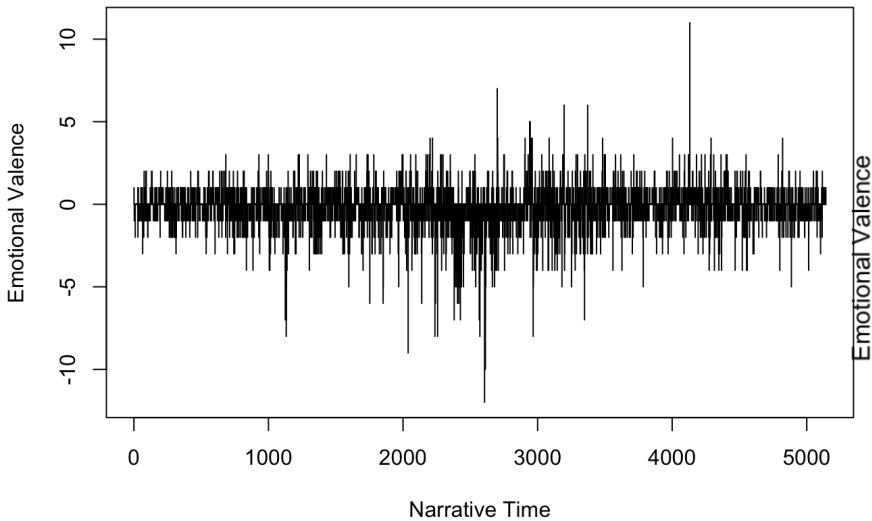
# Other models of dramatic structure

- Schmidt, 'Fundamental plot arcs in TV and movie scripts' (2014)

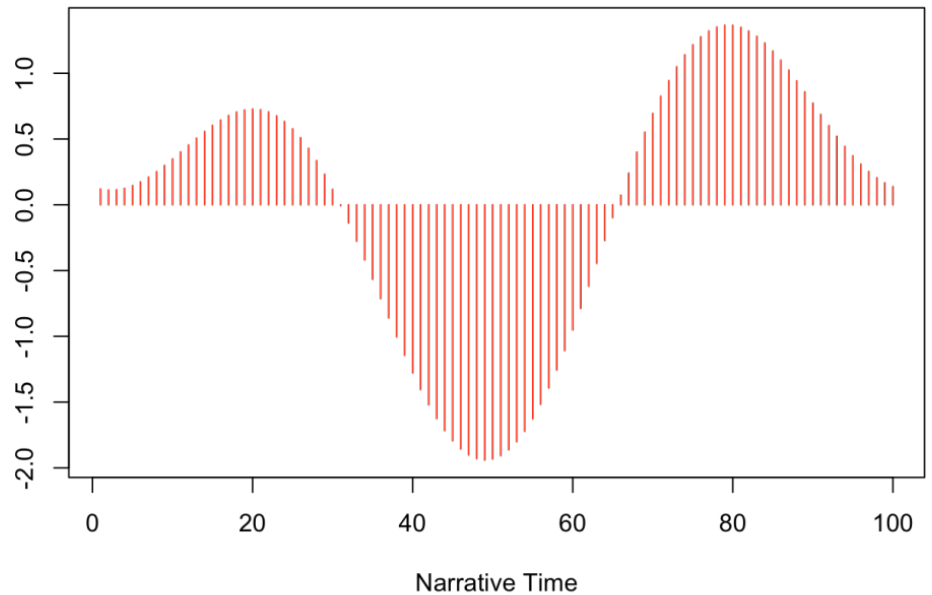


# Jockers, 'Syuzhet' (2015); Swafford (2015a, 2015b, 2015c)

**A Noisy Plot Trajectory: Joyce's Portrait of the Artist**



**A Transformed Plot Trajectory: Joyce's Portrait of the Artist**



## Corpus Files

co-1604-anon-lonpro.txt  
 co-1608-anon-devedmo  
 hi-1605-anon-nobodyso  
 in-1514-anon-youth.txt  
 in-1554-anon-jacesau.tx  
 in-1554-anon-wealthhea  
 to-1601-anon-libprod.txt  
 tr-1594-anon-alphgerm.t  
 tr-1600-anon-lustdom.tx  
 tr-1601-anon-trichiv.txt  
 tr-1604-anon-hieronimo.  
 tr-1606-anon-yotr.txt  
 in-1538-bale-chiefpromi  
 in-1538-bale-threelaws.t  
 co-1608-barry-ramalley.  
 co-1606-beau-womhate  
 co-1607-beau-pestle.txt  
 co-1613-beau-scornlady  
 co-1614-beau-witmoney  
 to-1609-beau-philaster.t  
 tr-1608-beau-cuprev.txt  
 tr-1610-beau-maidtrag.t  
 tr-1575-beze-abrsac.txt  
 tr-1604-cary-mariam.txt  
 dr-1662-cavm-3daughts  
 dr-1662-cavm-apocryph  
 dr-1662-cavm-bellcamp  
 dr-1662-cavm-comicalh  
 dr-1662-cavm-femaleac  
 dr-1662-cavm-ladyconte  
 dr-1662-cavm-lovesadv  
 dr-1662-cavm-lovesadv  
 dr-1662-cavm-matrimon  
 dr-1662-cavm-publicwoi  
 dr-1662-cavm-religious.t  
 dr-1662-cavm-severalwi  
 dr-1662-cavm-unnatural  
 dr-1662-cavm-youthsgic  
 dr-1662-cavm-witscabi  
 co-1640-cavw-countryci  
 co-1641-cavw-variety.tx  
 co-1596-chap-begalex.t  
 co-1597-chap-humorda  
 co-1601-chap-allfool.txt  
 co-1602-chap-goosecap  
 co-1602-chap-mayday.t  
 co-1602-chap-usher.txt  
 co-1604-chap-widowtea  
 co-1605-chap-dolivin.txt  
 co-1619-chap-wisewom  
 tr-1604-chap-dambois.t  
 tr-1605-chap-caespomp  
 tr-1608-chap-byroncons  
 tr-1608-chap-charlesbyr  
 tr-1610-chap-revbussy.t  
 tr-1602-chet-hoffman.txt

Total No.

332

Files Processed

Concordance

Concordance Plot

File View

Clusters/N-Grams

Collocates

Word List

Keyword List

Concordance Hits 8123

Total Plots 317

HIT FILE: 125 FILE: to-1611-hey-t-drazenage.txt



No. of Hits = 13

File Length (in chars) = 114880

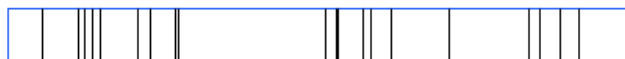
HIT FILE: 126 FILE: to-1612-hey-t-ironage1.txt



No. of Hits = 43

File Length (in chars) = 101130

HIT FILE: 127 FILE: to-1612-hey-t-ironage2.txt



No. of Hits = 20

File Length (in chars) = 94442

HIT FILE: 128 FILE: tr-1603-hey-t-womkillkind.txt



No. of Hits = 104

File Length (in chars) = 86227

HIT FILE: 129 FILE: tr-1607-hey-t-lucrece.txt



No. of Hits = 24

File Length (in chars) = 110205

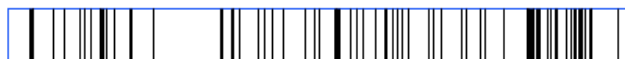
HIT FILE: 130 FILE: co-1597-jons-casealt.txt



No. of Hits = 58

File Length (in chars) = 102628

HIT FILE: 131 FILE: co-1598-jons-everhumor.txt



No. of Hits = 89

File Length (in chars) = 134034

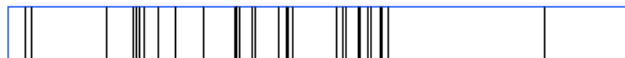
HIT FILE: 132 FILE: co-1599-jons-everouthumor.txt



No. of Hits = 96

File Length (in chars) = 205247

HIT FILE: 133 FILE: co-1601-jons-poetaster.txt



No. of Hits = 34

File Length (in chars) = 152155

Search Term ☒ Words ☐ Case ☒ Regexp

Plot Zoom

lord [A-Z]sir [A-Z]master [A-Z]duke [A-Z]earl

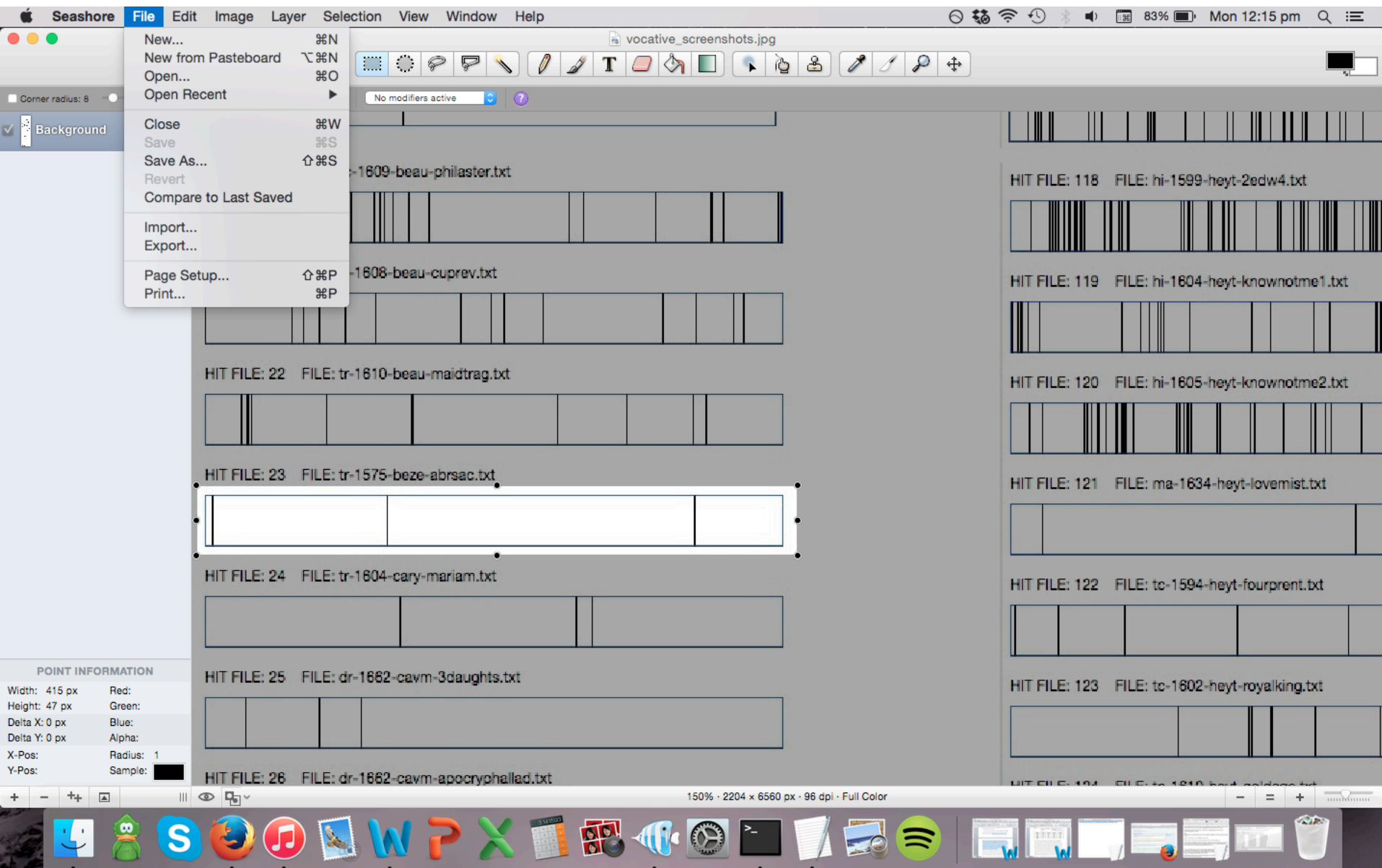
Advanced

x1

⬆

Start

Stop



```
$convert plot*.jpg -evaluate-sequence mean  
average_page.jpg
```

With many thanks to Chris Forster:

<http://www.cforster.com/2011/11/playing-with-mods/>



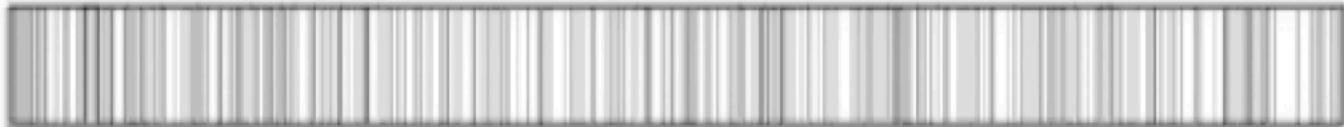
# Vocatives for social class in Shakespeare's plays





# Any variation in Shakespeare's plays by genre?

Average Shakespearean History Play



Average Shakespearean Comedy Play



Average Shakespearean tragedy play



# Vocatives for social class in Early Modern Drama



# Conclusions

- Do vocatives mark for social class? YES
- Does Shakespeare use vocatives for social class differently than his contemporaries by frequency? YES
- Are vocatives for social class correlated to dramatic structure overall in any meaningful way? NO

# Works Cited

- Archer, Dawn, and Jonathan Culpeper. 'Sociopragmatic Annotation: New Directions and Possibilities in Historical Corpus Linguistics'. *Corpus Linguistics by the Lune: A Festschrift for Geoffrey Leech*. Ed. Paul Rayson, Anthony McEnery, and Andrew Wilson, Geoffrey N. Leech. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2003. 37–58.
- Archer, Dawn. *Questions and Answers in the English Courtroom (1640–1760): A Sociopragmatic Analysis*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing, 2005.
- Busse, Beatrix. *Vocative Constructions in the Language of Shakespeare*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing, 2006.
- Forster, Chris. "Vellum in War Time: Playing with MJP data". *Chris Forster*. Web. 6 November 2011, accessed 21 February 2015. <http://cforster.com/2011/11/playing-with-mods/>
- Freytag, Gustav, and Elias J. MacEwan. *Freytag's Technique of the Drama : An Exposition of Dramatic Composition and Art. An Authorized Translation from the 6th German Ed. By Elias J. MacEwan*. Chicago: Scott Foresman, 1900.
- Huddleston, Rodney D., and Pullum, Geoffrey K. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Jockers, Matthew. "Revealing Sentiment and Plot Arcs with the Syuzhet Package". *matthewjockers.net*. Web. 4 Feb. 2015.
- Kay, Christian, Jane Roberts, Michael Samuels, and Irené Wotherspoon (eds.). 2015. *The Historical Thesaurus of English*, version 4.2. Glasgow: University of Glasgow. <http://historicalthesaurus.arts.gla.ac.uk/>.
- Laslett, Peter. *The World We Have Lost*. Third edition. New York: Scrivener, 1983.
- Mueller, Martin. 'Shakespeare His Contemporaries: Collaborative Curation and Exploration of Early Modern Drama in a Digital Environment'. 8.3 (2014). *Digital Humanities Quarterly*.
- Nevalainen, Terttu, and Helena Raumolin-Brunberg. 'Sociolinguistics and Language History: The Helsinki Corpus of Early English Correspondence'. *Journal of Linguistics* 13 (1994): 135–143.
- Nevalainen, Terttu, and Helena Raumolin-Brunberg. *Sociolinguistics and Language History: Studies Based on the Corpus of Early English Correspondence*. Rodopi, 1996.
- Schmidt, Ben. 'Fundamental Plot Arcs, Seen through Multidimensional Analysis of Thousands of TV and Movie Scripts'. *Sapping Attention*. Web. Accessed 21 January 2015.
- Swafford, Annie. 'Continuing the Syuzhet Discussion'. *Anglophile in Academia: Annie Swafford's Blog*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Apr. 2015.
  - . 'Problems with the Syuzhet Package'. *Anglophile in Academia: Annie Swafford's Blog*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Apr. 2015.
  - . 'Why Syuzhet Doesn't Work and How We Know'. *Anglophile in Academia: Annie Swafford's Blog*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Apr. 2015.