

Paul Meara

Texts as Vocabulary Networks

Tuesday 10:00, James Callaghan Lecture Theatre

This paper is a very tentative exploration of what happens you analyse texts as vocabulary networks. It has become fairly commonplace to analyse individual words as a network - for example, it is relatively easy to analyse word association "networks" in this way. However, apart from some work by Hoey which examines deictic networks in texts, there doesn't seem to be any network analysis of continuous text.

The paper will illustrate how you can use network mapping software to examine texts as networks. It will also speculate about the implications of some surprising features of networks of this sort.

Biographical note

Paul Meara moved to Swansea in 1990 where he set up a distance learning programme for PhD students - something of a radical innovation at the time, though now widely accepted as a good way for people to do research work. Focussing on L2 vocabulary research, the

programme generated a substantial number of PhD students - about 70 in total, including some people who have gone on to become very influential.

Paul retired in 2009, and supervised his last PhD student in 2014. He is now trying to re-invent himself in bibliometrics.