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Herausgeber – Editors

G. Altmann	Univ. Bochum (Germany)	02351973070-0001@t-online.de
K.-H. Best	Univ. Göttingen (Germany)	kbest@gwdg.de
P. Grzybek	Univ. Graz (Austria)	peter.grzybek@uni-graz.at
L. Hřebíček	Akad .d. W. Prag (Czech Republik)	ludek.hrebicek@seznam.cz
R. Köhler	Univ. Trier (Germany)	koehler@uni-trier.de
V. Kromer	Univ. Novosibirsk (Russia)	kromer@newmail.ru
O. Rottmann	Univ. Bochum (Germany)	otto.rottmannt@t-online.de
A. Schulz	Univ. Bochum (Germany)	reuter.schulz@t-online.de
G. Wimmer	Univ. Bratislava (Slovakia)	wimmer@mat.savba.sk
A. Ziegler	Univ. Graz Austria)	Arne.ziegler@uni-graz.at

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Hilberg, Wolfgang

Some results of quantitative linguistics derived from a structural language model 1-24

Abstract. Recent investigations have shown that a model can be derived from an association matrix, Fig. 1a, which describes a functional language network at the level of words in text. In this model words are gathered in classes, Fig. 1b, in which the number of words increases by a repeated factor of two. It could be shown that when an artificial text is generated with the aid of the model, this text contains maximum entropy. By comparison the conclusion can be drawn that this behaviour is also valid for natural language text. Therefore it is possible to determine some quantitative linguistic values and diagrams immediately and without any difficulty. Recently, this was already shown in the case of Zipf's famous frequency diagrams, Fig. 2 and Fig. 4.

In the paper at hand the following values are derived: text length in dependence on the number of different words, equ. (3), ramification curve, equ. (30), the number of different word pairs in dependence on text length, equ. (34), the average length of sentences measured in words, equ. (35), and the entropy, equ. (38). All these calculations are elementary, based on statistical average values of model parameters and of text generation procedures, and they lead therefore only to first approximations for curves and characteristic values. However more precise results are attainable by simulating the process of text generation in the model step by step. Then, of course, normal distributions can be found, Fig. 7, which lead to Zipf-diagrams with smoothed stairs, Fig. 8a,b, instead of ideal rectangular steps as in Fig. 2. Finally the question of a possible connection between language and prime numbers is discussed.

Körner, Helle

Zur Entwicklung des deutschen (Lehn-)Wortschatzes 25-49

Abstract. Logistic laws do not only apply to linguistic but also to medical, biological, demographic etc. developmental phenomena. This study will support the logistic law, known in linguistics as Piotrowski Law, using data from a selected etymological dictionary. In contrast to other studies there has — in this process — not only been taken account of terms borrowed from other languages but also of words which developed in German language. Special attention has been paid to the Anglo-American terms.

Hussien, Osama A.

The Lerchianness plot 50-64

Abstract. Hoaglin (1980) introduced the Poissonness plot to detect departures of data from a hypothesized Poisson model. Hoaglin and Tukey (1985) extended the use of the Poissonness plot to other one parameter discrete distributions include geometric and logarithmic distributions. On the other hand, in many applications the Zipf plot is used to verify that the data obeys the Zipf's law. We present a unified presentation of these plots and extend its use for 3-parameter families. In particular, the Lerch family of discrete distributions, which includes as special cases the Zipf, Zipf-Mandelbrot, the logarithmic and the polylogarithmic distributions. A comparison with other types of plots for discrete distributions shows the resistance and power of this plot, the Lerchianness plot. We apply this plot to some of the Hoaglin and Tukey data sets and show it gives better fits. In addition, an application to subject and letter frequencies and to Egyptian city sizes has been presented.

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Pluralallomorphe in Briefen Heinrich von Kleists 85-90

Abstract. The paper brings a further corroboration of the hypothesis that entities of linguistic classes are rank-ordered. Here the geometric distribution has been fitted to the ranked distribution of plural morphemes in letters of H. von Kleist.

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