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# “What sense or senses?”

## OED's Poetic Acquaintances

SPC, Oxford, 15 June 2013

David-Antoine Williams

St Jerome's University  
University of Waterloo

david.williams {at} uwaterloo.ca  
<http://poetry-contingency.uwaterloo.ca>

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acquaintance

✓ PRONUNCIATION

✗ SPELLINGS

✓ ETYMOLOGY

✗ QUOTATIONS

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acquainted, *ppl. a*

acquaintedness

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acquest

acquiesce, *v.*acquiesce, *v.*

acquiescement

acquiescence

acquiescency

acquiescent, *a. ar*acquiescently, *adv*

acquiescer

acquiescing, *vbl. i*acquiescing, *ppl. i*acquiescingly, *adv*acquiet, *v.*acquieting, *vbl. n.*

acquight

acquirability

**acquaintance**

(ə'kweɪntəns)

[a. OFr. *acointance*, 15th c. *accointance*, n. of action, f. *acointer*. See [ACQUAINT V.](#) and [-NCE.](#)]

**1. a.** Personal knowledge; knowledge of a person or thing gained by intercourse or experience, which is more than mere recognition, and less than familiarity or intimacy. Const. *with* (*of obs.*). **to take acquaintance of, with:** to acquaint oneself with (*Obs.*); = *mod.* **to make the acquaintance of**, form an acquaintance with. **on acquaintance**, on becoming (or being) acquainted with.

**b. Philos.** Knowledge of a person, thing, or other entity (e.g. sense-datum, universal) by direct experience of it, as opposed to knowing facts about it. So **knowledge of, by, acquaintance** (opp. *knowledge-about* or *by description*).

**2.** The state of being acquainted, or of knowing people and being known by them; mutual knowledge. Const. *with* (*of obs.*), *obj. gen.* as 'her acquaintance'; reciprocal *gen.* as 'our acquaintance.'

**3.** A person or persons with whom one is acquainted. (Originally a collective noun, with both sing. and pl. sense, but now usually *singular*, with pl. *acquaintances*.)

**Additions 1997**

Add: **4.** Special Comb. **acquaintance rape**, rape of a woman by a man who is known to her.

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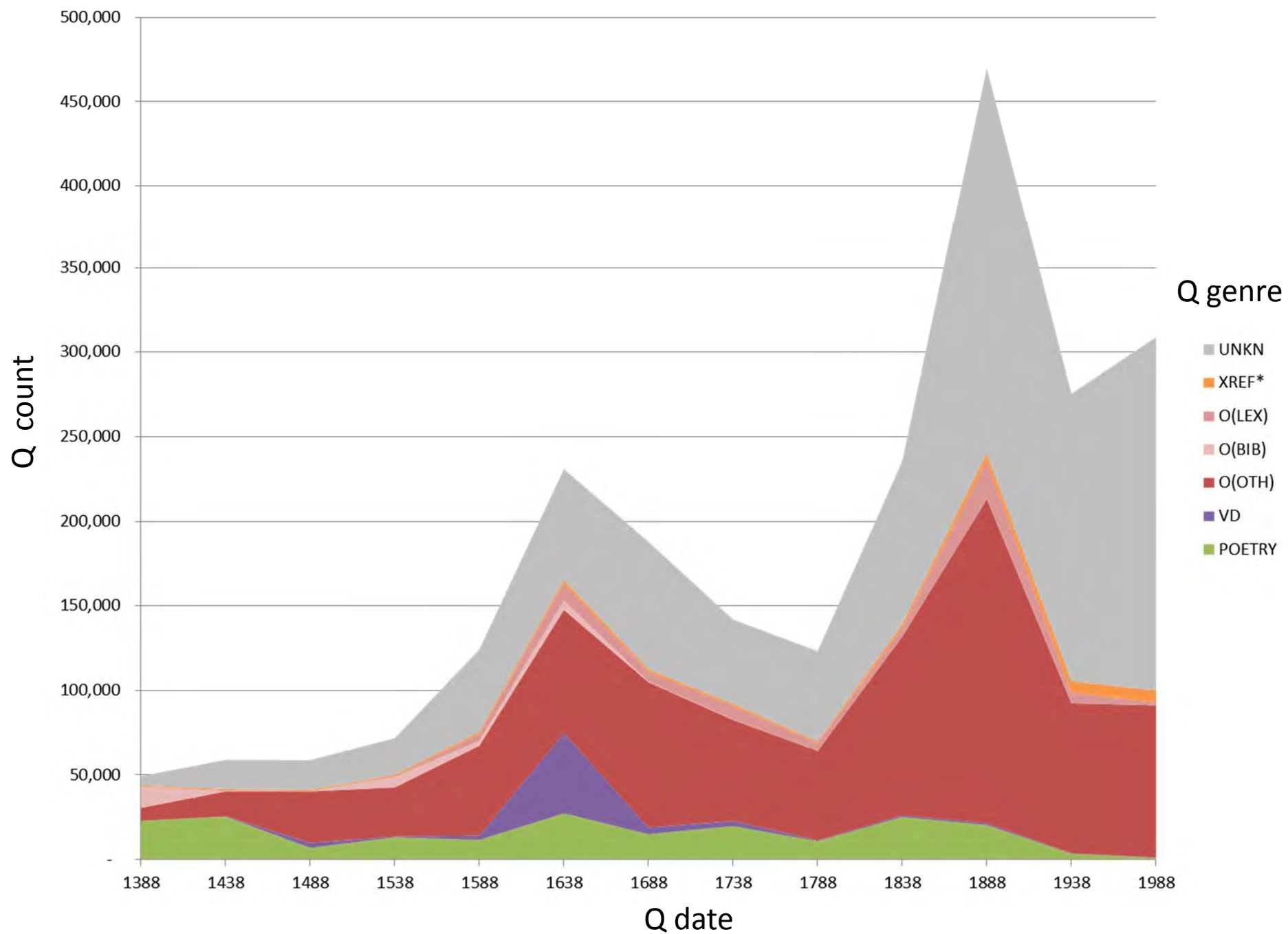
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- 1) Definitions in *OED2* draw significantly on poetic textual evidence, embedding a connotative and metaphorical dimension within what lays claim to denotative authority;
- 2) English poetry of the last hundred years contains a philological, etymological, and lexicographical dimension, significantly shaped and informed by the *OED*.

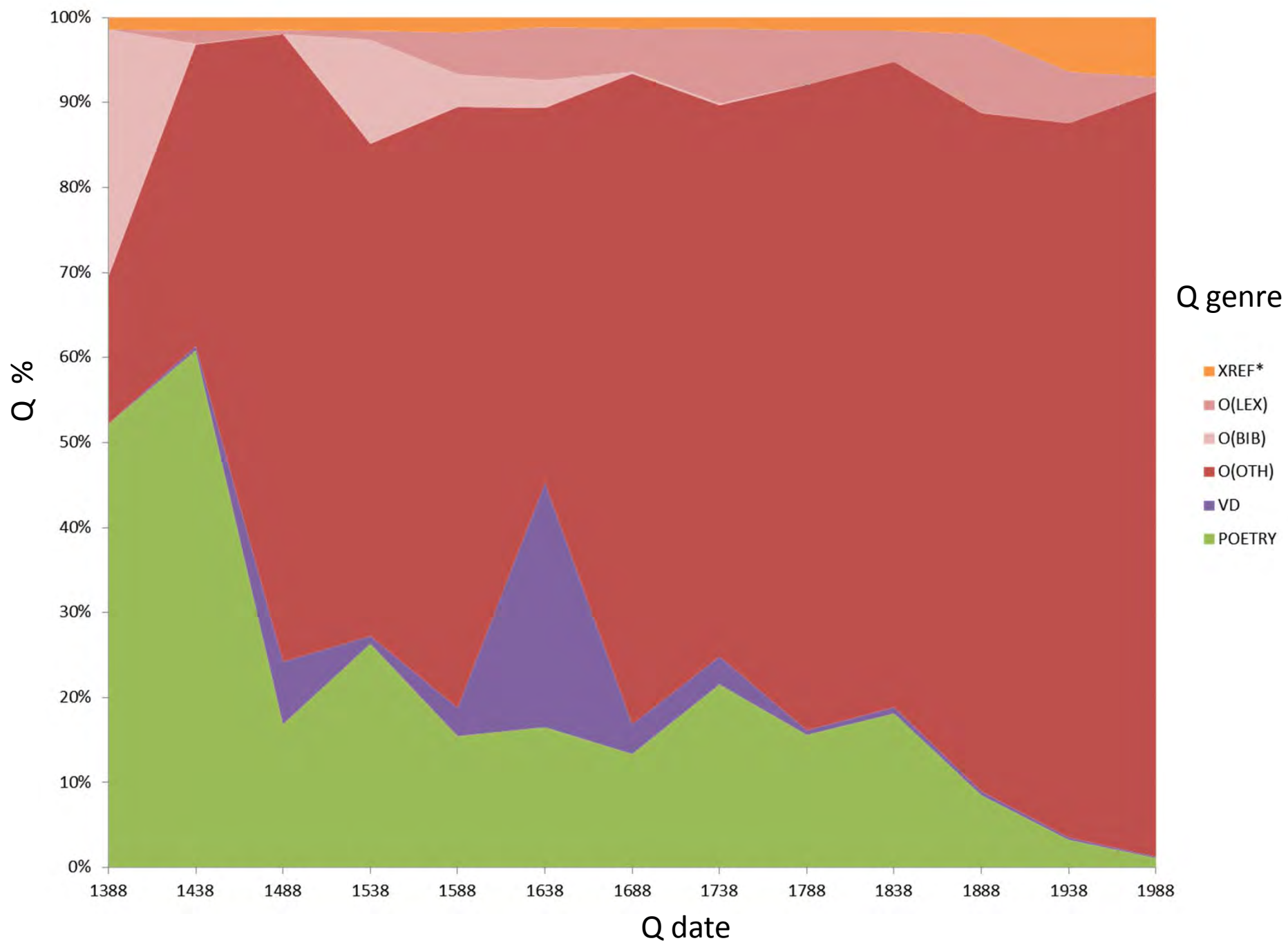
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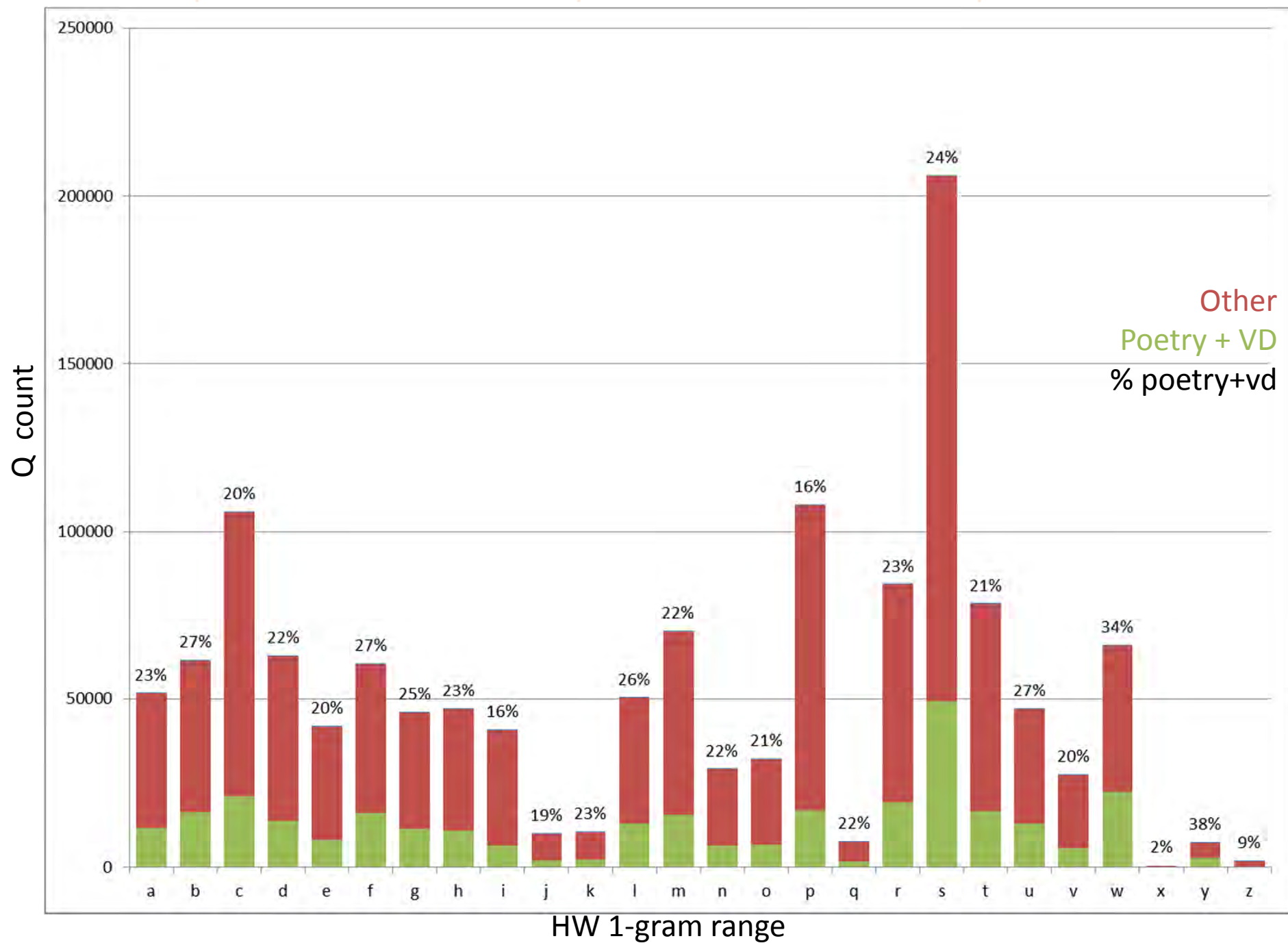




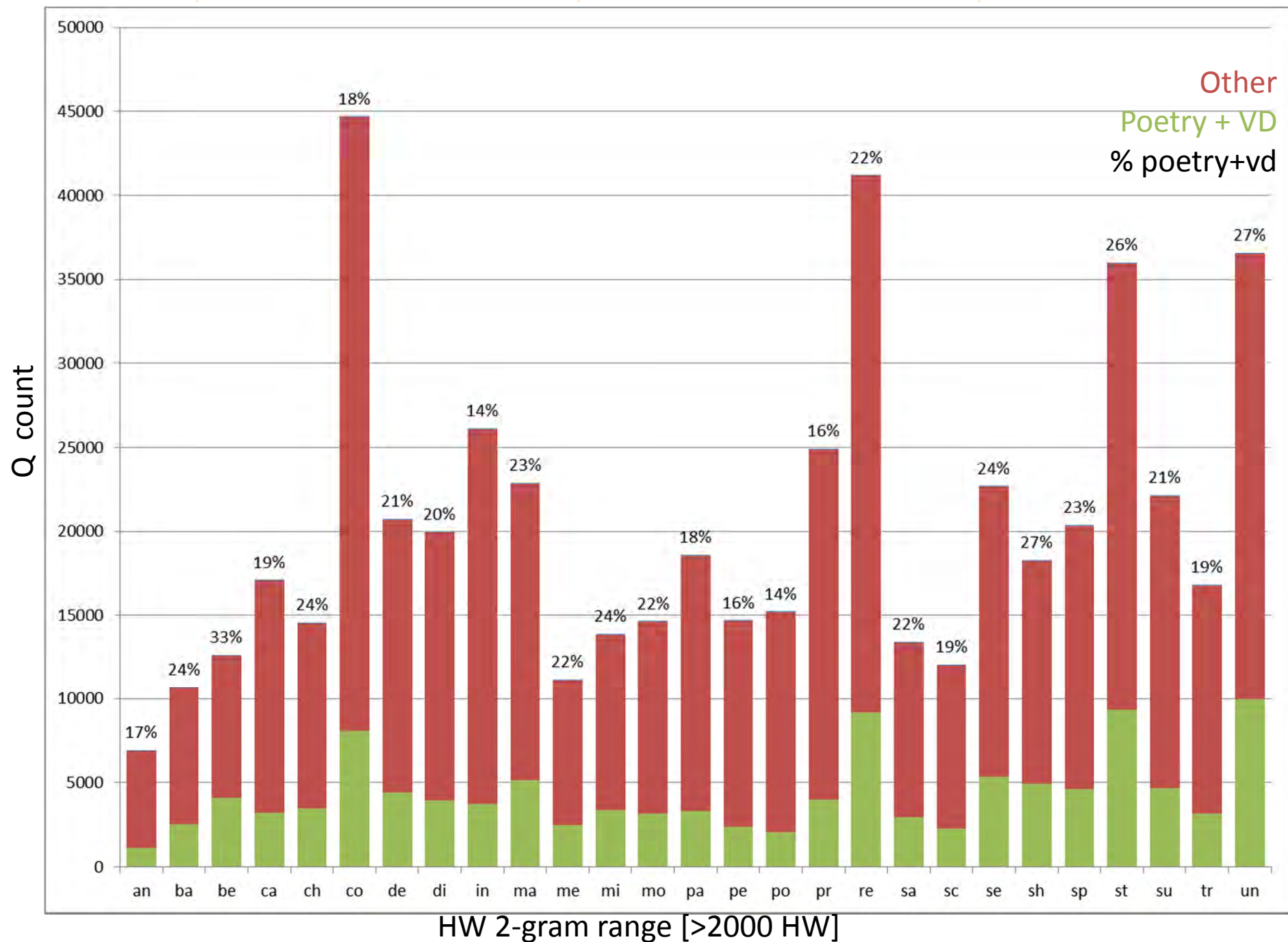
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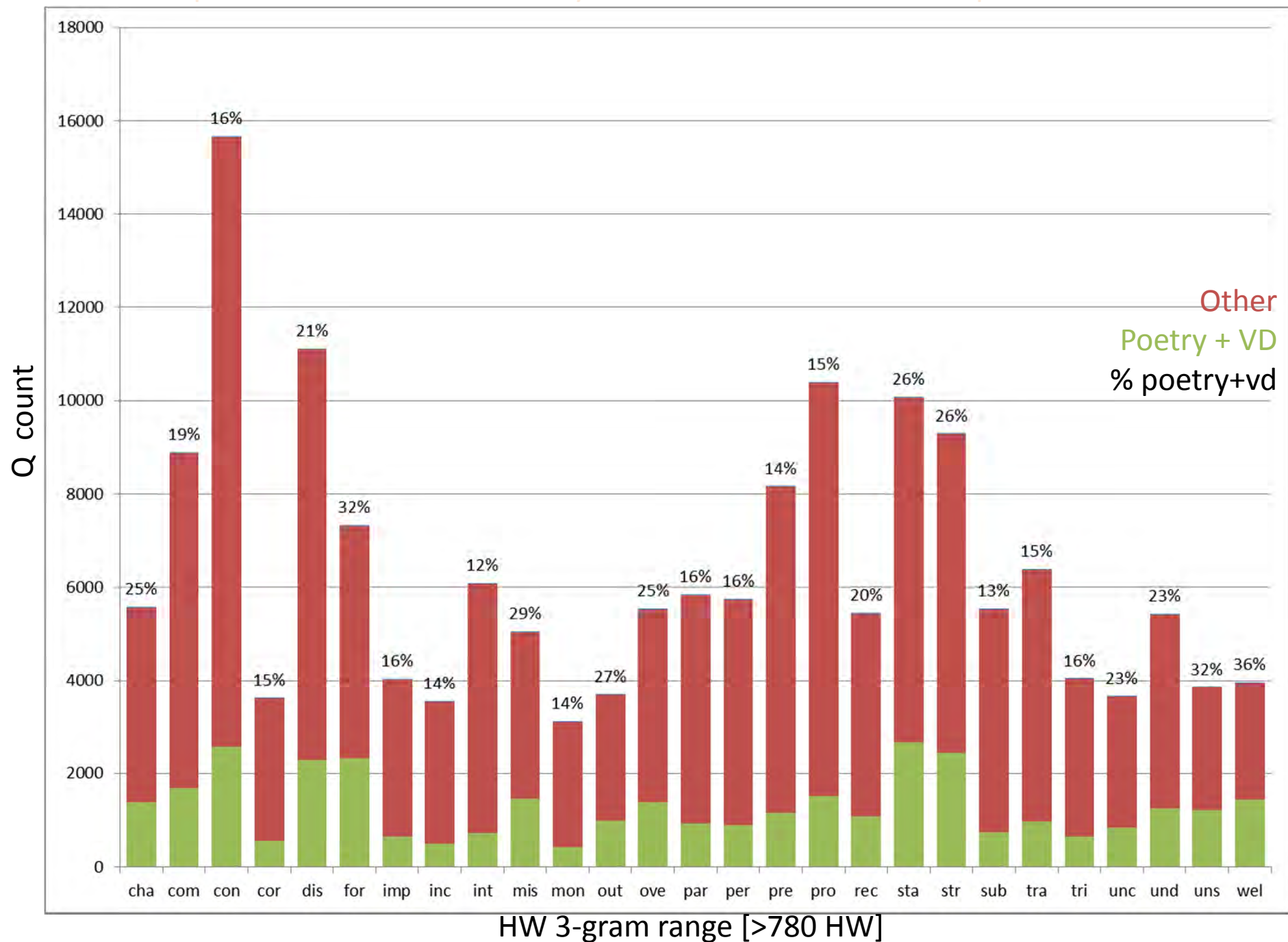


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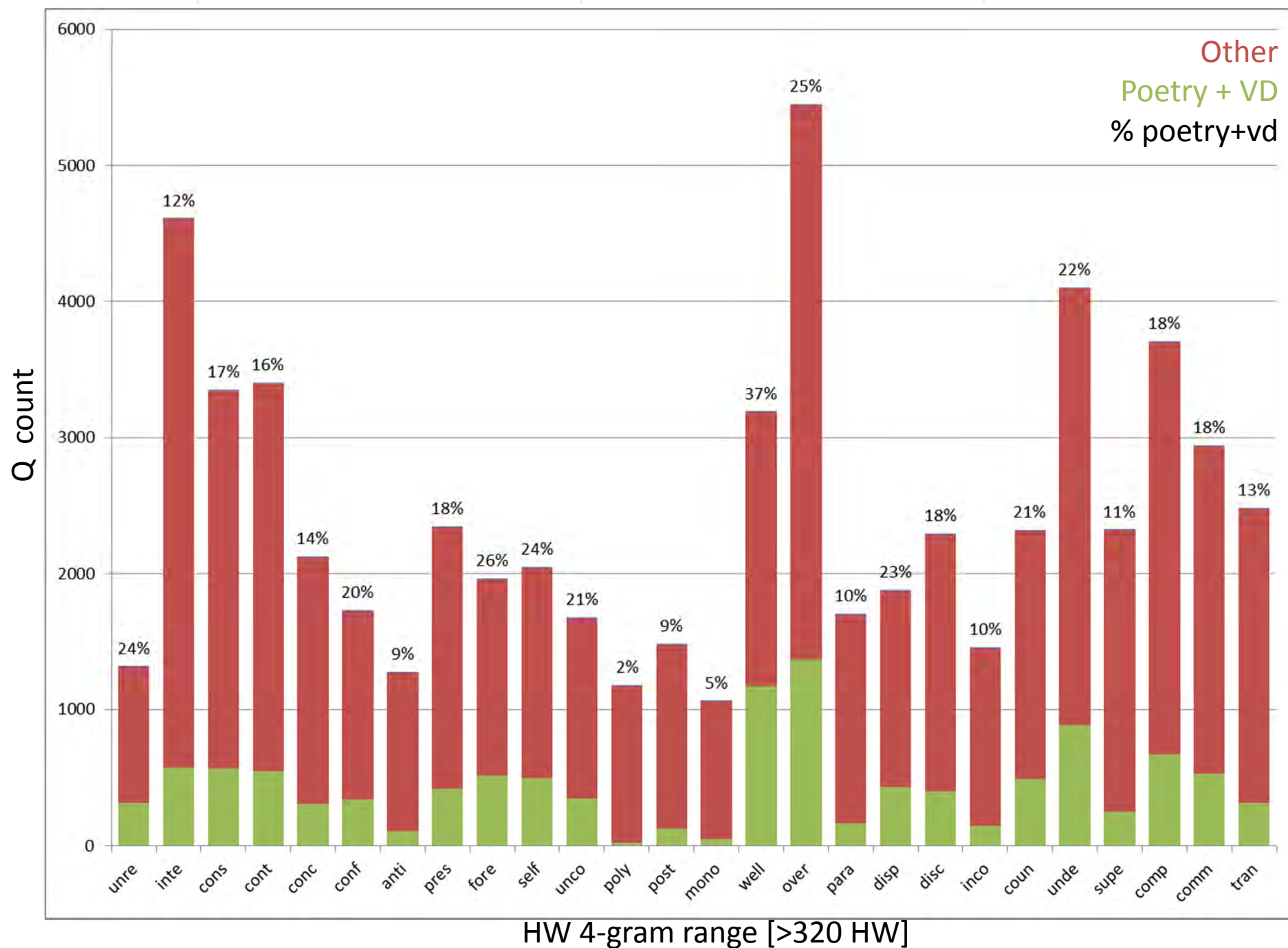




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Poetry and Verse Drama Qs as % of all Q in n-range [counting ranges with more than x HWs] - top and bottom 5									
1-gram		2-gram [>100]		3-gram [>60]		4-gram [>20]		4-gram [>30]	
y	38%	i-	48%	to-	52%	bale	56%	unki	53%
w	34%	aw	39%	won	50%	shen	55%	betr	52%
u	27%	wi	37%	unk	45%	forl	53%	umbe	50%
b	27%	wr	37%	soo	45%	unki	53%	rich	48%
f	27%	up	36%	god	44%	ruth	53%	soot	48%
l	26%	yo	36%	lov	43%	betr	52%	what	47%
g	25%	ye	35%	gle	43%	blen	51%	kind	47%
s	24%	wo	35%	wra	43%	wrea	51%	rede	47%
h	23%	we	35%	bew	42%	wrac	51%	wort	46%
r	23%	sw	34%	wil	42%	hoar	51%	wond	46%
t	21%	ep	9%	tec	2%	rami	0%	scle	0%
o	21%	ph	8%	pse	2%	spha	0%	bact	0%
v	20%	ox	8%	chl	1%	mezz	0%	cort	0%
c	20%	hy	7%	oxy	1%	gela	0%	irid	0%
e	20%	ko	7%	iso	1%	isot	0%	acet	0%
j	19%	eu	6%	bio	1%	schm	0%	fluo	0%
p	16%	ul	6%	gly	1%	caly	0%	cine	0%
i	16%	ps	5%	hae	1%	pter	0%	glyc	0%
z	9%	zi	5%	nuc	0%	neur	0%	pter	0%
x	2%	ku	4%	scl	0%	dena	0%	neur	0%

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<S0> <S1> <S2> <S4> <S6> <S7>

Unnumbered  
senses eg,  
introductory  
text

Sense groups  
lettered A, B,  
C, etc.

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PROMONCIATION SPELLINGS ETYMOLOGY QUOTATIONS

**sense**, *n.*

(sens)

**I.** Faculty of perception or sensation.

**1. a.** Each of the special faculties, connected with a bodily organ, by which man and other animals changes in the condition of their own bodies. Usually reckoned as five—sight, hearing, smell, taste **external sense** (cf. 8).  
Earlier called *the five wits*: see **WIT**.

**1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 127 Eyther within or withoutforth, that is to say eyther in the senses. **1553** T. WILSON *Rhet.* 112 The common sense..is therefore so called, because it geueth i senses. **1647** COWLEY *Mistr., Not Fair* 21 My Reason strait did to my Senses shew, That they migh *Elem. Speech* 1 Of the Five Senses, Two are usually and most properly called the Senses of Learr Seeing. **1690** LOCKE *Hum. Und.* iv. xix. §10 How is he prepared easily to swallow, not only agains Evidence of his Senses, the Doctrine of Transubstantiation? **1698** FARQUHAR *Love & Bottle* i. i, I n than one to confirm me of its truth. **1739** HUME *Hum. Nature* ii. i. (1874) i. 336 A, The only defec disproportion'd images of things. **1753** J. COLLIER *Art Torment. Concl.* (1811) 221 With various in offending some or all of the senses! **1835** BECKFORD *Alcobaça & Batalha* 111 My sense of hearing *Anim. Kingd.* (1871) 860 The sense of touch in Mammalia is diffused over the whole surface of th

**b.** Used for: An organ of sense. *Obs.*

**1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 7 Wyssheth that he neuer had had eyes to se..neyther eares t knowen [etc.]. **1538** STARKEY *England* 48 To the hede, wyth the yes, yerys, and other sensys the Eyes, mine Fares, or any Sence.

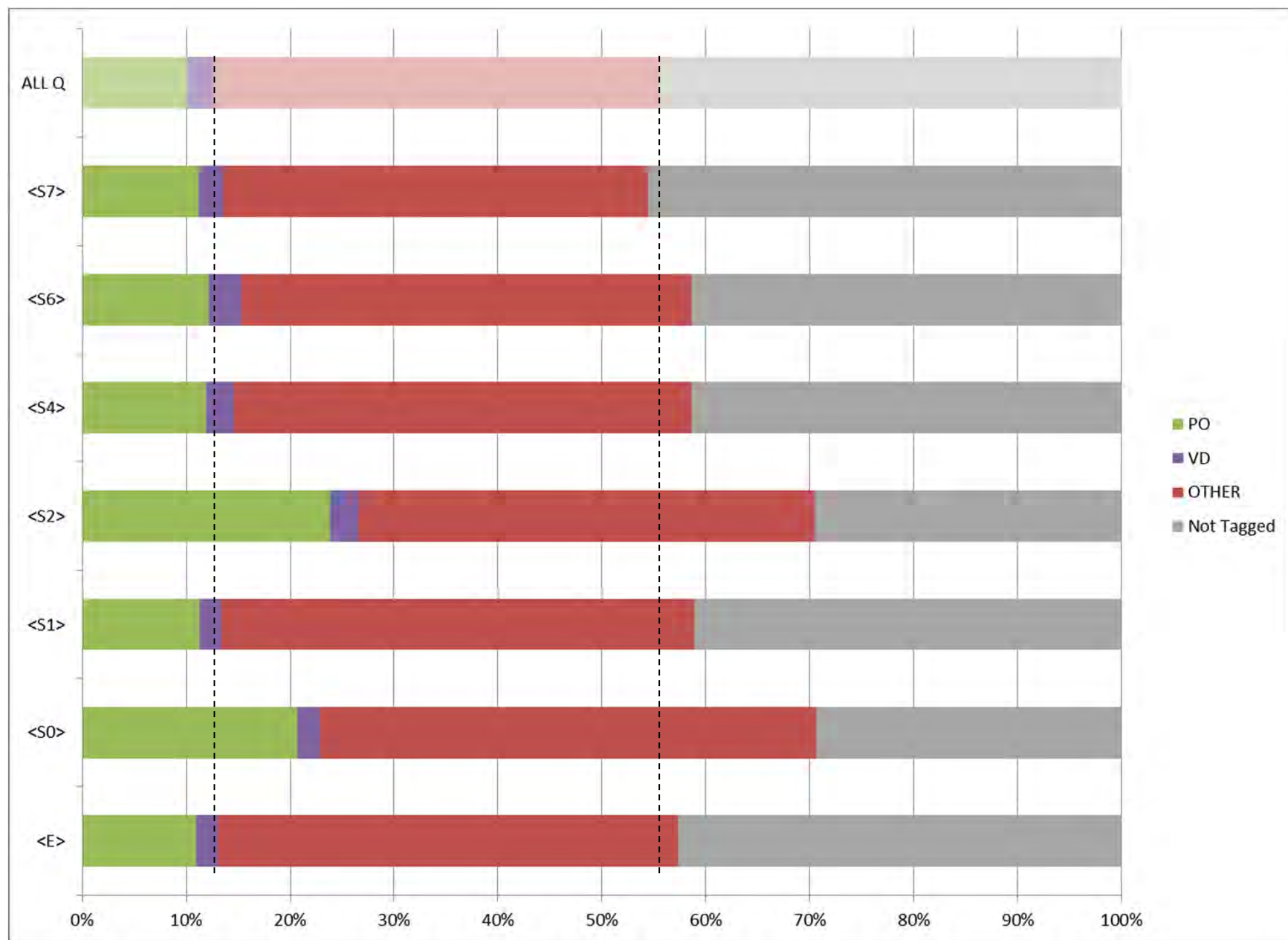
**c. pl.** The faculties of physical perception or sensation as opposed to the higher faculties of intell

**1841** EMERSON *Ess.* vii. *Prudence* ¶2 Prudence is the virtue of the senses. It is the science of app senses is a world of shows. **1865** M. ARNOLD *Ess. in Crit. Ser.* i. vi. (1886) 215 The life of the sens



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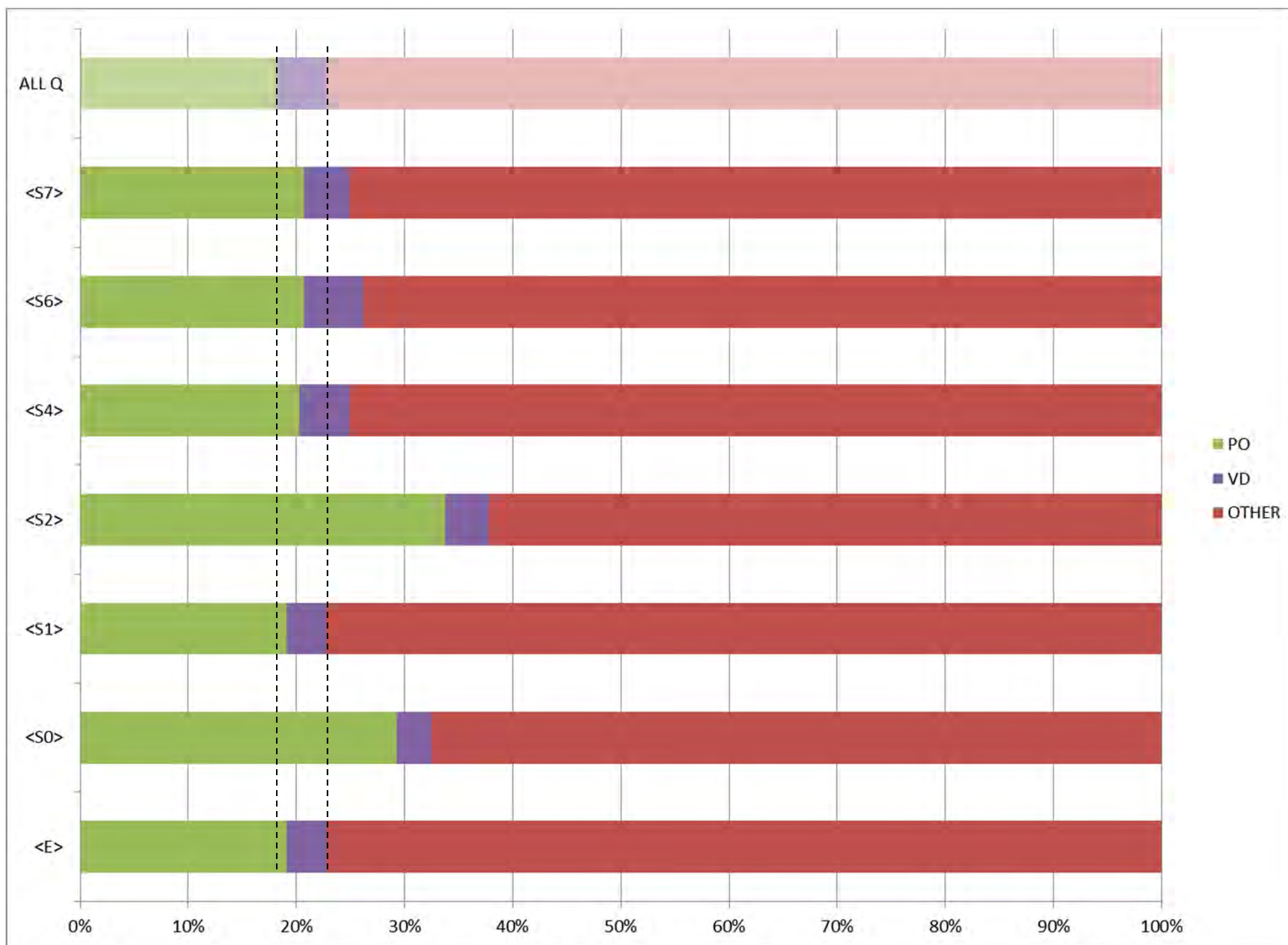
## Genre of First Quotation by Sense Level





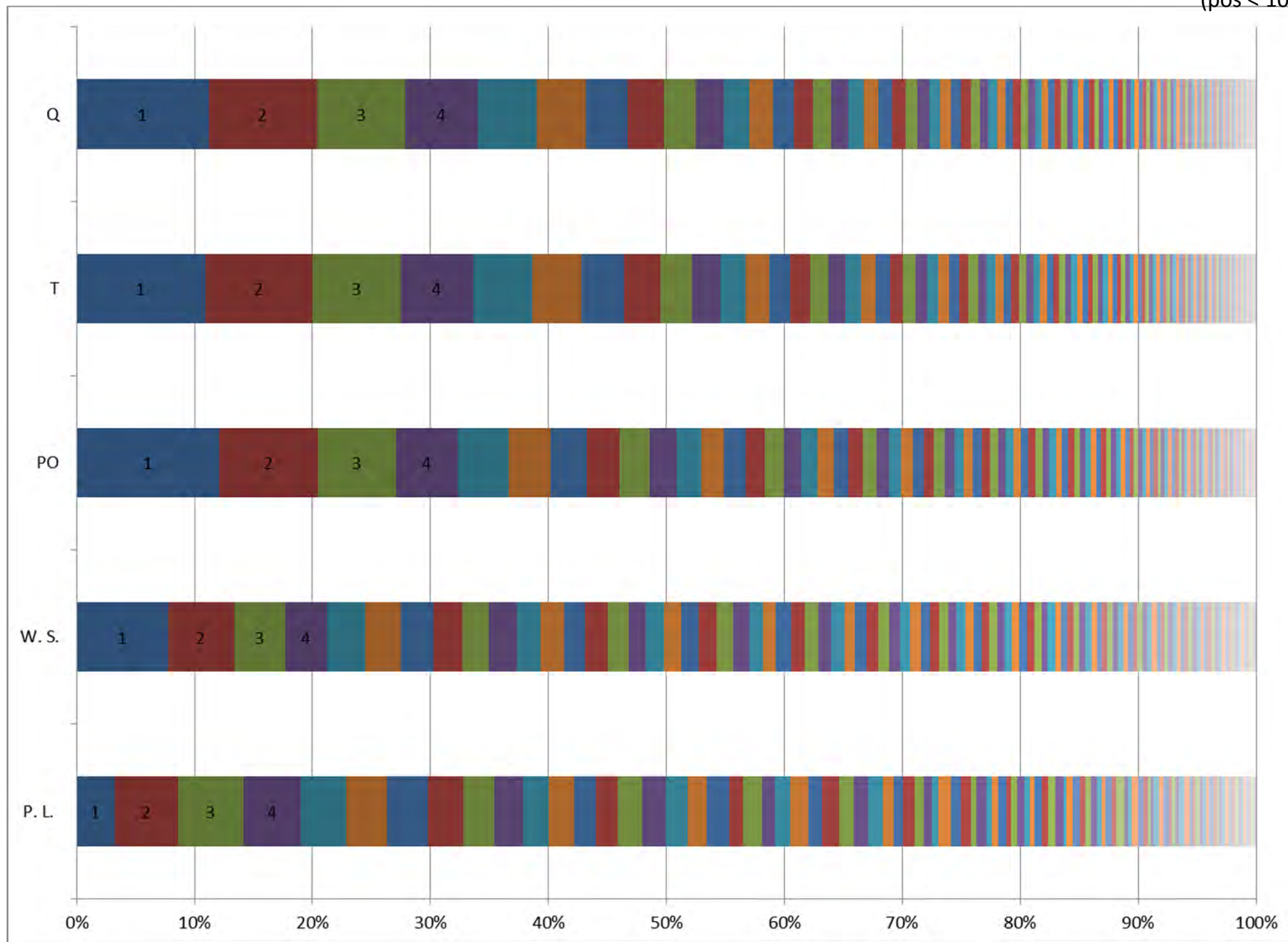
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## Genre of First Quotation by Sense Level



### Distribution of Q-Position within $\langle E \rangle$ range

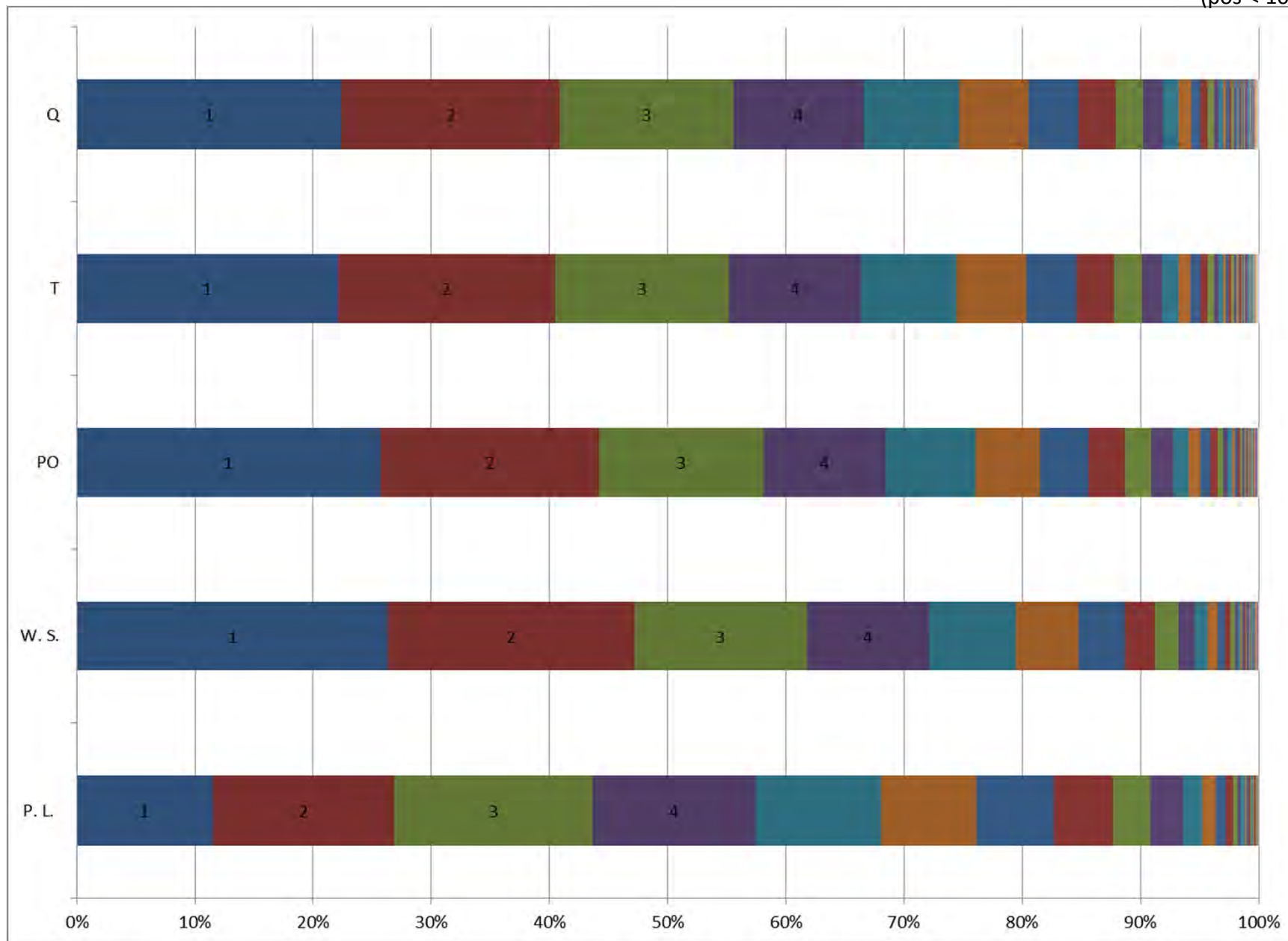
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(pos < 100)
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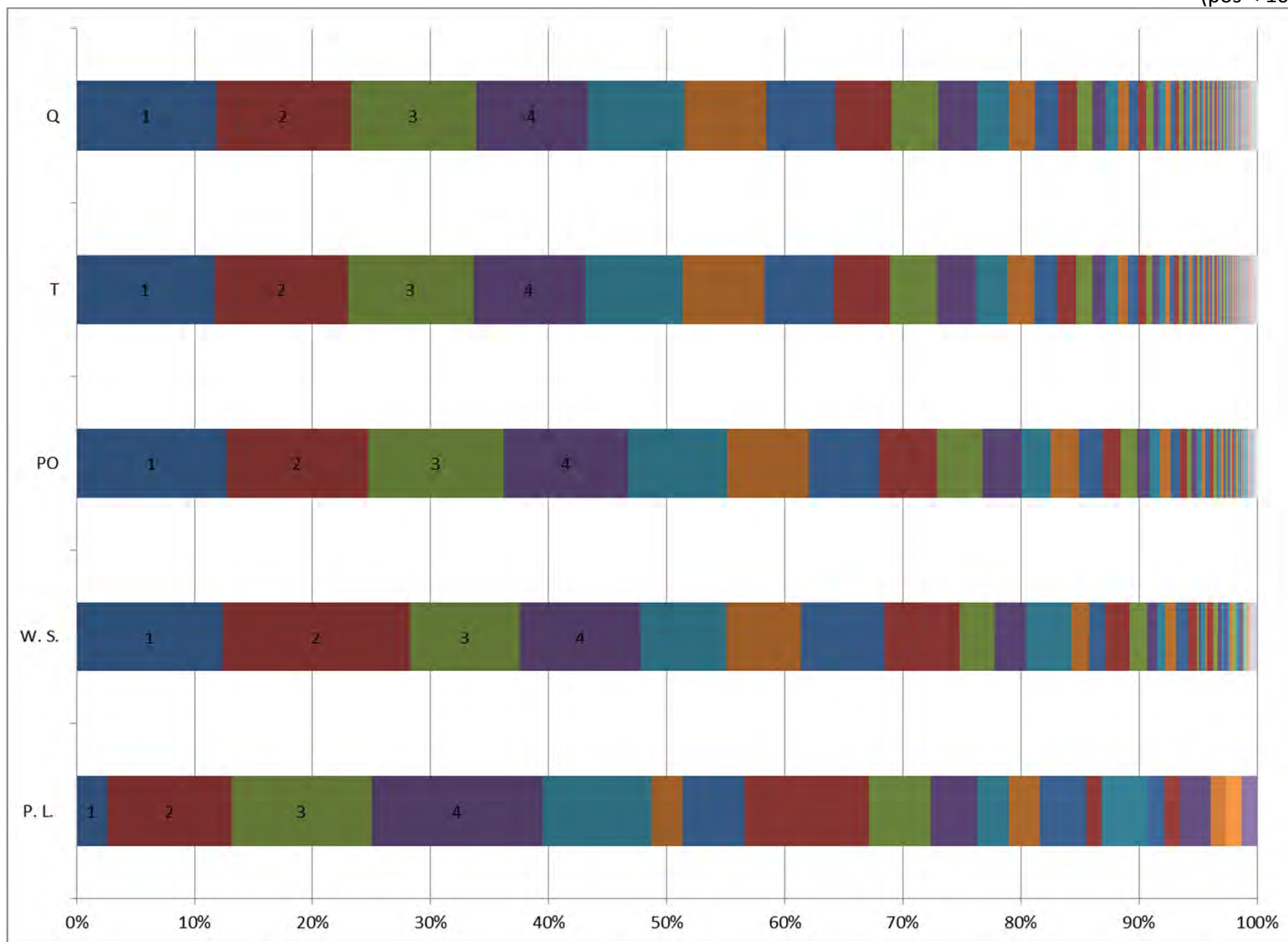
## Distribution of Q-Position within <S6> range

(pos < 100)



### Distribution of Q-Position within <S7> range

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(pos < 100)
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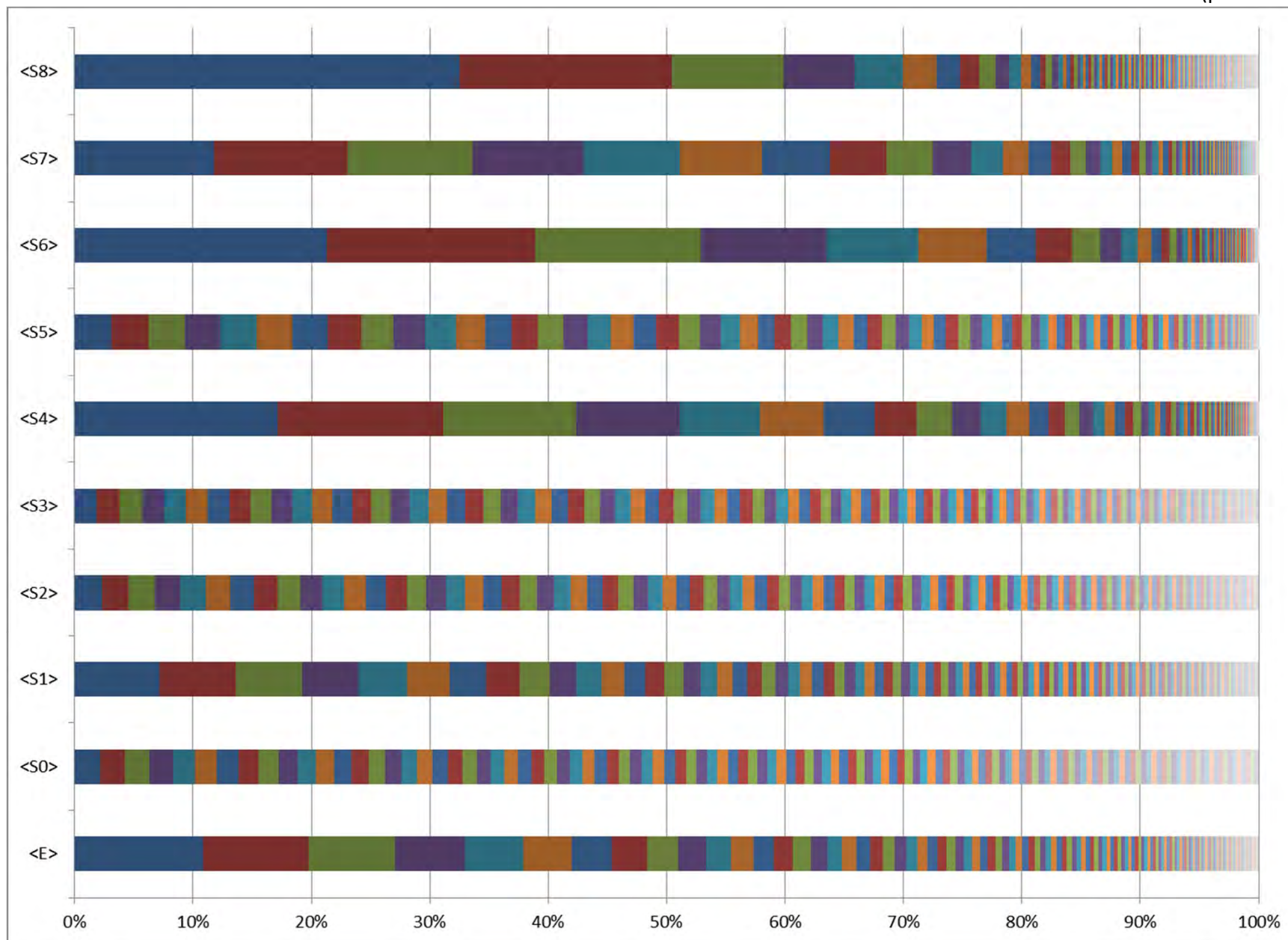




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## Distribution of Q-Position by sense level, All Qs

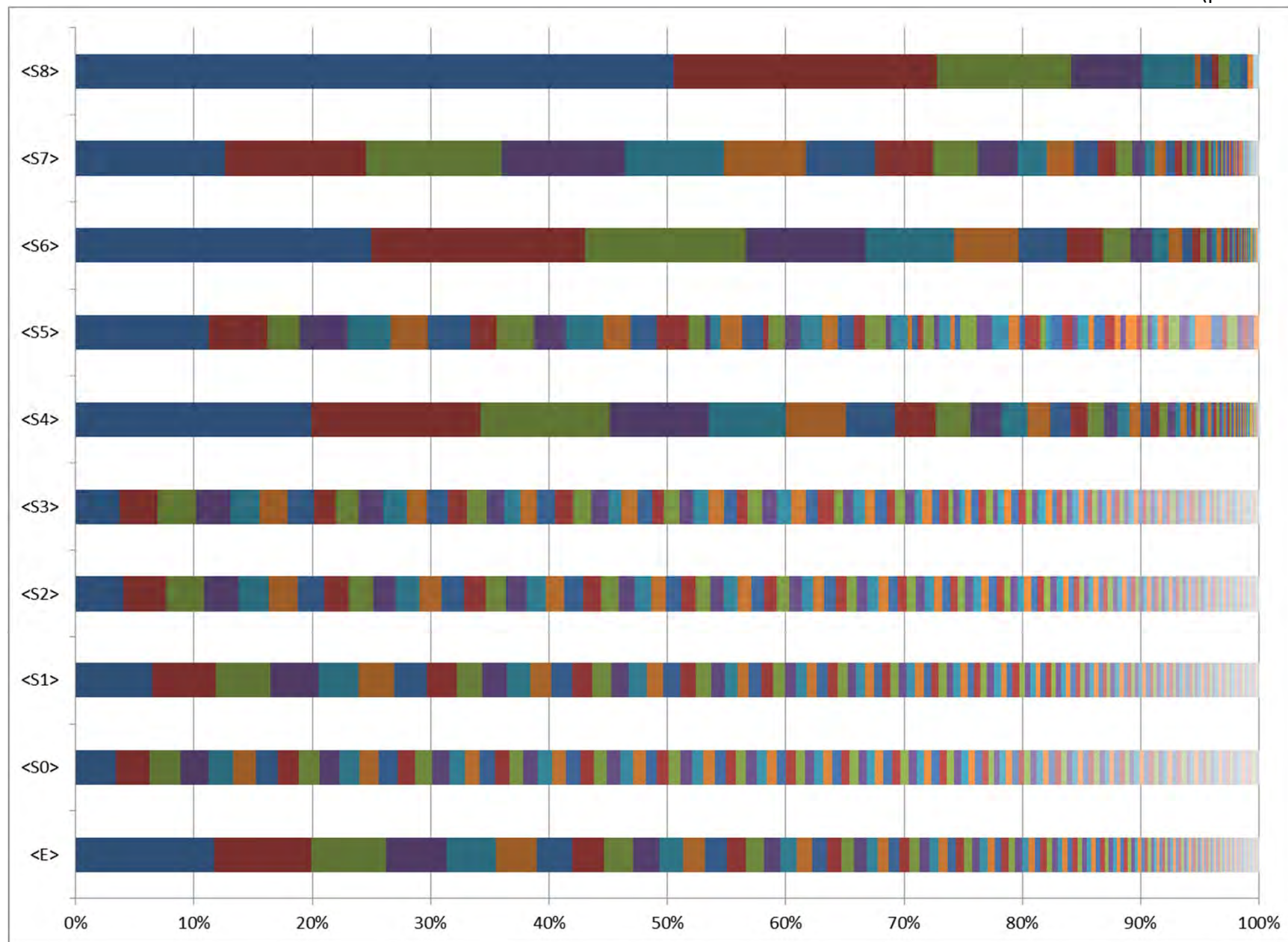
(pos < 124)





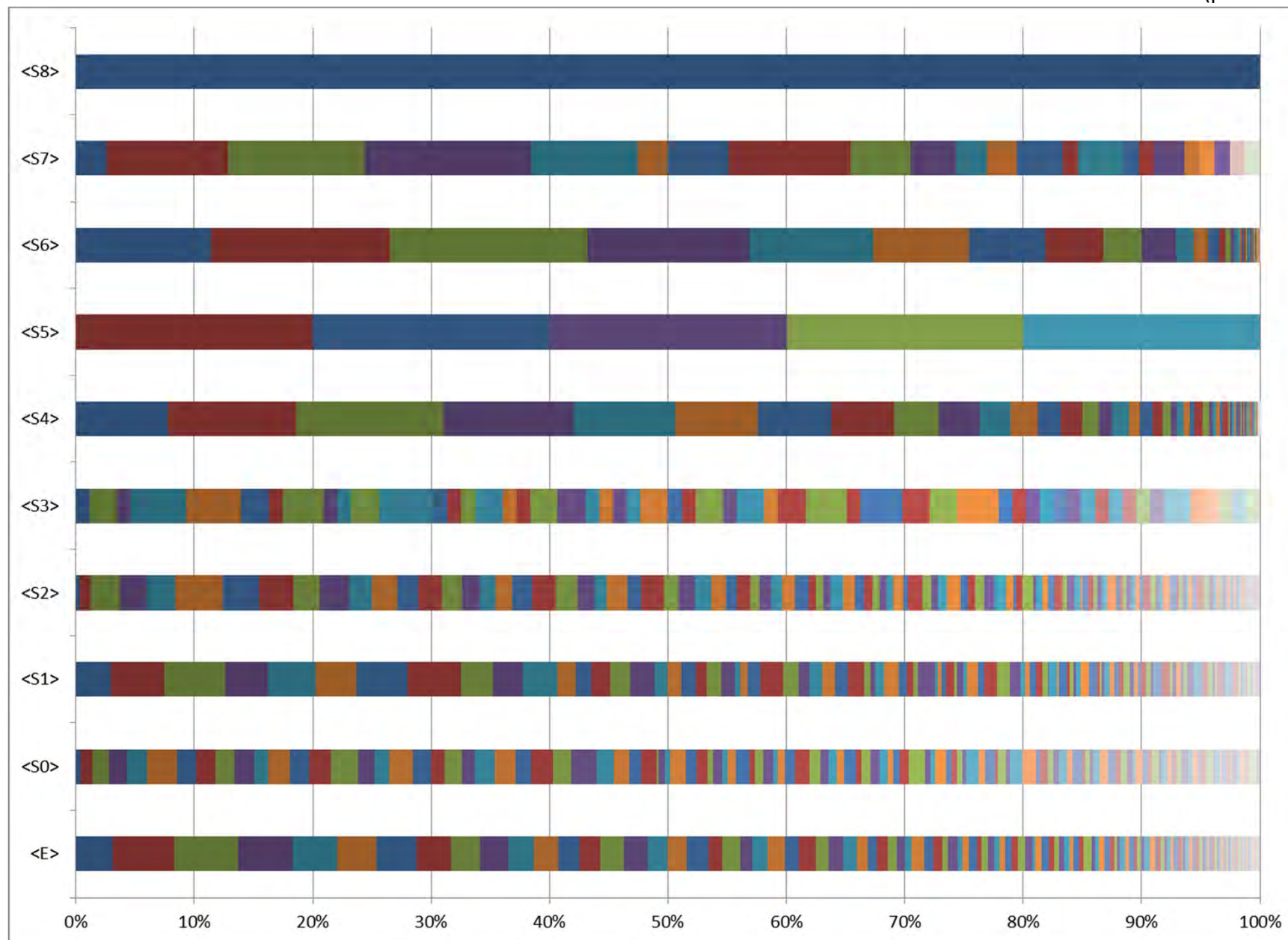
### Distribution of Q-Position by sense level, <G> poetry

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(pos < 124)
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### Distribution of Q-Position by sense level, Par. Lost.

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(pos < 124)
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- 1) Definitions in *OED2* draw significantly on poetic textual evidence, embedding a connotative and metaphorical dimension within what lays claims denotative authority;
- 2) English poetry of the last hundred years contains a philological, etymological, and lexicographical dimension, significantly shaped and informed by the *OED*.

1) Geoffrey Hill – *The Triumph of Love* (1998)

“notably armoured in learning, and often intensely difficult because of its dependence on etymology and allusion” (Mackinnon).

2) Paul Muldoon – *Collected Poems* (2001)

“a post-modern absorption in textuality” (O’Neil)

“riddled with etymological puns, obscure references, shaggy dogs, and half-truths” (J Wilson)

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## How the OED quotation search program works

### a. input poem text

of the Scholastics. What do you mean,  
what have they to do with it, and have I  
studied *The Sceptical Chymist*? Salt, sulphur,  
mercury: more potent by far

### b. prepare text for comp

scholastics mean studied sceptical  
chymist salt sulphur mercury potent

### c. generate n-grams, eg 2-grams:

['mean studied', 'studied Sceptical',  
'Sceptical Chymist', 'Chymist Salt',  
'Salt sulphur', 'sulphur **mercury**',  
'**mercury** potent'...]

### d. for each word, get all OED quote text and prepare as in (b) and (c):

Lookup word: **mercury**

['pardon haue', 'haue spoke', 'spoke tis',  
'tis studied', 'studied duty', 'duty  
ruminated', 'ruminated studied', 'studied  
torments', 'torments Tyrant', 'Tyrant hast',  
'hast studdied', 'studdied countenance',  
'countenance pleasing', 'pleasing  
speeches', 'speeches consolatories' ...]

### d. compare all grams using difflib module

'mean studied' : 'pardon haue' = 0.08695

### e. report all matches above a certain ratio (0.85) and get statistical scores



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I) Geoffrey Hill – *The Triumph of Love* (1998)

Lookup	Poem trigram	OED trigram
striker	divine striker senses	diuine striker sences
mark	removeth neighbour mark	Remoueth neighbours mark
king	Hudson Railway King	Hudson railway king
mercury	Salt sulphur mercury	salt sulphure mercury
tautology	tautology vain repetition	tautology vain repetition

Slides provided for information only. Please contact author with queries for use.

Lookup	Poem trigram	OED trigram
striker	divine striker senses	diuine striker sences

malice; add those who find sincerity  
in heartless weeping. Add the pained,  
painful clowns, brinksmen of perdition.  
Sidney: best realizer and arguer  
of music, that 'divine  
striker upon the senses', steady my  
music to your Augustinian grace-notes,  
with your high craft of fret. I am glad  
to have learned how it goes  
with you and with Italianate-  
Hebraic Milton: your voices pitched exactly —  
somewhere — between *Laus Deo* and defiance.

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striker

✓ PRONUNCIATION ✓ SPELLINGS ✓ ETYMOLOGY ✓ QUOTATION

striker  
striking,  
striking,  
strikingly  
strike  
Strimme  
strim-str  
strincate  
strinc(k)  
strind<sup>1</sup>  
strind<sup>2</sup>  
strind<sup>3</sup>  
strind<sup>4</sup>  
Strindbe  
strindle

(Malone Soc.) One that robbes the mynde twenty tymes worse then any hywaie striker.

2. A person (or animal) that strikes (in various senses of the vb.). **a. gen.**

**1581** SIDNEY *Apol. Poetrie* (Arb.) 50 Musick,..the most diuine striker of the sences. **1596** DALRYMPLE tr. *Leslie's Hist. Scot.* I. 123 Quhen Nout [cattle] fechtis together ane be strukne to deid, na man knaweng the stryker, the beist that is hommil amang thame Judge gilltie of the slachtir. **c 1616** in Sprott *Scott. Liturgies Jas.* VI (1901) 18 That so blessing the hand of Thee the Striker, Thou that humblest, may in Thy own appointed time raise again. **1686** R. BLOME *Gentl. Recr.* II. 278/2 It is a Maxim [in Cock-fighting], That he that is a close sitter, is ever a narrow striker.

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Lookup	Poem trigram	OED trigram
mark	removeth neighbour mark	Remoueth neighbours mark

The whole-keeping of Augustine's City of God  
is our witness; vindicated — even to us —  
in a widow's portion of the Law's  
majesty of surrender. A hundred  
words — or fewer — engrafted by Tyndale's  
unshowy diligence: it is all there  
but we are not all there, read that how you will  
*Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's mark:*  
Mosaic statute, to which Ruskin was steadfast.  
(If Pound had stood so, he might not have foundered.)  
Paul's reinscription of the Kephotic Hymn —  
*God . . . made himself of no reputation . . . took  
the shape of a servant* — is our manumission,

Dictionary

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PRONUNCIATION SPELLINGS ETYMOLOGY QUOTATIONS remou

Frederics..were to have the Mark.

II. An object indicating a boundary, position, etc.

†4. A pillar, post, stone, fence, etc., placed to indicate the position of a boundary; = [LANDMARK](#) *n.* 1.

**c1250** *Gen. & Ex.* 440 Met of corn, and wizte of fe, And merke of felde, first fond he. **c1320** *Sir Tristr.* 2710 Her fader..3af hem londes wide..Markes were set bi side. **c1330** *R. BRUNNE Chron.* (1810) 77 Saynt Cutberte's clerkes..At Geruans set per merkes, a hous þe gan vpspede. **c1440** *Prompt. Parv.* 333/2 Meer, marke be-  
twene ij. londys, meta, meris. **1535** *COVERDALE Deut.* xxvii. 17 Cursed be he, yt remoueth his neighbours mark. **1697** *DRYDEN Virg. Georg.* i. 193 No Fences parted Fields, nor Marks nor Bounds Distinguish'd Acres of litigious Grounds.

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Lookup	Poem trigram	OED trigram
tautology	tautology vain repetition	tautology vain repetition

power of estrangement. Estrangement itself is strange, though less so than the metaphysics of tautology, which is at once *vain repetition* and *the logic of the world* [Wittgenstein]. Some of its moves — I mean tautology's — call to mind chess-moves: moves that are in being before you — even as you — make them. An actual play-through

Augustinian-Pascalian thing about seeking that which is already found. Tautology, for Wittgenstein, manifests the condition of unconditional truth. Mysticism is not affects but grammar. There is nothing mysterious in grammar; it constitutes its own mystery, its *practicum*. Though certain neologisms — Coleridge's 'tautegorical' for example — clown out along the edge,

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Lookup	Poem trigram	OED trigram
tautology	tautology vain repetition	tautology vain repetition

vain repetition

logic of the world

unconditional truth

Wittgenstein , *Tractatus*

4.461 [...]

The tautology has no truth-conditions, for it is

unconditionally true; and the contradiction is on no condition true.

[...]

6.22 The logic of the world, which is shown in tautologies by the propositions of logic, is shown in equations by mathematics

### tautology

**a.** A repetition of the same statement. **b.** The repetition (esp. in the immediate context) of the same word or phrase, or of the same idea or statement in other words: usually as a fault of style.

**1587** FLEMING *Contrn. Holinshed* III. 1533/1 This ambassage is reported in the historie of Scotland, wherevnto (for the auoiding of tautologie) we refer the reader. **a 1653** Gouge *Comm. Heb.* (1655) 99 To shew that there is no tautology, no vain repetition of one and the same thing therein. **1686** GOAD

**f. Mod. Logic.** A compound proposition which is unconditionally true for all the truth-possibilities of its elementary propositions and by virtue of its logical form.

**1919** B. RUSSELL *Introd. Math. Philos.* xviii. 203 The characteristic of logical propositions that we are in search of is the one which was felt..by those who said that it consisted in deducibility from the law of contradiction. This characteristic we may call *tautology*. *Ibid.* 205 The importance of 'tautology' for a definition of mathematics was pointed out to me by..Ludwig Wittgenstein, who was working on the problem. **1922** tr. *Wittgenstein's Tractatus* 97 The tautology..is unconditionally true. **1933** *Mind* XLII. 37 So

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2) Paul Muldoon, *Collected Poems*

Lookup	Poem tri- or 4- gram	OED trigram
satanic	school set properly called	school set properly called
nightingale	voice inconspicuous coloration	voice inconspicuous coloration
timothy	intended favor valuable	intended favor valuable
fluted	fluted cypresses rear living	fluted cypresses rear living
reductio	reductio ad absurdum	reductio ad absurdum

Lookup	Poem tri- or 4- gram	OED trigram
satanic	school set properly called	school set properly called

Muldoon, *Madoc*

*It is now no longer so, and woe to those by whom the offence*

*cometh. The school which they have set up may properly be called the Satanic School; for though their productions breathe the spirit of Belial in their lascivious parts, and the spirit of Moloch in those loathe-some images of atrocities and horror which they delight to represent, they are more especially characterized by a Satanic spirit of pride and audacious impiety, which still betrays the wretched feeling of hopelessness wherewith it is allied. (Southey)*

**3. *Satanic school*:** Southey's designation for Byron, Shelley, and their imitators; subsequently often applied to other writers similarly accused of defiant impiety and delight in the portraiture of lawless passion.

**1821** SOUTHEY *Vis. Judgement* Pref. iii. 21 Men of diseased hearts and depraved imaginations..hating that revealed religion which..they are unable utterly to disbelieve... The school which they have set up may properly be called the Satanic school; for..their productions..are more especially characterized by a Satanic spirit of pride and audacious impiety. **1831**

Southey, *Vis. Judgement* Pref. iii. 21 Men of diseased hearts and depraved imaginations..hating that revealed religion which..they are unable utterly to disbelieve... The school which they have set up may properly be called the Satanic school; for..their productions..are more especially characterized by a Satanic spirit of pride and audacious impiety, which still betrays the wretched feeling of hopelessness wherewith it is allied.

Lookup	Poem tri- or 4- gram	OED trigram
nightingale	voice inconspicuous coloration	voice inconspicuous coloration

Muldoon, "Nightingales"

"In great contrast to the nightingale's preeminent voice is the inconspicuous coloration of its plumage,"  
as Alfred Newton so winningly puts it  
in his *Dictionary of Birds*.

Nightingal, the sweet Harbinger of the Light, is a constant Chearer of these Groves. **1770** GRAY in *Corr.* *Nicholls* (1843) 109 Trees blooming and nightingales all round us. **1821** SHELLEY *Adonais* xvii. 1 The Nightingale Mourns not her mate with such melodious wail. **1840** Penny Cycl. XVI. 230/2 In Ireland the Nightingale seems never to have been heard. **1894** NEWTON *Dict. Birds* 636 In great contrast to the Nightingale's pre-eminent voice is the inconspicuous coloration of its plumage.

b. Applied to other birds, as **Cornish** , **Indian** ,

636

NIGHTINGALE

exercises at all hours of the day and night. The song itself is indescribable, though several attempts from the time of Aristophanes to the present, have been made to express in syllables the sound of its many notes; and its effects on those that hear it depend so much on their personal disposition as to be as varied as are its tones. To some they suggest melancholy; and many poets have discanted on the bird (which they nearly always make of the feminine gender) leaning its breast against a thorn and pouring forth its melody in anguish. It is accordingly to be observed that the cock alone sings, and that there is no reason to suppose that the cause and intent of his Song, unsurpassed though it be, differ in any respect from that of other birds. Sadness, therefore, is certainly the last impelling sentiment that can be properly assigned in this case. In great contrast to the Nightingale's pre-eminent voice is the inconspicuous coloration of its plumage, which is alike in both sexes, and is of a reddish-brown above and dull greyish-white beneath the breast.

For contact author with queries for use.



Lookup	Poem tri- or 4- gram	OED trigram
timothy	intended favor valuable	intended favor valuable

Muldoon, THIRD EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY

*You made some mistake when you intended to favor me with some of the new valuable grass seed ... for what you gave me ... proves mere timothy.*

—A letter from Benjamin Franklin to Jared Eliot, July 16, 1747

**You made some mistake when you intended to favor me with some of the new valuable grass seed (I think you called it herd-seed), for what you gave me is grown up, and proves mere timothy ; so I suppose you took it out of a wrong paper or parcel.**

Wks of Benjamin Franklin, vol VI (1840)

**timothy**  
(ˈtɪməθi)

[A C. name, ad. L. *Timotheus*, Gr. Τιμόθεος (= 'honouring')]

**1.** Short for **TIMOTHY**.

**1747** B. FRANKLIN *Let. Wks.* 187 II. 77 You made some mistake when you intended to favor me with some of the new valuable grass seed..for what you gave me..proves mere timothy. **1840** J. BUEL *Farmer's Comp.* 225 *Timothy*, better known in the east as *herd-grass*, and in Europe as meadow cat's-tail..is the general forage grass of the northern States. **1887**



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