The Sinful Pig: Social Construction of Hogs through Corpus Analysis in Czech

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Abstract : The word for pig in Czech (prase) seems to be one of the most negatively connotated words denoting animals. This paper represents an analysis of the largest Czech corpora, including a diachronic corpus. Besides corpus-analytical tools, sentiment analysis methods and tools such as LIWC and word clouds are used to better capture the usage of the words for pigs in Czech. The most frequent collocations across domains are identified and extracted with context to be used for sentiment analysis, which reveals an almost exclusive negative sentiment or culinary context. The animal is burdened with a disproportionately high number of meanings representing negatively viewed human characteristics or behaviors (dirtiness, fatness, sweating, inebriation, aggressive driving, greediness or chauvinism are among the most frequent ones). The diachronic view helps us understand how this extreme bias came to existence both through institutional construction and human-animal relations.

Keywords: corpus analysis, pig, sentiment, social construction

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