

New Approaches to Textual Discussions in Fernando de Herrera's Poetry

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Digital Humanities and new digital techniques have led to new approaches in Literature Studies, following the perspectives of “macroanalysis” by Matthew Jockers (2013) and “distant reading” by Franco Moretti (2007). Moreover, these new tools are extremely useful for advances in research thanks to new possibilities of working with data. Textual problems related with deturpation of texts and problems of authenticity have been some of the greatest that literary texts have traditionally suffer. Texts generated in the past are specially affected due to mistakes that their transmission over the years have created. However, when the author used to correct his texts over and over, the problem certainly increases.

Textual and authenticity problems are the toughest that we find in poetic works by Fernando de Herrera (1534-1597). In spite of being one of the greatest poets of Spanish Golden Age poetry, experts still discuss about the style and authenticity of some of his poems. They have discussed about the significant differences between the poems he published in life in *Algunas obras* in 1582 and the poems which were published after his death in the polemical edition prepared by the humanist and painter Francisco Pacheco in 1619, *Versos de Fernando de Herrera* (Cuevas 1985): Were these texts changed? Could these differences be copy mistakes? Do these last poems belong to Herrera? If he was the original author, did other writers correct the poems before they were published? Researchers have used traditional approaches to face this matter among the years. But nowadays advances in digital technologies and methodologies such as Corpus Linguistics, Forensic Corpus Linguistics, Corpus Stylistics or Stylometry offer new perspectives and possibilities of working with this data.

At this work, we will analyze the style of poems from Herrera's editions (Blecua 1975) through a Corpus Stylistics approach and using methods essentially provided by Corpus Linguistics, Digital Humanities, and Stylometry to a lesser extent. Basic features of our analysis will be lexical concordances, as they are a basic tool to study the language of a text from a corpus approach (McEnery 2012). However, frequency lists of words will also be used, as their efficacy in these studies has been proved in previous researching related with work attribution (Holmes 2003), although some researchers discuss their utility (Rybicki 2010). For this purpose, poetic works by Fernando de Herrera has been digitalized in two corpora in plain text which match the two editions published. The inexistence of a software tool which included all these features motivated the decision of developing a new one, *LitCon*, which have all the functions needed and is oriented to work with poetry. The results of data processing will be analyzed and interpreted taking into account function words and their compared and contrasted use in the two editions, and specially attending to the differences between the poems undoubtedly written by Herrera and those which present more irregularities according to experts. Our final goal is to shed new light in the debate of

authenticity in Herrera's poetry, a large discussion over time that started with Quevedo's doubts and has not been resolved until today, affecting the works and reception of one of the greatest poets of Spanish Literature.

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