



HEIDELGRAM: NETWORK ANALYSIS OF GRAMMARIANS' REFERENCES IN 19TH-CENTURY BRITISH GRAMMARS – A CORPUS-BASED PILOT STUDY

Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse, Dr. Kirsten Gather, Ingo Kleiber

1. Area of Research

- Grammar books: indicators of changing and stable language norms
- Investigation of 19th-century grammar books "still constitutes a gap" (Anderwald 2016: 3)
- *HeidelGram*: combination of historical corpus linguistics and network analysis

2. Aims and Methodology

Aims

- Investigation of connections between grammar books as manifested in authors' references
- Analysis of the distribution of different types of references

Methodology

- Corpus: 40 British grammar books of the 19th century (2.7 m words)
- Scholarly Networks (White 2011) ≠ Social Networks
- Network nodes: 100 search terms, i.e. grammarians of the 16th–19th centuries, opposed to 40 grammar books
Edges: references to other grammarians in the grammars
- Automated network generation based on threshold-based *gestalt* pattern matching and manual elimination of false positives
- Manual categorisation of references (two independent raters, Cohen's Kappa ≈ 0.5), coding influenced by *Grounded Theory*
- Categories:
 - **quotation**: citation of text passages from other grammars
 - **opinion**: expression of positive or negative evaluation
 - **acknowledgment**: mention of referenced grammars
 - **comparison/contrast**: comparison of grammarians' approaches, terminologies, etc.
 - **mention**: mention of a grammarian without context
 - **application**: application of a rule or concept introduced by and named after a grammarian

Example:

opinion *quotation*

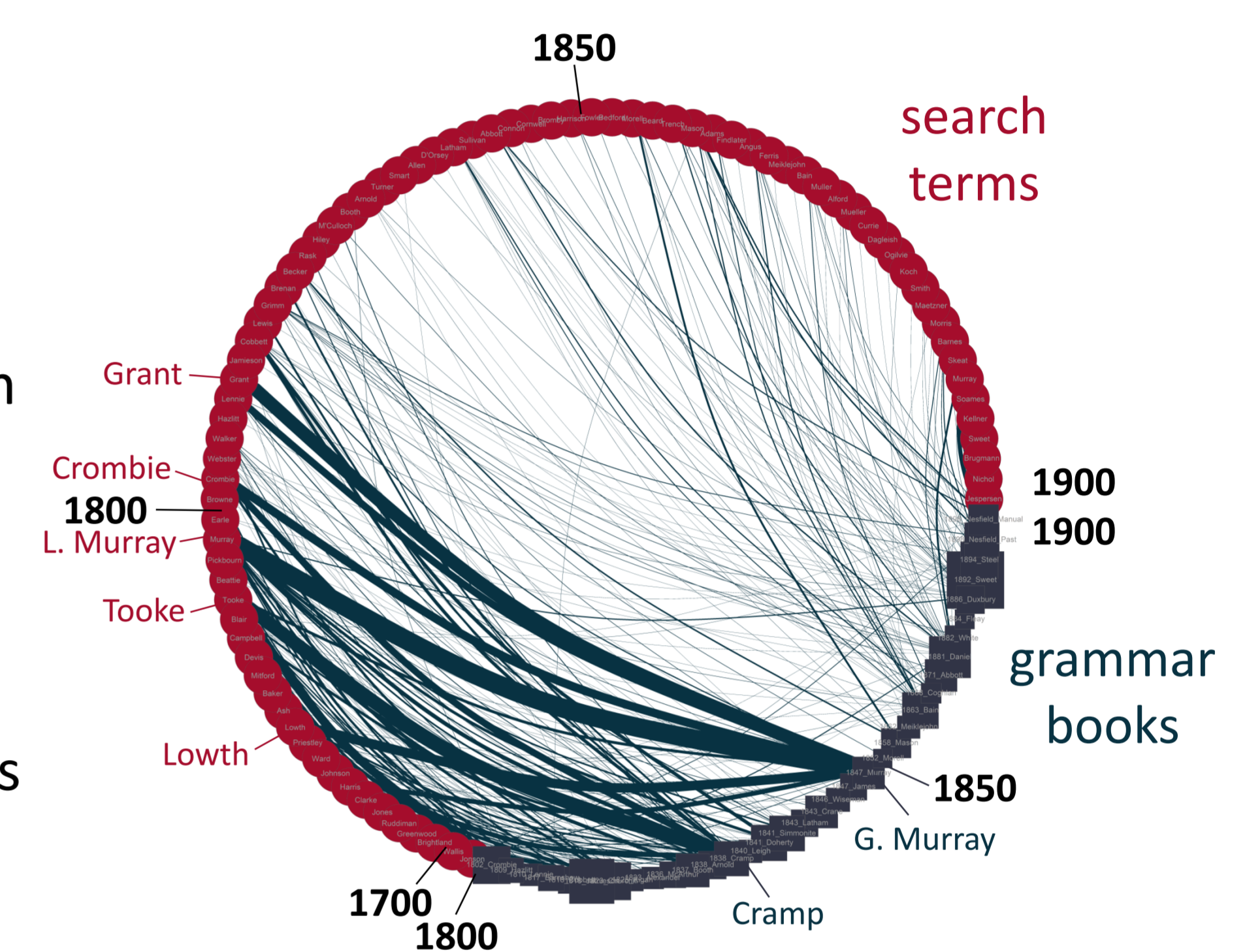
It is **justly** observed by Priestley, "that a term, which only implies the idea of persons, and expresses them by some circumstance or epithet, will hardly authorize the use of **who**." (Crombie 1802 on Priestley 1761)

3. Results

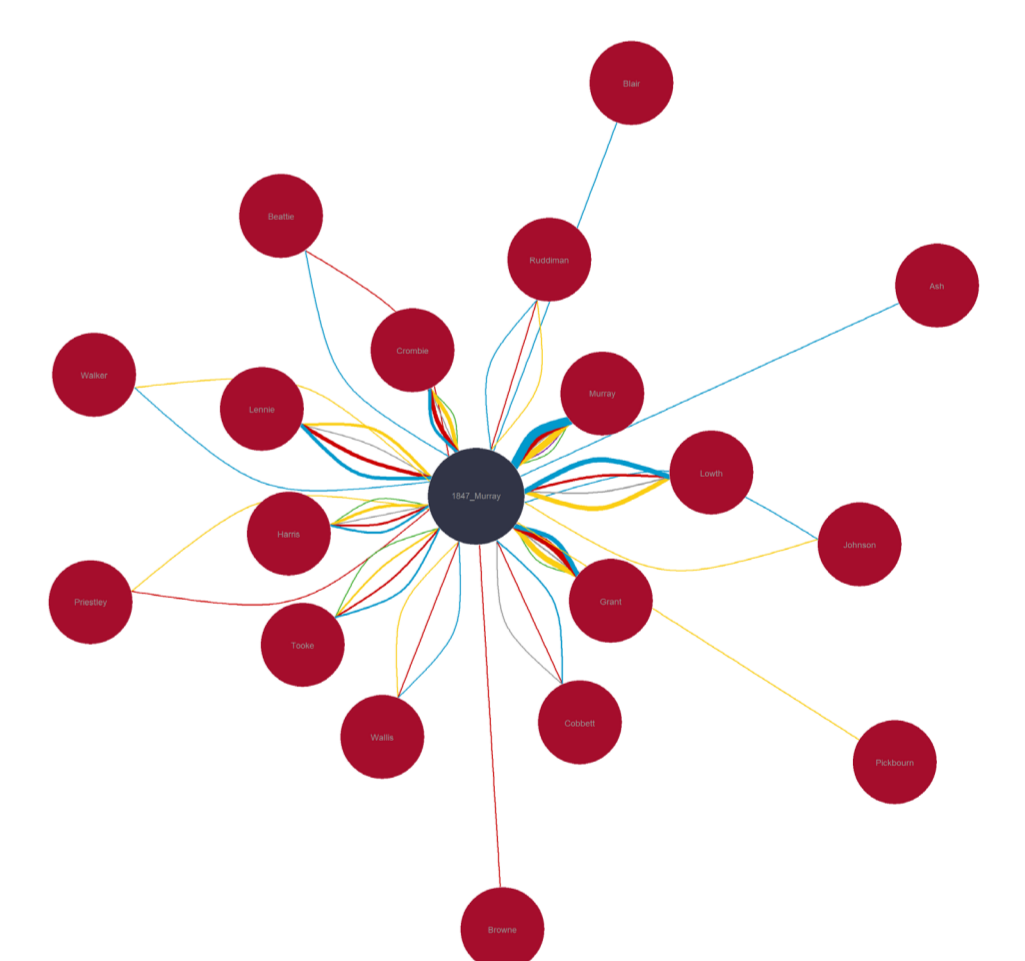
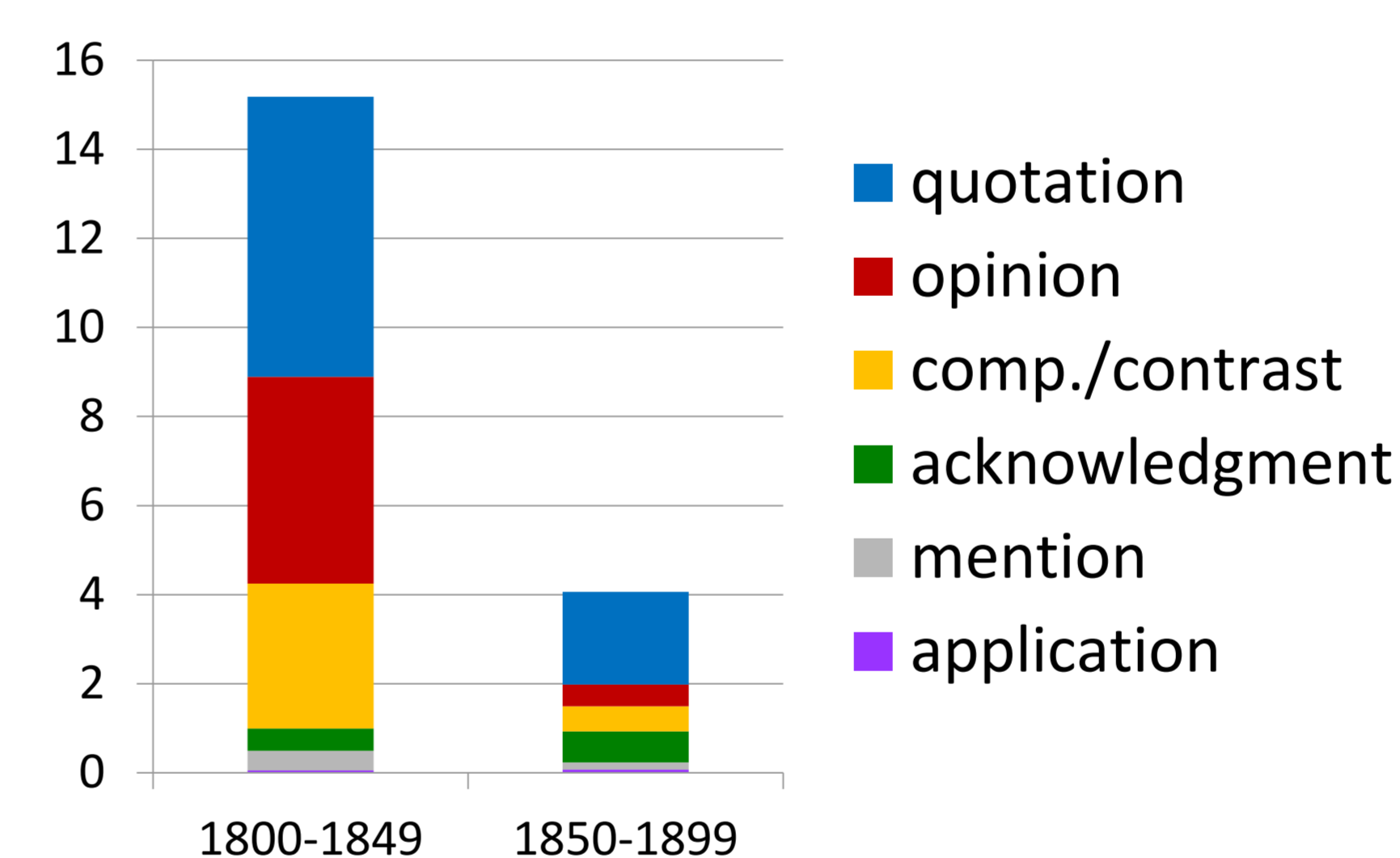
2,003 matches (concordances) after manual correction; 2,770 references

After 1850

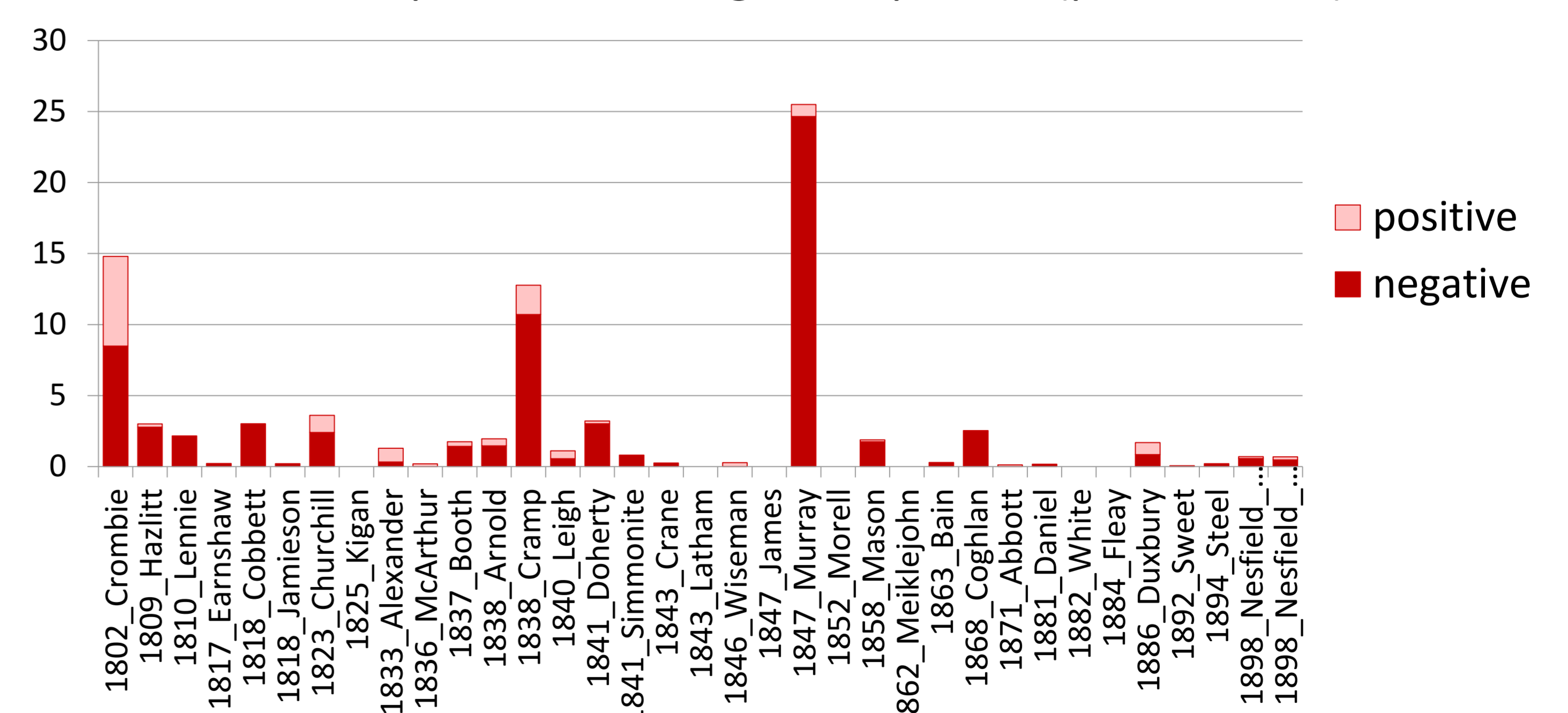
- References to 18th-century prescriptivists (esp. Lowth, L. Murray) cease → turn away from (critical discussion of) prescriptive grammar writing
- Occupation with contemporary grammars
- Considerably fewer references



Different kinds of references (per 10,000w) Ego network: G. Murray (1847)



Instances of positive and negative opinions (per 10,000w)



- Three outliers (Crombie, Cramp, G. Murray)
- Proportion of positive and negative opinions might hint at changing attitudes towards grammarians as authorities

