

# **Where the Computer Meets Language, Literature, and Culture: The Use of Corpus-analytic Methods in English Studies.**

**Ute Römer (University of Cologne, Germany)**

The aim of the present paper is to show how some basic procedures of corpus analysis can be used not only in linguistics but also in literary studies, cultural studies, and language teaching or for didactic purposes. One of the central questions here is whether corpus linguistics may help to improve interdisciplinarity in English Studies and whether it can serve to contribute to a reconciliation of *Anglistik*.

After a brief introduction to the most important procedures in corpus analysis, it will be demonstrated by means of case studies how computer corpora can be used and why they can be regarded as powerful multi-purpose tools in several subdisciplines of English Studies. More precisely, we will present examples of corpus-informed studies and describe possible research projects which students of *Anglistik* could carry out in the fields of linguistics, language teaching, literary text analysis, and cultural studies, thus integrating the four areas with each other. In literary studies, for instance, corpora and corpus-analytic techniques can help us determine an author's style, aid textual interpretation, or help in learning how to write. We will stress the importance of introducing students to computer-assisted text analysis and to comparative empirical approaches to language, literature, and culture. Also, we will argue that it is probably worth demonstrating to future teachers what corpora can offer them and their future pupils. This methodological approach may open new perspectives, make students more independent, and show them that, even at an early stage in their studies, they can be researchers themselves.