Multi-dimensional Analysis of Linguistic Features in Chinese Writing of Japanese students and Native Chinese Speakers

Qin Xu

Graduate School of Humanities
Osaka University

1.Introduction

2.Methods

3. Factor Analysis

4. Results & Discussion

Outline

Multi-dimensional Analysis (MDA)

Biber (1988, 2006, 2014, etc.):

- MF/MD approach: Multi-features / Multi-dimensional approach
- Primary statistical tool: Factor analysis
 - → reduce a large number of linguistic features to a few dimensions



textual variation & linguistic variation

Examples of Multi-dimensional Analysis

		Data , Method	Results				
, .	Biber (1988)	23 registers (English) 481 spoken and written texts 67 linguistic features Principal factor analysis → Promax rotation	Dimension 1: Involved versus Informational Production Dimension 2: Narrative versus Non-narrative Concerns Dimension 3: Explicit versus Situation-Dependent Reference Dimension 4: Overt Expression of Persuasion Dimension 5: Abstract versus Non-Abstract Information Dimension 6: On-Line Informational Elaboration				
English	10 registers (English) 423 spoken and written texts Biber (2006) 129 linguistic features (90) Principal factor analysis →Promax rotation		Dimension 1: Oral vs. literate discourse Dimension 2: Procedura1 vs. content-focused discourse Dimension 3: Reconstructed account of events Dimension 4: Teacher-centered stance				
ļ	Friginal & Weigle (2014)	207 essays (L2 students) 72 lexico-grammatical features Exploratory Factor Analysis →Promax rotation	Dimension 1: Involved vs. Informational Focus Dimension 2: Addressee-Focused Description vs. PersonalNarrative Dimension 3: Simplified vs. Elaborated Description Dimension 4: Personal Opinion vs. Impersonal Evaluation/Assessment	L2 English writing			
	Zhang, Z (2012)	15 written registers (Mandarin Chinese)500 random samples60 linguistic featuresCorrespondence analysis	Dimension 1: Literate Dimension 2: Classical Dimension 3: News commentary				
Chinese	Zhu (2015)	16 registers (Mandarin Chinese) 1000 spoken and written texts 88 linguistic features Principal factor analysis → Promax rotation	Dimension 1: Interactive vs. Informational Discourse Dimension 2: Literary vs. Non-literary Concern Dimension 3: Colloquialized Expression with Subjective Emphases Dimension 4: Situation-dependent Reference & Emotional Concern Dimension 5: Persuasion and Argumentation vs. Non-persuasive and Non	-argumentative Concern			

Text Selection

- L2 Chinese Writing (Japanese students)
 - 5 genres: character description, narrative essay, argumentative essay, letter, diary
 - \rightarrow collected between 2020 and 2022
- L1 Chinese Writing (Chinese students)
 - 5 genres: same as L2
 - → collected from Chinese writing website of Chinese students



(http://www.zuowen.com/)

Distribution of Text Genres

Genres of L2 Chinese writing	JP2	JP3	Total
1. Character description	183	111	
2. Narrative essay	43	61	
3. Argumentative essay	0	57	700
4. Letter	82	0	
5. Diary	163	0	

JP2: Intermediate level

JP3: Advanced level

Genres of L1 Chinese writing	CHN	Total
1. Character description	150	
2. Narrative essay	150	
3. Argumentative essay	150	750
4. Letter	150	
5. Diary	150	

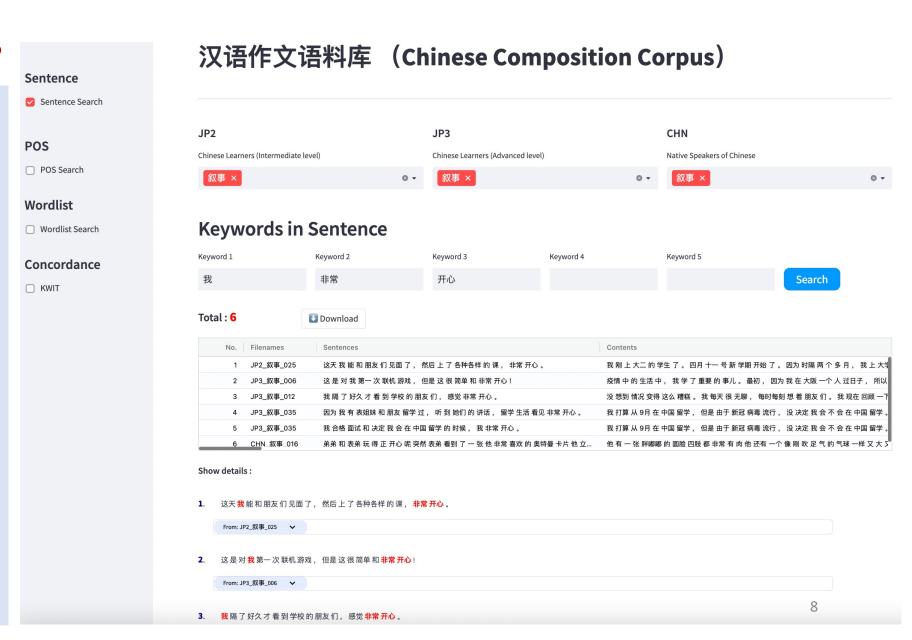
Corpus Construction

Data • L1 & L2 Chinese Writing • NLPLR Chinese word segmentation & part-of-speech tagging Python & Streamlit **Tools** create a website corpus through coding GitHub & Heroku deploy and publish corpus app Sentence search **Functions** Part-of-speech search Wordlist search

Sentence Search

Step:

- 1. Sentence search
- 2. Select genres
 e.g. 叙事(Narrative writing)
- 3. Input keyword
- 4. Click "Search"

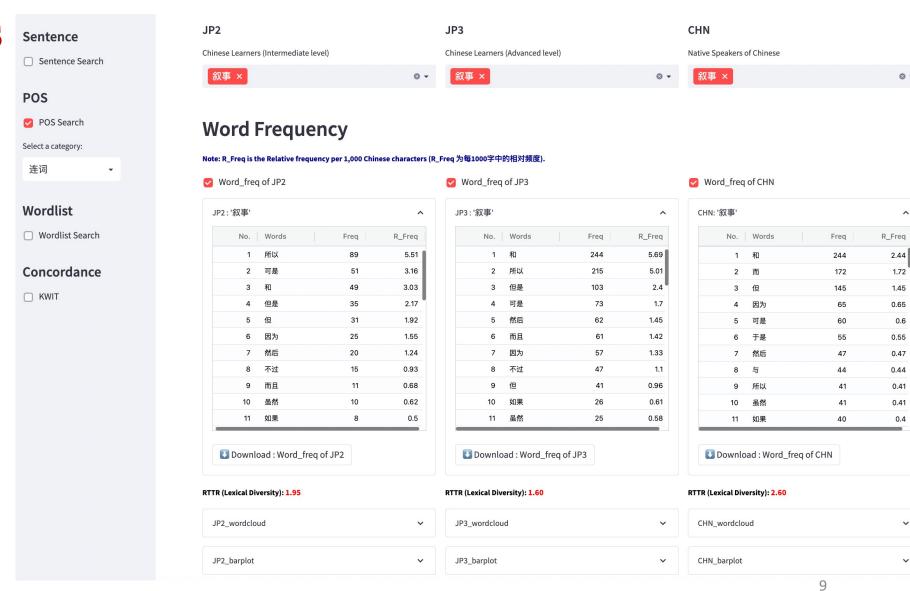


Introduction

Part-of-speech Search

Step:

- 1. POS search
- 2. Select a category e.g. 连词(conjunction)
- 3. Select genres
- 4. Word freq of XX



Part-of-speech search

Step:

- 1. POS search
- 2. Select a category e.g. 连词(conjunction)
- 3. Select genres
- 4. Word_freq of XX
- 5. Show wordcloud



☑ Word_freq of CHN

1 和

2 而

11 如果

RTTR (Lexical Diversity): 2.60

CHN_wordcloud

■ Download : Word_freq of CHN

Freq

244

172

R_Freq

2.44

1.72

0.44

0.41

0.4

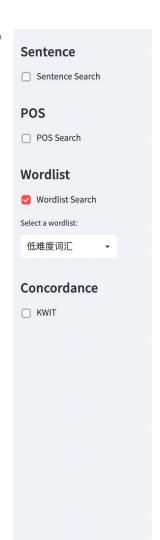
CHN: '叙事

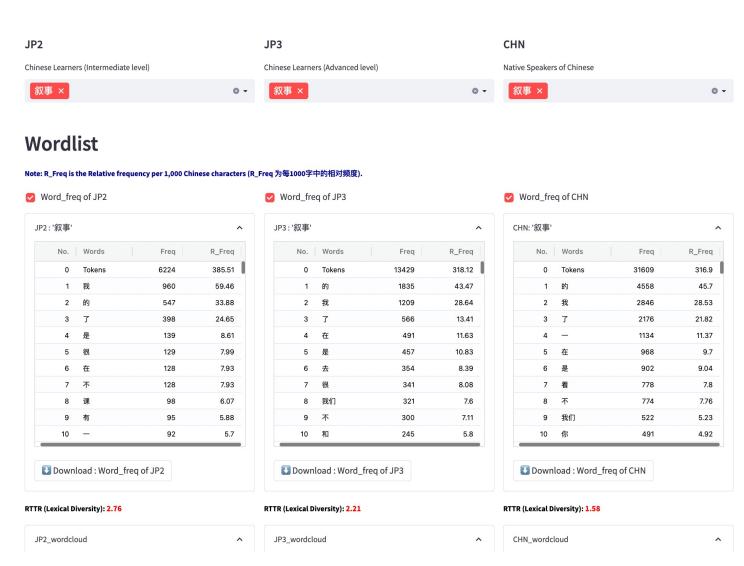
Wordlist search

Introduction

Step:

- 1. Wordlist search
- 2. Select a wordlist e.g. 低难度词汇 (Low-difficulty vocabulary)
- 3. Select genres
- 4. ✓ Word_freq of XX





RTTR (Lexical Diversity): 2.21

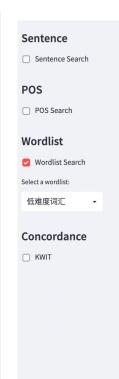
Corpus functions

Wordlist search

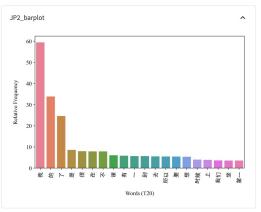
Introduction

Step:

- 1. Wordlist search
- 2. Select a wordlist e.g. 低难度词汇 (Low-difficulty vocabulary)
- 3. Select genres
- 4. **☑** Word_freq of XX
- 5. Show wordcloud
- 6. Show Barplot



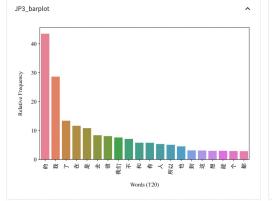


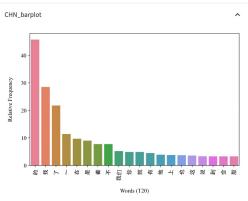






RTTR (Lexical Diversity): 1.58





Selection of Linguistic Features

'Prior to any comparison of texts, a principled decision must be made concerning the linguistic features to be used' (Biber 1988:71).

92 Linguistic Features

- Previous studies on multidimensional analysis Biber(1988, 2006); Zhang (2012); Liu(2019), etc.
- Publications and research related to Chinese studies Huang & Liao(2017); Feng(2000) etc.
- L2 Chinese Vocabulary (HSK vocabulary list)

Part of the 92 Linguistic Features

ID	Linguistic Features
1	Noun: most commonly used
2	Noun: moderately commonly used
3	Noun: rarely used
4	Abstract noun
5	Concrete noun
11	Verb: most commonly used
12	Verb: moderately commonly used
13	Verb: rarely used
23	Adjective: most commonly used
24	Adjective: moderately commonly used
25	Adjective: rarely used
	•••••
29	Adverb: most commonly used
30	Adverb: moderately commonly used

ID	Linguistic Features
31	Adverb: rarely used
	•••••
36	Adverb of time
37	Adverb of degree
	•••••
40	Less frequently used first person pronoun
38	First person pronoun: I / "我"
39	First person pronoun: we / "我们"
40	Less frequently used first person pronoun
41	Second person pronoun
42	Third person pronoun
52	Possessive affix: de / "的"
53	Adverbializer: di / "地"
54	Resultative complementizer: de/ "得"
55	Durative aspect: zhe / "着"
56	Past aspect: le/ "了"

ID	Linguistic Features
57	Experiential aspect: guo / "过"
70	Low-level vocabulary
71	Medium-level vocabulary
72	High-level vocabulary
73	Non-HSK vocabulary
	•••••
79	Parallel compound sentence
80	Successive compound sentence
	•••••
87	Purpose compound sentence
88	Turning compound sentence
89	Lexical diversity
90	Lexical density
91	Average word length
92	Average sentence length

Frequency Counts of Linguistic Features

Normalized frequency:

frequency of per 1,000 Chinese characters

except for

ID	Linguistic Features	
89	Lexical diversity	(types / $\sqrt{\text{tokens}}$)
90	Lexical density	(content words / tokens)
91	Average word length	(characters / tokens)
92	Average sentence length	(characters / sentences)

Frequency Count Raw Frequency Relative Frequency

Counting Frequencies

Python Programming

Frequency Count of 92 Linguistic Features

Raw Frequency of 92 Linguistic Features

01.局類名词	02.中頻名词	03.低頻名词	04.抽象名词	05.具象名词	06.心理名词	07.指人名词	08.集体名词	09.普通名词复数型	10.名词化功能词	11.高频动词	12.中频动词	13.低频动词	14.动作行为动词	15.心理动词	16.肯定性动词
58.0000	11.0000	4.0000	8.0000	63.0000	0.0000	38.0000	2.0000	0.0000	4.0000	84.0000	13.0000	0.0000	51.0000	3.0000	0.000
58.0000	14.0000	2.0000	7.0000	64.0000	0.0000	31.0000	1.0000	0.0000	2.0000	88.0000	12.0000	2.0000	53.0000	5.0000	1.000
61.0000	9.0000	7.0000	12.0000	55.0000	2.0000	32.0000	1.0000	0.0000	6.0000	66.0000	14.0000	5.0000	44.0000	7.0000	1.000
65.0000	15.0000	6.0000	13.0000	76.0000	1.0000	27.0000	0.0000	0.0000	8.0000	72.0000	27.0000	4.0000	60.0000	11.0000	4.000
43.0000	11.0000	5.0000	5.0000	54.0000	0.0000	19.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.0000	89.0000	15.0000	2.0000	60.0000	11.0000	0.000
75.0000	13.0000	3.0000	12.0000	74.0000	1.0000	26.0000	1.0000	0.0000	3.0000	81.0000	13.0000	1.0000	61.0000	3.0000	1.000
50.0000	11.0000	2.0000	5.0000	53.0000	0.0000	24.0000	1.0000	0.0000	1.0000	54.0000	17.0000	3.0000	39.0000	9.0000	1.000
66.0000	13.0000	0.0000	13.0000	63.0000	1.0000	33.0000	3.0000	0.0000	3.0000	72.0000	22.0000	4.0000	45.0000	13.0000	2.000
48.0000	16.0000	4.0000	7.0000	65.0000	0.0000	25.0000	0.0000	0.0000	3.0000	78.0000	24.0000	2.0000	51.0000	8.0000	1.000
30.0000	11.0000	2.0000	12.0000	25.0000	1.0000	6.0000	0.0000	2.0000	5.0000	66.0000	13.0000	1.0000	39.0000	8.0000	1.000
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■ Download : Raw Frequency of 92 Linguistic Features

Relative Frequency of 92 Linguistic Features

Relative Frequency is the relative frequency per 1,000 Chinese characters (标准化频率为每1000字中的相对频率).

	Filenames	01.高频名词	02.中频名词	03.低频名词	04.抽象名词	05.具象名词	06.心理名词	07.指人名词	08.集体名词	09.普通名词复数型	10.名词化功能词	11.高類动词	12.中频动词	13.低频动词	14.动作行为动词	15.心理动词	16.肯
0	file_01.txt	106.2271	20.1465	7.3260	14.6520	115.3846	0.0000	69.5971	3.6630	0.0000	7.3260	153.8462	23.8095	0.0000	93.4066	5.4945	
1	file_02.txt	113.9489	27.5049	3.9293	13.7525	125.7367	0.0000	60.9037	1.9646	0.0000	3.9293	172.8880	23.5756	3.9293	104.1257	9.8232	
2	file_03.txt	98.2287	14.4928	11.2721	19.3237	88.5668	3.2206	51.5298	1.6103	0.0000	9.6618	106.2802	22.5443	8.0515	70.8535	11.2721	
3	file_04.txt	104.0000	24.0000	9.6000	20.8000	121.6000	1.6000	43.2000	0.0000	0.0000	12.8000	115.2000	43.2000	6.4000	96.0000	17.6000	
4	file_05.txt	80.8271	20.6767	9.3985	9.3985	101.5038	0.0000	35.7143	0.0000	0.0000	3.7594	167.2932	28.1955	3.7594	112.7820	20.6767	
5	file_06.txt	123.7624	21.4521	4.9505	19.8020	122.1122	1.6502	42.9043	1.6502	0.0000	4.9505	133.6634	21.4521	1.6502	100.6601	4.9505	
6	file_07.txt	89.7666	19.7487	3.5907	8.9767	95.1526	0.0000	43.0880	1.7953	0.0000	1.7953	96.9479	30.5206	5.3860	70.0180	16.1580	
7	file_08.txt	106.9692	21.0697	0.0000	21.0697	102.1070	1.6207	53.4846	4.8622	0.0000	4.8622	116.6937	35.6564	6.4830	72.9335	21.0697	
8	file_09.txt	82.0513	27.3504	6.8376	11.9658	111.1111	0.0000	42.7350	0.0000	0.0000	5.1282	133.3333	41.0256	3.4188	87.1795	13.6752	
9	file_10.txt	67.5676	24.7748	4.5045	27.0270	56.3063	2.2523	13.5135	0.0000	4.5045	11.2613	148.6486	29.2793	2.2523	87.8378	18.0180	

Download: Relative Frequency of 92 Linguistic Features





Data: 1450 texts & 92 Linguistic Features. \rightarrow 1450 rows \times 92 columns

Tools: Factor analyzer of Python

Data pre-processing

- Remove NaN columns after converting to Z-score (result of dividing by 0)
 - \rightarrow 1450 rows \times 84 columns
- Remove the rows containing **outliers** (|Z-score) ≥ 5) in each group
 - \rightarrow 1314 rows \times 84 columns

```
Data = df_Data[df_Data.groupby('Subcorpus').
              apply(lambda x: np.abs(x-x.mean())/x.std() < 5).all(axis=1)]
print(f'Total : {Data.shape[0]} rows x {Data.shape[1]} columns')
Total:
        1314 \text{ rows} \times 84 \text{ columns}
```

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser(1974):

0.90 = marvelous

0.80 = meritorious

0.70 = middling

0.60 = mediocre

0.50 = miserable

below 0.50 = unacceptable

Biber (2006: 182-183):

- 1) Some features were dropped because they overlapped to a large extent with other features.
- 2) Features were dropped because they were extremely rare.
- 3) Some features were dropped because they shared little variance with the overall factorial structure.

→ Remove variables with low communalities.

Remove variables with low communalities

```
fa = FactorAnalyzer(rotation='promax', method='minres')
fa.fit(Data)

communalities = pd.DataFrame(fa.get_communalities(), index=list(Data.columns))
features_comm = list(communalities[communalities[0] > 0.30].index)

new_Data = Data[features_comm]
```

KMO and Bartlett's test again

chi_square : 13685.163

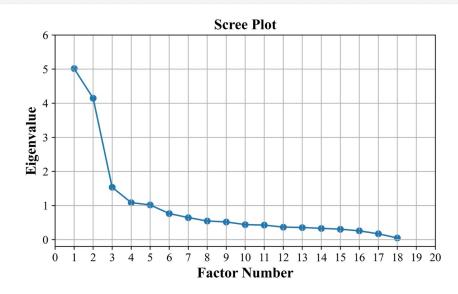
Determine the number of factors

```
# Check Eigenvalues
EigenValue, value = fa.get_eigenvalues()

# Highlight the values if they are greater than 1.
def highlightEigenvalue(x):
    return ['background-color: yellow' if v > 1 else '' for v in x]

df_eigen = pd.DataFrame({'Factor': range(1, len(EigenValue) + 1), 'Eigenvalue': EigenValue})
df_eigen.style.apply(highlightEigenvalue, subset = ['Eigenvalue'])
```

	Factor	Eigenvalue
0	1	5.016026
1	2	4.147064
2	3	1.535661
3	4	1.087326
4	5	1.017840
5	6	0.766440
6	7	0.647815
7	8	0.547122
8	9	0.519536
9	10	0.441441
10	11	0.426966
11	12	0.368614
12	13	0.356418
13	14	0.332324
14	15	0.307517
15	16	0.258691
16	17	0.172528
17	18	0.050672



\rightarrow optimal:

4 – factor solution

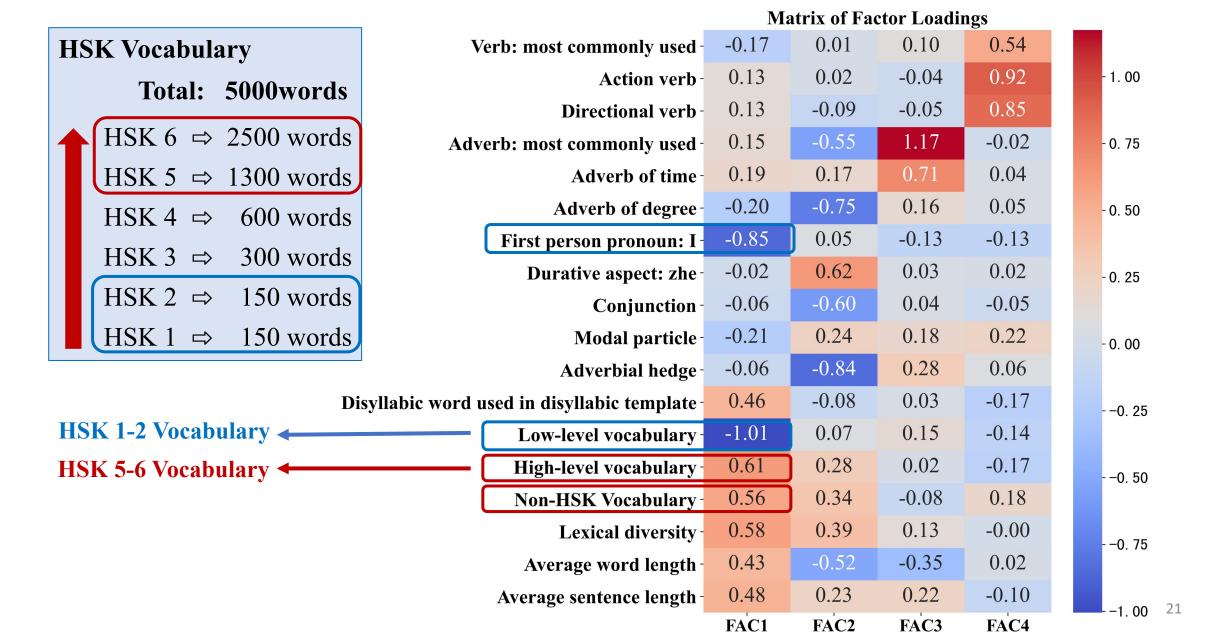
Factorial Structure

```
# Factor analysis with 'promax' rotation and 'minres' method.
factor_number = 4
fa = FactorAnalyzer(n_factors = factor_number, rotation = 'promax', method = 'minres')
fa.fit(new_Data)
# Loading factors
fac_loadings = pd.DataFrame(fa.loadings_,
                            columns = ['FAC{}'.format(i) for i in range(1, factor_number+1)],
                            index = new Data.columns)
# Highlight the values if they are greater than 0.3.
def highlightLoadings(x):
    return ['background-color: yellow' if abs(v) > 0.3 else '' for v in x]
fac_loading_matrix=fac_loadings.style.apply(highlightLoadings)
fac_loading_matrix
```

Cumulative Variance

```
# Explained variance
idx = ['SS Loadings', 'Proportion Variance', 'Cumulative Variance']
df_variance = pd.DataFrame(data = fa.get_factor_variance(),
                            index = idx.
                            columns = ['FAC{}'.format(i)
                                       for i in range(1, factor_number+1)])
df_variance
                     FAC1
                              FAC2
                                      FAC3
                                               FAC4
       SS Loadings 3.614584 3.095772 2.268486 2.056467
Proportion Variance 0.200810 0.171987
                                   0.126027 0.114248
                                                           61.3%
Cumulative Variance 0.200810 0.372798 0.498824 0.613073
```

	FAC1	FAC2	FAC3	FAC4
Verb: most commonly used	-0.174105	0.013148	0.098985	0.539323
Action verb	0.131870	0.015472	-0.039234	0.916157
Directional verb	0.130745	-0.091794	-0.049437	0.853418
Adverb: most commonly used	0.154552	-0.547757	1.174826	-0.021973
Adverb of time	0.193677	0.171381	0.709916	0.041387
Adverb of degree	-0.201113	-0.754177	0.157277	0.045434
First person pronoun: I	-0.853183	0.054474	-0.131128	-0.130865
Durative aspect: zhe	-0.021426	0.624432	0.029299	0.017067
Conjunction	-0.055221	-0.596186	0.035952	-0.053222
Modal particle	-0.208098	0.235601	0.180528	0.217695
Adverbial hedge	-0.063486	-0.840374	0.281723	0.061472
Disyllabic word used in disyllabic template	0.464959	-0.083011	0.026919	-0.174268
Low-level vocabulary	-1.005067	0.065500	0.145831	-0.143110
High-level vocabulary	0.613895	0.277319	0.016917	-0.165214
Non-HSK Vocabulary	0.556531	0.344564	-0.079418	0.182605
Lexical diversity	0.580975	0.389995	0.126566	-0.004576
Average word length	0.434289	-0.518553	-0.347096	0.017766
Average sentence length	0.479686	0.225569	0.222237	-0.102111
			20	



(Average word length

Biber (1988:87): [L]oadings having an absolute value less than .30 are generally excluded as unimportant even if they are statistically significant.

Dimension 1	
High-level vocabulary	0.61
Lexical diversity	0.58
Non-HSK Vocabulary	0.56
Average sentence length	0.48
Disyllabic word used in disyllabic template	0.46
(Average word length	0.43)
First person pronoun: I/"我"	-0.85
Low-level vocabulary	-1.01
Dimension 3	
Adverb: most commonly used	1.17
Adverb of time	0.71

Dimension 2	
Durative aspect: zhe/"着"	0.62
(Lexical diversity	0.39)
(Non-HSK Vocabulary	0.34)
•••••	
Average word length	-0.52
(Adverb: most commonly used	-0.55)
Conjunction	-0.60
Adverb of degree	-0.75
Adverbial hedge	-0.84

Dimension 4

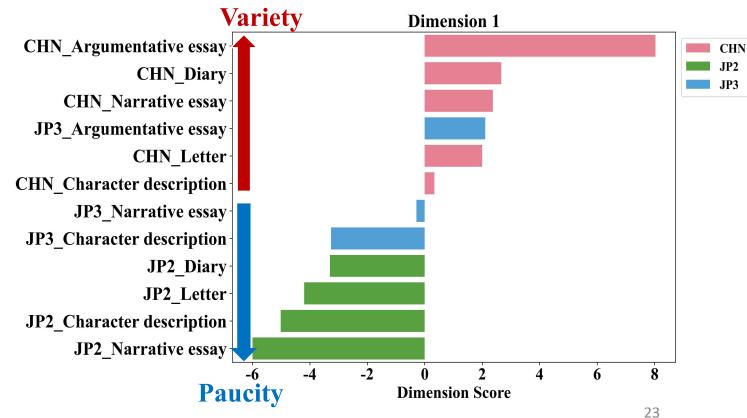
Action verb	0.92
Directional verb	0.85
Verb: most commonly used	0.54

Interpretation of Dimensions

Biber (1988:87): In the interpretation of each factor, greater attention is given to those features with the largest loadings.

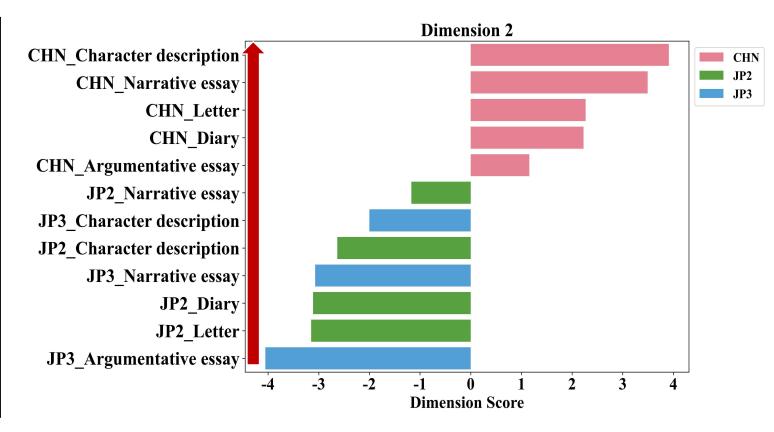
Dimension 1: Variety vs. Paucity of Vocabulary Output

Dimension 1	
High-level vocabulary	0.61
Lexical diversity	0.58
Non-HSK Vocabulary	0.56
Average sentence length	0.48
Disyllabic word used in disyllabic template	0.46
(Average word length	0.43)
First person pronoun: I/"我"	-0.85
Low-level vocabulary	-1.01

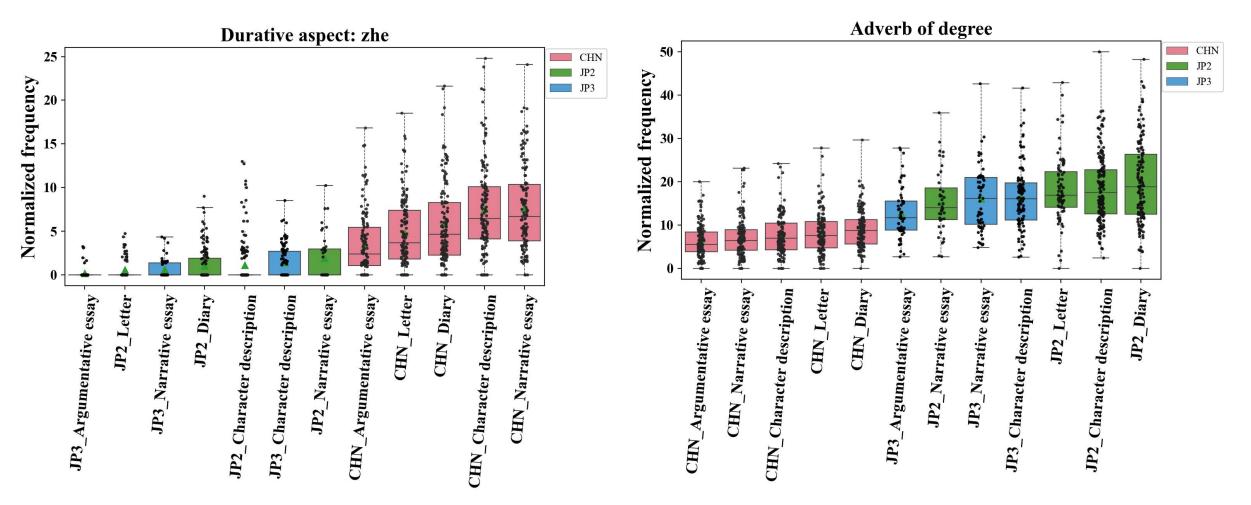


Dimension 2: Situational Description

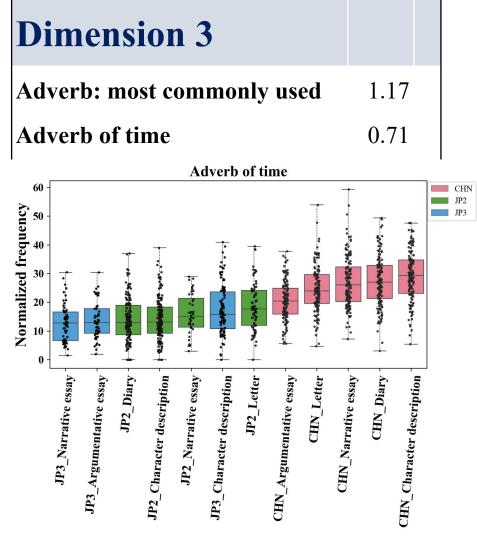
Dimension 2		
Durative aspect: zhe/"着"	0.62	
(Lexical diversity	0.39)
(Non-HSK Vocabulary	0.34)
••••••		
Average word length	-0.52	
(Adverb: most commonly used	-0.55)
Conjunction	-0.60	
Adverb of degree	-0.75	
Adverbial hedge	-0.84	

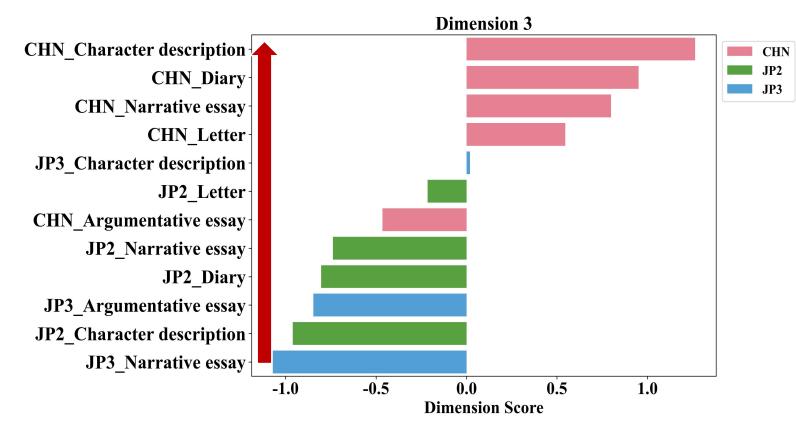


Dimension 2: Situational Description



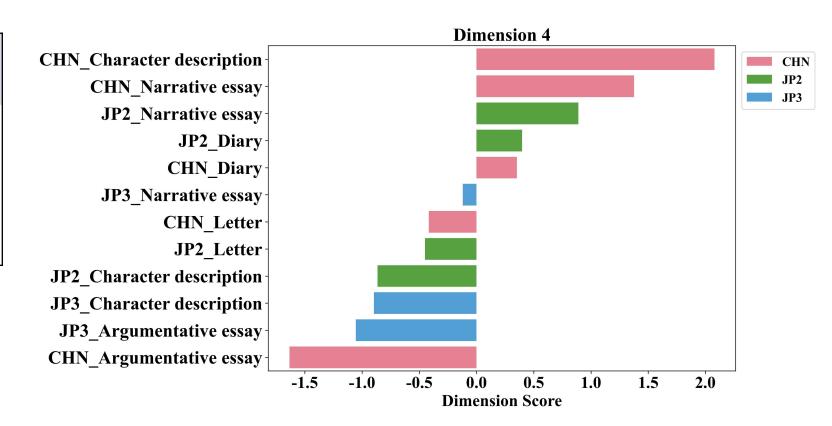
Dimension 3: Adverbial Modification



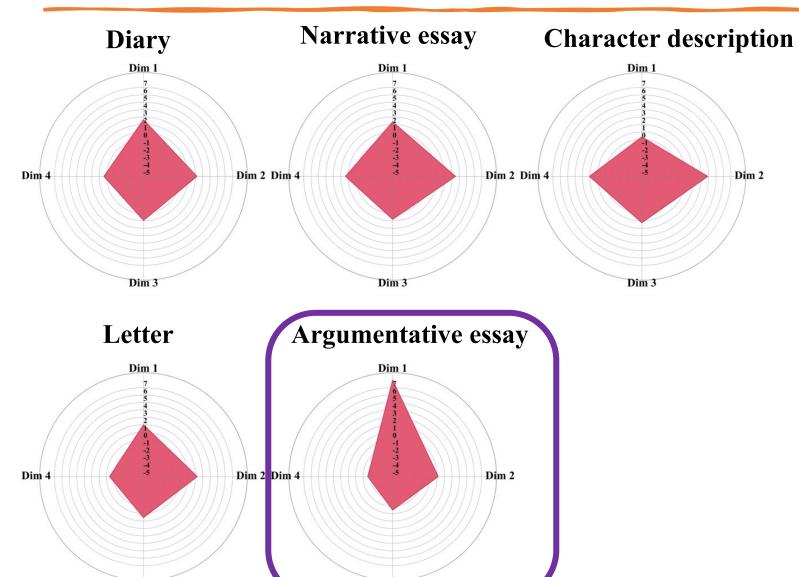


Dimension 4: Action Behavior Description

Dimension 4	
Action verb	0.92
Directional verb	0.85
Verb: most commonly used	0.54



L1 Genres: Radar Chart



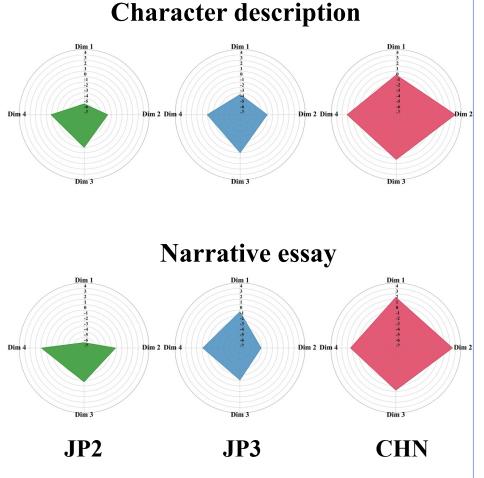
Multiple Comparisons

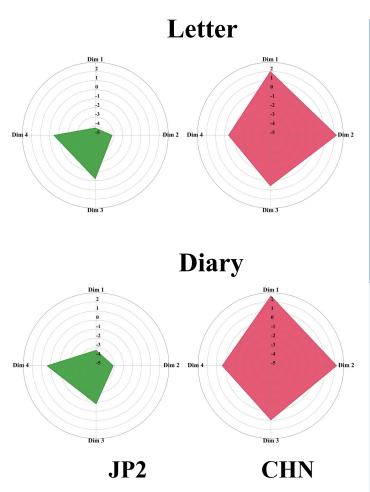
The most special genre:

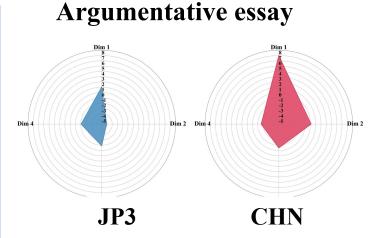
Argumentative essay

- Dim 1 : scored highest
- Dim 2~4 : scored lowest

L2 vs. L1 Genres: Radar Chart







Multiple Comparisons L2 vs. L1 Genres: • Dim 1~3:

Conclusions

- L2 & L1 Chinese Writing Corpus
- Tools for counting the frequency of linguistic features
- Data pre-processing & Factor Analysis
- Successful application of MDA on L2 Chinese writing

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Thanks for Listening.



Q&A