



Too strait is the gate: tagging the aberrant in text-induced learner English

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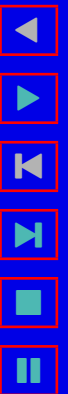
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A remark by a conference delegate:



2/17

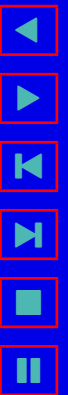


A remark by a conference delegate:



2/17

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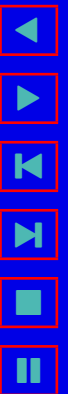
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... but maybe a laying bare of the **workpoints** might?



Workpoint 1:

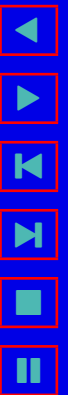


Workpoint 1:



Enter ye in at the strait gate:
for wide *is* the gate,
and broad *is* the way,
that leadeth to destruction,
and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait *is* the gate,
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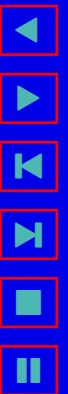


Workpoint 1: ...not a quote from 'Pulp Fiction'...



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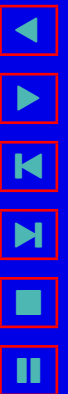


3/17

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...but from the 'Sermon on the Mount' [Matthew 7: 13-14]



Workpoint 2: ...a 'gate'...



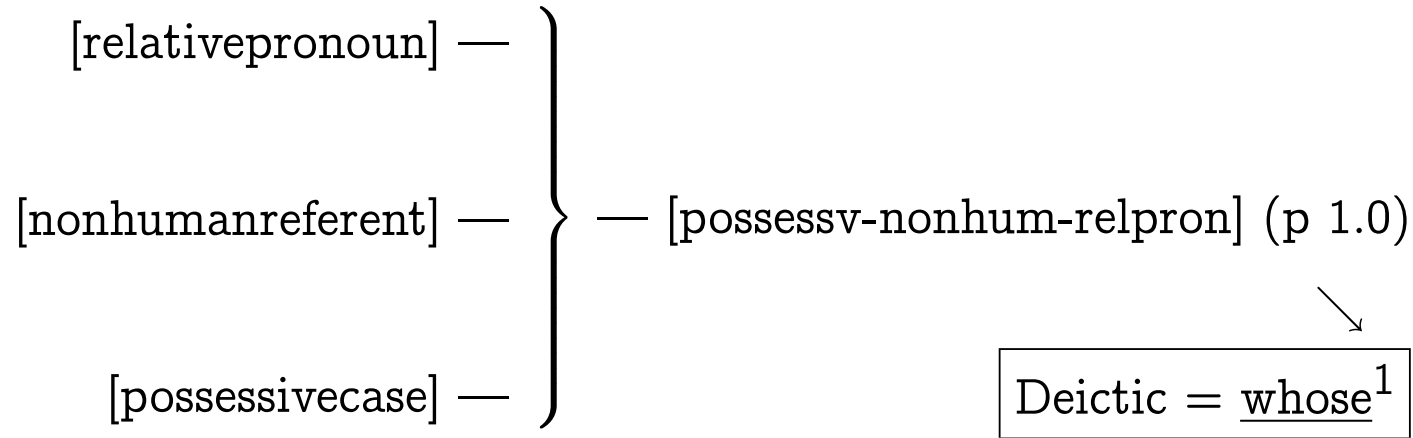
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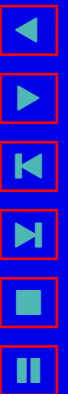
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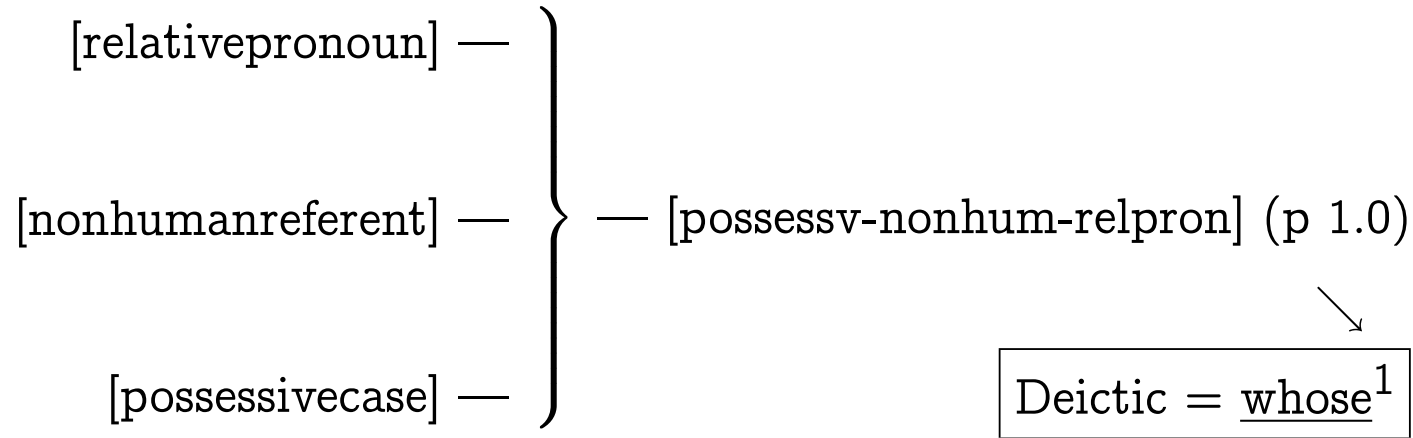
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¹Example: This is an idea whose time has come.

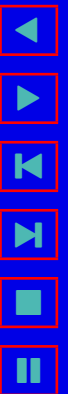


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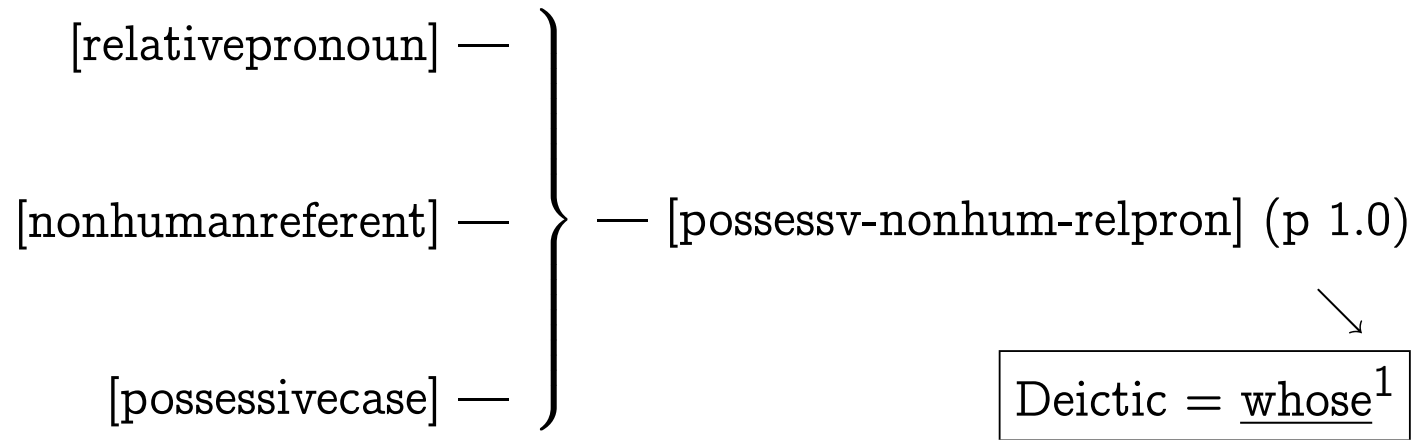


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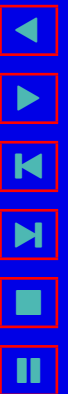
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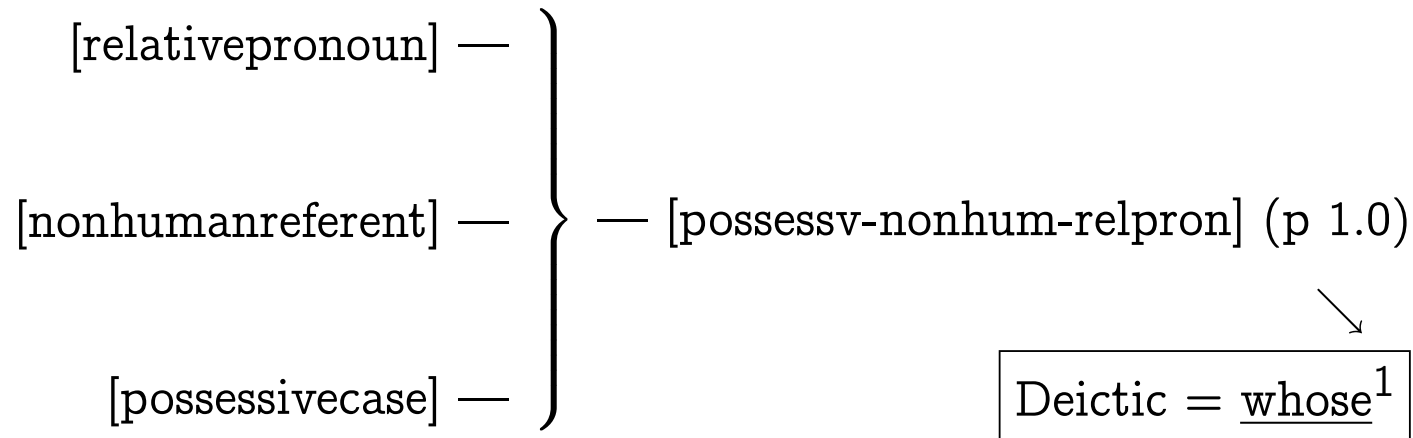
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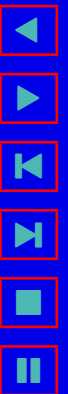


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... a point at which systemic choice ends and automaticity of instantiation begins



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Translation: 'text-induced text-production for a third party'
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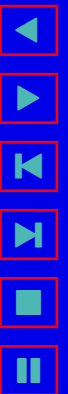
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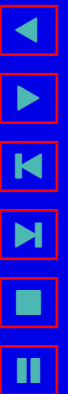
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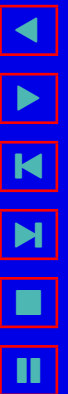
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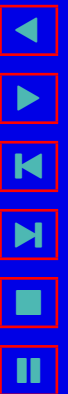
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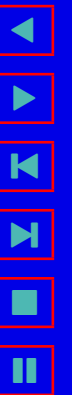
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... in the system ('text-induced learner English')

... and in the product (= in a corpus of translata evidencing the existence and properties of that variety of semiotic potential)?



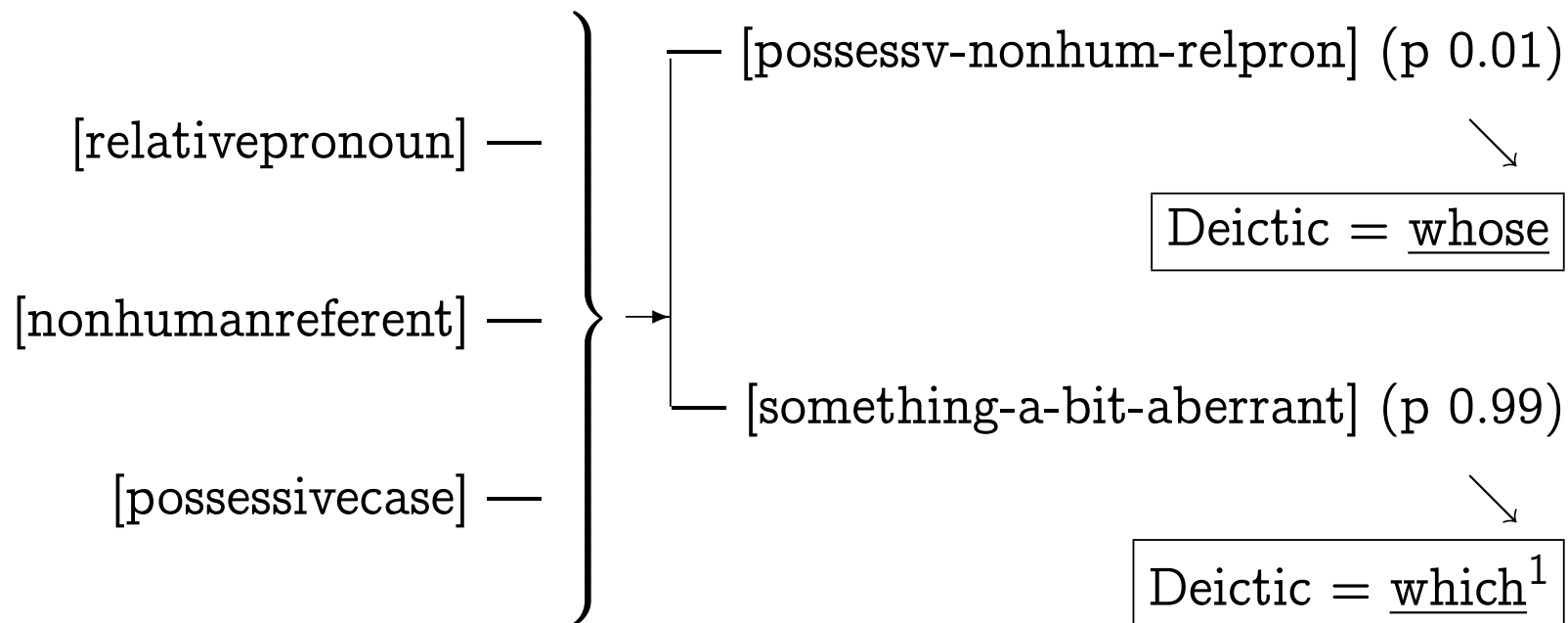
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6/17



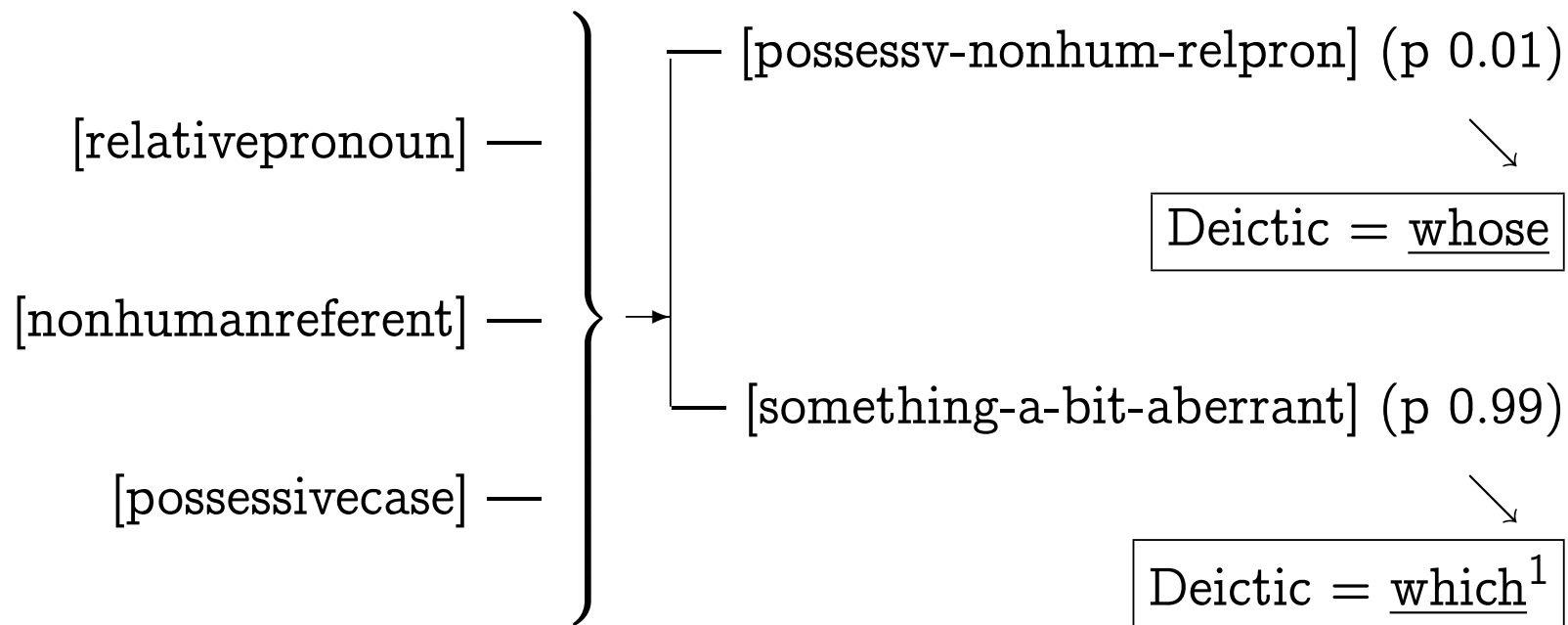
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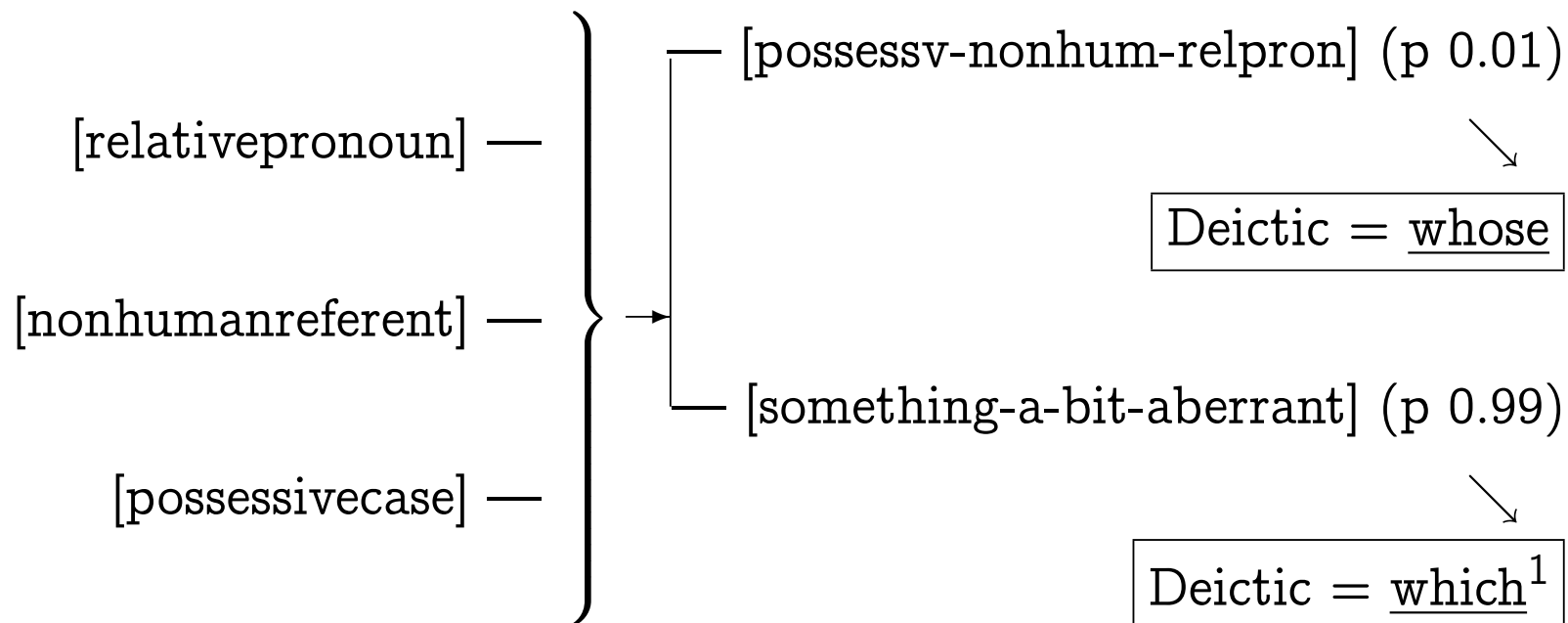
...so non-native aberrancy could be viewed (**through rose-tinted glasses**) as an expansion of the principle of systemic choice...



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...were it not for two problems:



How do we know what conjunction of features was to be realized?

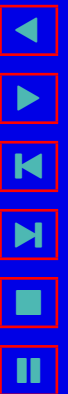


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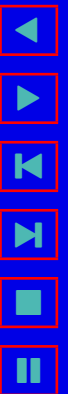


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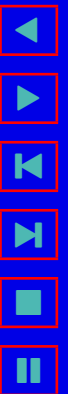
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...the corpus is a manifestation of a transpersonal/collective semiotic potential

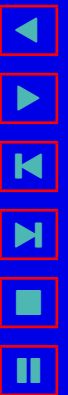


Some possible motivational and applicational contexts



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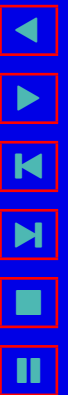
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- here an 'errant' thought: is the potential behind a set of text-induced texts in any way similar to a **controlled language**?



Why XML?

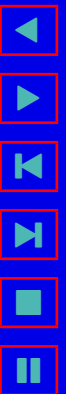


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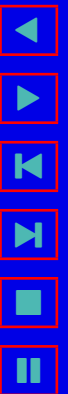


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...because it’s less complex than full SGML — i.e. it’s easier to write programs for in the cross-platform web-based programming language of one’s choice



An example



10/17



An example

German (=student's L1) source text (extract):

Im Jahre 1960 lebten z. B. auf dem afrikanischen Kontinent 276 Millionen Menschen;
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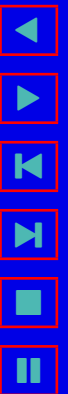


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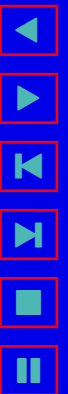
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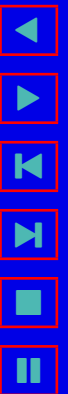
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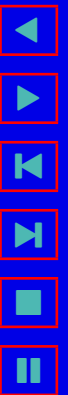
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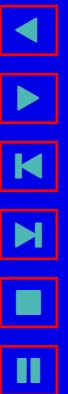


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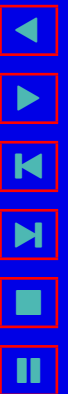
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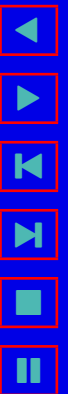
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2: T/A



How the teacher might have 'marked' (= 'annotated' ? / = 'graded' ?) the student('s (text (production (capability))))



In 1960, for example, 276 million people lived on the African continent.

Till¹ 1985 the population grew² to 553 million.

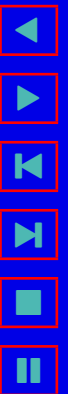
This way³ it was more than doubling⁴ within 25 years only⁵.

Cross-referenced marginalia:

1: prep

2: T/A

3: tr/conj/meaning



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12/17

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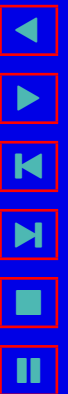
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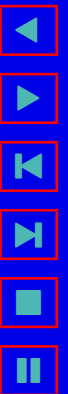
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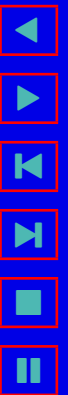
5: w.o.



How a human annotator might 'mark up' the text for corpus linguistic purposes: elements, tags, attributes



13/17



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13/17

In 1960, for example, 276 million people lived on the African continent.

<aberrancy> Till </aberrancy>

1985 the population

<dialect-dependent-possible-aberrancy>

grew

</dialect-dependent-possible-aberrancy>

to 553 million.

This way

<aberrancy

degree=serious

stratum-of-manifestation=lexicogrammar

probable-stratum-of-origin=lexicogrammar

rank-of-manifestation=group-phrase-rank

metafunction=textual:conjunctive-relation:cause-as-manner:over-

generalization-of-metaphorical-strategy:analytic-colloquial/>



it was more than doubling

<aberrancy

span-at-word-rank=-4

span-at-group-phrase-rank=-1discontinuous/> within 25 years

only <aberrancy

degree=mild

stratum-of-manifestation=lexicogrammar

probable-stratum-of-origin=discourse-semantics

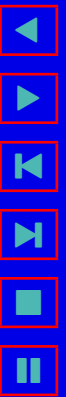
rank-of-manifestation=group-phrase-rank

metafunction=textual:addressee-oriented:culminative:

focus-on-semantic-restriction/>.



Don't let's forget, despite the discreetly frantic waving of reminder notices by the Chair...

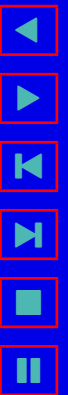


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The set of all possible attribute-value pairs for aberrancy tags can be understood as implying a system network.



15/17



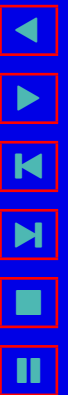
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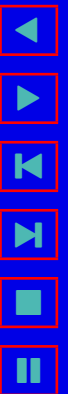
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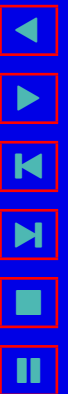


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Short-term feasibility of tagging automation is very low, as is likelihood of use in assessment contexts.



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Aberrancy (hypothesized as originating) at higher strata is likely to involve longer spans with greater degrees of discontinuity of observed instantiation.



Experiment

Well this is just an experiment....

