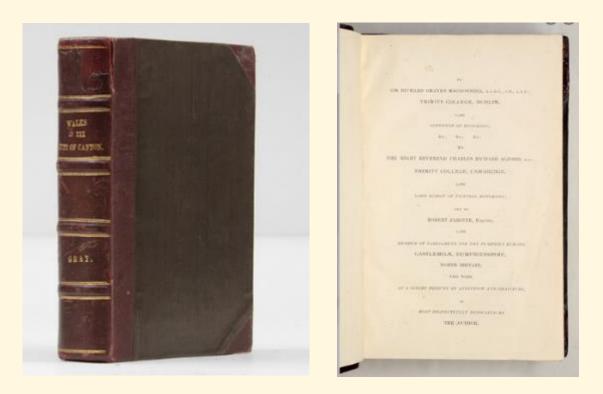
A Southern Chinese City Through the Eyes of a British Missionary: Preliminary Analysis of the Text of a Historical Travelogue

Souvenir of Canton.

Sold by Graca & Co. Honekone Chin

Sai Deng, University of Central Florida Libraries

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-Kuung (广府学宫, Prefectural Temple in honor of Confucius); Maan-Shau-Kuung (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

Preliminary Analysis of the Book Text

Bubbles CITY OF CANTON: BY The Venerable JOHN HENRY GRA.



wnas god china uestio lac tai great city pages vears cheak walks vide temple canton blaced a.d chune chinese canton in a stei page called reign called smal page time reign temple chinese great street large stands city street large time men year vide vear avingstate watershrine wosdvere CITY OF CANTON. BY The Venerable JOHN HENRY GRA 0/0 speed sound Adapted from Letter Pairs by Martin Ignacio Beregiant

Cirrus (Word Cloud)

Bubbles

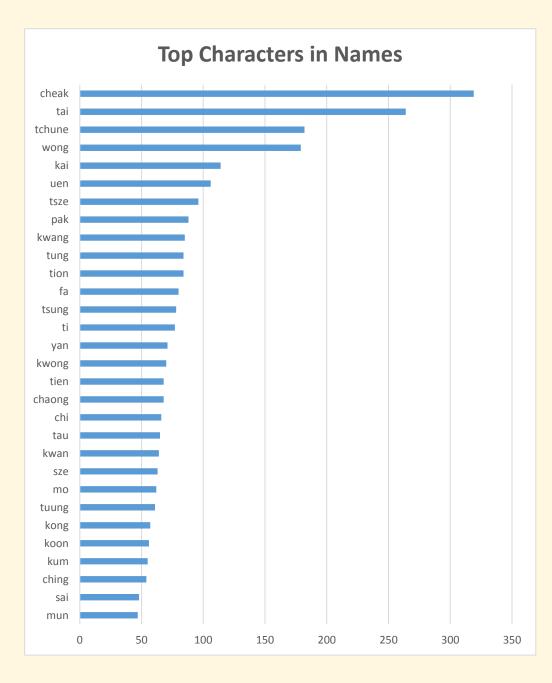


- This corpus has 1 document with 197,267 total words and 16,116 unique word forms;
- Most **frequent words** in the corpus: <u>city</u> (627); <u>vide</u> (593); <u>canton</u> (530); <u>chinese</u> (467)...
- The top words are exported from Voyant; words selected from the top 500 are labelled with, e.g., NN, NNS, JJ, VB, and further with topic categories/themes in Excel.

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

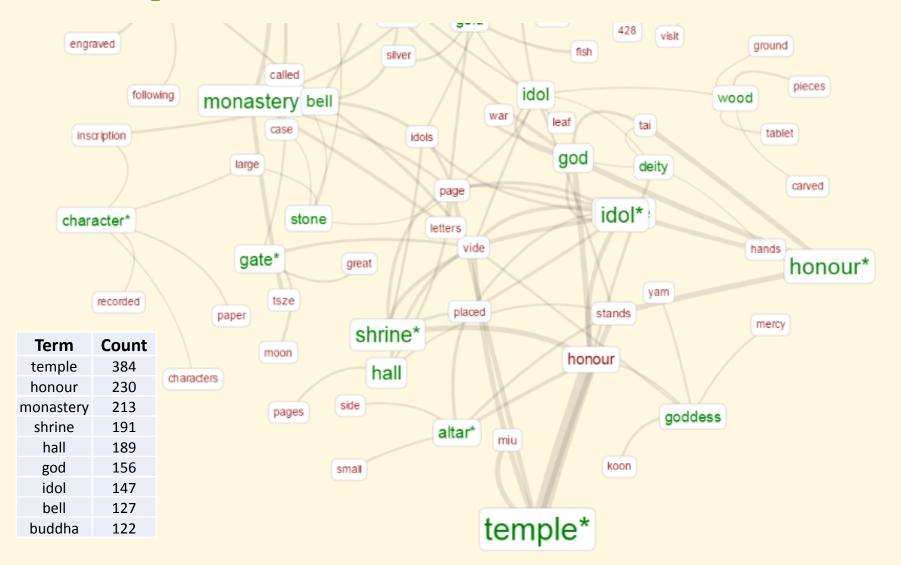


Top Themes: Streets, Markets &Shops

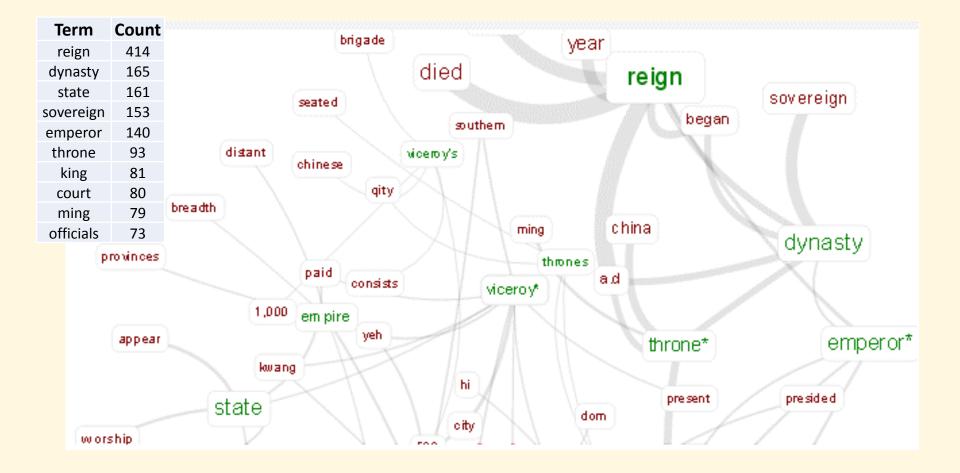
Term	Count
street	366
shops	160
cash	99
shop	84
streets	70
sale	69
market	65
silver	63



Top Themes: Monasteries, Temples & Other Architectures



Top Themes: Emperors, Officials & Government



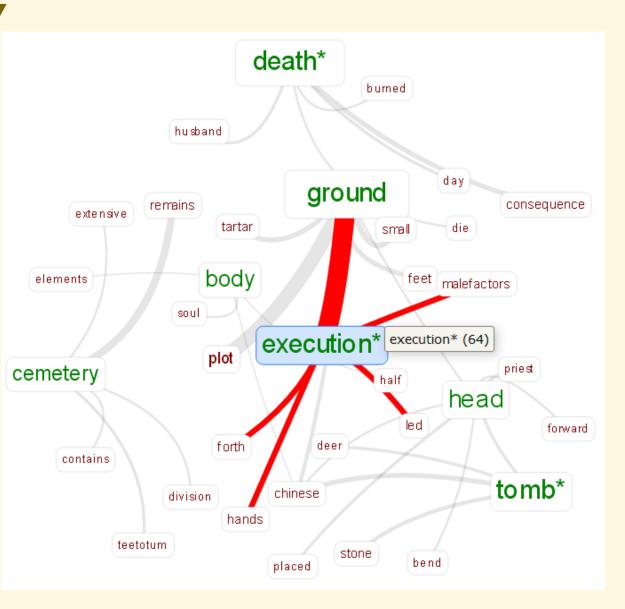
Top Themes: Manufacturing

	breeding	threads	
characters pl chinese sheet	coarse reare	shop	silk*
	worms	bred	worm
paper* sheets	rice 272 oil	wax*	thread
	Vide	\square	stores
paper rearing	ca	kes	cotton
goddess	ea	nests	pages
factories	having	plant birds wea	ivers
	merchants	leaves	

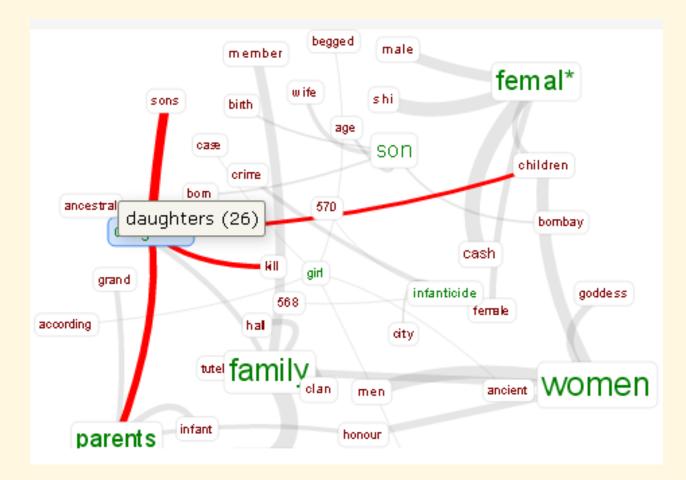
Term	Count
silk	128
paper	110
tea	97
cotton	47
worms	47
nests	43
sheets	41

"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

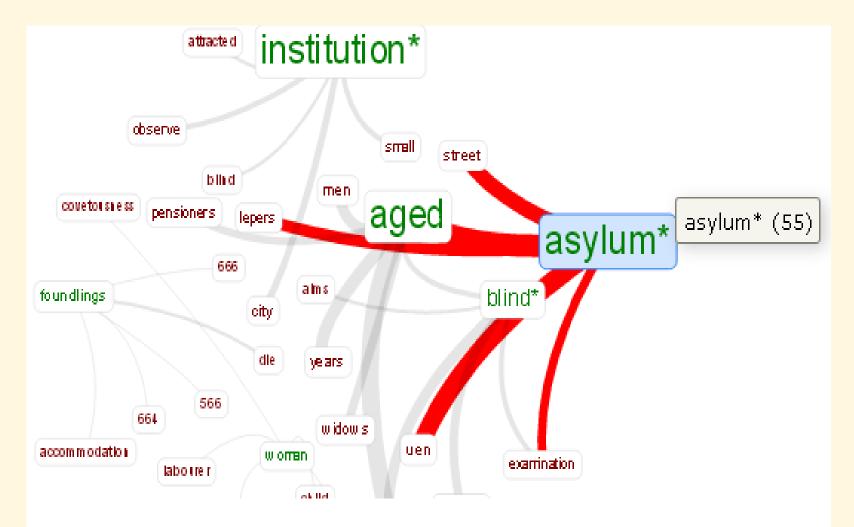


"Shocking" Themes: Family and Infanticide

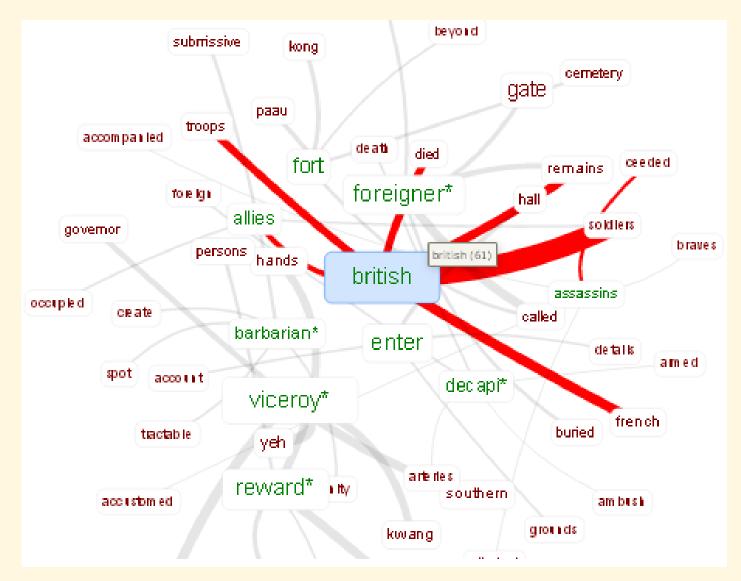


Added words to the graph beyond the top 500, e.g., daughters, girl, infanticide

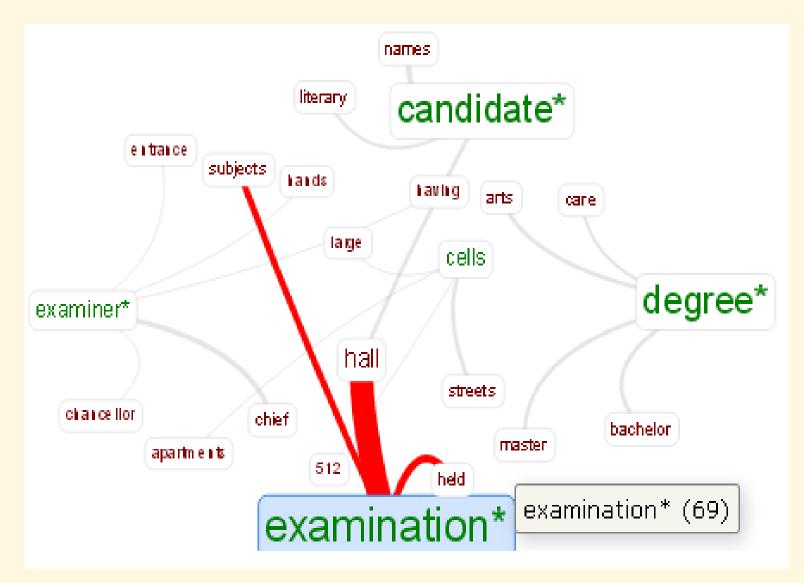
"Shocking" Themes: Family, Infanticide & Asylums



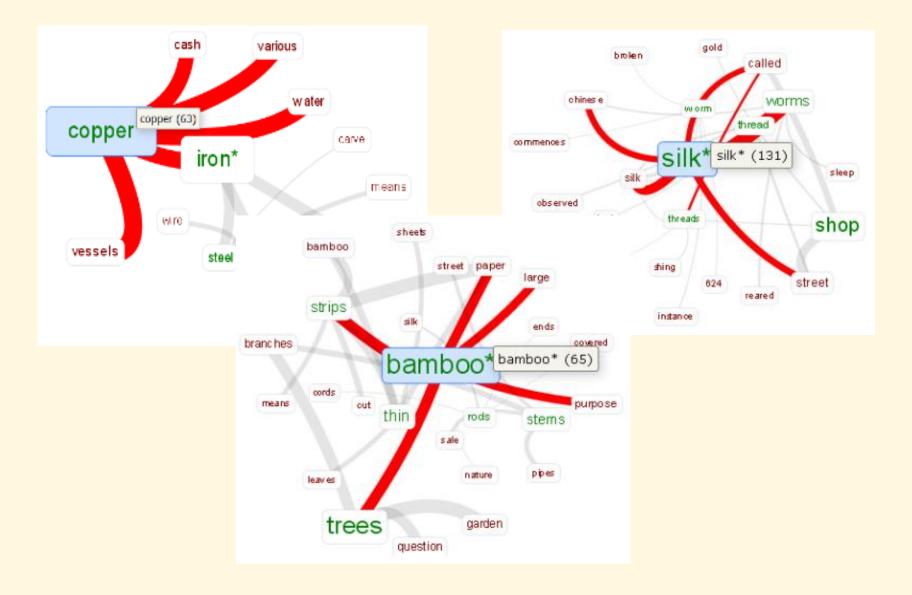
Other Topics: British, Western Allies & Canton



Other Topics: Examination Hall

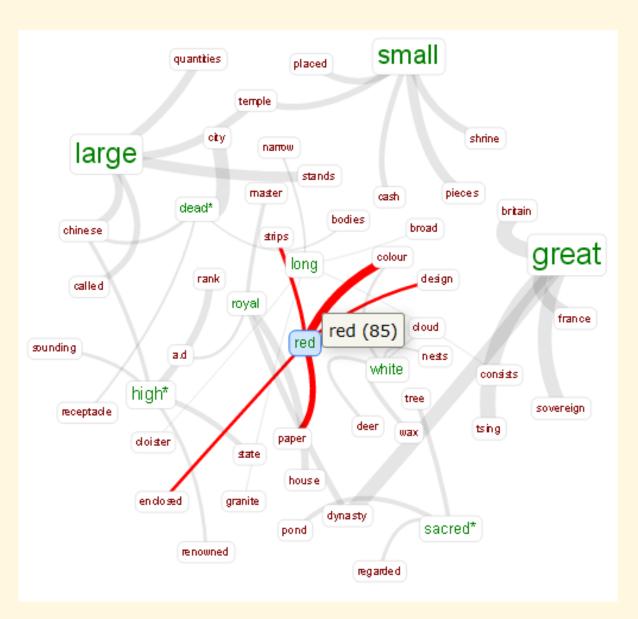


Other Topics: Copper, Bamboo & Silk



Adjective Top Words

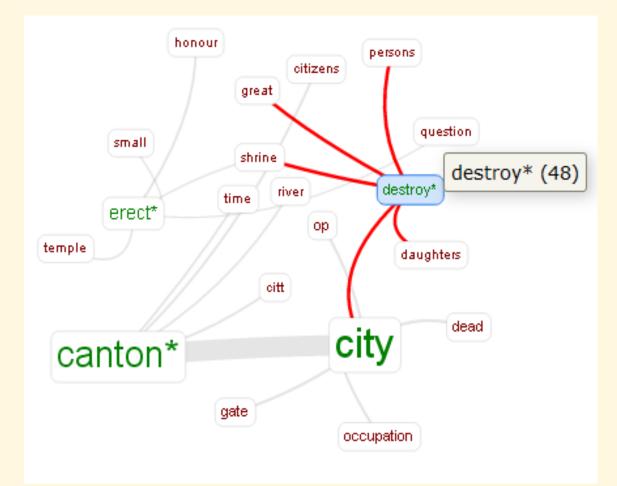
Top words: great, large, small, sacred, long, red, high, imperial, similar, white, dead, necessary, royal, wooden, ancient, literary, good, aged, western, native, singular, ordinary...



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.

* Cover Image Source: <u>http://www.gdmuseum.com/edu_text.php?blogid=1547&title=&classid=73</u>

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The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) Southeast Chapter, President (2016-2017)