

A quantitative study of the writing style in the novels of Ogai Mori using an examination of word frequency

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As the use of digitized information for the humanities has become increasingly popular, the number of *stylometric* studies, quantitative analyses of literature, has been increasing. In *stylometrics*, it is assumed that an author's personality is reflected in his or her writing style and that this relationship can be determined empirically.

This study investigates the chronological changes of the writing style in the literary works of Ogai Mori. Mori is one of the most critically acclaimed novelists of modern Japan, and his writings are a common subject of Japanese literary research. However, little quantitative research on Mori has been conducted. Therefore, the following study was undertaken to examine his writing style through *stylometrics*. The relative frequency of function words in his 47 novels was used as the point of analysis. The findings reveal that a chronological change in the occurrence of postpositional particles and auxiliary verbs is present in the body of his work.