

Chapter 7. Appendix 5. Procedures and Foci Applied in Analyses

The procedures and foci I applied are outlined below.

The quantitative statistical analyses:

1. Year and Decade Analysis.

From each decade, I randomly chose two years of mythological tale publications and ran the full concordance analyses on each year chosen. I then examined the findings and listed the twenty (20) most frequently used lexical words from the texts in descending frequency. Following this, I documented the ten (10) most frequent words from each year. I then combined both years to compile a list of the top ten lexical words from each decade. These lexical words encompassed:

common types, proper types and ethnographic reference types.

Following this, where they were evidenced:

- a) I took the top five (5) common types and ran concordances to see their collocational environments for commentary & analysis,
- b) I then took the top five (5) proper types and ran concordances to see their collocational environments¹ for commentary & analysis and finally
- c) I took the top five (5) types containing ethnographic references and ran concordances to see their collocational environments for commentary & analysis.

2. Complete Corpus Analysis.

I uploaded the complete corpus and ran a full concordance analysis. I then examined the findings and listed, as in the decade analyses described above, the twenty (20) most frequently evidenced lexical words from the texts in descending frequency. Again, following this, I documented the ten (10) most frequent words evidenced in the complete corpus. These lexical words encompassed:

common types, proper types and ethnographic reference types.

Following this, where they were evidenced:

- a) I took the top five (5) common types and ran concordances to see their collocational environments for commentary & analysis,
- b) I then took the top five (5) proper types and ran concordances to see their collocational environments for commentary & analysis and finally
- c) I took the top five (5) types containing ethnographic references and ran concordances to see their collocational environments for commentary & analysis.

The rhetorical interpretative analyses:

The electronic analyses highlighted specific characteristics within the tales that allowed me to then focus my rhetorical analyses on specific areas of the corpus. Using this direction, I examined the way the high frequency items and thematic units were deployed in the tales at the phraseological and supralelexical level, limiting myself to the texts that represented the highest frequency occurrences of the Proper Types identified from the concordances (see Table 13, p. 227). These were all the texts associated with *Fionn*, *Cuchulainn* (and *Setanta*) and *Oisín*.² While reading and conducting my analyses I focussed on five key areas: a time period identification; references to the magical realm; references to pseudo-historical characters; references to topographical locations; and evidence of heroic phraseology.

¹ Chapter 7. Appendix 15. Sample Concordance - Finn 1925

² Refer to Chapter 8. Appendices 11, 12, 13.