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GÖTTINGEN



**eTRAP**

**Electronic Text Reuse Acquisition Project**

INSTITUTE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE  
GÖTTINGEN CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES

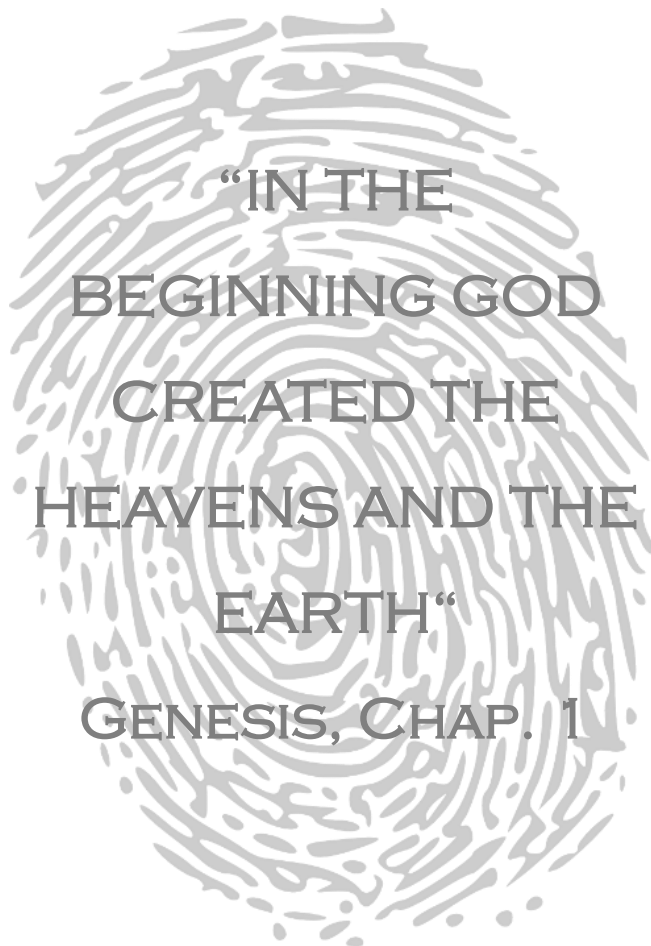
# Overview

An early career research group on  
historical text reuse –  
Methodologies & research fields

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DH Estonia,  
Tartu  
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# Text Reuse



## **Intratextuality**

Internal relations within a text or an author

## **Intertextuality**

External relations with other texts

## **Text Reuse**

Spoken and written repetition of text/content

# Motivation

## Question

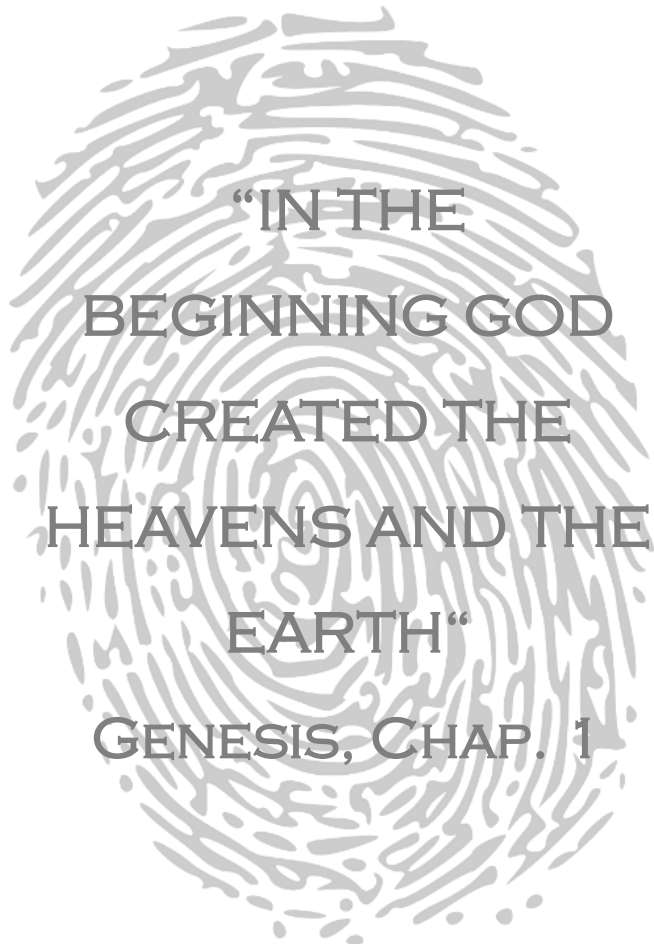
Why is it so relevant for Humanities and Computer Science?

## Humanities

General transmissions of **ideas** under **different** conditions  
E.g. lines of **transmission** & textual **criticism**

## Computer Science

Text *decontamination* for authorship attribution  
Text mining, corpus linguistics



# Our Objectives

## How

Were paraphrases, allusions or translations **reused** by **authors** over **time**?

## Why

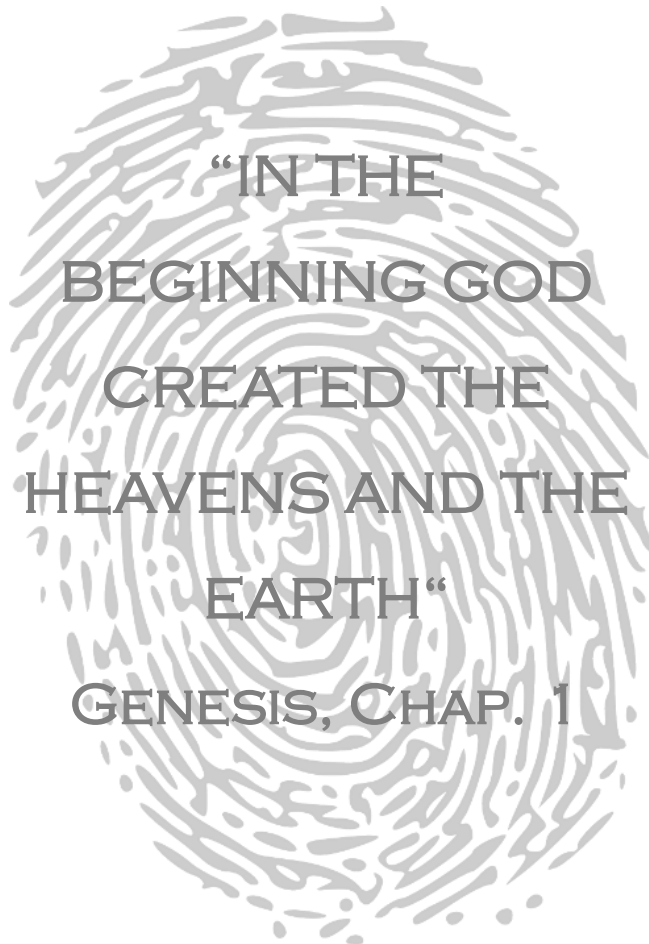
Was **part** of the text reused? What influenced the text?

## Aim

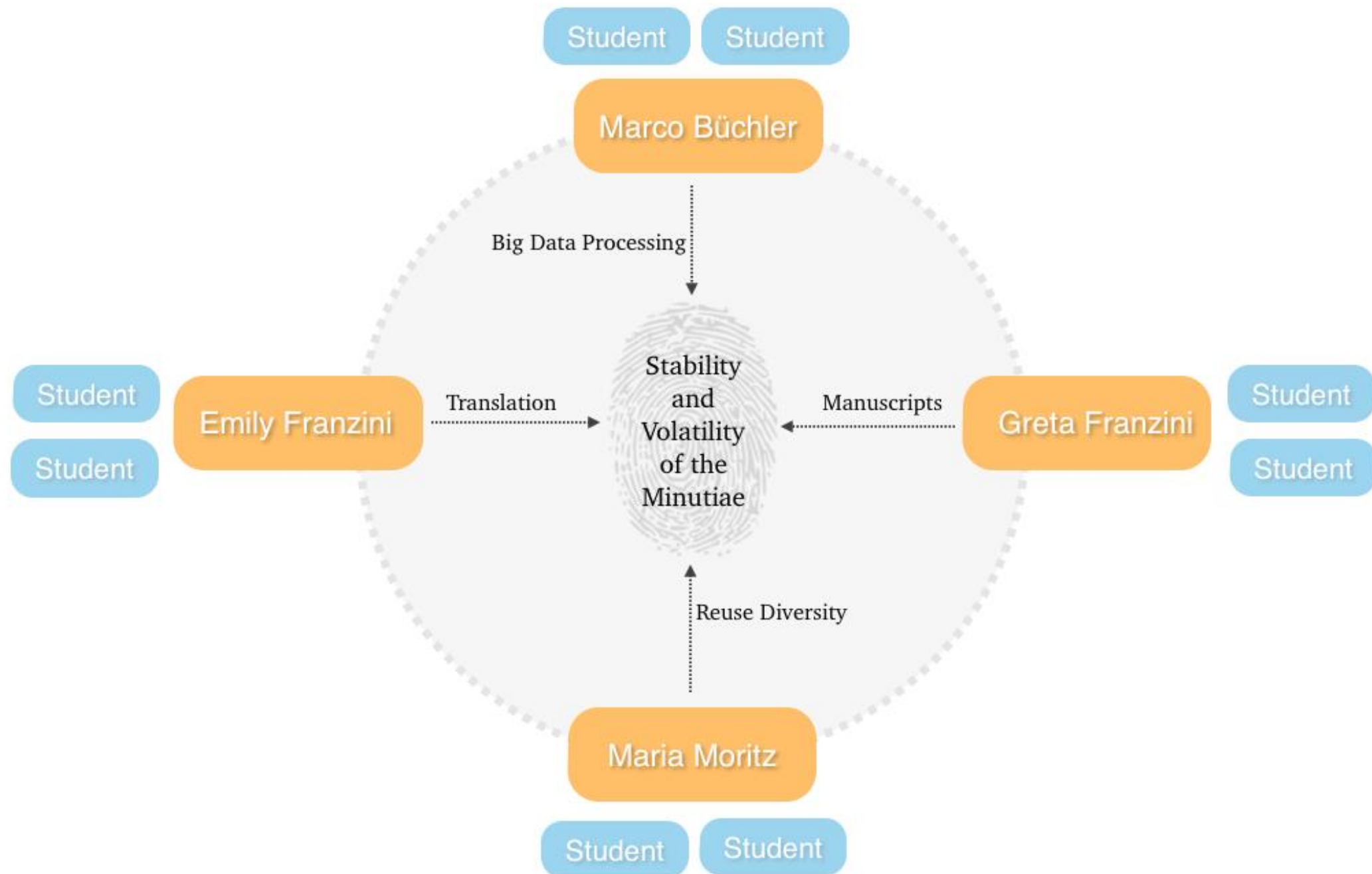
Develop a **methodology** to „measure“ historical text reuse **in spite** of its **diversity**

## Through

Big Data, texts in Ancient Greek, German, English, Italian, Latin



# Team

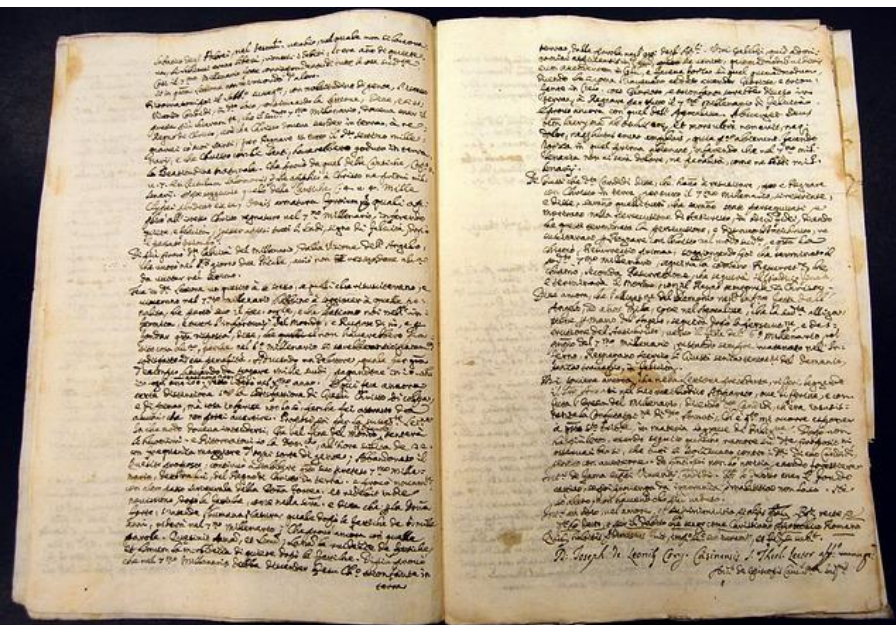




???

- Works on determining **relevant features** of text reuse and which of them can be **calculated** by **machines**?
- **What can't** be calculated?
- How can **paradigmatic relations** support the text reuse analysis  
(e.g. query expansion on search engines)

# Greta Franzini, Humanist



???

Can the study of text reuse...

► ...tell us something about the **accuracy** and **confidence** of **variation**?

Which authors quote the source more literally and why?

► ... tell us something about **transmission contamination**?

# Maria Moritz, Comp. Sc.

???

- What are the **differences** and **similarities**, what do **they tell** us about the texts?
- **How** does one **classify** the similarities and the differences (**Wittgenstein**)?
- How and can those findings help to improve **NLP**?



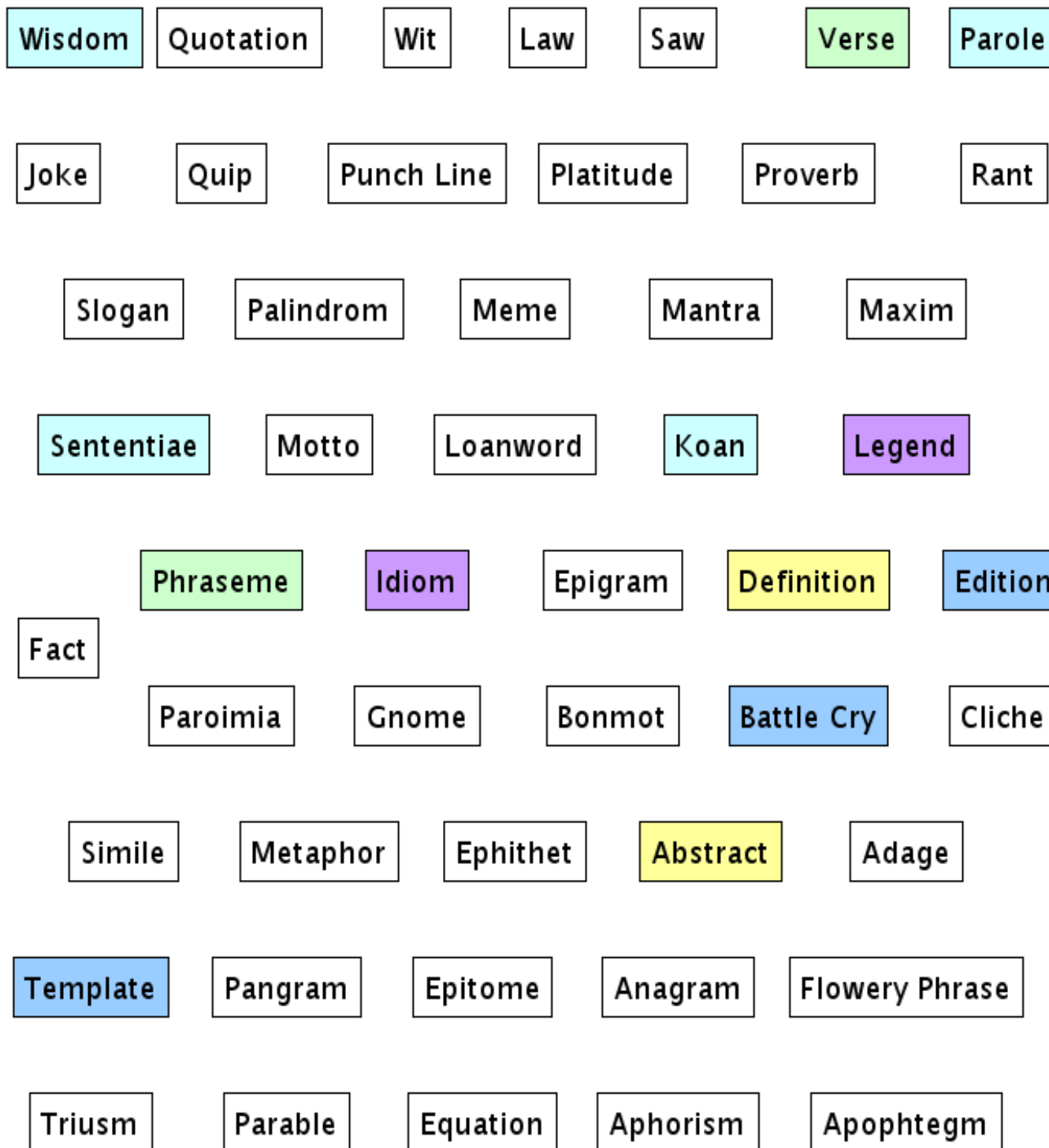


The reuse of text **across languages** is a gold mine for **transcultural** studies.

When observing **translated** text,...

- ...what is the scale of **divergence** from one translation to the other?
- ...what is the **divergence caused by**? Translator competence or linguistic, cultural, ideological and political norms?
- Could **machine translators** be used to **clean** a **translation** of any **contextual influences**?

# Challenge 1: Reuse Type Diversity



How to detect reuse automatically?

**Stability (yellow):**  
syntactic vs. semantic

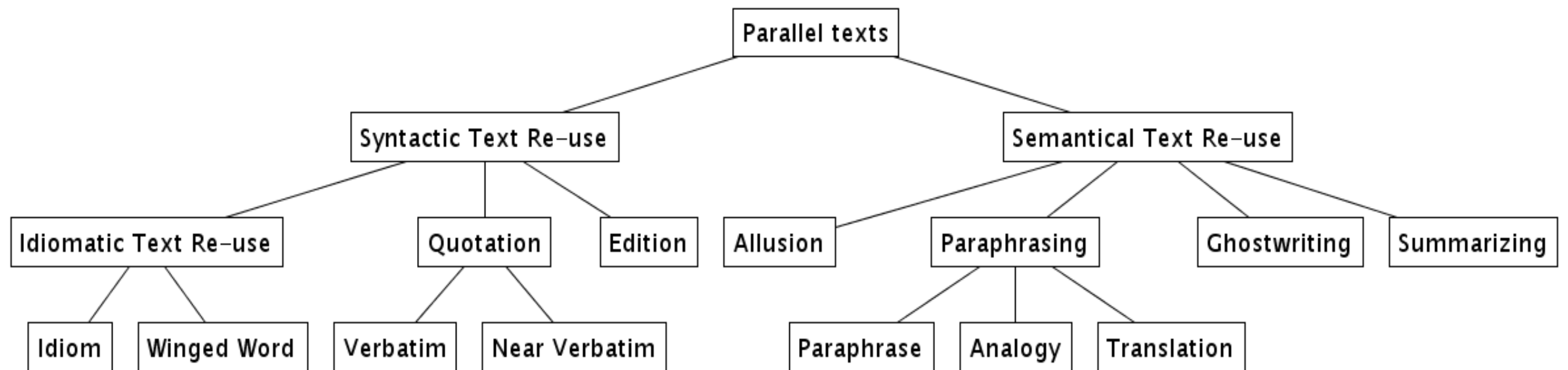
**Purpose/Intention (green)**

**Size of Text Reuse (blue)**

**Literary Classification (light blue)**

**Degree of distribution (purple)**

# Challenge 2: Author specific Reuse Styles



How to search reuse on big corpus where every author refers to another in a different way

# Challenge 3: Historical Changes



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greek-dialects-mod.jpg#file>

How to deal with text variants?

language evolution

dialects

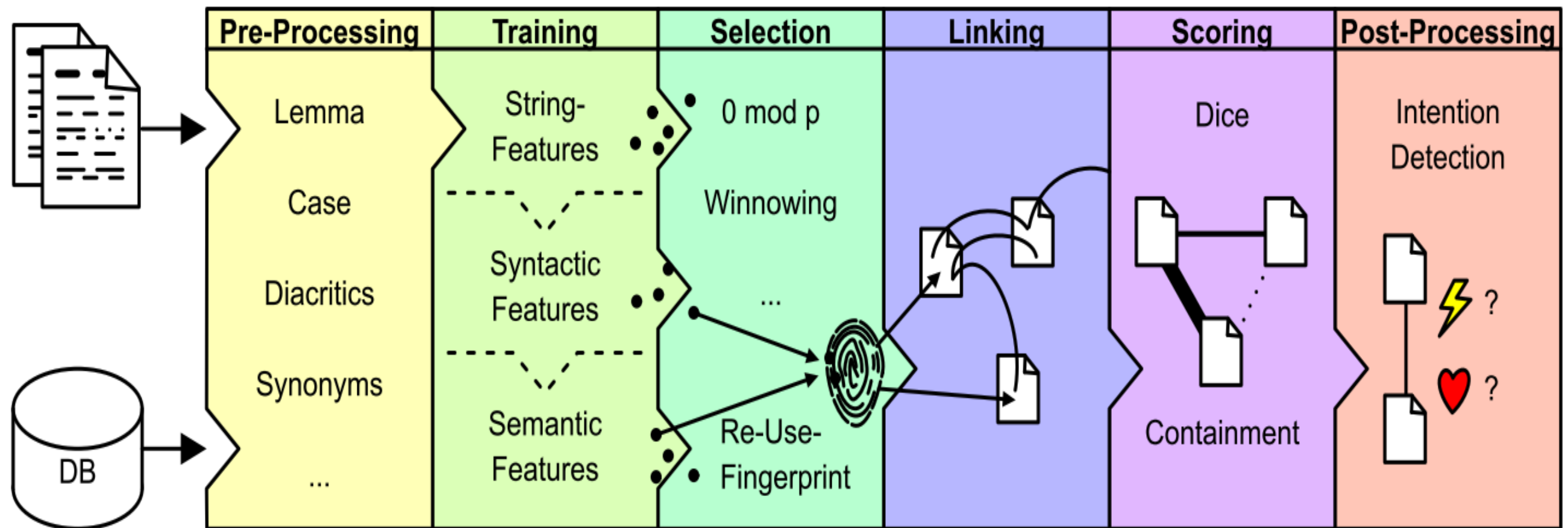
“spelling errors”

copy errors (by scribes in the Middle Ages)



# Tracer – Current Approach

Split the problem into 6 levels of processing (Hackathon)





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# Thank you for your attention!

<http://etrap.gcdh.de>

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# Introduction



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# Team

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# Challenges