

Second “Food and Drink” workshop

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Motivation

Food and drink are cultural markers

We believe that one can find something about FD in almost every novel

Different at different times and different countries and different traditions...

Perfect for contrastive/comparative studies?

Distant Reading for European Literary History

[\(COST Action CA16204\)](#)
2017 - 2021

“... A project aiming to create a vibrant and diverse network of researcher jointly developing the resources and methods necessary to change the way European literary history is written “.

ELTeC WG1 had the task to create, the **European Literary Text Collection**, collection of sub-corpora of **novels** in at least 10 languages, **1840- 1920**, to be used as the data around which to perform and test the activities around which literary history is written.

At the moment, 16 language corpora of at least 100 novels

Portuguese, Italian and Norwegian to be used in the “Food and Drink” effort.

Facilitating the transition between quantitative and qualitative studies, i.e. distant and close reading.

Angles of perspective

1. Social, cultural and hierarchical relations, including gender disparity
2. Emotions/attitudes and physical states related to eating and drinking
3. Taste and other senses
4. Characterizing through eating and drinking (like humor etc.)
5. Religious or political related prohibitions
6. Food/drink and travel - national identities
7. Material culture (cooking, tools and venues)
8. Figurative language

Possible Research Questions:

- How can digital methods analyze food and drink in literature in new and interesting ways?
- Which words, word combinations and word-types concerning food and drink are more frequent in the three languages we analyse?
- How are various states and feelings connected to descriptions of food and drinks (e.g., hunger, being drunk, being “full of food”)?
- In what ways do the attitudes to eating and drinking vary in the three national literatures?

Close reading of some literary meals

Nikolai Gogol. *Dead souls* (1842)

Alessandro Manzoni. *I promessi sposi* (1840-42),

Júlio Dinis. *Uma família inglesa* (1868), one tea

Júlio Dinis, *A morgadinha dos canaviais* (1868) one lunch

Alexander Kielland, *Garman & Worse* (1880), one dinner and one drinking scene

Jonas Lie. *Familien på Gilje* (1883), a Christmas kalving and one dinner

Sigrid Undset, *Jenny* (1911), 3 breakfasts

Grazia Deledda, *Canne al vento* (1913)

Mikhail Bulgakov. *A dog's heart* (1925)

Alessandro Manzoni (1785 – 1873)



The Betrothed (*I promessi sposi*)

- a historical novel set in 1628 in Lombardy
- First published in 1827
- the definitive version published between 1840 and 1842, after “washing his clothes in the Arno” (Florence, Tuscany)

Actions Objects quantity	Andò addirittura, secondo che aveva disegnato, alla casetta d'un certo Tonio, ch'era lì poco distante; e lo trovò in cucina, che, con un ginocchio sullo scalino del focolare, e tenendo, con una mano, l'orlo d'un paiolo, messo sulle ceneri calde, dimenava, col matterello ricurvo, una piccola polenta bigia, di gran saraceno .	He went directly to the house of one Anthony, and found him in his kitchen, employed in stirring a polenta of wheat, which was on the fire, <i>with one knee on the step of the hearth, and holding, with one hand, the edge of a cauldron, placed on the hot ashes, he wriggled, with the curved rolling pin, a small gray polenta, of buckwheat.</i>
participants	La madre, un fratello, la moglie di Tonio, erano a tavola; e tre o quattro ragazzetti, ritti accanto al babbo, stavano aspettando, con gli occhi fissi al paiolo, che venisse il momento di scodellare.	whilst his mother, brother, and his wife, with three or four small children, were seated at the table, eagerly intent on the earthen pan, and awaiting the moment when it should be ready for their attack.
Feelings / attitudes	Ma non c'era quell'allegria che la vista del desinare (tosc.) suol pur dare a chi se l'è meritato con la fatica.	But, on this occasion, the pleasure was wanting which the sight of dinner usually produces in the aspect of the labourer who has earned it by his industry.

Quantity, visual perception, feelings, Appetite	La mole della polenta era in ragion dell'annata, e non del numero e della buona voglia de' commensali : e ognun d'essi, fissando, con uno sguardo bieco d' amor rabbioso , la vivanda comune, pareva pensare alla porzione d'appetito, che le doveva sopravvivere.	The size of the polenta was proportioned to the scantiness of the times, and not to the number and appetite of the assailants: and in casting a dissatisfied look on the common meal, each seemed to be considering the extent of appetite likely to survive it.
Objects actions quantity	Mentre Renzo barattava i saluti con la famiglia, Tonio scodellò la polenta sulla taffería di faggio, che stava apparecchiata a riceverla: e parve una piccola luna, in un gran cerchio di vapori .	Whilst Renzo was exchanging salutations with the family, Tony poured out the pudding on the pewter trencher prepared for its reception, and it appeared like a little moon within a large circumference of vapour.
invitation	Nondimeno le donne dissero cortesemente a Renzo: « volete restar servito? » complimento che il contadino di Lombardia, e chi sa di quant'altri paesi! non lascia mai di fare a chi lo trovi a mangiare, quand'anche questo fosse un ricco epulone alzatosi allora da tavola, e lui fosse all'ultimo boccone.	Nevertheless, the wife of Tony said courteously to Renzo, "Will you be helped to something?" <i>This was a compliment that the peasants of Lombardy, however poor, paid to those who were, from any accident, present at their meals.</i> (ERROR)

invitation

Participants attitudes

«Vi ringrazio,» rispose Renzo: «venivo solamente per dire una parolina a Tonio; e, se vuoi, Tonio, per non disturbar le tue donne, possiamo andar a desinare all'osteria, e lì parleremo.»	“I thank you,” replied Renzo; “I only came to say a few words to Tony; and, Tony, not to disturb your family, we can go and dine at the inn, and we shall then have an opportunity to converse.”
La proposta fu per Tonio tanto più gradita, quanto meno aspettata; e le donne, e anche i bimbi (giacchè, su questa materia, principian presto a ragionare) non videro mal volentieri che si sottraesse alla polenta un concorrente , e il più formidabile.	The proposal was as agreeable as it was unexpected. Tony readily assented to it, and departed with Renzo, leaving to his family his portion of the <i>polenta</i> . <i>The proposal was all the more welcome for Tonio, the less expected it was; and the women, and even the children (since, on this subject, they quickly begin to think) were happy to see a competitor, and the most formidable one, escape the polenta.</i> (Google Translate)

Sigrid Undset’s Jenny (1911) Scene from beginning of chapter III

De kom ut paa Corsoen. Hun nævnte paladsernes navne – men kom hvert øieblik litt foran ham. For hun gik fort og smat letvint frem mellem de mange mennesker, som var paa benene allerede paa det smale fortaug.

«Liker De vermut,» spurte hun. «Jeg skal ind og ha en her.»

Hun drak den ut i et drag, staaende ved barens marmordisk. Helge likte ikke den bittersøte drik, som var halvblandet med kinin. Men det var nyt for ham og moret ham saan at stikke indom en bar i farten.

Jenny bøiet ind i smale gater, hvor luften var raa og klam. Bare allerøverst paa husmurene streifet solskinet. Helge stirret om sig med overvaaken interesse – paa de blaamalte kjærrer med muldyrspand, hvis seletø hadde messingbeslag og røde dusker – paa barhodede kvinder og svarte unger, paa de smaa billige butikker og portrummenes utsalg av frugt og grønnsaker. Et sted stod en gammel mand og kokte smultebakkelse paa en ovn, som lignet en asfaltovn. Jenny kjøpte av dem og bød Helge. Men han sa neitak – pokker til pike og. Hun spiste av dem med god appetit – han fik kvalme bare ved at tænke sig en av de fettdryppende boller mellom sine tænder – endda med vermutsmaken i munden – efter nattens diverse drikkevarer. Desuten, saa skidden den gamle manden var –

beginning – ending – attributes

- Jenny Winge and Helge Gram walking home in the streets of Rome during the morning
- public venues (bar and street cart)
- outside > inside > outside
- drink («vermut», «bittersøte drik»)
- food («smultebakkelse», «fettdryppende boller»)
- taste («liker De», «likte ikke», «kvalme»)

how to drink and eat («et drag», staaende», «god appetit»)

- to buy, serve, offer, refuse, imagine food and drink
- hygiene («Desuten, saa skidden den gamle manden var –.»)



Eça de Queirós (Textos de imprensa):

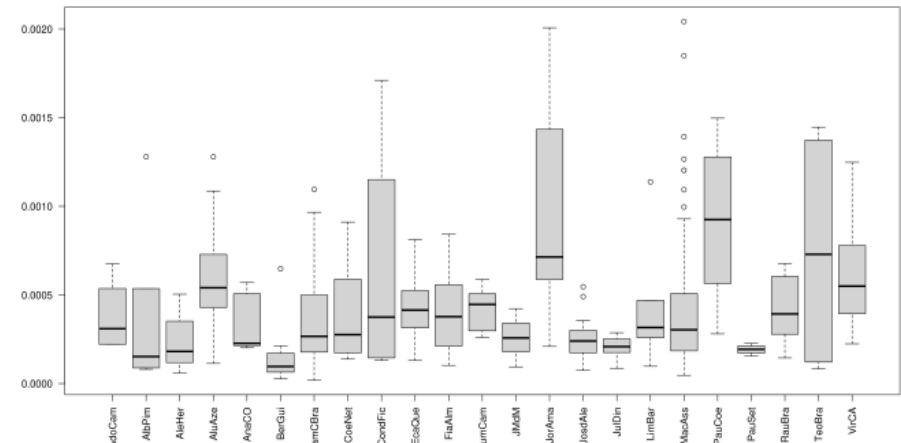
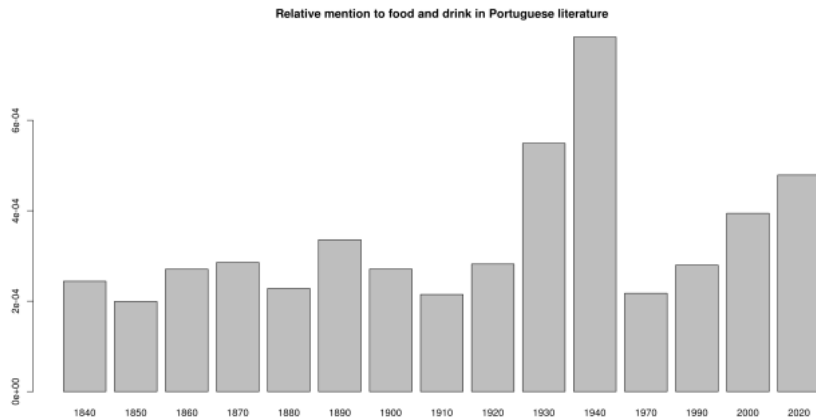
O caráter de uma raça pode ser deduzido simplesmente do seu método de assar a carne. Um lombo de vaca (...) faz compreender melhor as diferenças intelectuais destes povos do que o estudo das suas literaturas.

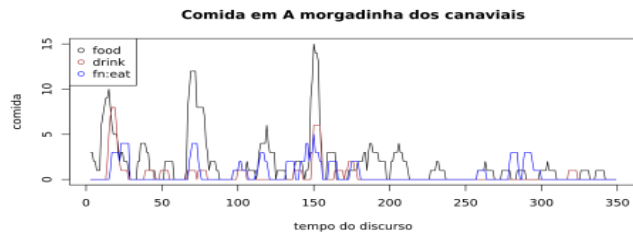
in Portugal the meat is a loin of veal roasted in the oven with all the seasonings until well cooked; in France the fat and skin cut out, tied, seasoned and cooked in the oven; and in England, it goes to the oven without preparation, to be consumed raw inside and toasted on the outside. Mustard, salt and pepper are on the table for each person to season it to their liking.

the table has always been one of the strongest, if not the strongest foundation of human societies.

jantar	5776
comer	4860
beber	3663
café	2220
almoço	1755
chá	1274
almoçar	1099
ceia	1094
comida	663
cear	517
refeição	415
bebida	295
iguarria	179
manjar	126
merenda	103
repasto	84
farnel	64
lanchar	43

- names for meals: dinner, lunch, tea, etc
- names for food or drink
- names for taking meals (or eating/drinking)
- some cases are problematic: *café* means coffee shop ca half of the times, *chá* means tea as often as tea meal, or infusion





Semantic classes for the Food & Drink domain: Nouns

- ♦ **<food>** **<food-h>** (human-processed), **<fruit>**, **<spice>**
 - subcategories: **<food-meat>**, **<food-fish>**, **<food-veg>**
 - **<food-liq>** (e.g. *soup*)
 - **<food-warm>** (cooked, fried, boiled), **<food-cold>** (e.g. *ice cream*)
 - **<food-sweet>**
 - ♦ **<cm-chem>** (chemical substances), **<cm-rem>** (medical remedies)
 - ♦ **<drink>**, subc.: **<drink-alco>**, **<drink-hot>** (e.g. *tea*), **<drink-cold>**
 - ♦ events: **<occ-eat>** (*banquet*), **<occ-drink>** (*pub crawl*), **<act-food>**
 - ♦ places: **<Leat>**, subc.: **<Lh-eat>** (*kitchen*), **<inst-eat>** (*restaurant*)
 - ♦ containers: **<con-food>** (*plate*), **<con-drink>** (*cup*), **<con-store-food>**
 - ♦ tools: **<tool>**, subc.: **<tool-eat>** (*fork*), **<tool-gastro>** (*frying pan*)
 - ♦ humans: **<Halco>** (*drunkard*), **<Hprof-food>** (*baker*)
 - ♦ others: **<sick-food>**, **<ism-food>**, **<percep-food>** (*hunger, thirst*)
- categories can overlap, for instance 'cup' as **<tool-drink>** and **<con-drink>**

Demonstration of Corpus Eye

corp.visl.dk