

Stories from the Archives: Digitising the Correspondence of New Zealand's Nineteenth Century Scottish Immigrants

u3a Seminar
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RUTHERFORD
FOUNDATION

ROYAL
SOCIETY
TE APĀRANGI

The Overarching Question

- + What did early written New Zealand English look like?
- + Does this have evidence of dialectal forms, or do we see evidence of early adoption of NZE and Māori already within first generation, and within *writing*?
- + What might this tell us about interaction between changing identity and language use?

The Project Aims


- + Digitise manuscript correspondence of Scottish immigrants coming to New Zealand during the mid-late nineteenth century
- + Identify Scots and NZE + Māori features present in writing
- + Build a corpus of text-searchable transcripts in LaBB-CAT
- + Answer research questions:
 - + Did the Scottish immigrants retain Scots features, or adopt New Zealand English colloquialisms (NZE) and te reo Māori in their correspondence?
 - + Did factors such as gender, profession and location influence these frequencies?
 - + If so, what might this indicate about the role of changing identities, social mobility and strength of the homeland connection?

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- 
- + On a phonological level, the development of NZE has been explored through the ONZE (Origins of New Zealand English) corpus (Gordon, Maclagan & Hay 2004)
 - + Comparatively less focus on morphosyntactic and lexical levels, through written data
 - + Though see Bonness (2017, 2019) and Avila-Ledesma (2019) for Irish, and Hundt (2012, 2015); Hundt and Szmrecsanyi (2012, 2015) for English migrants
 - + Comprehensive corpus of early correspondence from any immigrant group to NZ still missing

Why make a corpus?

Why the Scottish specifically?

- + Relatively few Scots features have made it into general New Zealand English, levelled out early on (Trudgill et al., 2000)
- + Yet local varieties - Scottish enclaves of Southland and Otago (Bauer 1996; Villarreal et al. 2021)
- + Socially-mobile, wanted to better their material lot and win greater independence
- + ‘Transnationalism’ (McCarthy 2006, 2009, 2012)



'The emigrants' by William Allsworth, 1844

'For we take our homeland with us, however we change our sky' - balladeer David McKee Wright, contemporary poem published in 1900 *'Our Cities Face the Sea'*.

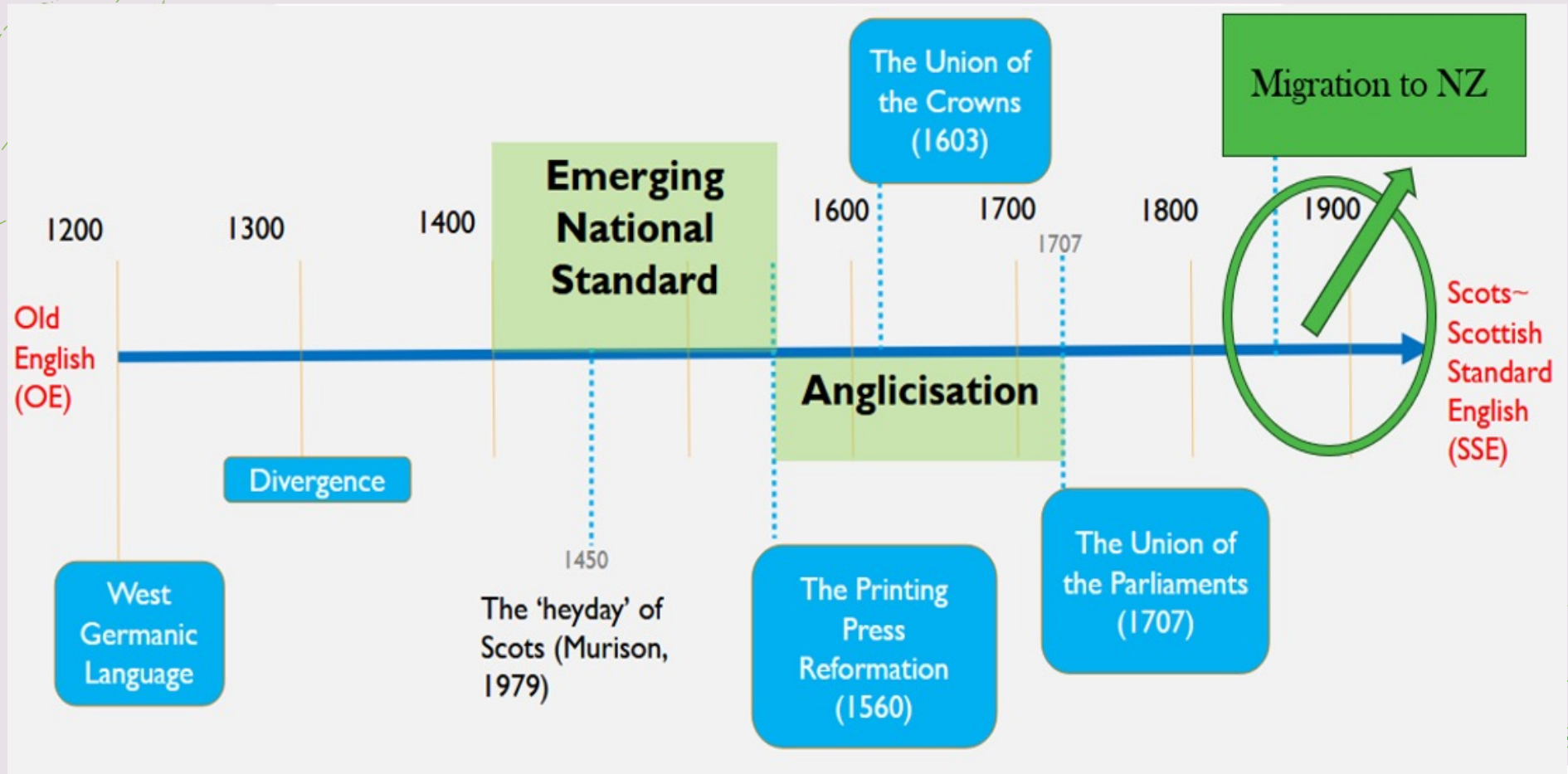
Persistence of Scottishness

+ When the novelist Trollope visited Invercargill in 1872, he called it "a thriving little Scotch town without any special attractions" (Trollope 1874: 345).



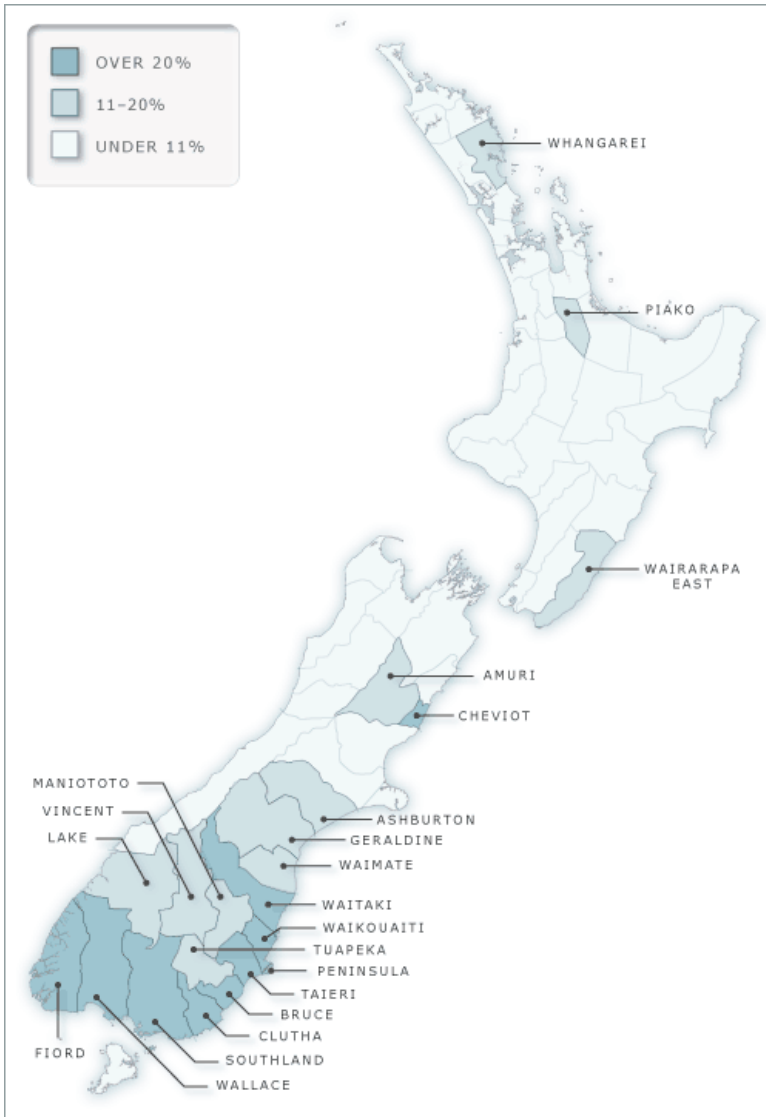
Provincial Highland Gathering, Wellington, 1958. *Evening Post* Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, EP/1958/0218b-F

The historical backdrop



The Scots in New Zealand?

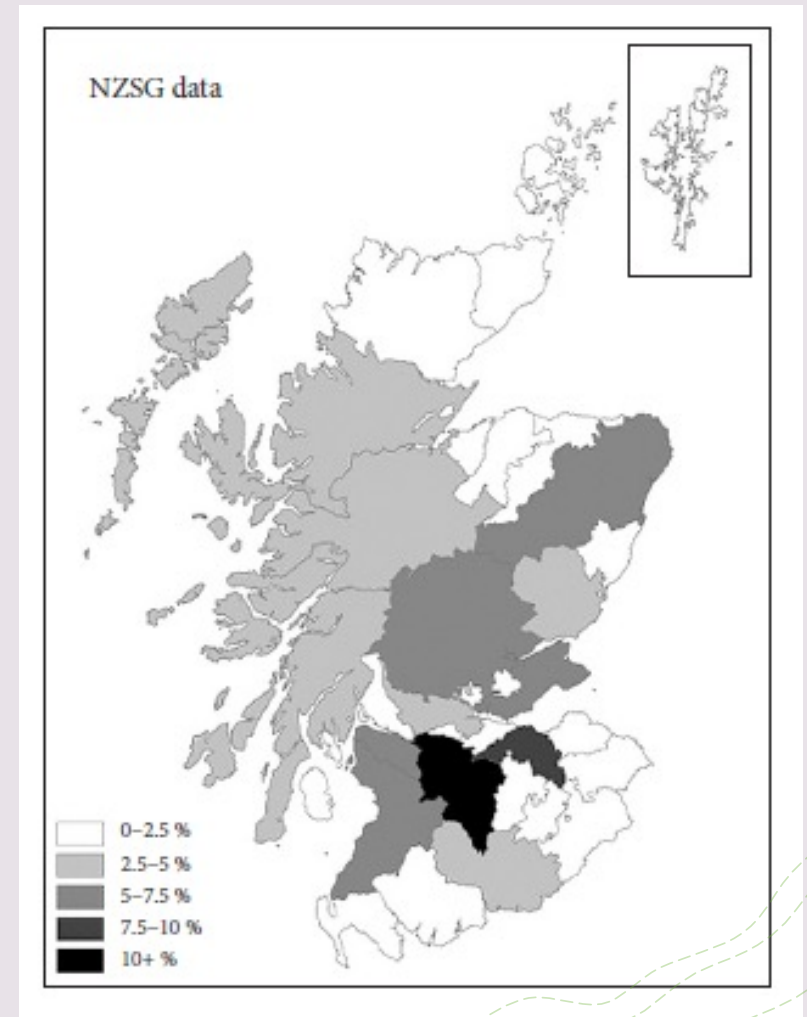
- During 1815-1930 an estimated 3.25 million Scots left their homeland for various colonial destinations
- Consistently made up 20% of the immigrant population in New Zealand over period 1840-1920.
- Long tradition of migration, established long before the 19th century (McClellan, 2003)
- 80% of Otago migrants between 1848-1860 were Scottish
- Following Otago, Canterbury and Wellington were the next most popular destinations.



Source: New Zealand census, 1878

‘Willing exiles’?

- + Majority from the Lowlands (70%)
- + Great majority were agricultural labourers, mechanics, craftsmen and domestics.
- + In NZ: politicians, financiers, entrepreneurs
- + Predominantly young, male and single.

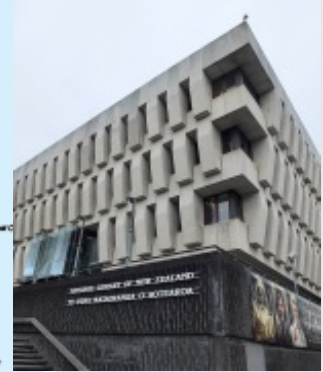


New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) Scottish Interest Group's Register of New Zealand Immigrants of Scottish Birth Arriving before 1 January 1921, in Lenihan (2015): 37

Correspondence

- + Ego-documents, potentially close to speech and generally unedited (Biber 1995, van der Wal & Rutten, 2013)
- + Reduced self-monitoring and frequent familiarity between recipients (Dossena 2002, 2009)
- + Importance of personal networks for mobility
- + Maintenance of personal identity under circumstances of unsettling change through correspondence (Harper, 2003)

Step One: The Source Material



Statistics

+958 letters

+62 authors

+Bias towards male, South Island

Pilot Corpus

+585 letters

+28 authors, 10 women, 18 men

+10 in North Island, 18 in South Island



Robert Stout, circa 1919, *Alexander Turnbull Library: pacoll-6407-69.*



Introducing SCOTIA

- + SCOTIA (Scottish Corpus of Original Texts by Immigrants to Aotearoa)
- + Correspondence. In future: shipboard diaries and farming journals
- + 1858-1921
- + Otago/Southland and North Island pockets
- + Male and female writers
- + First and Second generation

Dear Jack

Mangawhero

June 23/93

Step 2: Digitising

- + Combination of manual and automatic transcription
- + Training data = 600 pages, 12 hands
- + 19th Century Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) model
- + Character Error Rate = 8.81%
- + Upload to LaBB-CAT (Fromont & Hay, 2008)



Save

0 unsaved changes

84-145-43 - #1

< 1 25 >

Lambhill Wanganui
Dec^{ber} 9 1865

Dear Sister

I have received your tow letters
one of them today and sorry to find
that you had been bad, but
happy to find you are getting better
you speak of me not answering,
your letters i have sent tow letters
before this you speak of leaving
Melbourne, i should like very much
if you would come over here, i think
you would agree with this place, it is

- 1 Lambhill Wanganui
- 2 Dec^{ber} 9 1865
- 3 Dear Sister
- 4 I have received your tow letters
- 5 one of them today and sorry to find
- 6 that you had been bad but
- 7 happy to find you are getting better
- 8 you speak of me not answering
- 9 your letters i have sent tow letters
- 10 bper this you peck of baing
- 11 Melbourne i should like very much
- 12 if you would come over here o think
- 13 you shills aoue thehe slea to to
- 14 a very good Cliank Neither to hot
- 15 nore to Cold the wages here is ffty

Variability in spelling?

to the road you soon arrive at a **burn** where
the road **crosses** the **bridge** is newly built
it is rather a ruf stonny place the water
tumbeling among the stons after crosing
the **brigde** ther road is built with ruf
stones at the side to keep it up. after
the water comes through the **bridg** it widens
out into a sort of swamp the road

15 the road crosses the **bridge** is newly built
16 it is rather a ruf stonny place the water
17 tumbeling among the stons after crosing
18 the **brigde** the road is built with ruf
19 stones at the side to keep it up. after
20 the water comes through the **bridg** it widens
21 out into a sort of swamp the road
22 leading away down round the same
23 but as for the coractnes of my inspection I will
24 not vouch for

Step 3: Identify features

Scots Features

Family: barns/bairns - *children*, lasses - *girls*, laddies - *boys*

Food: drappie - *tipple*, brose - *porridge/broth*, sour-dook - *buttermilk*, wee piece - *bread and butter*, stoved - *stewed*, tea - *dinner*

Geography: brae - *the brow of a hill*, burn - *stream*, dooket - *dovecot*, firth - *estuary*

Verbs: stop - *stay*, mind - *remember*, ken - *knowledge/to know*, cry - *shout*

Adjectives: bonniest - *prettiest*, sarless - *spiritless*, swithering - *dithering*

Discourse features: Just now, bit x, never for simple negative, relative clause differences

Farming: Squatter - grazier or sheep-farmer, drays - carts, station - sheep run, mob - flock/herd, fat - plural or collective singular. Fat cattle or sheep

Milling: slaby - mill worker, bushwacking - clearing bush, underscrubbing - undergrowth

Mining: Joe - Australian and New Zealand slang for new chums on the diggings, tram - wooden rails for mine carts

Livelihood: swag - possessions, swagging - carrying, tucker - food, lollies - sweets, billy - pot for boiling water

Landscape: gully - valley, totara, whare - hut, shanty - hut, verandah - porch, malthoid - bituminous roof material

Slang: cronk - unsound, drum - tip or warning, snitcher - excellent

Step 3: Identify features

NZE and Māori Features

Te reo Māori?

- + Mostly placenames: Rotorua, Wayhola/Waihora (Waihola), Kaitangate/Katangata/Katangatie (Kaitangata), Tairie (Taieri), Waitaki, Aorangi
- + Some flora and fauna: totara, weka
- + Mouries, Moaries (Māori)
- + Only frequent word: whare
 - + Spelling variations: whare, whaare, warry, wharé, faree

Tagging language features

1 Mrs Johnston's son in-law has bought
2 it Peter has gone in for a fresh bit
3 of land in the kaweteo Kewetea he is
4 still unmarried but it is not his fault
5 poor fellow Crab^{b's} place beside us, and
6 John Johnstons are for sale Crabb wants
7 £6.10 and Johnston £7. I had a mate
8 come to stop in the whaare whare on
9 to be
10 Bob Nixon
11 n too to
12 ro about
13 y, and
14 he says
15 n
16 three
17 has
18 been working pretty regular lately
19 but bush fires burnt the tram last
20 week so that is how we are not working
21 to day; we shall start again tomorrow
22 I think

Language Wikidata ID
Scots Yes
NZE
Māori
Remove Tag Close

Step 4: Corpus compilation

0001_Misc-MS-1878.1.xml

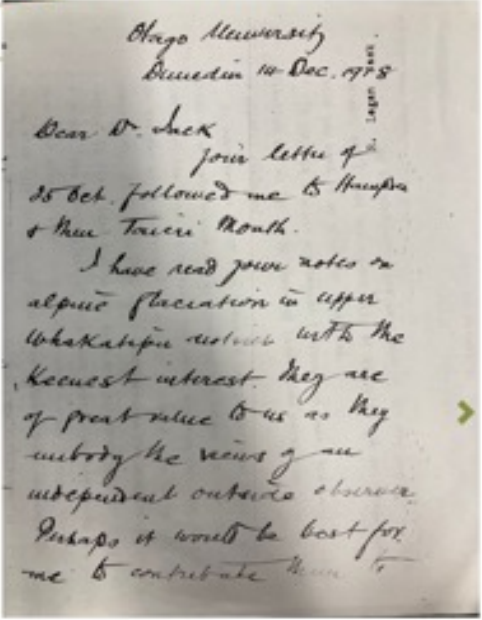
Participants Layers Formats Attributes

James Park
14 Dec. 1918
Otago University
Dunedin
Dear Dr Jack
your letter of
25 Oct. followed me to Hampden +
then Taieri Mouth .
I have read your notes on
alpine glaciation in upper
Whakatipu district with the
keenest interest. They are
of great value to us as they
embody the views of an
independent outside observer
Perhaps it would be best for
me to contribute them to

Layers Formats

Phrase	Word	Segment
<input type="checkbox"/> country	<input type="checkbox"/> lexical	<input type="checkbox"/> segment
<input type="checkbox"/> date	<input type="checkbox"/> mor	
<input type="checkbox"/> entity	<input type="checkbox"/> morFusionalSuffix	
<input type="checkbox"/> hi	<input type="checkbox"/> morGloss	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> language	<input type="checkbox"/> morPOS	
<input type="checkbox"/> lg	<input type="checkbox"/> morPOSSubcategory	
<input type="checkbox"/> mfa	<input type="checkbox"/> morPrefix	
<input type="checkbox"/> persName	<input type="checkbox"/> morStem	
<input type="checkbox"/> placeName	<input type="checkbox"/> morSuffix	
	<input type="checkbox"/> pronounce	
	<input type="checkbox"/> stanfordPOS	
	<input type="checkbox"/> orthography	

0001_Misc-MS-1878.1



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Language search function in SCOTIA

Span	Phrase	Word	Segment
<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ comment	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ country	<input type="checkbox"/> ↘ lexical	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ segment
<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ noise	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ date	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ mor	
<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ topic	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ entity	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ morFusionalSuffix	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ hi	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ morGloss	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ↔ language	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ morPOS	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ lg	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ morPOSSubcategory	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ mfa	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ morPrefix	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ persName	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ morStem	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ placeName	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ morSuffix	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ turn	<input type="checkbox"/> ↘ pronounce	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ utterance	<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ stanfordPOS	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ↘ orthography	
		<input type="checkbox"/> ↔ word	

⊙ language

matches ▾ Scots:Yes

⊙ orthography

matches ▾ Regular expression

Only include transcripts for which these are the main participants.

Only match words that are aligned.

Only one match per transcript.

Exclude utterances with more than 5 % overlap

No matches, only a summary of results

Search

language=Scots:Yes

Found 85 results

Alexander MacDonald

July 3 rd /87

Stanway

Dear Jack

I have just came down

from the bush and havent had
much time to write before I am getting
a regular bush spoiler now, I have
wore out one axe allready and all for

NZE:Yes

15 bob a week and tucker . Mother
and Albert and I were in Wanganui
last on the Jubilee week (friday)
to see the exebithion Albert and
I saw it but Alb m other spent the
day with M rs Johnston looking
for a pair of boots, and so she
never went in at all. All the

than us, for we are

know both got through the worst of
our battle if we have ordanery health
and luck - so don't be uneasy about
that for I expect your time will suit
us, Alex r has not been back at the
diggings he has as much as he can dig
at home and I belive digging to purpose

he has 60 acres bush 28 cleared and 12 or 14

Scots:Yes

nearly cleared - 12 cows some young bese
a hors spring cart, pigs. &c, a comfortable

Scots:Yes

house and bire his is good land rather
hilly, they are both in good health and
also the children the three oldest are girls

Morpho-syntactic features

- + 'I have left Mollison & Kilgour on Fortification station but **intends** going back to that quarter'
- + 'you niver **tels** us'
- + 'John was down country about too **munth** ago'
- + 'till thay are 14 **year** old'
- + 'a **wee bit** land'
- + 'I am as well off **the now**'
- + '**them** that is able has been very kind'
- + 'I was about **looking after** a situation'
- + '**for to** build a good commodious house'
- + 'Willie **is always living** in the west Taieri' (rather than currently living)

Morpho-tagger

Found 7 results (Total utterance duration: 5:19.999)

Select all results (7) Context: 1 word

- 0095_94_061.8.xml - **Catherine Mathieson**
- 1. you **chaps is** not
- 2. 899 **bushets is** sertenly
- 0081_84-145-47.81.xml - **Jack MacDonald**
- 3. my **wages is** now
- 0015_84-145-52.14.xml - **John MacDonald**
- 4. five **minutes was** allowed
- 0092_94_061.5.xml - **John Mathieson**
- 5. Fathers **affects has** gone,
- 0022_94_061.25.xml - **John Mathieson**
- 6. the **turnips is** good,
- 0091_Misc-MS-1921.1.xml - **Nisbet Mackie**
- 7. old **friends is** all

7 results shown

Select all results (7)

- CSV Export
- EMU WebApp
- Dictionary

Prefix Names

morFusionalSuffix

matche: Regular expressio

morPOS

matche: n

morSuffix

matche: PL

followed
immediately
by

morFusionalSuffix

matches 1S|3S|13S

morPOS

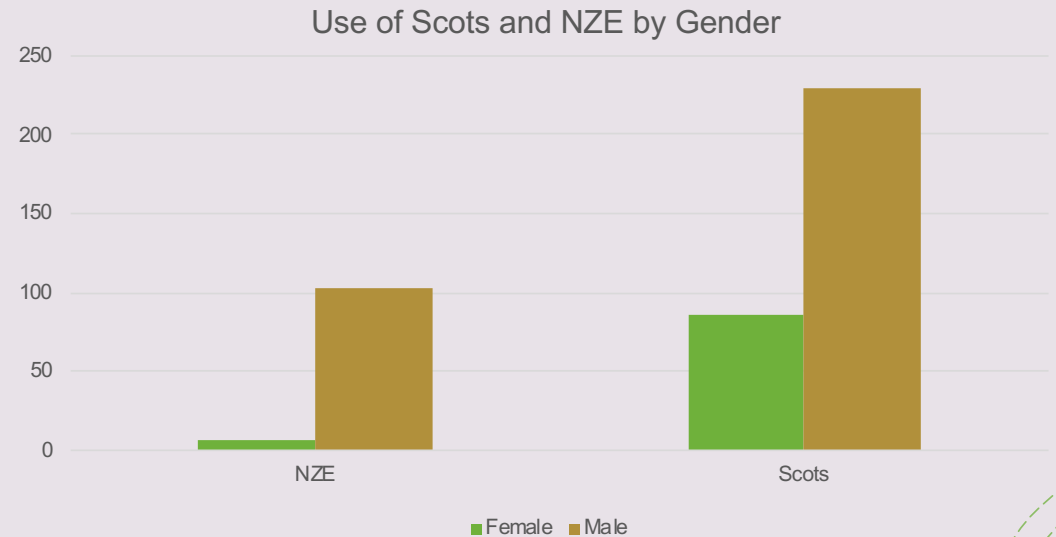
matches Regular expression

morSuffix

matches Regular expression

Step 5: Analysis?

- + No quantitative results (yet!)
- + But what was noticeable was a gender effect - women used far less Scots and NZE/Māori than the men
- + This became more apparent in the first qualitative study



Scots: 315
NZE/Māori: 109

Mobility, Norms and Expectations

Gendered expectations: Letter-writing historically seen as a desirable trait for women of a certain status (Elsweiler 2022), in which ‘polite’ language use was upheld as the model for correct written etiquette.

Upward mobility: Not everyone has equal access to mobility as a resource (Skeggs 2004: 49), and this is predicated, among other factors, on the strength of social networks, community involvement, and gendered opportunities (Chetty et al. 2014).

Semantic domains: most early NZE lexis based around men’s spheres of work (farming, gold-mining, bush clearing). Māori loans mostly flora and fauna. Little early evidence of ‘domestic’ lexis

Women's NZE and Scots

stop
forenoon
poun
likeing lang
bairns
always
wants
scitter fed
tea auld
hotch
regaird
tuke lump mind
keppers
watter bit sarless
dale wee just quies
sware
pour hissself
tharty swithering

squatter
batche
caboodle
swagging
swag

Women's use of Scots

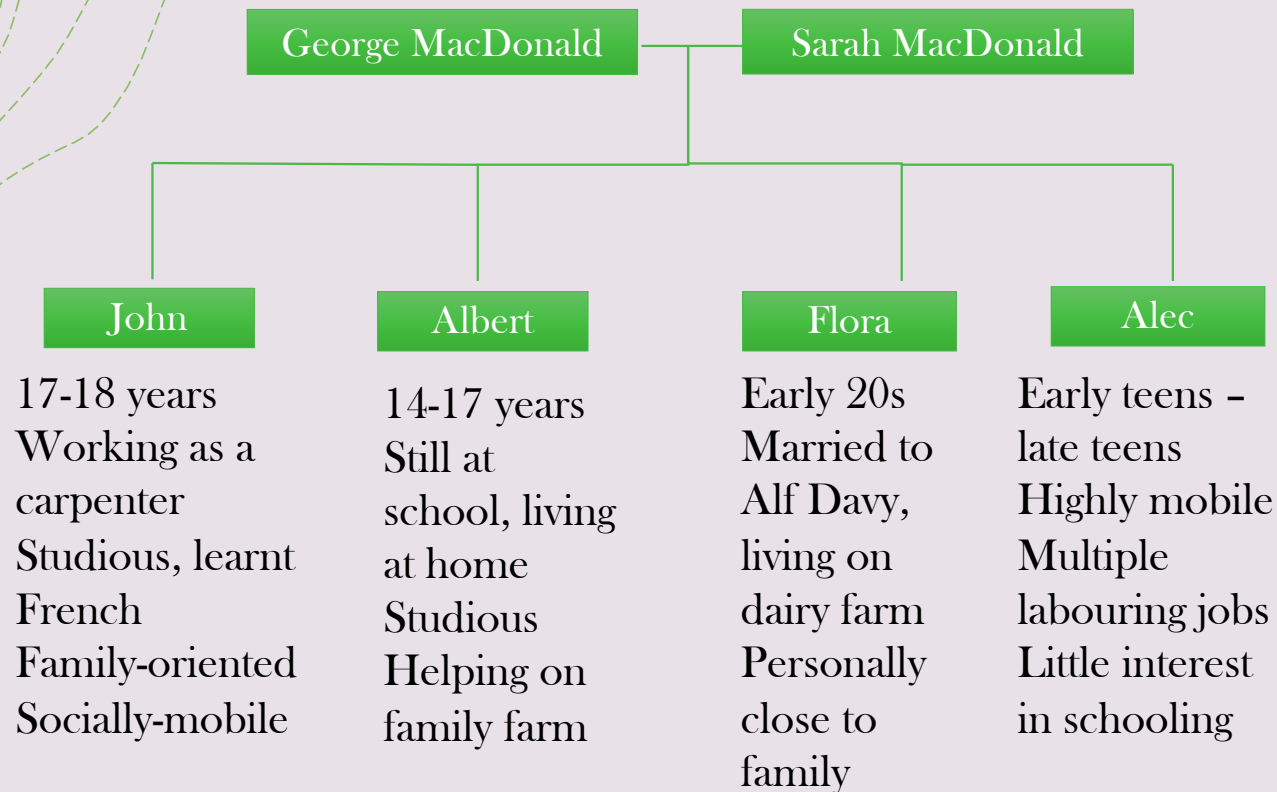
- + 'Margy is most amenable + such a good *wee* soul' - Nan Drennan, 1917
- + 'then came back + dropped, Nana + the *wee* ones' - Margaret Galbraith, 1882
- + 'The *bairns* have given me kisses for you with love from myself I reman ever your affectionate wife' - Margaret Johnstone, 1872

Men's use of Scots

- + 'Well *thinkes* I this is very fortunate for me so we had a talk about home' - John Dewar to Mother, 23rd July, 1868

- + 'We had ~~Miss Cambell~~ Kate Cambell from Wellington here at tea last Sunday evening. She is ~~working~~ *at service* at the Halcombe Hotel' - Alexander Macdonald to John Macdonald, 28th October, 1888

The MacDonalds



The MacDonald Family

- ❖ Upper working-class family
- ❖ George immigrated to NZ from Inverness prior to 1869
- ❖ Married fellow Scottish immigrant Sarah MacKinnon at Wanganui
- ❖ Took up mixed farming in Halcombe, a small settlement in the Manawatū-Whanganui region of the North Island
- ❖ Named his residence 'Glencoe' = enduring connection to his homeland?

Meet the writers - Margaret and Rachel

Margaret Johnstone (née King),
1841-1941(?)

- ❖ Immigrated to NZ at 19 years
- ❖ Married William Johnstone, first Presbyterian minister to Port Chalmers
- ❖ Kept up a regular correspondence with her aunts, brother and various other Scottish relatives.
- ❖ Upper middle class
- ❖ Letters written 1861-1898
- ❖ Active community member



Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union, Mosgiel Presbyterian Church

Rachel Stewart (née Hepburn),
c.1845-1878

- ❖ 1st generation but immigrated when just 5 years old in 1850 to Otago
- ❖ Letter written in 1863 at ~ 18 years, while living on family farm at 'Brooklands', Goodwood (50km north of Dunedin)
- ❖ Lower middle class
- ❖ Married William Downie Stewart, a barrister



'Brooklands' homestead

https://electricScotland.com/history/nz/otago_part2c6.htm

The men

'I saw nearly every one except my old boss. He was on the "booze" at the "pub".' - to aunt and uncle, December 27th, 1888.

John

'Two Freethought lecturers were sitting at the back and as they got as excitable as a couple of old **mopokes**, they caused considerable amusement.' - to parents and siblings, June 7th, 1887.

Albert

'I think it high time for you to be *about thinking* of writing to me again' - to John MacDonald, July/Aug 1890

Mind and write up quickly telling us if aunt will take the butter.' - to John MacDonald, April 30th, 1889

'Mr Callingham is the **slaby** down at Bell's mill' - to John MacDonald, September 6th, 1887

Alec

'I am ~~had~~ getting my **tucker** at Mrs Climo's *just now*, until there is enough timber to build a **shanty**... There was a large comet ~~as~~ or shooting star I don't ~~I~~ know *which* fell here 3 weeks ago I did not see it but ~~the~~ it lit up the **whare** we were in as if it were day' - to John MacDonald, Halcombe, July 3rd, 1887

'I had a mate come to *stop* in the ~~whare~~ **whare** on with me on saturday; he appears to be one of the shabby genteel sort. Bob Nixon says I shall have to put up a lean too to keep his boxes in.. The mill has been working pretty *regular* lately but bush fires burnt the **tram** last week so that is *how* we are not working to day; we shall start again tomorrow I think' - ""

The Women

Very little use of Scots or NZE

‘He is getting 3£ per week at the mill Mr Beban will most likely be leaving us in a week or two. As the other men are going to **batche**, he will go with them.’ - Flora to John, January 20th 1905

‘Gladys used to ~~ery~~ cry in the night over it but she will be delighted to *stop* with you as she thinks a lot of both of you.’ - Flora to John, January 20th 1905

‘James has come in and brought me a letter from Andrew after ~~I~~ reading which we had *tea*’ - Rachel Hepburn to Sarah Hepburn, October 5th 1863

The Women

'I was very glad to hear that you and yours were well when you wrote hope this will find you well in the same happy state still, am happy to say that we are all well' - Rachel Hepburn to sister Sarah, April 5th, 1863

'I trust Mrs Johnstone and you are keeping pretty well and that Harry is getting quite strong' - Margaret Johnstone to brother-in-law James Johnstone, January 15th, 1885

'Was delighted to receive such a long letter from you. Of cause I know you are very busy now So cant expect yow to write quite so often' -Flora Davy to brother John MacDonald, January 20th, 1905

Observations

- Men use much more NZE and Scots than women – early adopters but also just higher vernacular usage in general
- NZE connected to semantic domains they operated in = split between men's and women's spheres
- But also evidence of a class/social mobility factor – and geographical mobility \neq social mobility (but did encourage NZE use)
- Women (esp. 2nd generation) use less Scots = connected to politeness norms?

Awareness of features

- + 'but I am afraid I have been rather *Sarless* do you understand' - Margaret Johnstone to brother George, February 6th, 1861
- + 'it is a very bad country to travel, especially when you have a good heavy *swag* to carry that is your blankets and clothes.' - Thomas Andrew to siblings, February 1st, 1863
- + 'When I write *store* I mean cattle not fit for the Butchers ^ such are called lean cattle here' - William Dewar to Mother, 1865
- + 'I have laid out all the money I saved on horses & harness and also a new *dray* (or **cart** as you wold call it)' - William Dewar to Mother, 1864

Awareness of standards?

- + 'I am glad ~~they are~~ it is off my hands' (talking about jewellery) - Margaret Johnstone, 1859
- + 'You need not criticize the penmanship of this as I cannot see the lines.' - Margaret Johnstone, 1858
- + 'When we got to featherston (I forgot to make the f a capital)' - John MacDonald, 1887
- + 'don't let anybody see this as i know it is not a wright letter but you will excuse me it is better than none' - Ann Coulter, 1876
- + 'i can't write a right letter but excuse me and il do my best' - Ann Coulter, 1878

Prestige of the standard?

+ 'I was surprised at the Scotch people here speaking so much English. I have since noticed that they try to imitate the English as near as they can in every thing as regards manners'
Thomas Adams, Dunedin, 1857

+ Rough frequencies of Dunedin versus other locations very similar for those who settled. Most noticeable use of NZE among young, single men on the move



Photograph of two men panning for gold by Miss K Carruthers.
Collection: PAColl-7287 Alexander Turnbull Library
[/records/23219574](#)

Why might this be?

- + Gendered norms and expectations when it came to writing
- + For the socially-mobile classes, letter writing seen as a desirable skill for women (Daybell 2006)
- + Push to recruit 'women of good character'
- + Women in the colonies were extolled for their imagined civilising potential (Sautter 2013: 8; Moruzi 2012: 205).
- + 'Polite' language use wrapped up with this emphasis
- + In case of Scots: history of anglicization added an extra layer. Extended to NZE



Alexander Turnbull Library: Eph-A-IMMIGRATION-1912-cover

Wrap-up

- + Seems to be some kind of gender effect within the Scottish immigrants coming to NZ in the 19th century
- + Women used more Scots than NZE, but overall use less of both.
- + Scots use suggests a familiarity effect for both men and women
- + Most likely to adopt NZE if you were:
 - + Male
 - + Geographically mobile
 - + Labourer



Nelson Provincial Museum, Tyree Studio Collection: 361192

Wrap-up

+R.Q. 1: Did the Scottish immigrants retain Scots features, or adopt New Zealand English colloquialisms (NZE) and te reo Māori in their correspondence?

+ Yes!

+R.Q. 2: Did factors such as gender, profession and location influence these frequencies?

+ Looks like it?

+ Adoption of NZE and maintenance of Scots in writing seems to be driven by combination of gender and social mobility

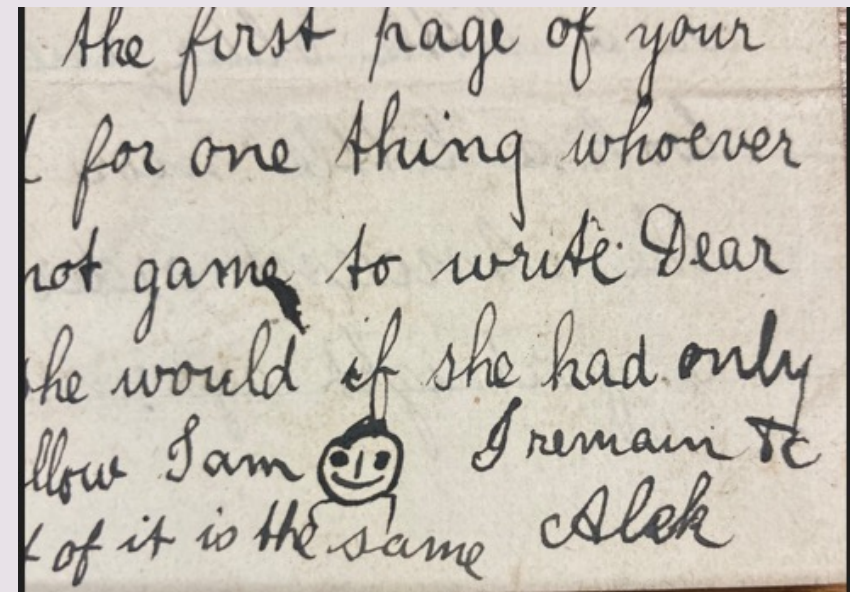
+ New lexis largely industry-driven (male workplace)

+ Socially-aspiring writers and women = 'polite' written standard

+ Letter-writing conventions and gendered expectations around writing

Gendered expectations?

‘I could see that was not your ~~writing~~ writing on the first page of your letter it was to good for one thing whoever the lady was she was not game to write Dear Alek on top. I guess she would if she had only saw wat a good looking fellow I am’ - Alexander MacDonald to John MacDonald, 30th July, 1887



The first page of your
for one thing whoever
not game to write Dear
she would if she had only
llow I am 😊 I remain to
of it is the same Alek



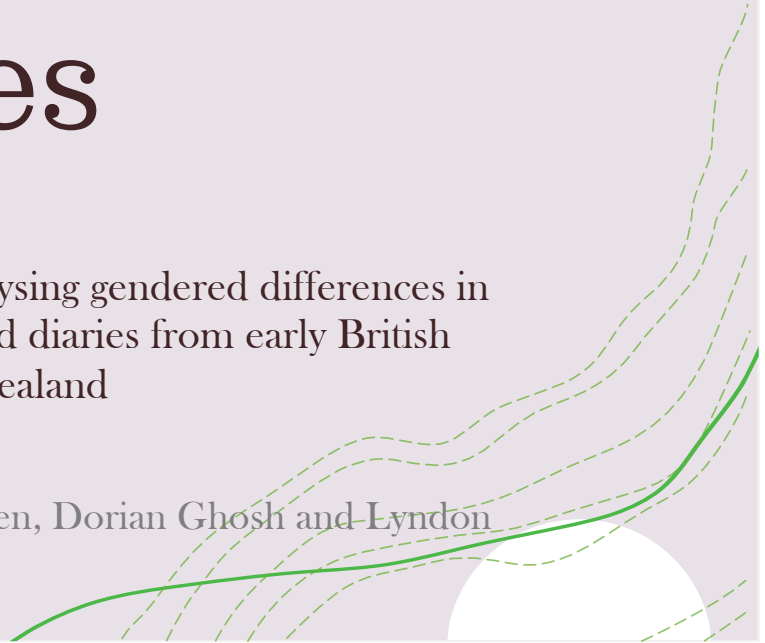
Thank you!



Uncovering Hidden Voices

Digitising and analysing gendered differences in
historical shipboard diaries from early British
migrants to New Zealand

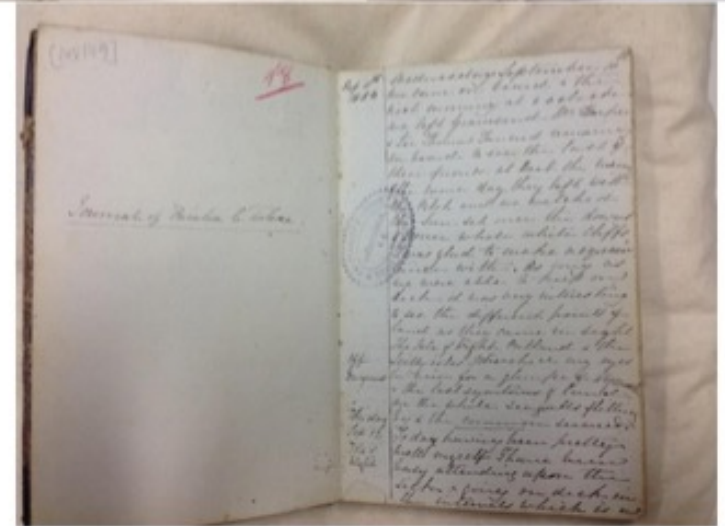
Sarah van Eyndhoven, Dorian Ghosh and Lyndon
Fraser



Shipboard Diaries

- + Small, single-sided booklets
- + Provided an insight into the voyage for others contemplating migration
- + Many also wrote for posterity, hoping to preserve their extraordinary experiences for their descendants (Hastings, 2006).
- + Large collections held by Canterbury Museum (Christchurch) and Toitū Otago Settlers Museum (Dunedin)
- + Total = 157 diaries *

*Thanks to Lyndon Fraser and Jane McKnight for providing the scans/photographs of these diaries



Digitising the Diaries

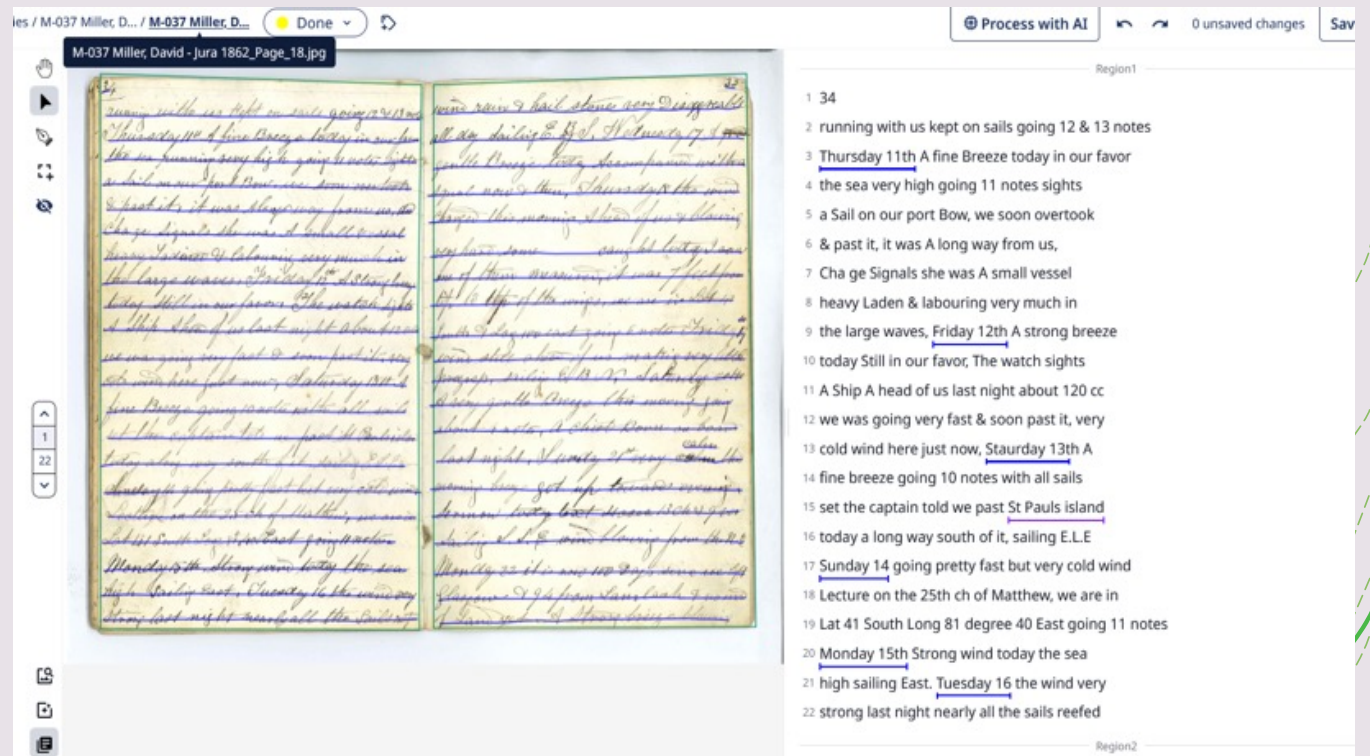
+ Focus on 50 Diaries

+ Create training data =

- + 8 female, 42 male
- + 2 pages from each diary
- + 20, 512 words

+ Build an HTR Model using Transkribus

- + Baseline Model: Transkribus English Handwriting M3
- + Character Error Rate (CER) = 15.78%



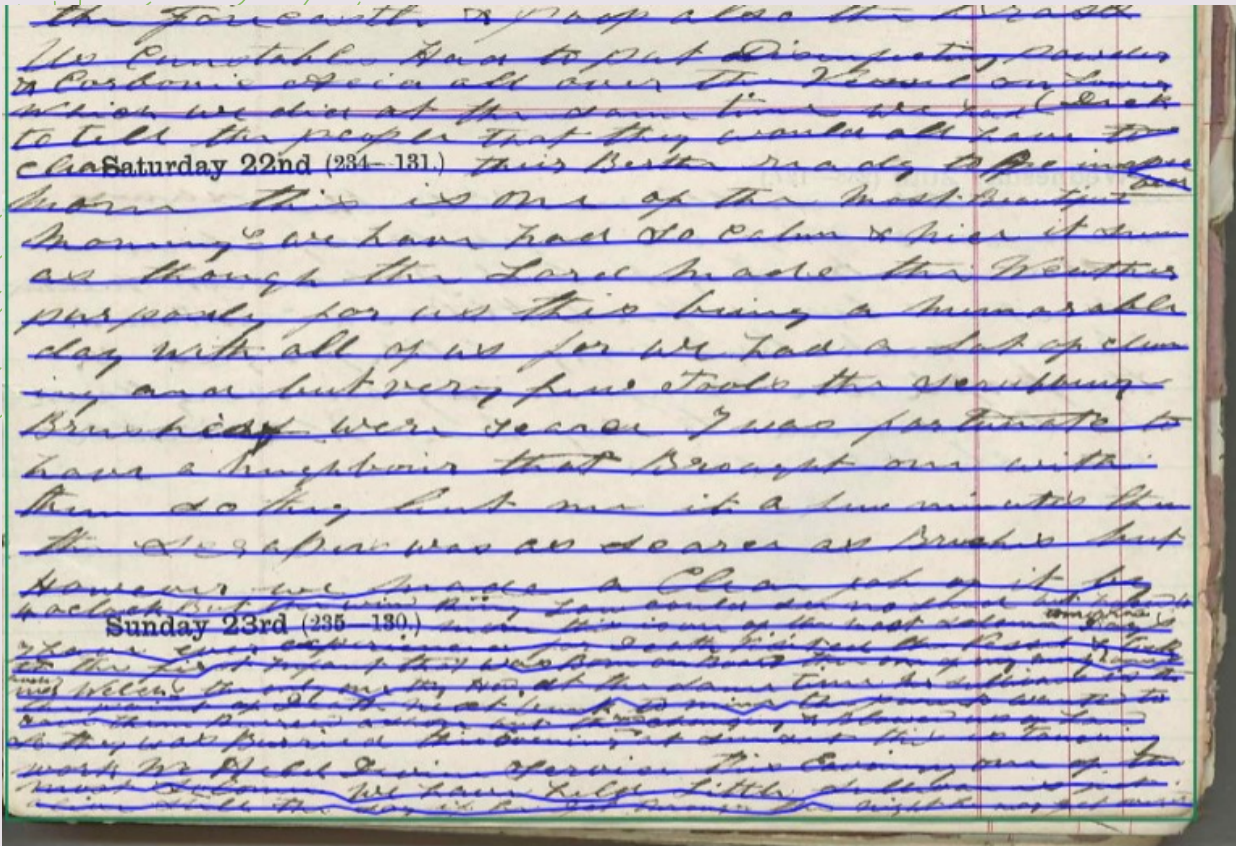
HTR model on women

Region1

13/ and wondered what it was -
we had no place, where we could
go to when we got on shore but
an hotel for no one would
take me and my four children
in elsewhere. that costing up to
£1 a day they are most exorbitant
in their charges. I shilling a loaf
bread, and 5 pounds of potatoes
for a shilling. we stayed in
Port Lyttleton 3 days not being
able sooner to get a conveyance
to Christchurch and it cost us
£1-15.0 to go the 15 miles of road
over the mountains expecting
every minute to be dashed.

- 1 Tand wordered what it was
- 2 we had no place where we could
- 3 goto when we goton shore bus
- 4 an hotel for no one would
- 5 take me and my four children
- 6 in elsewhere that costing up to
- 7 H a day they are most esorbit
- 8 in their charges I shilling a loap
- 9 bread and 5 pounds 8f potaties
- 10 for a shilling. we stayed in
- 11 Port Lyttleton 3 days not being
- 12 able sooner to ges a conveyance
- 13 to Christchurch and it costus
- 14 -1- 15.0 to go the 15 miles of road
- 15 over the mountains expecting
- 16 every minute to be dasted
- 17 into the sea. 4 & 500 feet above
- 18 the water, but christchurch is

HTR model on men

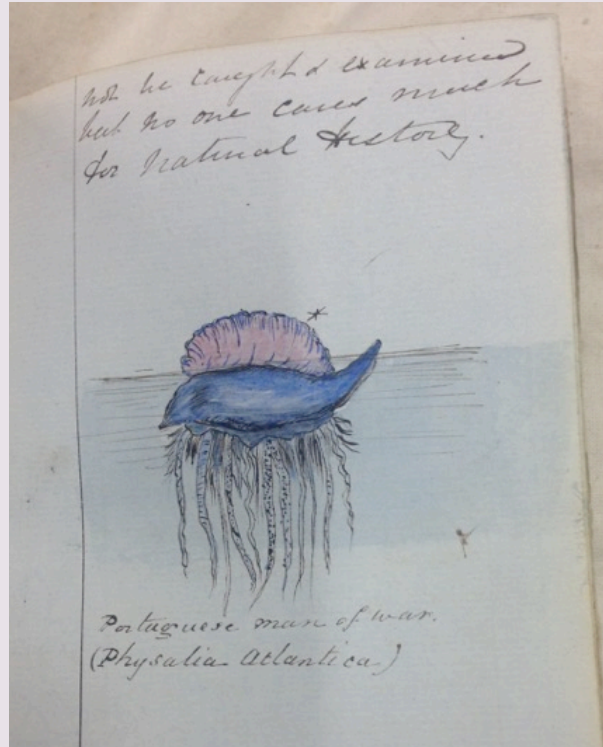
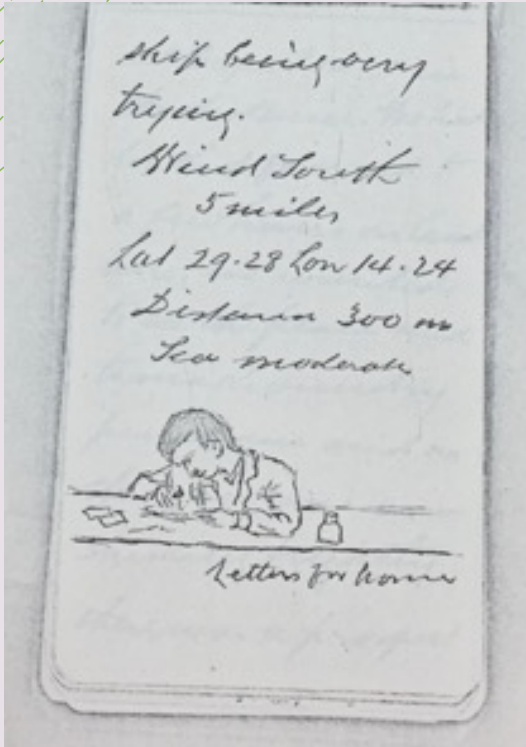


32 Chasaturday 22nd (234-231) this Beathr riadly topee m
33 morin this is one of the most Beautiful
34 morning we have had so calm & nice it chem
35 as though the Lord Baste the metcing
36 surposly for us this being a memarable
37 day with all of us for we had a sat op clm
38 ing and but very few sools the serubbing
39 Brushedd were searce I was fortunate to
40 have a neighbour that brought one with
41 them so they bnt me it a ling m utes then
42 the schapers was as searee as Bricks but
43 Howe v [] made a clean soh on it the
44 4 o clock 1 het sking Low could see ns shid t d
45 Sunday 23rd (236-130) m]the ee of the mast asem
46 caperience s to me of my ma for Seath vxit the Peases &
47 first mjort that a Bom on Board
48 cec the only one they Ha at the daw a time hr sullvans is the
49 them Burrees a shor t of Dleath next [han lae u

Results: Men versus women

- + The HTR model struggled to correctly transcribe men's writing much more than women
- + Character error rate 11.77% for women, 25.26%, for men (over double the rate)
- + This reflected what was already observed during the transcription process (neatness, legibility, care in constructing diaries)
- + So women seemed to invest more time and care into letter-writing practices

Qualitative Observations



+ Women:

- + Expressive, literary, emotive
- + Much more “community focussed” – seasickness, food, religion, daily life onboard ship, other passengers, drawings

+ Men:

- + more a record of observations – weather, sea conditions, ship speed and distance, numbers and figures

Drawings by Robert Gill Askill (1887) and Priscilla Torlesse (1850) in their shipboard diaries respectively

Men's use of NZE

- + 'Mr Callingham is the **slaby** down at Bell's mill' - Albert MacDonald, 1887
- + 'I have bought fifteen two & three year old **heifers queys** I mean in calf' ... from a neighbouring Sqwatter (or runholder)' - William Dewar, 1862
- + 'I am ~~ladd~~ geting my **tucker** at Mrs Climo's *just now*, until there is enough timber to build a **shanty**... There was a large comet ~~as~~ or shooting star I don't ~~I~~ know *which* fell here 3 weeks ago I did not see it but ~~the~~ it lit up the **whare** we were in as if it were day' - Alexander MacDonald, 1887

Gender Past and Present

Contemporary Sociolinguistics

Gender Paradox:
Women lead change
from above and below
but use more conservative
forms of stable linguistic
variables (Labov 2001)

Historical Sociolinguistics

Societal and gender norms
= access to the public or
professional spheres was
frequently limited
(Wheale 1999; van der
Wal 2021)

Historical
Scottish migrants
to New Zealand?