

## Exploring language with VersaText

VersaText is a new online tool that helps teachers and learners explore the language of a single text.

VersaText has three tools: a word cloud, a concordancer and a lexical profiler. It has ten pre-loaded texts as examples, but the tool is meant for users to input texts relevant to their own teaching and learning.

Unlike most word cloud software, VersaText is both part-of-speech tagged and lemmatized, which enable the exploration of many aspects of language from word forms to genre.

In this workshop, we start by learning how to use the tools, which takes very little time. The bulk of the workshop focusses on how to use VersaText for exploring the content and language of a text.

We learn how to create content-oriented questions that students can answer from a word cloud.

We learn what 'askable' language questions can be answered and to what extent. For example:

- When we see only the nouns and verbs in a single text, we can ask collocation questions.
- When we see only nouns and pronouns, we can ask cohesion questions.
- A concordance of a key word is a record of everything that the text says about that word.
- The Profiler divides all the words in the text into frequency bands and subdivides these by part-of-speech.

We learn how to guide students to find their own answers.

We learn how to make worksheets and presentations from which students learn content and language at the same time.

For any questions/queries relating to this workshop, contact: [james@versatile.pub](mailto:james@versatile.pub).