

Translation Arrays

Version Variation Visualization



Team

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all Swansea University, except:

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www.delightedbeauty.org

Crowd-sourcing translations of two lines from Shakespeare's Othello.

ca. **150 versions**

ca. **150 contributors**

Albanian, Catalan, Chinese: Mandarin, Danish, Dutch, Englishes, Finnish, French, Frisian, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Kiswahili, Macedonian, Norwegian, Persian (Farsi), Plautdietsch, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, UNESCO, Yiddish

*»If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.«*

Othello Act 1, Scene 3

Version Variation Visualisation

Multilingual crowd-sourcing of Shakespeare's Othello

[Home](#)
[Contribute](#)
[Links](#)
[Multilingual Materials](#)
 Albanian
 Catalan
 Chinese: Mandarin
 Danish
 Dutch
 Englishes
 Finnish
 French
 Frisian
 German
 Greek
 Hungarian
 Italian
 Kiswahili
 Macedonian
 Norwegian
Persian (Farsi)
 Plautdietsch
 Polish
 Romanian
 Russian
 Spanish
 Turkish
 Ukrainian
 UNESCO
 Yiddish
[Outputs & events](#)
 Events
 Exhibition
 Pursglove on Rhetoric
 Publicity

[Multilingual Materials >](#)

Persian (Farsi)

Dr. Bahman Zarrinjoee and Dr. Leila Baradaran Jamili (Assistant Professors of Islamic Azad University, Boroujerd-Branch, Iran) have gathered four translations, presented here in chronological order (date of their first publication). These examples are followed by a brief comment, two additional translations of their own, and a short essay on "The Translation of William Shakespeare's *Othello* in Persian (Farsi)". Please scroll down. Their original contribution (emailed as a pdf document) is attached at the foot of this page.

1. Abu'l-Qāsem Khan Qaragozlū Nāser-al-Molk (1865-1927), or Abolghasem Khan Nasser-al-Molk (trans.), *Othello: The Tragic Story of Moorish Othello in Vandick*, Paris: Matbaee Meli, 1961 (1st ed.), 2nd ed. Tehran: Niloufar P., 1996.

دوک بسیار خوب، شب بهمه خوش. (به برابرسیو) اگر خوی نکو دلبد و زیبا است داماد شما را پاکیزه روی باید خواند نه سیاه گونه. (پرده اول مجلس سوم 20no rhyme, prose)

Duke: All right, good night all. (To Brabansio), if good habit is beautiful and delightful your son-in-law should be called virtuous not black. (Act I Scene III 20)

This version considers the beauties of ethics; in this sense, we can admire Abolghasem Khan Nasser-al-Molk's translation, because he plays with words very aesthetically, and it seems that his ability in selecting the proper equivalents to convey the intended meanings has had no rival.

2. M. E'temādzāda (M. A. Behāḍīn, 1st ed. 1958), or M. A. Behazin (trans.), *Othello*, Tehran: Dotbook, 2009 (4th ed.). Publisher website: <http://www.dotbook.net>

فرماتروا باشد، شب پر همگان خوش باد! (به برابرسیو)

خوب، سینیور عالیقدر، اگر مردانگی عاری از زیبایی و دلگیری نباشد، پس داماد شما پیش از آن که سیاه باشد زیباست. (پرده نخست/صحنه سوم 37 no rhyme, prose)

Governor: Yes (OK.), have a good night everybody! (To Brabansio)

Well, senior signior, if masculinity does not lack fascination and beauty, then your son-in-law is more beautiful than black. (Act I Scene III 37)

In spite of the fact that in his introduction to the translation, M. A. Behazin claims that his translation has properly reflected the style of Shakespeare's writing, versification, and aestheticism: and he adds that it is on the whole a perfect translation, some words and connotations are missed. In this translation, Behazin's focus is on an ironic

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*»If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.«*

Othello Act 1, Scene 3

Synchronic intercultural patterns

<i>black</i>	French	German
∅	2	7
black	20	22
dark	-	3
ugly	-	1

<i>fair</i>	French	German
∅	2	3
beautiful	7	13
white	2	8
bright	4	3
agreeable	4	1
blond	-	2
other	3	5

Synchronic inter- and intracultural patterns

<i>black</i>	French famous	French obscure	German famous	German obscure
∅	1	1	5	2
black	10	10	4	18
dark	-	-	2	1
ugly	-	-	1	-

<i>fair</i>	French famous	French obscure	German famous	German obscure
∅	2	-	2	1
beautiful	4	3	1	12
white	-	2	4	4
bright	1	3	1	2
agreeable	2	2	1	-
blond	-	-	-	2
other	2	1	4	1

Corpora of re-translations: an under-explored, under-exploited resource for public DH

Great quantities of re-translations exist of Aesop, Aristotle, Hans Christian Andersen, Avicenna, the Bhagavad Gita, the Bible, Confucius, Chekhov, Cervantes, Dante, Dostoyevsky, Dumas...

- scripture, ancient classical texts, modern classics
- implicit hypertextual networks: therefore they offer new ways of exploring the inter-relatedness of world cultures

Visualize *what* is translated:
(omissions, re-ordering, additions)

Visualize *how* it is translated:
variation among re-translations in relation
to metadata
(author, date, place, materiality, genre, etc)

Corpora of re-translations can be mined for:

- language change and variety
- cultural change and variety (concepts, values ...)
- change and variety in practices and implicit theories of intercultural translation
- patterns and meanings which are implicit in the translated works, and realized in the multiplicity of versions

Digital *Translation Arrays* can become public interactive intercultural knowledge sites.

Translation Arrays are *not* just for Linguists

You can learn interesting things from exploring or contributing to a corpus of re-translations (and analyses of it) *even if you cannot understand the translating language(s)* (or: you can improve your language skills)

Users: researchers, students, teachers, translators, other text re-users (directors, actors...), readers

»If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.«

Zu Brabantio
Wenn je die Tugend einen Mann verklärt,
Ist Euer Eidam schön und liebenswert.

If ever virtue glorified a man, your son-in-law is beautiful and lovable.
1805, Friedrich Schiller

(A Romantic Duke)

(Zu Brabantio.) Wenn man die Tugend muß als schön er-
kennen,
Dürft Ihr nicht häßlich Euern Eidam nennen.

If one must recognise virtue as beautiful, you may not call your son-in-law ugly.
1832, Wolf Graf Baudissin (the standard translation)

(An idealized sovereign Duke)

Leiht Tugend ihre Farbe dem Gesicht,
Ist Euer Eidam weiß, ein Schwarzer nicht.

If virtue lends its colour to the face, your son-in-law is white, not a black.
1920, Max Wolff (mass-market book)

(A biological racist Duke)

Spricht man von Tugend, als von einem Licht,
Scheint Euer Eidam mir so dunkel nicht.

If one speaks of virtue as of a light, your son-in-law seems not so dark to me.
1939, Erich Engel (theatre script)

(A fascist leader Duke)

»If virtue no delighted beauty lack,
Your son-in-law is far more fair than black.«

Wenn nie der Tugend lichte Schönheit fehlt,
Ist Eure Tochter hell, nicht schwarz, vermählt.

If virtue never lacks bright-lit beauty, your daughter is brightly, not blackly, married.
1941, Hedwig Schwarz (typescript)

(A womanly Duke)

zählte bei Menschen nur der innre Schein,
würden wir dunkler als Othello sein.

If people's inward appearance alone counted, we would be darker than Othello.
1956, Hans Rothe (book/script)

*(Post-war humanist,
democrat and
unconscious racist)*

Gäb's helle Haut für Edelmut als Preis,
Dann wär Ihr Schwiegersohn statt schwarz reinweiß.

If light skin were a prize for noble-mindedness,
then your son-in-law would be pure white instead of black.
1995, Frank Günther (book/script)

(Anti-racist moralist)

Gute Nacht allerseits. Und zu Ihnen edler Herr. So-
lange männliche Tugend mehr zählt als Schönheits-
fehler, kann man sagen, Ihr Schwiegersohn ist eher
edel als schwarz.

So long as male virtue counts more than surface blemishes,
one can say your son-in-law is more noble than black.
2003, Feridun Zaimoglu & Günther Senkel (theatre script)

(Elite neo-fascist racist)

Navigation of re-translation corpora

Eddy and Viv for algorithmic navigation

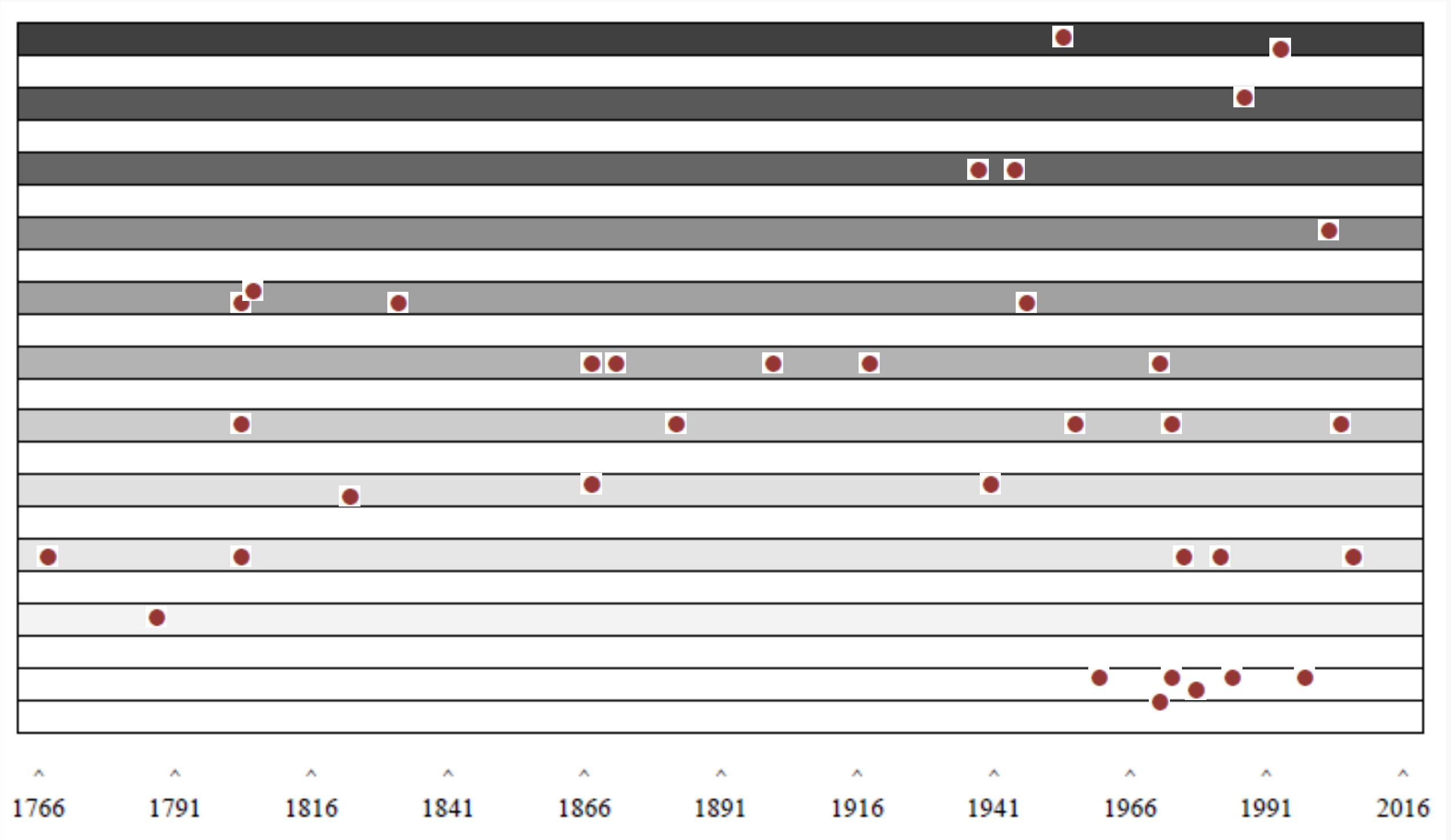
Eddy

- named after **$\Sigma d...$** & *eddy*: local turbulence
- the distance of the lexis of a version of a segment from the lexis of all other versions of it
- the relative distinctiveness of a version of a segment

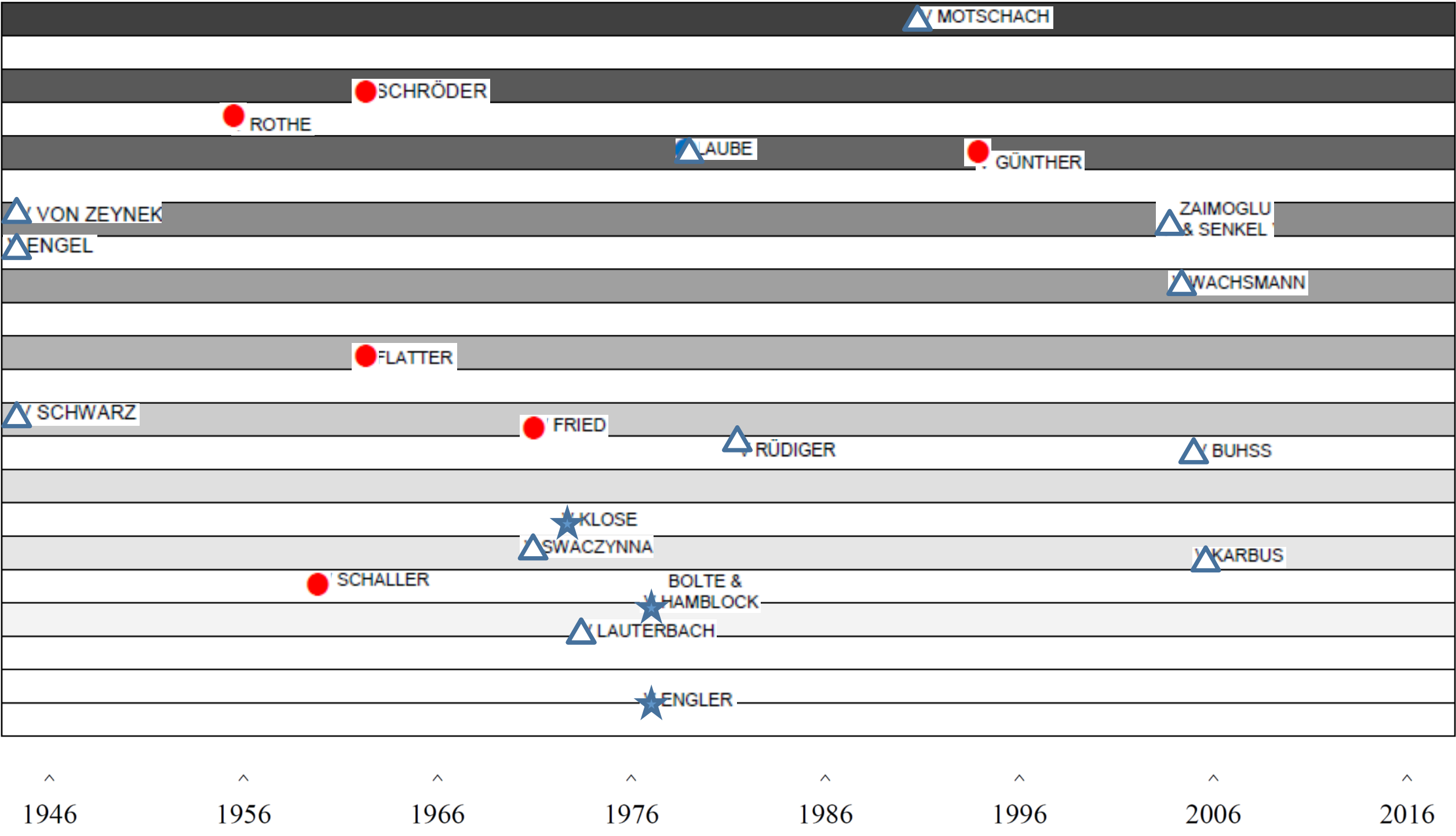
Viv

- named after ***vivacity***
- the range of Eddys associated with a base text segment
- the amount of variation in all versions of a segment
- the provocation effect of a segment

Vertical axis: Eddy results (distinctiveness) for Duke couplet, scaled 1-20



Vertical axis: Eddy results (distinctiveness) for Duke couplet, scaled 1-20

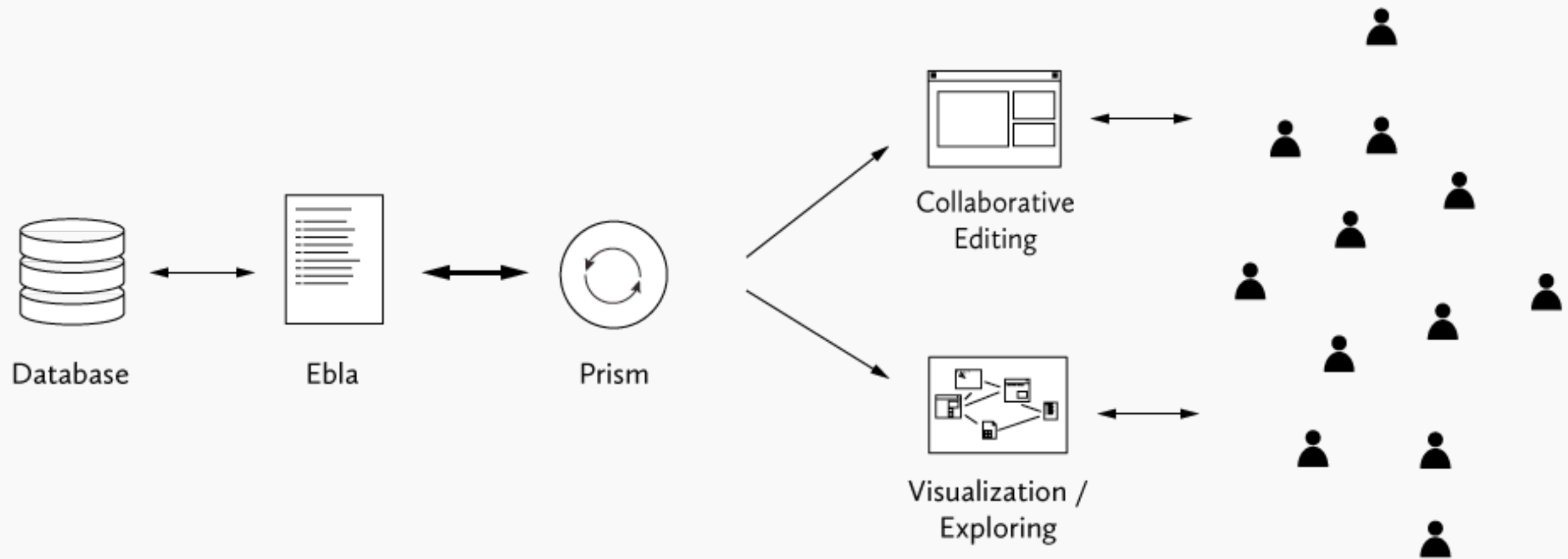




a shelf of German versions of *Othello*

www.delightedbeauty.org/vvv

ow.ly/ccpaw



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