



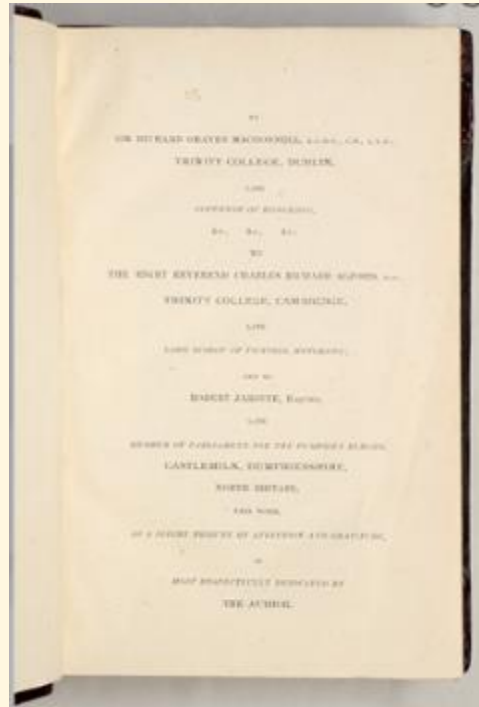
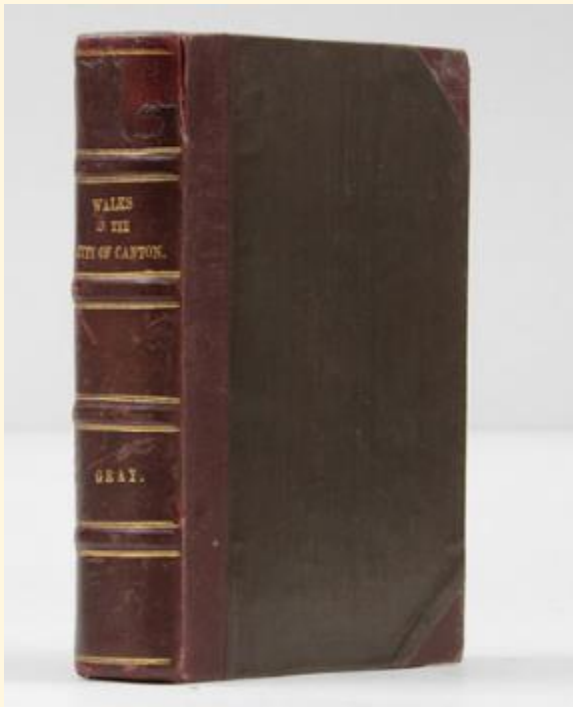
A Southern Chinese City Through the Eyes of a British Missionary:

Preliminary Analysis of the Text of a Historical Travelogue

Souvenir of Canton.

Sold by G. & Co. Hongkong, China.

The Book, Its Origin and Text



Walks in the City of Canton

By Gray, John Henry,
1828-1890

Published: Victoria,
Hong Kong, De Souza
& Co., 1875

- Picture Source: <http://www.peterharrington.co.uk/rare-books/asia/walks-in-the-city-of-canton/>
- Book (PDF and Full Text): <https://archive.org/details/walksincitycant00graygoog>

Context: "China Through Western Eyes"



亲历中国丛书
(Personal Experience
in China)

Publisher: Beijing:
National Library of
China Press

(Images from
<https://book.douban.com/series/4463>)

- **This Project:** Co-translate *Walks in the City of Canton*. Related series coordinated by Guoqing Li, Professor, Ohio State University.
- **Side Project:** A Preliminary Analysis of the Text of *Walks in the City of Canton*

Impression From the Translation Experience

- **Main Points of Interest in the Seven Itineraries:**

- **Monasteries, Temples:**

- **The Buddhist Monastery** : Kwan-Tai-Miu (关帝庙, State Temple in honor of “the God of War”); Kwong-Foo-Hok-Kuong (广府学宫, Prefectural Temple in honor of Confucius); Maan-Shau-Kuong (万寿宫, Ten Thousand Year’s Palace)...

- **Streets, Markets and Shops:** Yan-Tsai, 仁济; Yau-Laan-Mun, 油栏门; Ying-Ts’eung-Kai, 迎祥街; Kwoh-Laan, 果栏; Haam-Ue-Laan, 咸鱼栏...

- **Cemeteries:** Wing-Shing-Tsze, 永胜寺; Ti-Tsong-Om, 地藏庵 (City of the Dead); Maan-Yan-Haang, 万人坑 (Malefactors’ cemetery); 大英国洋人墓 (Cemetery in which British soldiers were buried)

- **The Philanthropic Facilities:** Koo-Muuk-Uen (瞽目院, Blind Asylum); Lo-Nue-Yan-Uen (老女人院, Asylum for Aged Widows); P’o-Tsai-Uen (普济院, Asylum for Aged Men)

- **Manufacturing:** silk, white wax, tea, cotton...

- **Surprises:**

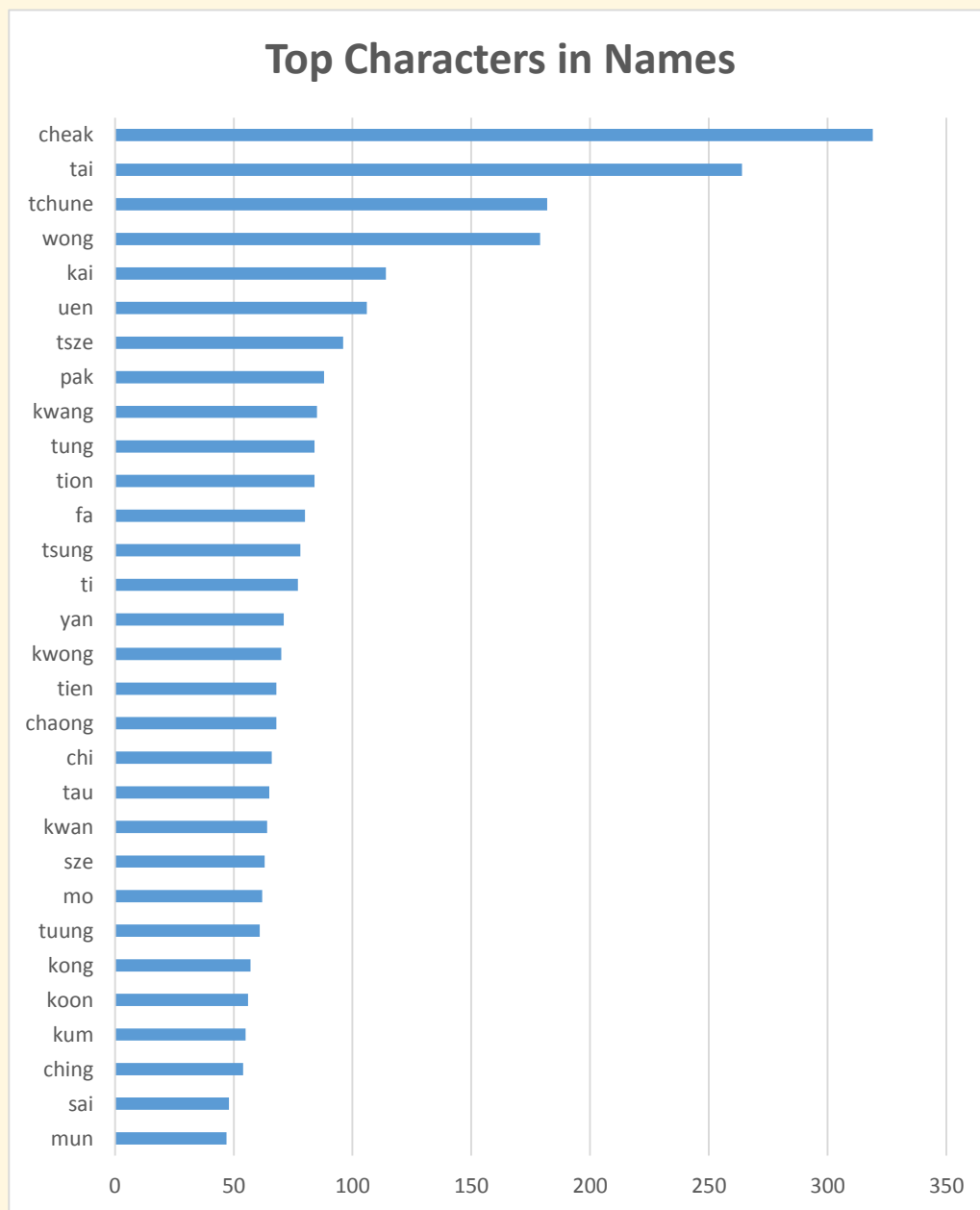
- **Topics with the Most Coverage, e.g.,** Ma-Tau (Horse’s Head, The Execution Ground)

- **View on the Western Allies’ Entering China by Force in the Qing Dynasty**

Text Analysis: Top Characters in Names

For example:

Term	Count
cheak	319
kai	114
kwang	85
pak	88
tai	264
tchune	182
tsze	96
tung	84
uen	106
wong	179

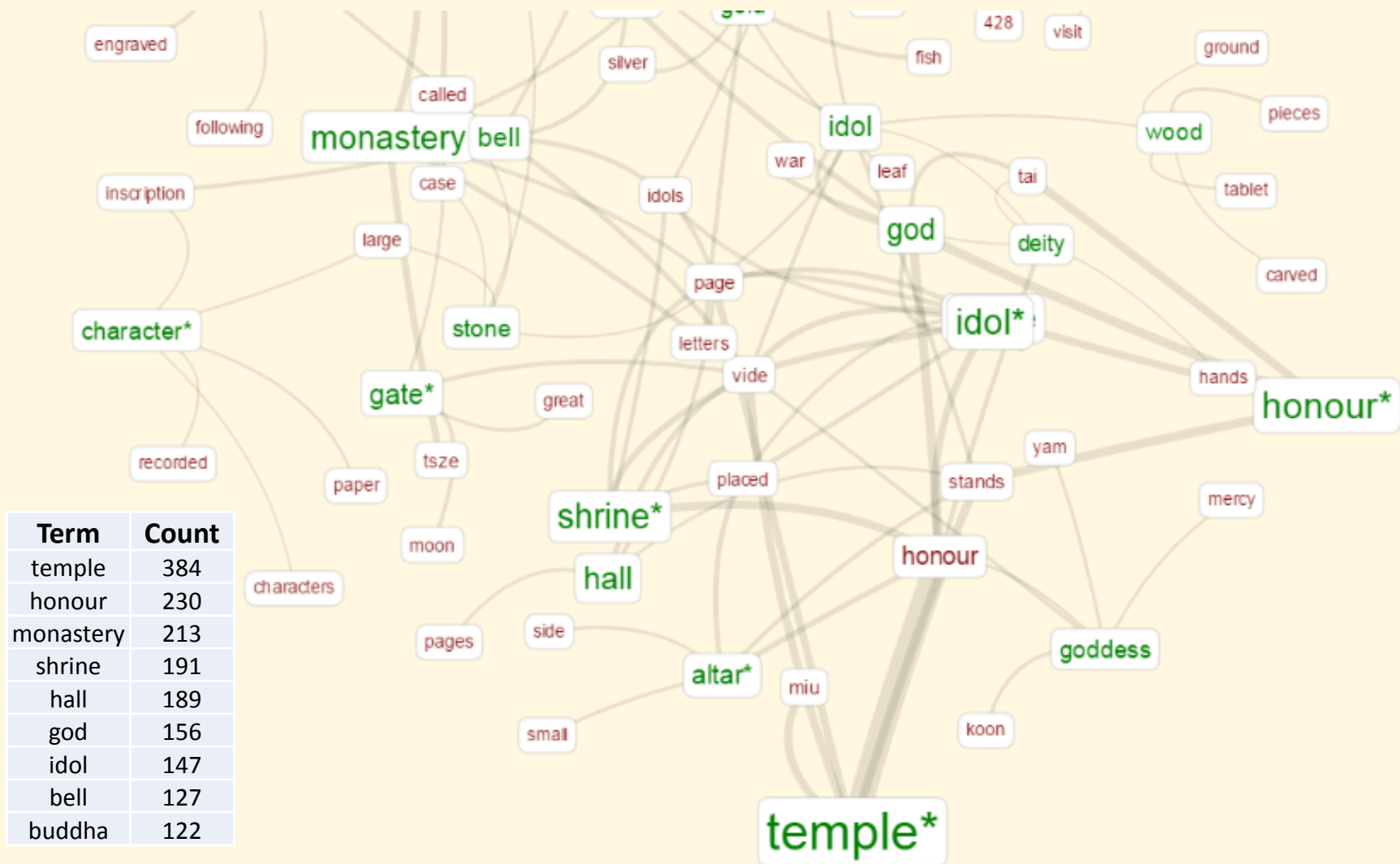


Top Themes: Streets, Markets & Shops

Term	Count
street	366
shops	160
cash	99
shop	84
streets	70
sale	69
market	65
silver	63

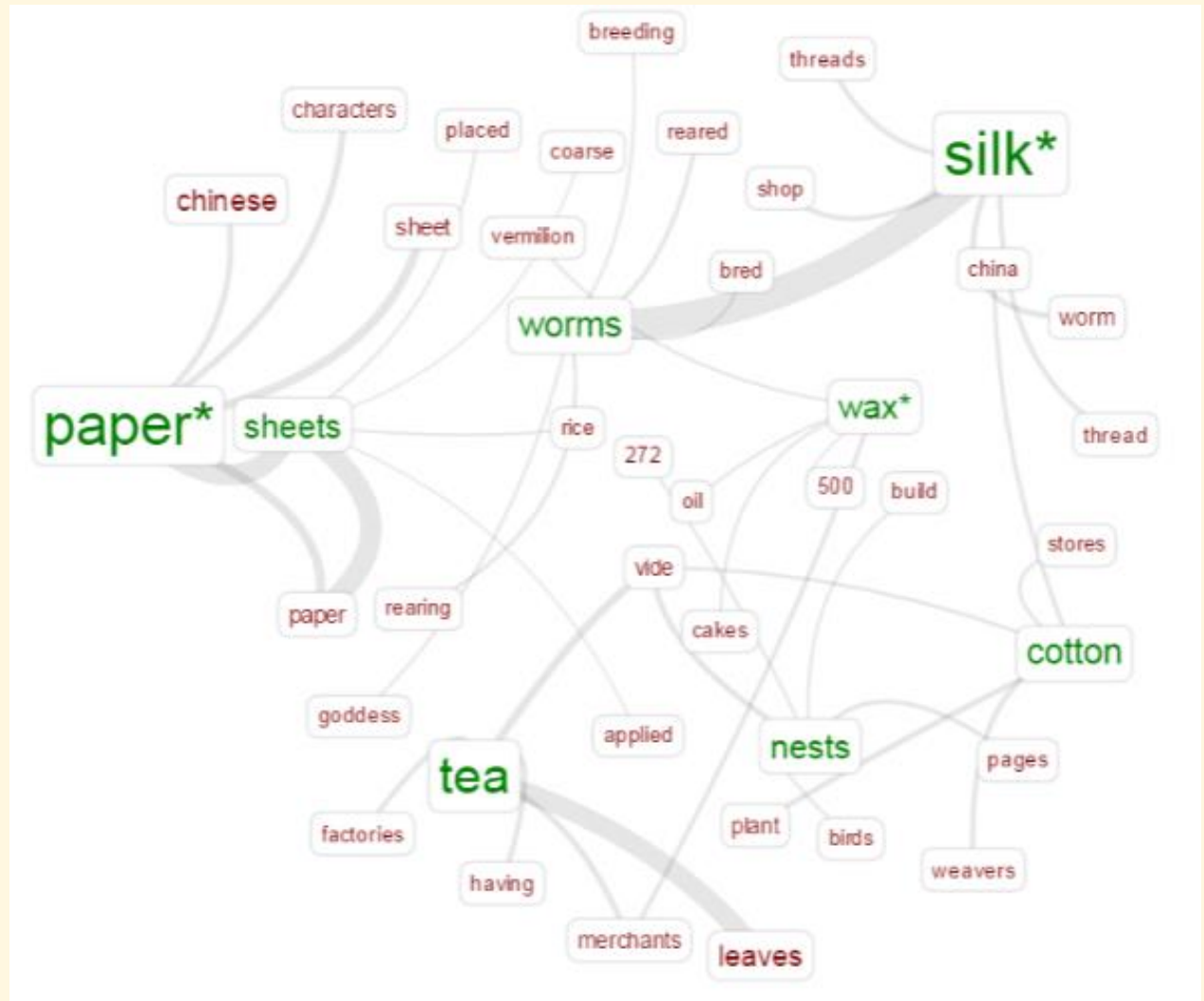


Top Themes: Monasteries, Temples & Other Architectures



Top Themes: Manufacturing

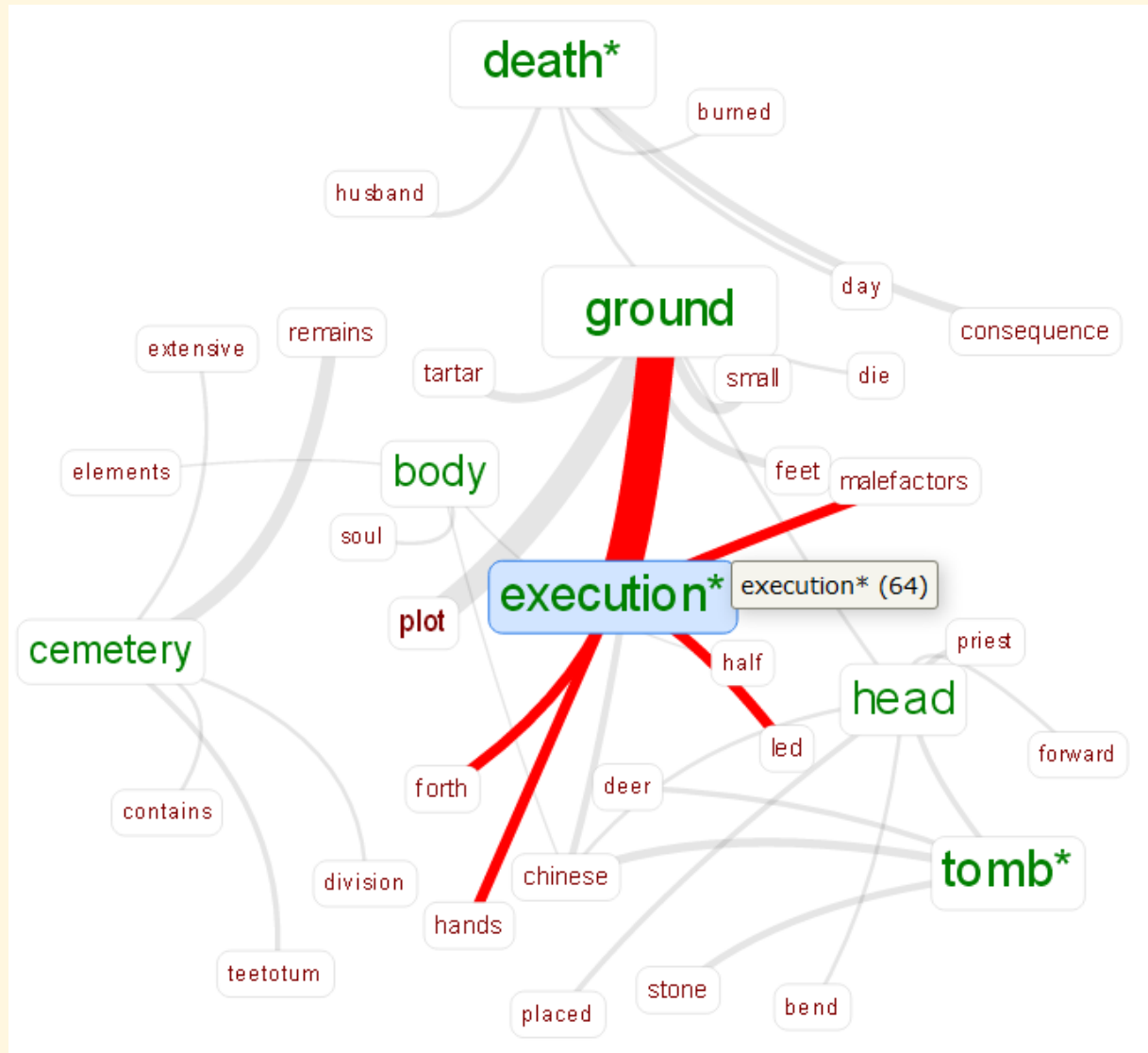
Term	Count
silk	128
paper	110
tea	97
cotton	47
worms	47
nests	43
sheets	41



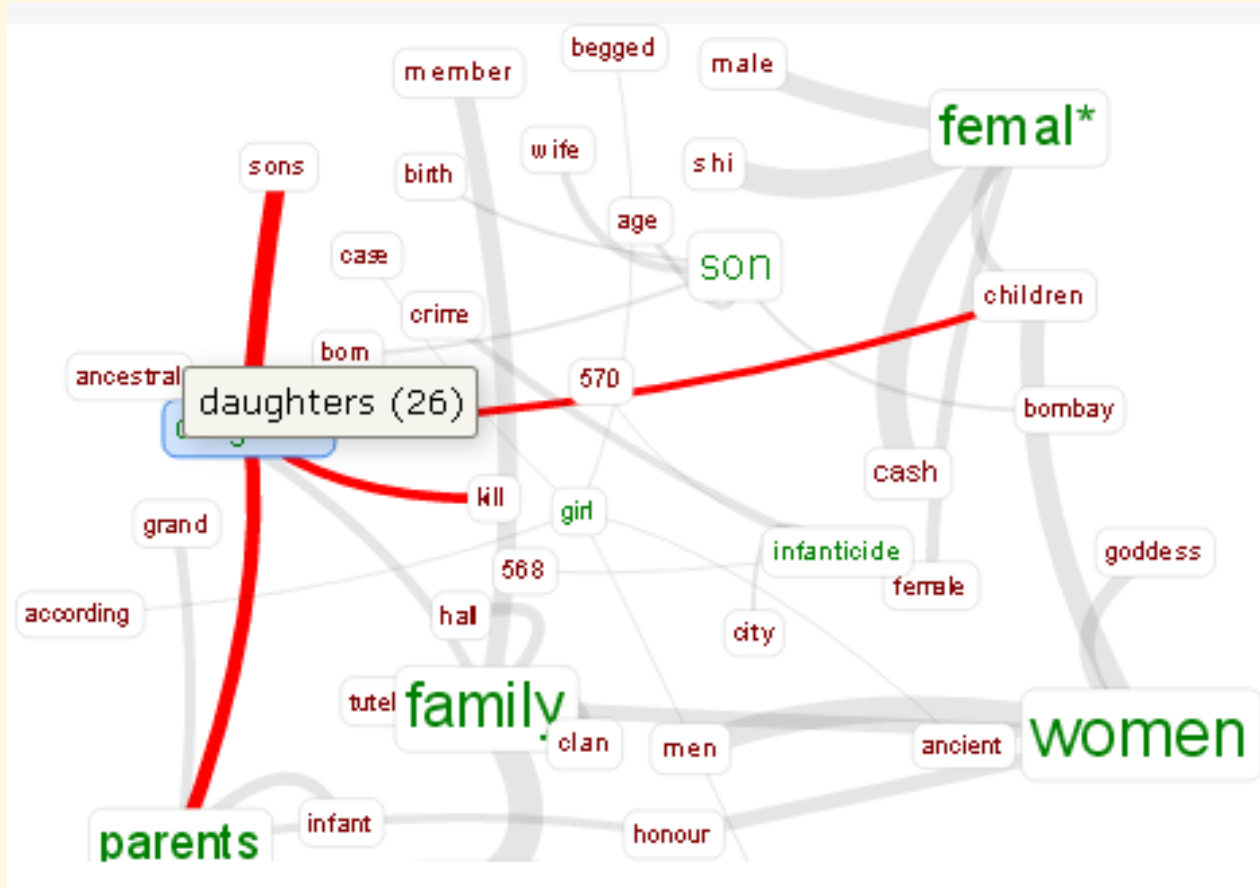
“Shocking” Themes: Execution Ceremony & Cemeteries

Term	Count
ground	107
death	94
head	62
tomb	51
body	49
cemetery	46
execution	41
prison	39

Execution* 64

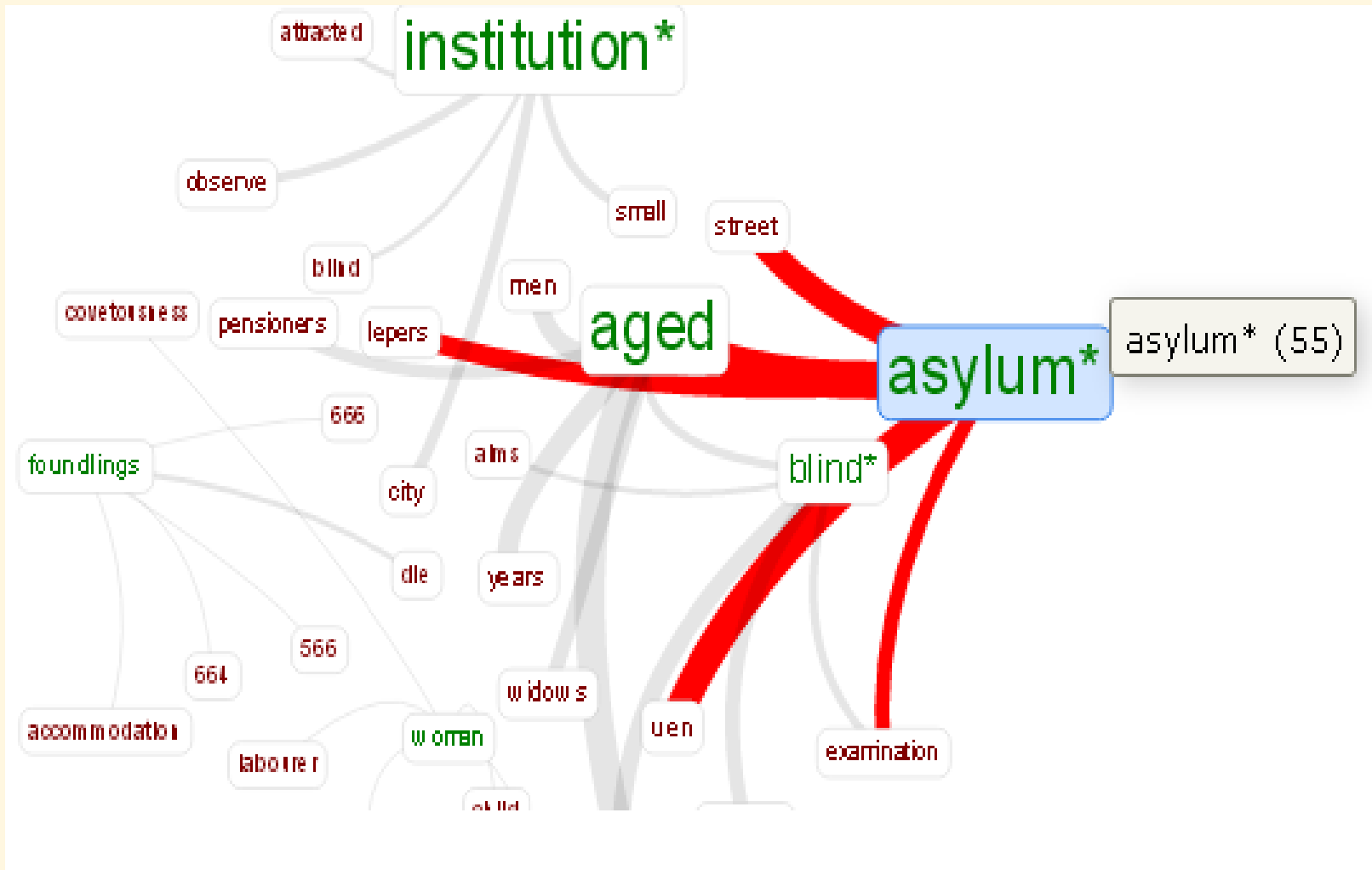


“Shocking” Themes: Family and Infanticide

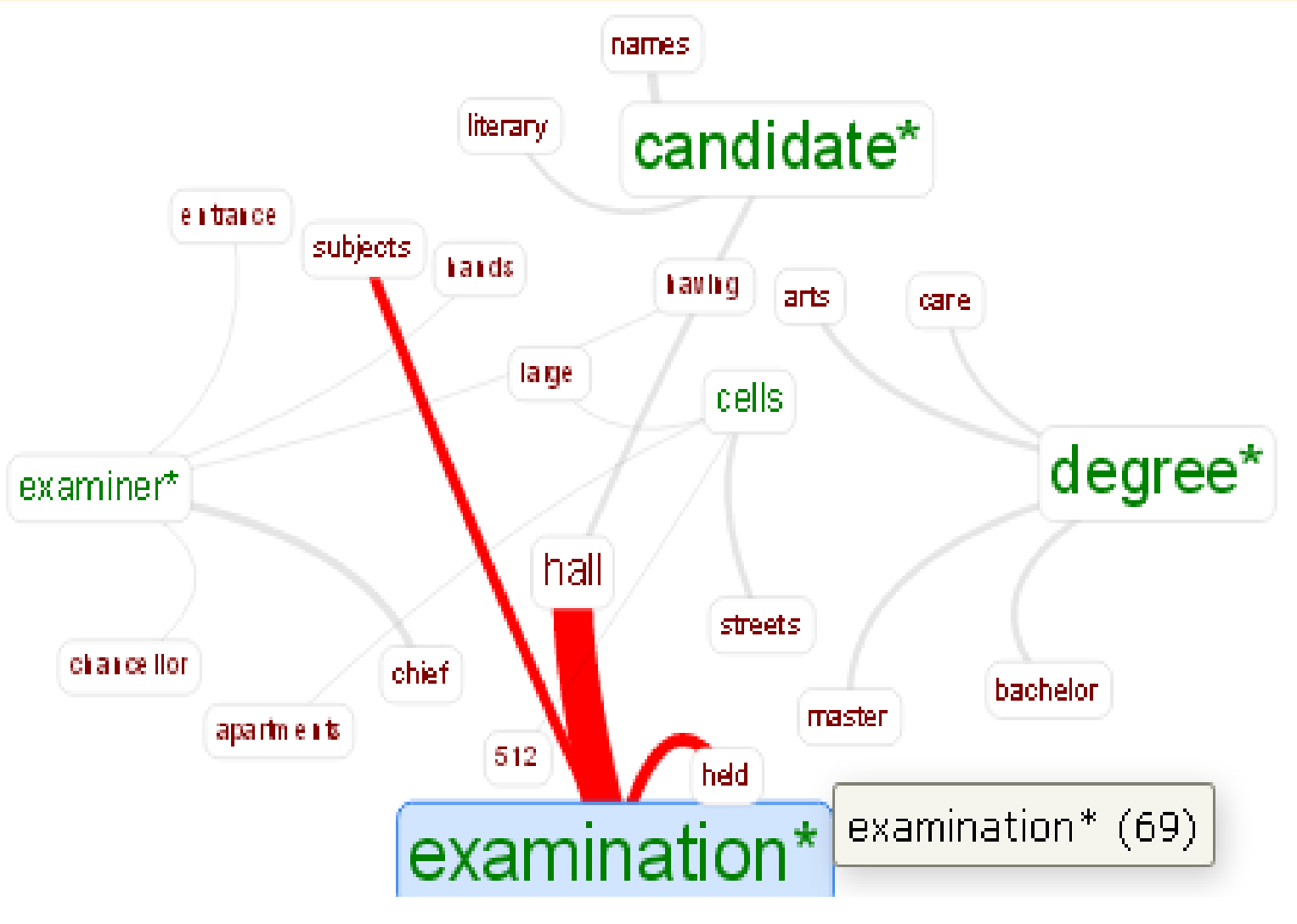


Added words to the graph beyond the top 500, e.g., daughters, girl, infanticide

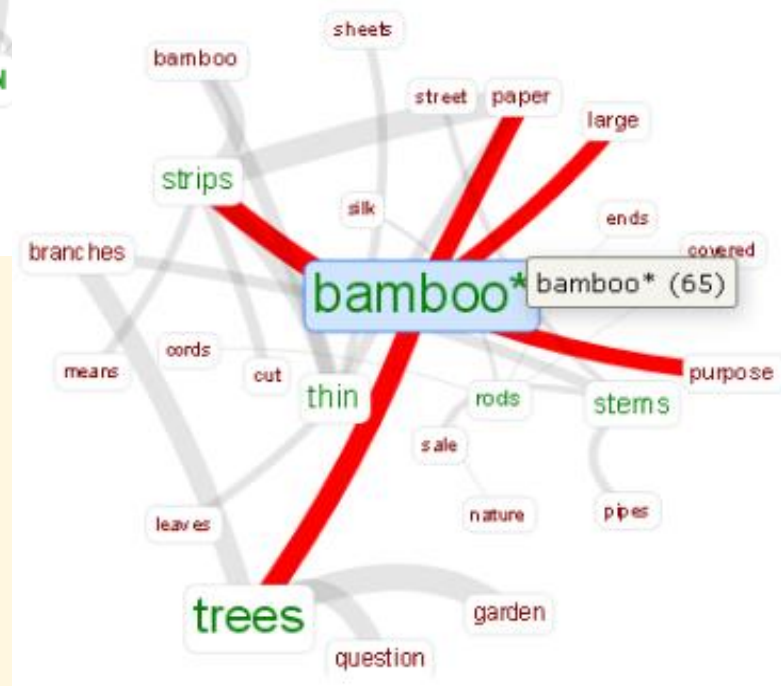
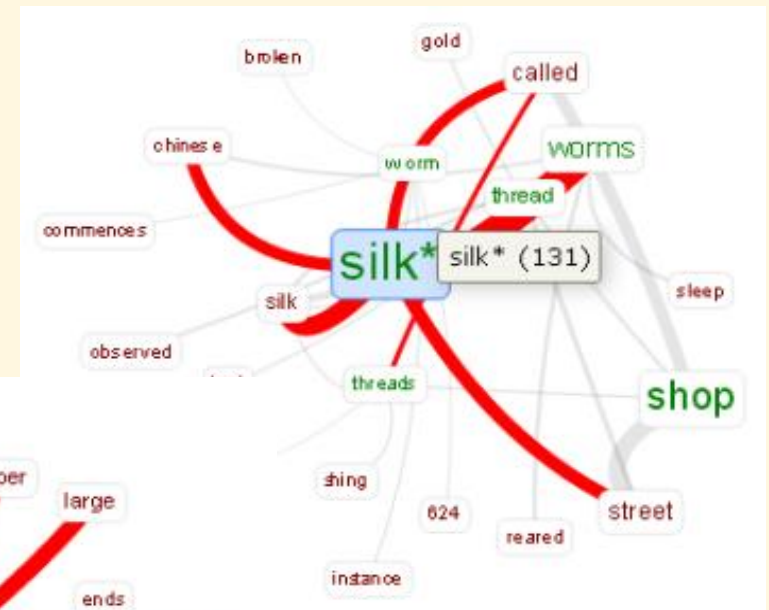
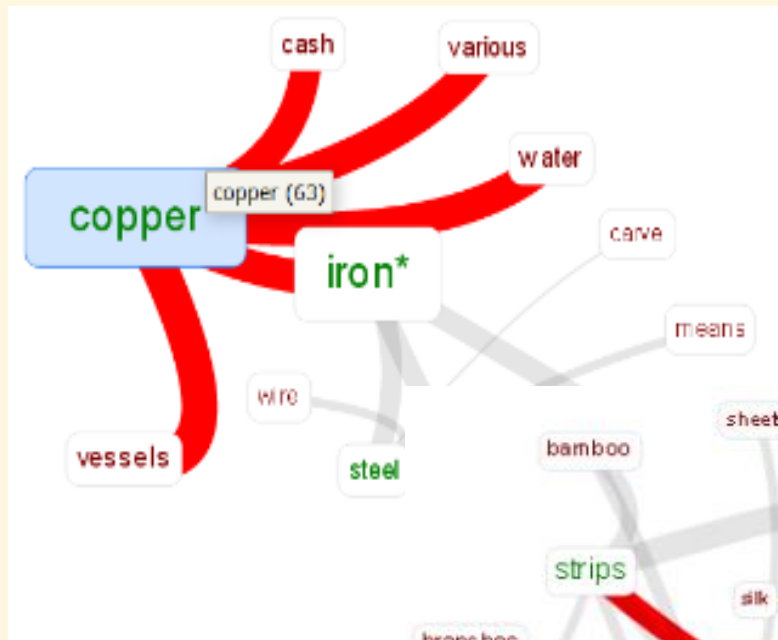
“Shocking” Themes: Family, Infanticide & Asylums



Other Topics: Examination Hall

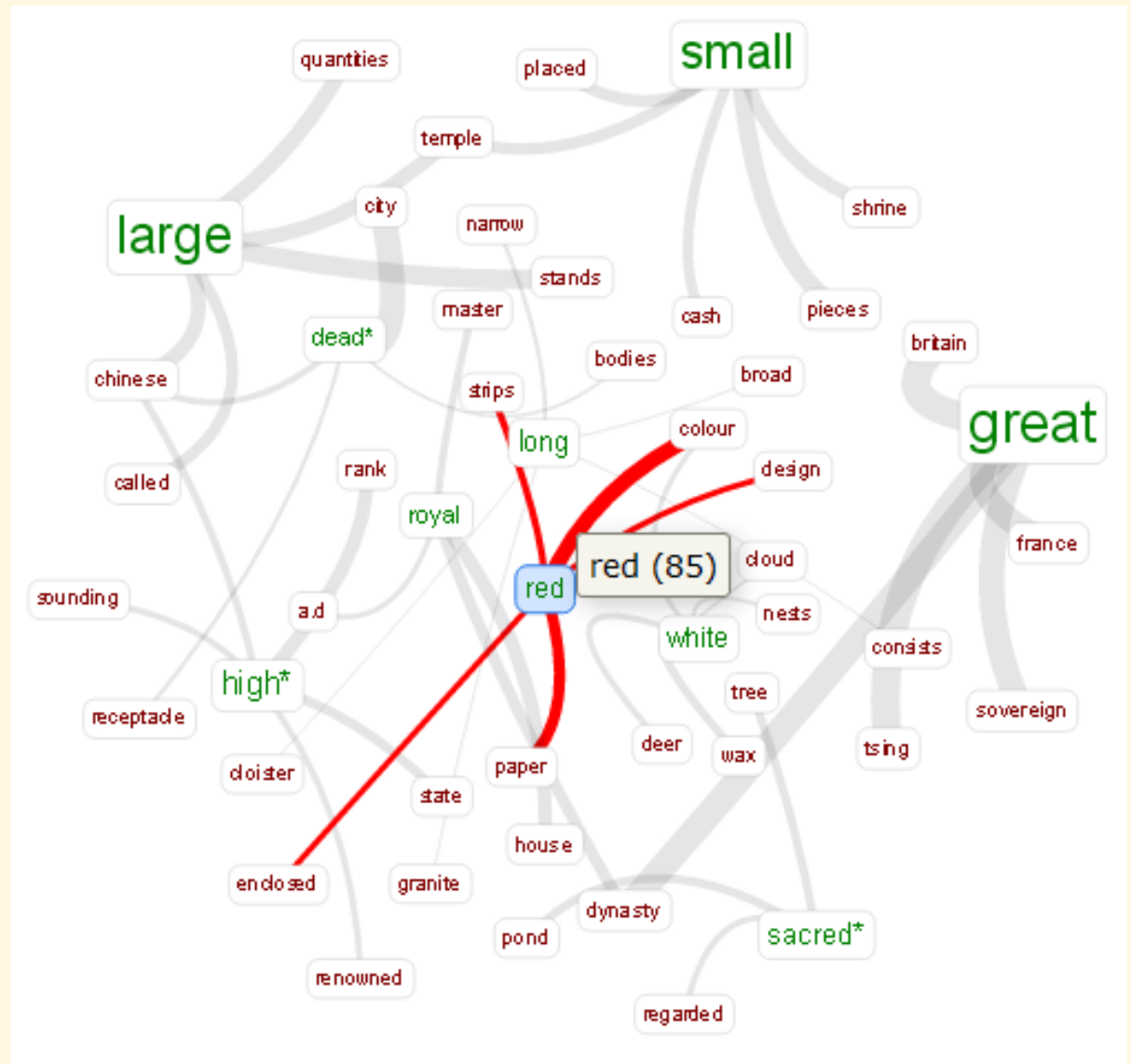


Other Topics: Copper, Bamboo & Silk



Adjective Top Words

Top words: great, large, small, sacred, long, red, high, imperial, similar, white, dead, necessary, royal, wooden, ancient, literary, good, aged, western, native, singular, ordinary...

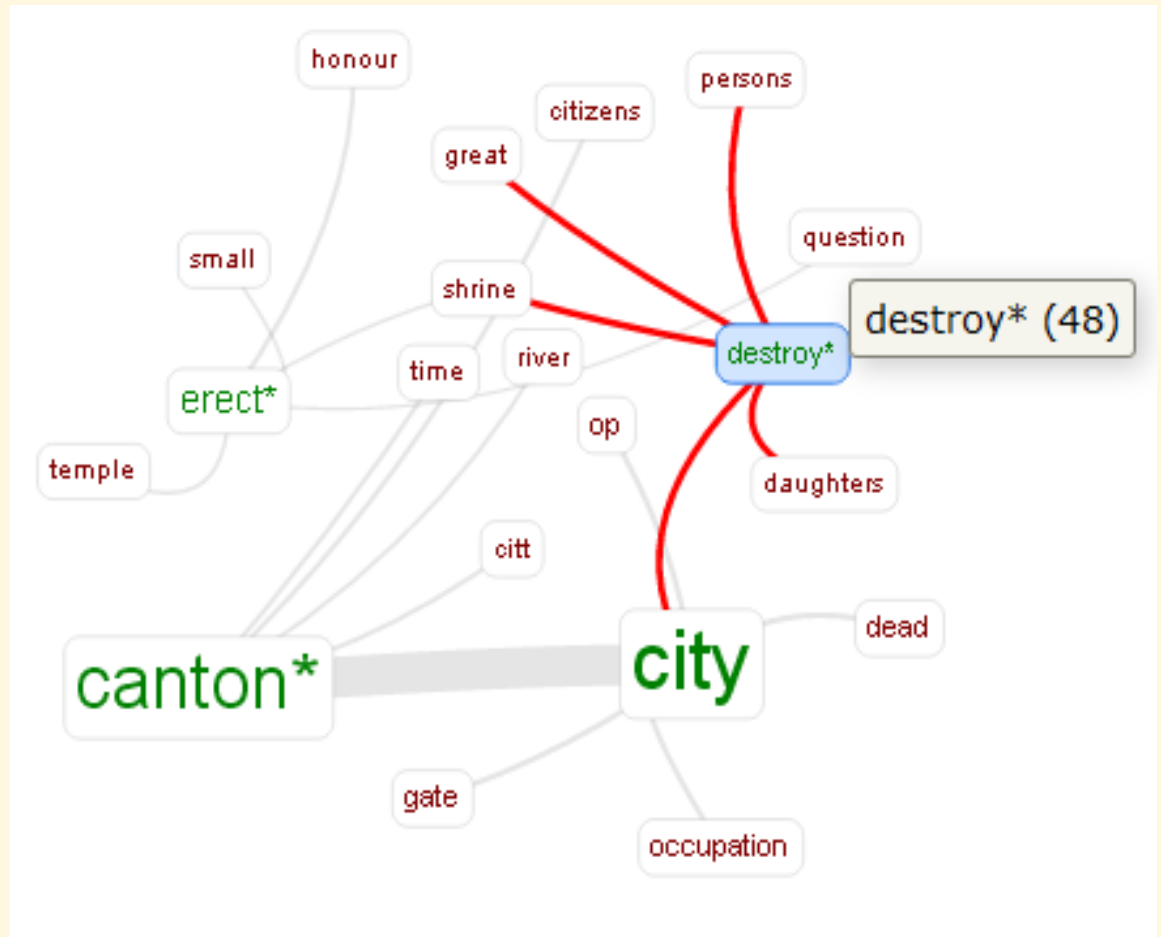


Verb Top Words

Actions related to Objects in the text:

Mostly Architecture (temples, monasteries, halls etc.): placed (267), stands (214), erected (101), cast (83)

Mostly People (emperors, officers, rebels, armies, votaries etc.): died (159), said (149, mostly in "is/are said to"), paid (57), worship (53), command (44), appointed (39), destroyed (38), dedicated (33)



Conclusion

- The preliminary text analysis verifies the translator's impression and helps to define the main themes and topics of the book;
- In general, it provides the contexts of the top words in the book and suggests unlimited research topics for the text, especially for the noun analysis;
- The adjective analysis is not as useful as the translator thought, and the result doesn't suggest dominant tones for the text; it is also not clear how meaningful the verb analysis can be unless a particular research topic can be found;
- This kind of preliminary text analysis is only the beginning of the research process and it helps the researchers to be familiar with the texts and get inspired and ideas;
- In particular, the text analysis of *Walks in the City of Canton* helps to illustrate:
 - The variety of topics covered including monasteries, streets and shops, officials and government, Chinese manufacturing;
 - Who are the "barbarians"? (It offers a fuller picture in terms of Qing's closed-door policy and the Western Allies' entering by force)
 - The author's humanistic approach to the Chinese people, culture and customs.

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