

Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief

The aim of the project *Lectures on Aesthetics Contextualized* (*Vorlesungen zur Asthetik im Kontext*, abbreviation: LC) has been to create a fully navigable electronic corpus of passages in Wittgenstein's writings dealing with the matters of aesthetics, psychoanalysis and religion. Two digitally published works by Wittgenstein form the basis of that corpus: The *Innsbruck Correspondence Edition* (ICE) and the *Bergen Electronic Edition* (BEE). We have used notes taken by Wittgenstein's students during his lectures on Aesthetics, religious belief and during private conversations on psychoanalysis (published as *Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief* by Cyril Barrett 1967 = LC) as a starting point and a thematic anchor from which hyperlinks to ICE and BEE have been created. As such, thematically linked segments of Wittgenstein's thought are now available for systematic investigation by philosophers, historians of philosophy, cultural historians, philologists and social scientists for the first time.

The foundation of the project consists of machine readable versions of texts that are transcribed according to the XML/TEI standard. Most importantly LC, its two German translations and ICE must be converted in XML/TEI. During the progress of the project we have employed Semantic Web Technology, notably OWL (Web Ontology Language) for semantic linking. Using the data available in OWL we have experimented with two alternative computer-supported content analyses on LC. Last but not least we now have an XML/TEI-edition of LC, enriched with scholarly commentary.

The goals in short were:

1. Create XML/TEI versions of LC and ICE
2. Create an OWL ontology of LC
3. Add comments and semantic linking to LC and ICE
4. Apply methods of computer-supported content analysis
5. Creating comments and introductory essays for the readers of LC

These goals were accomplished in due course of the project.

To create a fully navigable corpus linking texts to BEE further work on subject headings must be done for BEE. This forms an on-going research work in the Wittgenstein Archives in Bergen and will eventually incorporate the results of our work in Innsbruck.

II. Brief project report

1. Report on research work

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1.1 The aim of the project *Lectures on Aesthetics Contextualized* (LC) was been to create a fully navigable electronic corpus of passages in Wittgenstein's writings dealing with the matters of aesthetics, psychoanalysis and religion. That involved 1) creating XML/TEI versions of Wittgenstein lectures and conversations and the Innsbruck edition of his complete correspondence (ICE) 2) on the basis of a Web Ontology Language for LC, 3) adding commentary and semantic linking to LC and ICE, 4) applying methods of computer-supported content analysis as well as 5) creating commentary and introductory essays for the readers of LC identifying the respective roles of aesthetics, Freud and religion in Wittgenstein's philosophy as assessing the quality of the two German translations of the text.

Changes in research orientation were largely introduced on the basis of new technical developments in connection with the semantic web and contents analysis in part originating within the project itself and in connection with our collaboration with the Wittgenstein Archives in Bergen (WAB) and the Centrum für Informations- und Sprachverwaltung at the University of Munich (CIS).

These developments facilitated the creation of electronic texts based upon XML/TEI technology that are considerably simpler to navigate and to employ in further large-scale integrative research projects than their predecessors.

1.2 Most important results and brief description of their significance (main points) with regard to the following:

The new methods described above have made a distinct contribution to the larger research desideratum within electronic Wittgenstein studies of producing a corpus of texts not only by Wittgenstein but relevant to his philosophical development, around Wittgenstein, as it were. For the first time a text which stems from Wittgenstein but not directly written by him in the form of lecture notes taken by his students in Cambridge are available in a critical edition that is user friendly despite its complexity. This is a clear advantage for scholars working, say, within the burgeoning field of Wittgensteinian aesthetics, to take the most important example. Similarly the edition deepens the significance of Wittgenstein's remarks on Freud and religion in a way that may prove enlightening or challenging to people working in the philosophy of mind or the philosophy of religion.

