

Disney Dynamics: Language Change in Animated Films over Time

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Objective:

To determine whether Disney's song lyrics in animated movies have changed from the early to more recent movies, especially regarding self-image words.

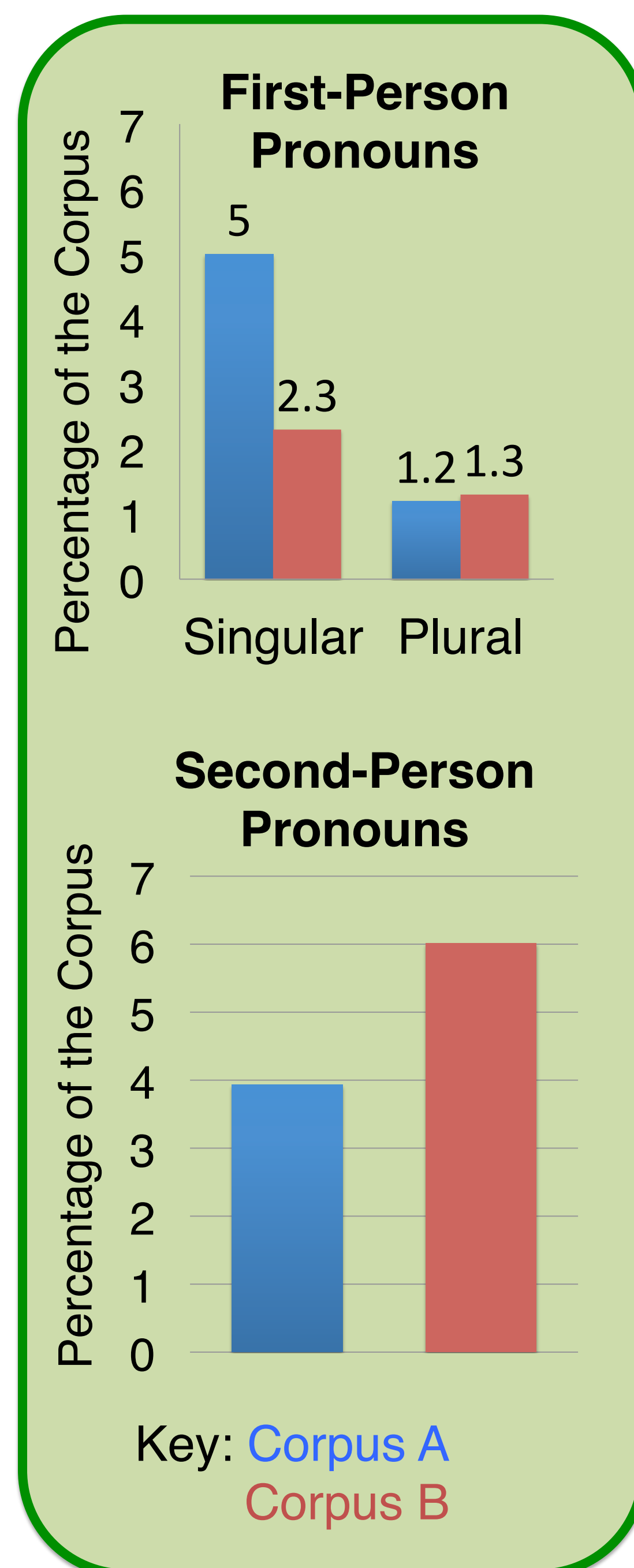
Methodology:

- Created two corpora:
 - 1992-2012 Corpus- the most recent 20 years of animated Disney movies
 - 1937-1957 Corpus- the first 20 years of animated Disney movies
- Selected the three most popular movies in each corpus, as determined by the "Disney Movies Guide Rankings" website on 10/20/12.

- Used "The Unofficial Disney Animated Archive" to obtain all the lyrics in each selected movie.
- Used the Lextutor Web Frequency Indicator to obtain the frequency at which each word appeared in each corpus.

Results:

Pronouns:



Conclusions:

Pronoun Usage

- Over time, content has become more focused on oneself than on others.
- The trend in pronoun use supports the theory that cultural products match cultural changes. In this study, the song lyrics, a cultural product, have become more focused on self as culture becomes more individualistic.

Self-Image Words

- Self-image has not been a prominent theme in Disney lyrics.
- The low frequency of self-image words in the results show that the messages are not conveyed through song lyrics. However, self-image messages may be conveyed through some other aspect of the movies.

Self-Image Words:

