

# The Sherlock Holmes Series

- Arthur Conan Doyle's dwindling interest in Sherlock Holmes.
- Is his growing demotivation reflected by a decline in his quality of writing?

## Motivation

Arthur Conan Doyle who became famous for bringing Sherlock Holmes to life came to despise him in the end.

He was at some point so fed up with writing crime fiction and writing about Sherlock that he even killed him to end the storyline and to be done with Mr. Homes.

Doyle only revived him because of public demand.

## Research Question

Did this dwindling interest in and even negative emotions towards Sherlock Holmes caused a decline in his writing quality ???

## Methods

To get clear results, I focused on comparable works and chose the Sherlock Holmes novels. "A Study in Scarlet" (1887), "The Sign of the Four" (1890), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1901), and "The Valley of Fear" (1915). These novels were analyzed on R in terms of their linguistic features to determine if a decline in his quality of writing is visible.

## Analysis

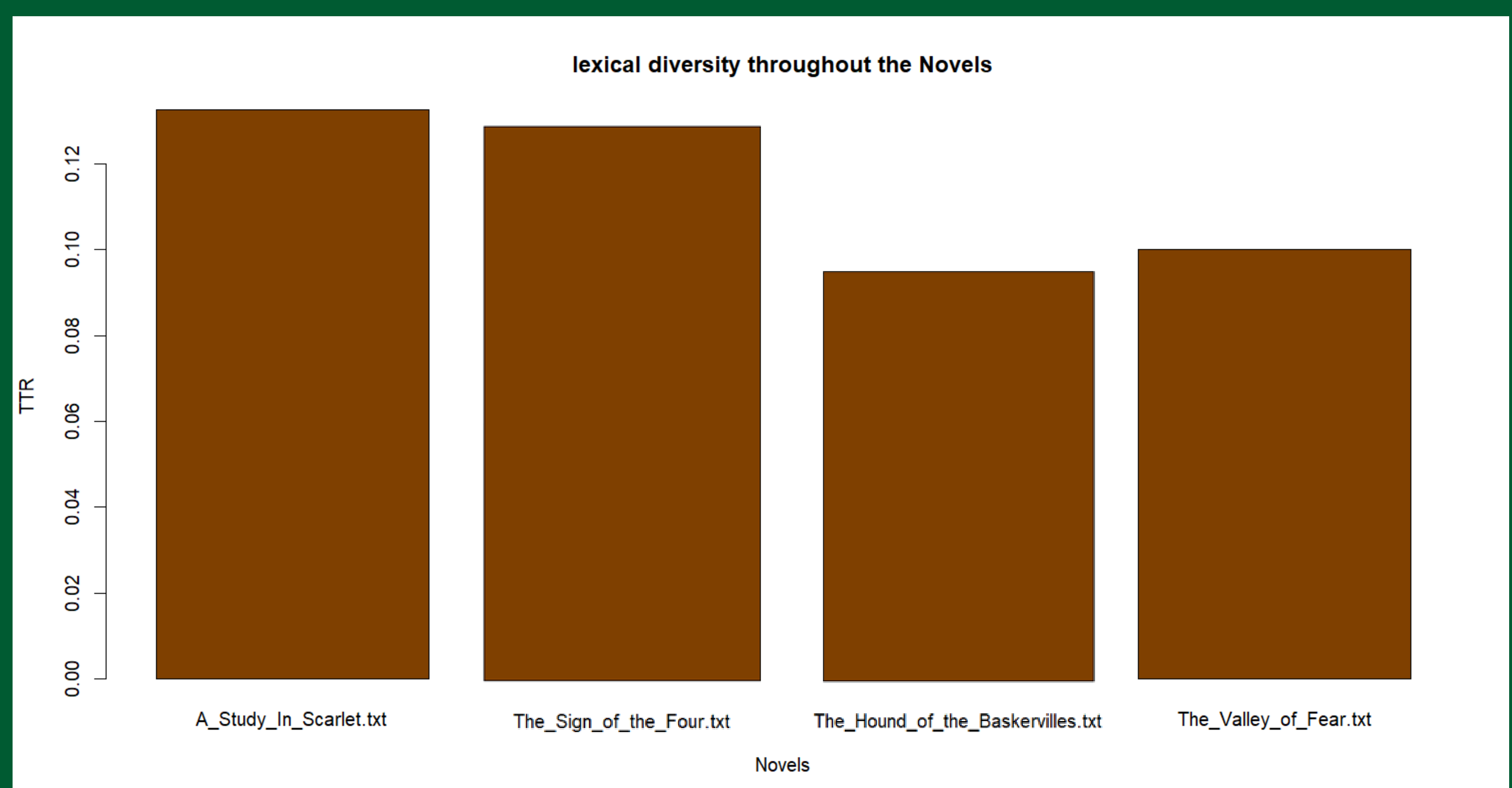
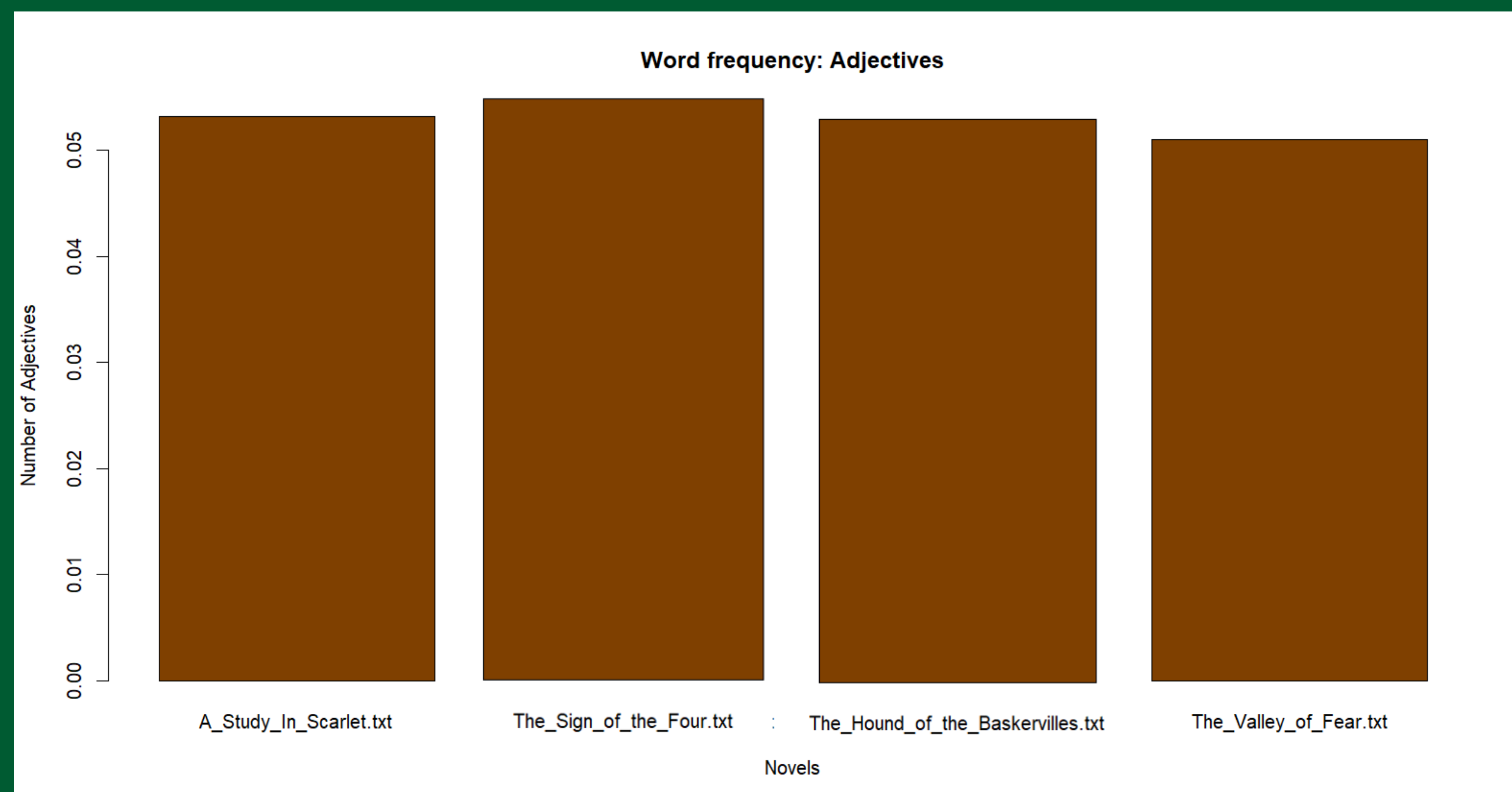
I used the "udpipe-model" to help determine the changes throughout the novels concerning...

- Frequency of words (Adj.)
- Lexical diversity

But How Can Writing Quality be Determined



## Results



## Conclusion

A straight decline in the lexical diversity and only a slight decline in Adjectives throughout the novels, means a slight decline in quality. The results may also allude to the fact that Doyle killed Sherlock between the second and the third novel, and therefore was even less motivated after being forced by public demand to resurrect Sherlock Holmes.

### Sources

Crossley, S.A. (2020). Linguistic features in writing quality and development: An overview. *Journal of Writing Research*, 11(3), 415-443. <https://doi.org/10.17239/jowr-2020.11.03.01>  
Danielle S. McNamara, Scott A. Crossley, and Philip M. McCarthy: *Linguistic Features of Writing Quality*. SAGE Publications, 2010. p.58-86. ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240711363\\_Linguistic\\_Features\\_of\\_Writing\\_Quality](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240711363_Linguistic_Features_of_Writing_Quality))