

Searching the Western European Cultural Literacy on Czech Culture

through an Online Phrase-Usage Graphing Tool

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this study we will employ the online phrase-usage graphing tool Ngram Viewer, originally developed by Google, in order to search Czech cultural elements, such as historical and fictional characters, in the books written in three Western European languages: British English, French and German. The Google Ngram Viewer charts the yearly count of selected letter combinations, words and phrases, that can be found in over 5.2 million books published between 1500 and 2008, that have been digitized by Google Inc.

This way, we will be able to observe the first appearance of an item in a specific language/culture, as well as its peak moments, trying to see if there is a correlation between them and relevant historical events. Besides, when several alternate forms of the loanwords appear, we will see which one prevails in present works. And finally, we can compare the popularity of an item in every Western European language/culture.

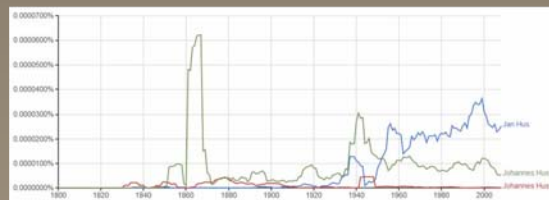
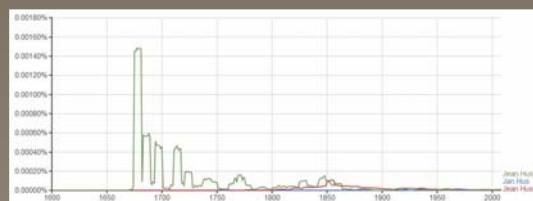
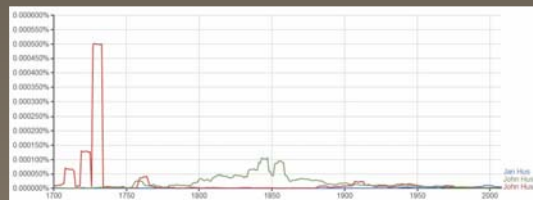
2. CASE STUDY:

2.1. CZECH HISTORICAL CHARACTER

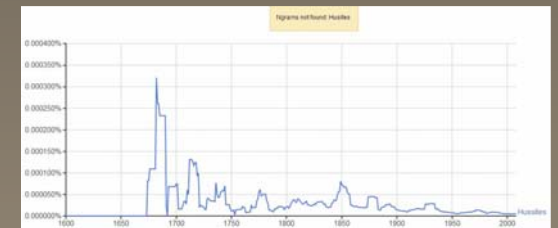
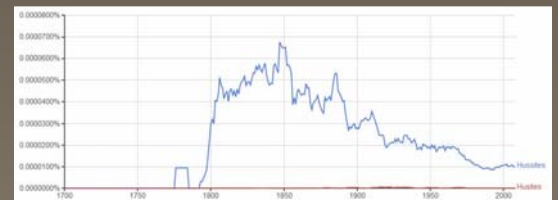
JAN HUS (c. 1370-1415)



Name variants

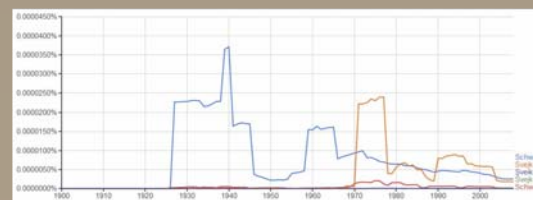
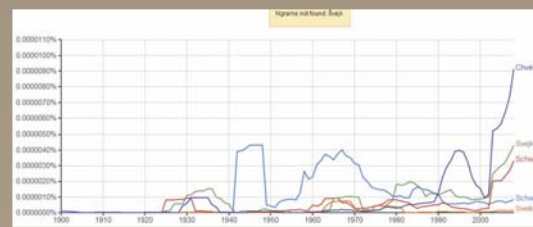
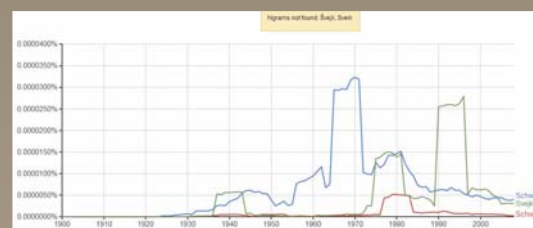
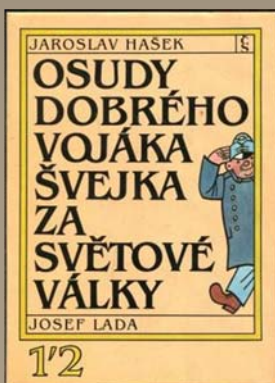


Name of followers / Adjective variants



2.2. CZECH FICTIONAL CHARACTER

THE GOOD SOLDIER
ŠVEJK (1921-1923)
Jaroslav HAŠEK



References

Google Books Ngram Viewer:
<https://books.google.com/ngrams>
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ROBERTS, A. L. *From Good King Wenceslas to the Good Soldier Svejk: A Dictionary of Czech Popular Culture*. Budapest - New York: Central European University Press, 2005.