# Sentiment Annotation for Lessing's Plays: Towards a Language Resource for Sentiment Analysis on German Literary Texts

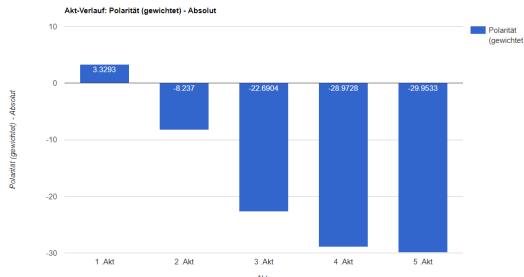
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### 1 Background

Sentiment analysis tries to predict the sentiment (positive, neutral, negative) of a written text via computational methods...

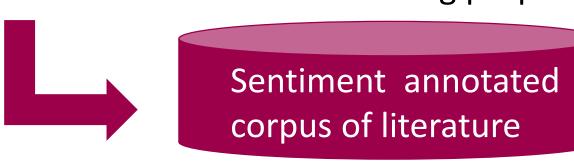


... and is becoming popular in Computational Literary Studies to analyse sentiment relations and progressions in fairy tales, novels and plays.



Polarity Progression throughout all acts of the play Emilia Galotti

Unfortunately there is a lack of sentiment-annotated corpora in the context of literary texts for evaluation and machine learning purposes



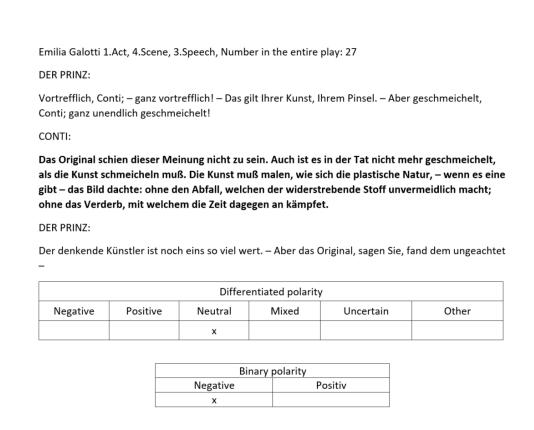
# 2 The Annotation Project

#### Idea: Outsource the annotation task to students



- Course in the Master's program of German Literature
- Topics: Sentiments and emotions in the plays of Lessing
- Introduction to sentiment analysis and annotation
  - 9 students performed the annotation

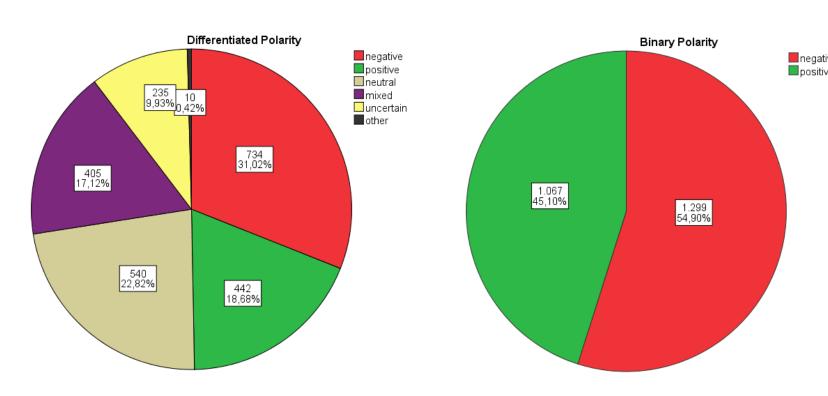
#### **Annotation material and process**



- Annotations via Microsoft Word
- Introduction to the task during the course and via annotation guidelines
- Each student annotated around 200 randomly chosen speeches of one of six plays by G. E. Lessing
- 2 students per play (with 1 student annotating multiple plays)

# 3 Results

1183 speeches
2366 annotations



Tendency for negative annotations (in line with related research), although the corpus consists mostly of comedies  $\rightarrow$  Comedies might have a happy ending but still consist of a lot of conflicts and disputes (otherwise the play would be boring...)

### Agreement statistics for the entire corpus annotations

Annotation type	Cohen's Kappa	Average observed agreement (AOA)
Differentiated polarity	0.30	45%
Binary polarity	0.39	69%

- Overall fair agreement
- Rather low (especially compared to other text sorts)
- More subjective and dependent of the individual interpretation by the annotator

Play	Annotation type	kappa	AOA
	Differentiated polarity	0.03	15%
Damon	Threefold polarity	0.12	45&
	Binary polarity	0.14	56%
	Differentiated polarity	0.43	59%
Emilia Galotti	Threefold polarity	0.49	68%
	Binary polarity	0.49	76%
Der Freigeist	Differentiated polarity		30%
	Threefold	0.28	57%
	Binary polarity	0.34	68%
	Differentiated polarity	0.29	44%
Minna von Barnhelm	Threefold polarity	0.39	59%
	Binary polarity	0.29	63%
	Differentiated polarity	0.32	46%
Nathan der Weise	Threefold polarity	0.40	62%
	Binary polarity	0.43	72%
	Differentiated polarity	0.38	54%
Miß Sara Sampson	Threefold polarity	0.48	66%
	Binary polarity	0.65	83%
	Differentiated polarity	0.30	45%
Overall average	Threefold polarity	0.36	59%
	Binary polarity	0.39	69%

- Mostly poor to fair agreement (0.00-0.40)
- A lot of variance depending on the annotators, annotation type and the play
- Highest agreements for *Emilia Galotti* and *Miss Sara Sampson*

# **4 Future Directions**

A preliminary version of this corpus is publicly available online for the research community: Lessing\_Speech\_Sentiment\_Corpus

1	Play_Position	Identifier_in_play	Text	Polarity_differentiated	Polarity_threefold	Polarity_binary
2	Damon, oder die	1_1_1_1	LISETTE:Nun, das ist wahr, unser Haus hat sich in ku	negative	negative	negative
3	Damon, oder die	1_1_2_2_2	DIE WITWE:Nun, was ist es?	uncertain	negative	negative
4	Damon, oder die	1_1_3_3_3	LISETTE: Alsdann bleibe ich gewiß auch nicht länger b	mixed	negative	negative
5	Damon, oder die	1_1_4_4_4	DIE WITWE:Du hättest dich also besser in einen Gast	uncertain	negative	negative
6	Damon, oder die	1_1_5_5_5	LISETTE:Ja. In einem Gasthofe geht es doch noch mi	mixed	positive	positive
7	Damon, oder die	1_1_6_6_6	DIE WITWE:Was sie vorstellen?	uncertain	positive	positive
8	Damon, oder die	1_1_7_7_7	LISETTE:Die Frage scheint Ihnen wundersam? Das w	neutral	neutral	positive
9	Damon, oder die	1_1_8_8_8	DIE WITWE:Und das sind sie auch noch.	neutral	neutral	positive
10	Damon, oder die	1_1_9_9_9	LISETTE:Das sind sie noch? So? Damon ist also des	negative	negative	negative
11	Damon, oder die	1_1_10_10_10	DIE WITWE:Es ist wahr, ich habe mich über ihr Bezeig	negative	negative	negative
12	Damon, oder die	1_1_11_11	LISETTE:Und bei der Aufführung halten Sie beide noch	negative	negative	negative
13	Damon, oder die	1_1_12_12_12	DIE WITWE:Ja, ich bin es gewiß überzeugt, daß sie m	mixed	positive	positive
14	Damon, oder die	1_1_13_13_13	LISETTE:Beinahe möchte ich Sie itzt etwas fragen?	uncertain	negative	negative
15	Damon, oder die	1_1_14_14_14	DIE WITWE:Nun, so laß doch hören.	positive	positive	positive
16	Damon, oder die	1_1_15_15_15	LISETTE:Werden Sie mir aber aufrichtig antworten?	neutral	neutral	positive
17	Damon, oder die	1_1_16_16_16	DIE WITWE:Ob ich dir aufrichtig antworten werde? Ich	positive	positive	positive
18	Damon oder die	1 1 17 17 17	LISETTE:Sie glauben, daß Sie von beiden geliebt wer	neutral	neutral	nositivo

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8mu29ny8fhrpgg2/AABFXw7qYHLoJ-4yx8CBIXX9a?dl=0

#### Why are the agreement levels so low and what can we do about it?

- Annotators report that they were unsure what they should annotate the sentiment the speaker feels, the sentiment towards a topic or even the sentiment the reader feels we need more precise and sophisticated annotation models
- We plan to compare annotations of non-expert, semi-experts and literary scholars to each other to explore what level of expertise is actually needed for robust corpora

# **5 Further Reading**

- Schmidt, T., Burghardt, M. & Wolff, C. (2019). Towards Multimodal Sentiment
  Analysis of Historic Plays: A Case Study with Text and Audio for Lessing's Emilia
  Galotti. In: *Proceedings of the DHN (DH in the Nordic Countries) Conference*.
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- Schmidt, T., Burghardt, M. & Dennerlein, K. (2018). Sentiment Annotation of Historic German Plays: An Empirical Study on Annotation Behavior. In: Sandra Kübler, Heike Zinsmeister (eds.), *Proceedings of the Workshop on Annotation in Digital Humanities (annDH 2018)* (pp. 47-52). Sofia, Bulgaria. Retrieved from http://ceur-ws.org/Vol-2155/schmidt.pdf
- Schmidt, T., Burghardt, M. & Dennerlein, K. (2018). "Kann man denn auch nicht lachend sehr ernsthaft sein?" Zum Einsatz von Sentiment Analyse-Verfahren für die quantitative Untersuchung von Lessings Dramen. In *Book of Abstracts, DHd 2018*. Retrieved from https://epub.uni-regensburg.de/37579/1/Self-Archiving-Version\_DHd-2018.pdf









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