They Lie In Wait To Deceive

by Robert L. & Rosemary Brown

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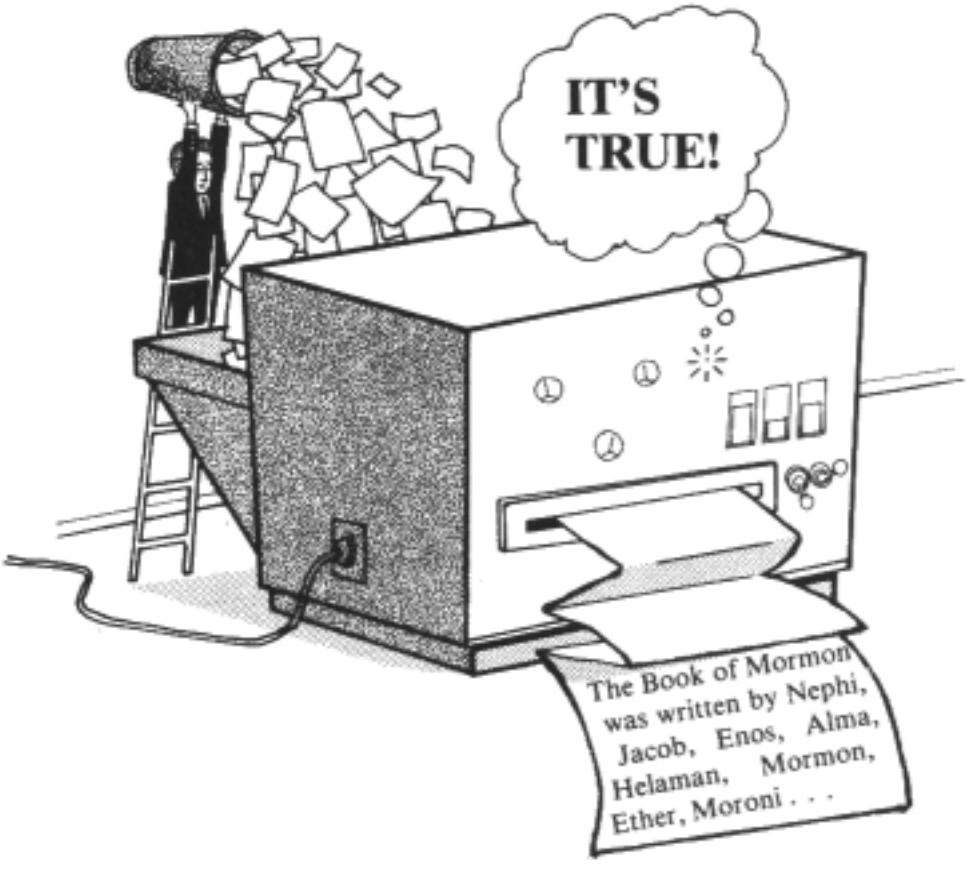
CHAPTER NINE

COMPUTER DETECTION OF LITERARY FRAUD

BY DR. ROBERT L. HAMSON



OBJECTIVES

- To prove that Stylometry can effectively distinguish among the writing of different authors by looking at unconscious word habits which consistently appear in a writer's work.
- To prove that Stylometry has been used in the past to identify ghostwriters. As an example, using Stylometry, the FEDERALIST PAPERS were assigned to James Madison.
- To prove that the word print of Solomon Spaulding's MANUSCRIPT FOUND is different from any wordprint found in the Book of Mormon.
- To prove that the wordprint of Ethan Allen's VIEWS OF THE HEBREWS is different from any wordprint found in the Book of Mormon.
- To prove that computer wordprint analysis distinguishes as many as 20 different authors of the Book of Mormon all of which have wordprints alien to a group of known nineteenth century authors.
- To prove that the wordprint of Joseph Smith is different than any of the authors of the Book of Mormon. (He translated the Book of Mormon, he didn't write it.)

CHAPTER NINE
COMPUTER DETECTION OF LITERARY FRAUD
BY DR. ROBERT L. HAMSON

INTRODUCTION

One of the subtleties a reader may notice when reading the Book of Mormon is that there is a different style of writing with each author. More than 20 different authors can be identified during the 1000+ year history of the Book of Mormon between about 600 B.C. and 425 A.D. Researchers have made measurements showing that an author's writing style is identifiable, similar to a fingerprint, through a new science called Stylometry. This may have far reaching implications in the search for physical evidence of the ancient authorship of the Book of Mormon. Robert L. Hamson has done a lot of research in this field. For this reason, the author asked Dr. Hamson to write this chapter and introduce to you the exciting science of Stylometry. As this topic is outside our field of knowledge and experience, we present it to you as an interesting discovery and ask our readers to form their own opinions.

A quote of the first page of his book, THE SIGNATURE OF GOD, will give a very simple insight into the objective of Stylometry — to discover styles of writing that are peculiar to certain authors.

> "The Sermon on the Mount of Jesus begins at Matthew 5:3. We counted off a block of 500 words in red print. Jesus used the word AND 18 times in that block of 500 words.
>
> Generally these quotations of Jesus are found mixed within the historical narrative of Matthew. Samples of this narrative were examined beginning at Matthew 13:1. We defined a block of 500 words of black print omitting all red parts spoken by Jesus. In this block, 50 occurrences of AND were counted.
>
> Thus, Jesus used AND 18 times while Matthew used it 50 times. We continued counting in yet another adjacent block of 500 words and found 20 occurrences of AND. Can you tell if this "unknown" sample is a quote from Jesus or from the narrative of Matthew?
>
> You should suspect that the unknown sample is from Jesus since 20 is closer to the 18 of Jesus rather than the 50 of Matthew. Let us gather some more samples to see if they can be separated just as easily.
>
> Five more blocks of 500 words each in the Gospel of Matthew have frequencies of AND as follows: 55, 60, 17, 51, and 18. Can you easily classify these "unknowns" as being the characteristic pattern of Jesus or of Matthew?
>
> To check your work, let us report that the first four blocks of 500 words each in the red print of Jesus have occurrences of AND equal to 18, 20, 17, and 18. For the narrative of Matthew, the frequencies of AND are 50, 55, 60, and 51. Not one error in classification occurs with this data on Jesus and Matthew. Not all authors are so easily distinguished. The characteristics of Jesus are clearly alien to the word habits of Matthew."

Dr. Hamson continues throughout his book to explain several techniques for separating the writing styles of different authors. Our editor really got excited about Stylometry and performed several 3-word frequency analyses on her own writings. She discovered that her writings were typical of 19th-20th century authors and were quite alien from the word prints of any of the Book of Mormon authors.

The advent of the computer has made sophisticated statistical analyses and comparisons available, such as multivariate analysis of variance, that makes accurate distinctions between authors using 9, 20, and 80-word frequency comparisons. It is an interesting study and, for the most part, can be easily understood. If you wish, you may study Stylometry in depth by reading the references in the bibliography given at the end of this chapter.

The author of this chapter attended California Institute of Technology, Brigham Young University, and Ohio State University where he received his B.E.S., M.Sc., and Ph.D. degrees. He is currently working at General Dynamics on computer simulations of the cruise missile.

Dr. Hamson has an extensive system of computer programs created for the purpose of physically measuring literature to identify authorship, and fraud. His computer files contain over 50 samples of authors totaling over 100,000 words in English and 8,000 words in German.

Dr. Hamson's research has centered on the Bible where he was the first to notice and publish a most interesting and generally unexpected discovery: Computer word counts reveal that Christ is a distinct New Testament author who is very different from the narration of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This wordprint of Christ was then compared with alleged modern revelations of Ellen White, David Mason, Joseph Smith, Jr., and Joseph Smith III, to separate out the false prophets. This research is published in his book: THE SIGNATURE OF GOD distributed by Sandpiper Press, P.O. Box 128, Solana Beach, CA 92075 for $8.95.

Dr. Hamson's computer programs for word frequency spectrum analysis were all coded by David M. Hanson. David has received his Associate of Arts degree in computers, has lived in Austria for two years, speaks fluent German, and has guided the research done in German.

Some major questions considered in this volume of THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE have to do with authorship and fraud in literature. In this chapter, computer word-frequency analysis will be used to answer these questions by physical measurements which are without any bias. For the most part, the data for this analysis has been precisely fixed by the printing press for over a hundred years. Thus, the same word counts that we get today could have been measured a hundred years ago and may be observed to be the same a hundred years in the future. Not many areas of science have a data base as stable as this.

By spectrum analysis, or more precisely, word-frequency analysis, we will examine the question as to who actually composed the Book of Mormon. We will compare the Book of Mormon style to the style of several suggested nineteenth century candidate authors.

Within this general analysis, we will specifically test to see if Solomon Spaulding wrote I Nephi 4:20 through 12:8 (the writings of the unidentified scribe), as some have speculated is the case. We will make measurements to see if Views of the Hebrews resembles any part of the Book of Mormon or, instead, if it only fits nicely among nineteenth century writing habits.

First, we will give a brief overview of the history of counting physical elements within a text to identify authors. Secondly, we will review the difficulty of ghostwriting. Finally, we will make physical measurements to examine the question, Who really composed the Book of Mormon?

THE HISTORY OF AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

Stylometry is the empirical science of measuring the features of literature by counting physical elements within a text. The interesting history of this technique is beyond the scope of this chapter. Hundreds of writers and scientists have contributed to this development. We will only give a brief overview here.

AUGUSTUS DE MORGAN PROPOSED STYLOMETRY IN 1851

According to Andrew Q. Morton, LITERARY DETECTION, New York: Charles Scriber's Sons, 1979, the oldest reference to frequency analysis to determine authorship is a letter written in 1851. Augustus de Morgan, a mathematics professor in London, wrote to a friend at Cambridge suggesting the measurement of word length, using the letter as a unit, as a means of determining the authorship of the Pauline epistles. His concept contained the basic principles used today in frequency analysis: describing and using samples, ignoring the meaning of words, and counting the number of times features occur.

A copy of this letter started T.C. Mendenhall on two papers (1887 and 1901) of Shakespeare authorship. Mendenhall counted the number of 2-, 3-, and 4-letter words within the text of Shakespeare, Bacon, J.S. Mill, and Marlowe. He found that Shakespeare used a preponderance of 4-letter words, Bacon 3-letter words, Mill 2-letter words, and Marlowe 4-letter words.

G.K. ZIPF USED WORD FREQUENCY PROFILES IN 1939

"Donald C. Thompson, Writer's Cramp Research, the *San Diego Union,* July 12, 1980, pp. B-10, reports his recollection as a graduate student: "Word frequency as a test of authorship was postulated by Professor Zipf of Harvard almost 50 years ago. He plotted the frequency of words used by an author in a simple work on a logarithmic graph. The resultant curve was the author's profile, which remained consistent in different works and in different periods of his career. And one author's profile differed from that of all other authors. The word frequency profile was as distinctive as fingerprints. The Zipf

method was tested and proved for works in Latin, German, and other languages, as well as English."

"In 1939, another graduate student and I applied it to the poems of Cynewulf in Anglo Saxon, for a course paper. Our profiles confirmed the findings of earlier scholarship — but made not a ripple in the academic waters. We had no computer in 1939. Counting by hand, we got writer's cramp while we filled a dozen shoe boxes with index cards cut in half, each with a single word used by Cynewulf."

MOSTELLER IN 1964 USED WORD FREQUENCY STATISTICS

The task was to discover the ghostwriter(s) of twelve Federalist Papers. After extensive effort, trying many different features, Frederick Mosteller of Mosteller, Frederick, and Wallace, David L., INFERENCE AND DISPUTED AUTHORSHIP: THE FEDERALISTS, Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1964, concludes on page 77, "So in the end, the high-frequency words outshone all the marker words." Successful features are high-frequency noncontextual words. Poor features were contextual words, words with assigned grammatical use, pronouns, auxiliary verb forms, phrases, low-frequency words having statistical insignificance, word pairs, emotional words, author's enumeration methods, and word length in letters.

Mosteller assigns all twelve disputed papers to Madison. On page 264, he reports: "The main study shows stable discrimination for essays on various subjects even with the writing spread over a quarter of a century."

MORTON USED STYLOMETRY IN MANY DIVERSE CASES IN 1979

Andrew Q. Morton applied cumulative sum charts made by computer, word pairs, sentence length, word positions within sentences, as well as word frequency. In Greek, positional stylometry identifies the range of movement. For English, immediate context counting adjacent words is successful. He concludes that high frequency words are best. Poor keys include rare words (context vocabulary), nouns, semitisms, and syllables. Morton gives a simple introduction to the statistics of stylometry.

LARSEN USED DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS AND MANOVA IN 1980

Building upon the best of Mosteller, Wayne A. Larsen of Larsen, Wayne A., Rencher, Alvin C., and Layton, Tim, WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON, an Analysis of Wordprints. *Brigham Young University Studies,* Vol. 20, No. 3, Spring 1980, pp. 225-251, uses mainly high frequency non-contextual words. He adds multivariate analysis of variance, cluster analysis, and discriminant analysis. Details of this Larsen study of the Book of Mormon will be

given later in this chapter.

GHOSTWRITERS ARE ALWAYS DETECTED

We are not aware of any case where a ghostwriter has fooled a computer wordprint. A sampling of the literature shows that all efforts to determine if an imitator has written a text or if the expected author has written it have come up with clear, definitive results.

We have reviewed potential authors or cases. Some were grouped together under one study, others were separate analyses on one authorship problem. In about half of the cases, a ghostwriter was discovered or determined to have written the text. In other cases, no ghostwriter was found to be responsible. In all cases, the date was adequate to give clear results and in some cases incredibly definitive results.

WHY IS GHOSTWRITING SO HARD?

Someone may wish to know why imitators are so easily discovered. Why aren't ghostwriters successful at fooling a wordprint analysis? Often the question "why" sets us outside the rock of empirical research into the land of speculation, hypothesis, or theory. The many hundreds of thousands of text words analyzed by wordprint concepts prove that authors use identifiable speaking and writing habits with measured regularity. Why do they?

Andrew Q. Morton, on page 16, suggests that "What the patterns of occurrence of words, as distinct from the words themselves which make up the patterns, are likely to illustrate is the way in which the brain stores and retrieves words." He continues on page 18,"All we are doing is using words as markers in a stream of information." Morton feels that word use habits are a very primitive characteristic in our brain.

Morton studied novels written by Sir Walter Scott from 1816 to 1831. During this period, Scott suffered five strokes. Nevertheless, Morton found no statistically significant differences between an early work CASTLE DANGEROUS and a late work THE ANTIQUARY. From page 142 we find, "Considering the state of Scott's health and the brain damage suffered in a series of strokes, this is remarkable evidence for the stability of those habits . . . A medical opinion . . . a series of strokes such as those suffered by Scott are always evidence of a general deterioration (of the brain). Anything unchanged by them (the strokes) must be primitive."

Ghostwriters may have trouble at disguise because they control and imitate only the most visible habits that they subjectively observe. In our word frequency analysis "We look then for what is frequent but largely unnoticed, the quick little choices that confront an author in nearly every sentence. Such choices become

habits, so the small details flow virtually without conscious effort (Larsen, page 226)." Others suspect that the conscious features of style can be imitated, but the unconscious and subconscious features surely cannot, and a test of authorship, if it is to be reliable, must be built on noncontextual high frequency words.

In an analysis of Shakespeare, computer analysis finds the words were Shakespeare's *The San Diego Union,* July 7, 1980, pp. A-7 (a report on research of Thomas Merriam). *The San Diego Union* reports that "the computer program can distinguish among the writing of different authors by looking at unconscious 'word habits' which consistently appear in a writer's work but reportedly cannot successfully be copied by imitators or forgers."

To really fake a wordprint, the ghostwriter must match all word frequencies because he would never know on which key word he will be judged (Mosteller, page 264). For a mathematically unaided human being, this is not just difficult, it is virtually impossible.

WE NOW SUMMARIZE THE LITERATURE ON GHOSTWRITERS

Donald C. Thompson in 1939 analyzed the POEMS OF CYNEWULF. His word frequency profiles confirmed earlier studies. Thus no ghostwriter was found.

Frederick Mosteller in 1964 examined the FEDERALISTS PAPERS. These letters were ghostwritten and the problem was to assign Alexander Hamilton or James Madison as author of each of the twelve disputed letters. Both men had similar styles, but the comprehensive statistical work was equal to the task, Madison was found to be the author of all twelve, with confidences computed from 200 to one to over a million to one.

Lamar L. Adams and Alvin C. Rencher, A COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF THE ISAIAH AUTHORSHIP PROBLEM, *BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDIES,* Vol. 15, No. 1, Autumn 1974, pp. 95-102, published on the Unity of Isaiah. One or more ghostwriters had been suggested. Adams compared Hebrew word frequencies of the "two Isaiahs" with eleven Old Testament control texts. The two Isaiahs were more similar to each other than to any of the eleven texts; the Isaiahs had several unique marker elements that were not found at all in the eleven; and, as chance would have it, the internal consistency of Isaiah was greater than any of the eleven control texts. Thus, no ghostwriter was found.

Andrew Q. Morton in 1978 exposed ghostwriters for Jane Austen, Paul in the Bible, and Sherlock Holmes. Jane Austen died on July 18, 1817, leaving a novel, SANDITION, partially completed. "A highly literate lady" and student of Austen completed this novel using Austen's outline, beginning, and by trying to imitate her style. Subjectively, certain visible marks of Austen's work were copied very well, but the salient measurable features left the imitation very visible to the

computer. The ghostwriter was easily detected.

Morton's study of Paul's letters shows that, except for Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, and Galatians, a ghostwriter must have contributed.

Austin Mitchelson and Nichlas Utechin collaborated to copy the original style of the Sherlock Holmes tales. Morton, in a study of THE EARTHQUAKE MACHINE and HELLBIRDS, could easily identify the forgery and tell which parts were written by Mitchelson in each book and which parts were by Utechin. Again, Morton concludes that even clever imitators cannot reproduce those elements of style that can be counted, nor can they suppress their own identifying habits.

Wayne A. Larsen in 1980 Compares the Book of Mormon to Six Possible Ghostwriters. Six accused ghostwriters were acquitted when their habits were found to be alien to all wordprints in the Book of Mormon. See the chart on p. 325.

Thomas Merrian in 1980 Assigns Two Plays to Shakespeare. THE BOOKE OF SIR THOMAS MORE and TITUS ANDRONICUS, once thought to be the work (at least in part) of Anthony Munday and John Peele, respectively, were totally assigned to William Shakespeare, a potential ghostwriter, as the real author.

Robert L. Hamson in 1982 Found Ghostwriters of Revelation using the Bible as a standard. Word frequency analysis examined five samples of alleged revelation from Christ found outside of the Bible. All failed to match the wordprint of Christ, except one.

WHO COMPOSED THE BOOK OF MORMON?

In 1830, Joseph Smith published the Book of Mormon. Joseph said he translated it from gold plates that were preserved for centuries buried in the ground. He claimed the book was written by many ancient authors who were descendants of Joseph, a son of Israel, in the Bible. These ancients traveled to the American Continent by ship from the land of Jerusalem. The man Mormon was one of the last historians who abridged the many records into the book named after himself.

Most of the history in the Book of Mormon takes place on the American Continent between 600 B.C. and 421 A.D. Thus, this book is a history of some of the American Indians. It describes their wars, assassinations, draft dodgers, religions, mafia, CIA, and the rise and reasons for the fall of this ancient American empire.

Many people were very willing to relieve Joseph Smith of his gold plates. At-

tempted robbery and theft were frequent. However, not many were willing to believe that Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon from those same gold plates.

Yet there did and does exist a book of some 260,000 words. And just as the existence of a bird nest proves the existence of one or more nest builders, so this book proves the existence of one or more authors. Who were they?

A NINETEENTH CENTURY PROBLEM

One of the major questions thus raised was: Who really wrote the Book of Mormon? Of course there were and are two points of view. The position of the Mormon Church on this has been consistent for 150 years: the Book of Mormon was not written by any nineteenth century person. Instead, it was written by dozens of ancient historians who lived on the American Continent. THUS, THE BOOK AND ITS AUTHORS WERE DECLARED BY THE MORMON CHURCH TO BE ALIEN TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY WHERE IT WAS PUBLISHED IN 1830.

On the other hand, for that same 150 years, critics of the Book of Mormon have assigned authorship to the nearest visible living body. Thus, it has been proposed that Joseph Smith, one of his associates, or some nineteenth century contemporary must have written the book. The solution to this controversy should be a cinch for a modern computer word-frequency analysis. But we had to wait almost 150 years before the computer tools could economically validate the wordprint science.

A TWENTIETH CENTURY SOLUTION

It was about 149 years after publication of the Book of Mormon that a major wordprint analysis was announced. In *The New Era* of November 1979, a youth magazine of the Mormon Church, I read my first report. A second article appeared in *Brigham Young University Today,* also of November 1979. More details were published in the Spring 1980 issue of *BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY STUDIES.*

This work was done by professors in the department of statistics at BYU, Wayne A. Larsen and Alvin C. Rencher, with programming assistance from Tim Layton, a student. The Larsen research is not a sampling of a few texts. It is a major multiple analysis of about 250,000 words that includes all authors identified within the Book of Mormon where there existed enough words (about 1000 or more) to form a reliable wordprint. Also, samples were obtained of Joseph Smith, Oliver Çowdery, and their associates for comparison with the Book of Mormon patterns.

Larsen used many different mathematical tools. The best results of each tool individually and the combined results taken together are impressive. Using one tool, multivariate analysis of variance, Larsen computed orthogonal contrasts that demonstrated 15 distinct styles. In two-dimensional discriminate plots, about 20 Book of Mormon authors are shown to be alien, individually and as a group, from a group of known nineteenth century authors. (We will use a few simplified examples of this in some hand count research which follows).

Finally, in a classification analysis, more than 20 individual Book of Mormon authors could be correctly assigned over 70 percent of the time in non-circular tests. Seventy percent is impressive when one realizes that by chance a correct hit would be made only five percent of the time.

A HAND COUNT CHECK

By reading *The New Era* of November, 1979, I was able to understand some of what was done by the computer. It was important for me to prove it for myself. I directed the counting of 21,000 words with the help of my children and an engineer at work. We had 21 blocks of 1000 words each and the frequency of five key words: THE, AND, OF, THAT, and TO.

This simple hand count proved to us that authors can be identified by word-prints, that Book of Mormon authors are distinguishable from each other, and that they are alien from modern writers. Also clearly evident from this simple hand count was the fact that any person can prove these facts for themselves.

THE ACID TEST

WORD-FREQUENCY ANALYSIS OF SOLOMON SPAULDING, ETHAN SMITH, THE BOOK OF MORMON, AND SEVERAL 19TH CENTURY AUTHORS

IDENTIFICATION OF TEXT SAMPLES

The major samples of literature used in our measurements are described here.

The Manuscript Found or Manuscript Story, by Rev. Solomon Spaulding. Approximate date - 1812. Our sample is the first 3172 words beginning with the introduction.

The VIEWS OF THE HEBREWS, by Ethan Smith. Approximate date - 1820. Our sample is the first 1057 words beginning on page 2.

All Book of Mormon samples were translated by Joseph Smith around 1830, but were written by ancient historians most of whom lived between 600 B.C. and 421 A.D. Our two primary Book of Mormon samples are from First Nephi:

The first is assembled from three pieces — I Nephi 4:20 (1156 words), I Nephi 8:1 (1084 words), and I Nephi 10:1 (1136 words). This combined sample of 3,376 words represents the work of the unknown scribe and is labeled on the chart as "I Nephi 4:20."

The second is from I Nephi 1:1 with a total of 1352 words.

Other Book of Mormon author samples include Jacob, Enos, Alma, Mormon, and Moroni.

In addition to the Manuscript Found and VIEWS OF THE HEBREWS, other nineteenth century samples are from Joseph Smith and his associates Oliver Cowdery, Parley P. Pratt, W.W. Phelps, and Sidney Rigdon.

Other nineteenth century samples are from Mary Baker Eddy of the Christian Science Church and Ellen G. White, prophet of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

DISPLAYING THE RESULTS

All samples described above were typed into our computer files. Then our computer programs counted the total number of words in each sample, and also counted the number of each key word in each sample. All our conclusions can be clearly seen from this very simple data base when it is displayed.

We believe that the best way to observe the difference between Book of Mormon samples and the nineteenth century authors is with the 50 key word discrimination system developed by Larsen. His studies used all possible Book of Mormon samples that are large enough to form a reliable wordprint. A general rule in interpreting the results is that if you can find any discriminating method that separates samples into two groups, then the two groups are in fact obviously distinguishable.

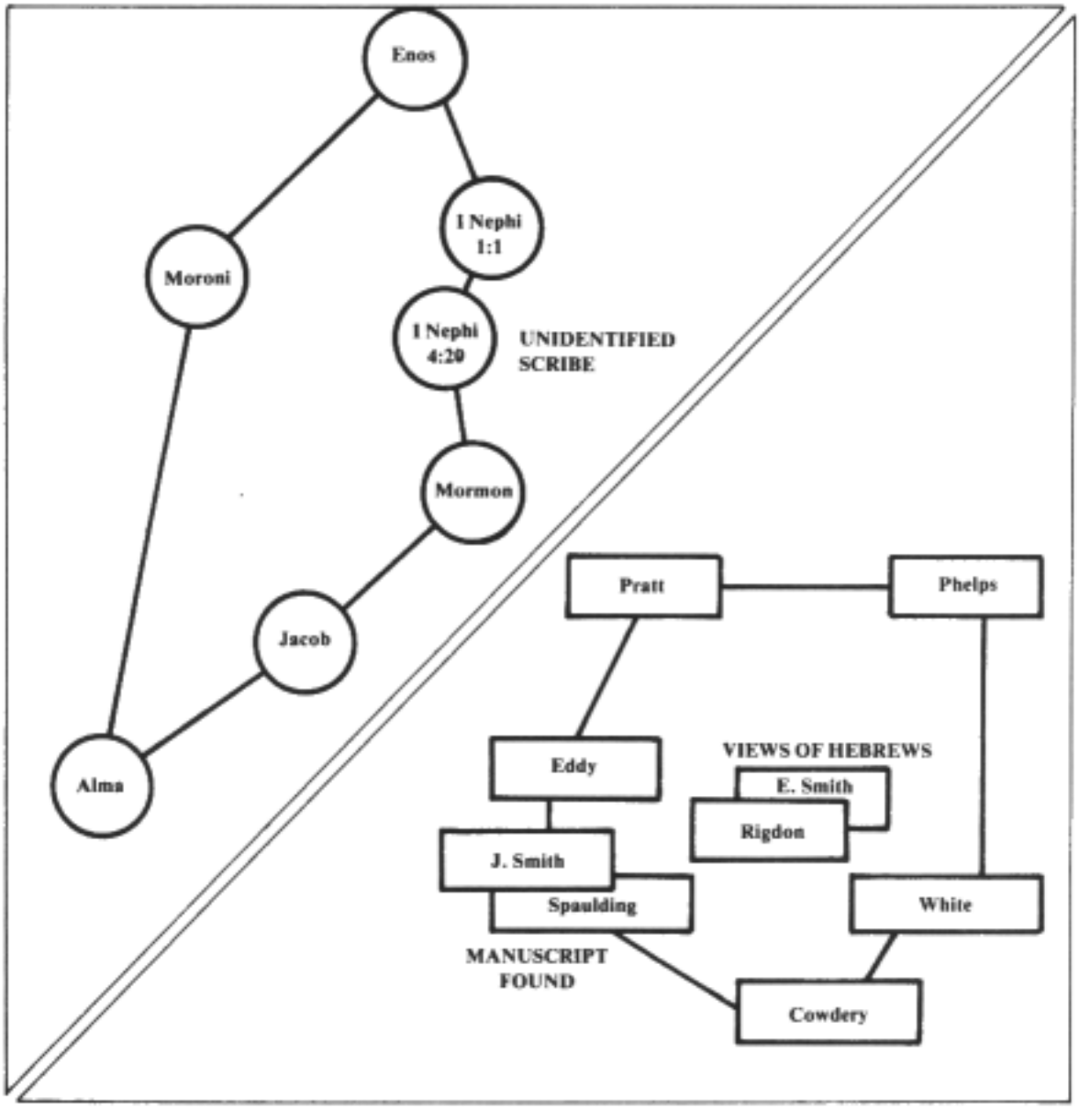
Larsen's 20 key words were these: AND, THE, OF, THAT, TO, UNTO, IN, IT, FOR, BE, WHICH, A, THIS, NOW, WITH, UPON, BUT, FROM, THEREFORE, EVEN. We used these same words in our study so we can use his published system. We used his same coefficients to reduce our results to two dimensions so we can plot the position of each sample on standard graph paper. Larsen's coefficients were computed by a statistical program. The effect is to rotate and reduce the 20 dimensions into a two-dimensional plot so that authorship differences (if they exist physically) will be best exposed to view. It is not proper to view the frequencies in any way that would disguise a real difference.

Consider this example: Jane and John are twins. They have the same parents, hair color, last name, address, and age. Are they the same person? No! That list of facts is a very misleading way to avoid distinguishing them. Looking at the

twins from a different reference (rotate coordinates) will clearly show the real difference — they are of very different sex, height, and weight.

With Larsen's coefficients, the frequencies of the 20 key words of each sample are treated in exactly the same way. So any differences in graphical position display real differences in the frequency spectrum of each sample. The samples are plotted in the figure and labeled. From this figure all our conclusions can be observed.

These Book of Mormon samples (individually and as a group) are separable from known nineteenth century authors by the 20 key-word system of Larsen. For further information concerning the methods and procedures for arriving at these key points, consult the references of Larsen in the Bibliography at the end of this chapter.



CONCLUSIONS

As can be seen from the preceding figures, the samples from the Book of Mormon are all alien from the samples of the nineteenth century authors. There is no interaction or mixing between samples of these groups. A simple line can separate them without any gerrymandering.

If one draws a circle around the known nineteenth century writers (Pratt, Phelps, Eddy, Joseph Smith, Ethan Smith, Rigdon, Spaulding, White, and Cowdery), then the Book of Mormon samples can be seen to all have characteristics that are outside of the nineteenth century. Additionally, the scatter of the Book of Mormon samples (authors) is similar to the scatter of known nineteenth century authors. Thus the Book of Mormon must have had different authors as it claims.

We must conclude from the preceding figure or graph that Joseph Smith did not compose the Book of Mormon. Also, no part of the Book of Mormon (and all of it has been measured) resembles Ethan Smith and his VIEWS OF THE HEBREWS or Solomon Spaulding and his MANUSCRIPT FOUND.

Our two samples of I Nephi from the Book of Mormon are close together. This shows the closeness of alternate samples of perhaps the same author.

In other research we have done, the Book of Mormon samples are seen to intermix with New Testament time-frame samples. All of these observations are powerful physical evidence that the Book of Mormon is actually an authentic ancient document.

For those who like to check the word counts for themselves, I recommend using my book THE SIGNATURE OF GOD. It has chapters designed to make such a test easy.

This type of research is an example of experimental science at its best. The experiment can be repeated by anyone and the data base is rigidly fixed and preserved by the printing press. The principle authors are dead so they won't be adding to or modifying the samples they originally created. The number of key words in any specific sample is absolutely fixed. It does not change for any person, religion, faith, nationality, color, or sex. All peoples are stuck with the very same results.

The basic data is stored and preserved in libraries all over our earth. These data and the conclusions that are clearly and solidly fixed therein represent the real world in which all people must walk, acknowledge, and orient their life style to include. Otherwise, they will be left to believe in superstitions, speculations, and lies which are prevalent but totally out of place in our twentieth century of

computers and science. AND ONE OF THE BIGGEST OF THESE SUPERSTITIONS IS THE IDEA THAT THE WRITINGS OF SOLOMON SPAULDING OR ETHAN SMITH ARE IN SOME WAY A MATCH OF THE PHYSICAL STYLE OR THE SPIRIT OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

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Hundreds of references exist in the field of author identification by physical measurement of style. Those few that we list here are among those who have done first-hand research.

For a more extensive list of references, see the bibliographies in these references. Mosteller alone has three pages of references.

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COMPUTER PROVES GOD: Dr. Robert L. Hamson reviews computer word counts that show Christ is a distinct New Testament author who is very different from Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Comparisons of this wordprint of Christ are then made with alleged modern revelations to Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen White, Joseph Smith, and David Mason. All failed to match the wordprint of Christ except one! This one unique match over eighteen centuries proves the existence of God and positively identifies His prophets.

Hamson received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University and has authored six scientific papers. At General Dynamics he worked on computer simulations of the cruise missile.

Dr. Hamson's computer research reported in this book answers many interesting questions: Who lived for over 1740 years? Whose words were recorded in the first century and again in the nineteenth century? Can we prove it was one and the same person? Can the creative mind behind a writing be identified by simply counting certain words? Can revelation from God be forged?

These amazing new discoveries by modern science prove the existence of God. Everything you need to check these results for yourself is included in this book. The evidence is clearly layed out so that by a simple count of the indicated key words anyone may verify the conclusions.

Computer word counts have identified Christ as the author of revelations brought forth in the nineteenth century according to Dr. Robert L. Hamson, a computer scientist. Telltale word occurrences measured by computers, but not noticed by readers, reveal an excellent match between samples attributed to Christ in the New Testament and one series of modern revelations.

Hamson concludes, "An author who wrote in the first century must have still been alive eighteen centuries later to compose these modern messages. This author we may call 'God.' The proof of this rests on evidence that wordprints can not be forged and on our understanding that a human author can not live for eighteen centuries.

Forgery of the Signature of God?

"It seems unlikely that our first century and nineteenth century candidate prophets could have forged the word frequency signature of God. Both prophets had died before this author identification tool was hypothesized in the mind of a mathematician, Augustus de Morgan, in 1851. Also, wordprint analysis did not become practical until the invention of modern computers"

Many scientists have used computers to identify authors. Hamson reports, "We are not aware of any case where a ghostwriter has fooled a computer wordprint. Andrew Q. Morton in his book *Literary Detection* (1979) wrote about Austin Mitchelson and Nichlas Utechin collaborating to copy the style in Sherlock Holmes tales. Morton, in a computer study of *The Earthquake Machine* and *Hellbirds*, could easily identify the imitation and tell which parts were written by Mitchelson in each book and which parts were by Utechin."

Hamson continues, "In 19 similar wordprint studies, ghostwriters were separated from real authors in every case. Forgery of a wordprint is virtually impossible because the ghostwriter must match all word frequencies since he would never know on which key words he may be judged.

"It has always required faith to believe that God Himself actually spoke the words attributed to Him by John in Revelation in the first century. But the computer measurement of a nonforgeable matching nineteenth century signal changed the requirement for faith in this one issue. God speaking to a prophet can now be tested in the world of physical and countable objects. These real objects are a unique series of words preserved in the Bible."

Hamson reports, "The word 'signature' is used by modern science to mean a measurable identifying characteristic. The sonic frequency signature of a Russian submarine is distinct from the sounds made by American ships. Our torpedos can be made to distinguish this important difference.

"By spectroscopy the light frequency signature of iron proves the composition of distant stars. In like manner one may positively identify Christ and His prophets by the word frequency signature of God."

Computer Separates True Prophets from False

Doubters have always questioned the credibility of prophets. While ancient writers like Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have received wide acceptance, modern proclaimers Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen White, and Joseph Smith, have not.

Who is to say which, if any, of these modern revelators is a true prophet? Can revelation from Christ simply be made up?

Now, thanks to the assistance of computers, habits of authors can be objectively measured. Like a fingerprint, wordprint forgery has never been successful.

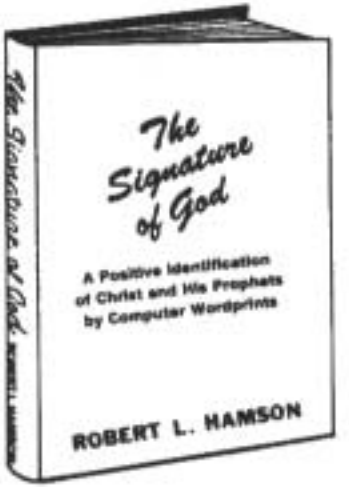
Sound remarkable? That's what Robert L. Hamson thought when he first met the wordprint. A Ph.D. in engineering, Hamson could not resist the urge to investigate. By computer he observed 15,000 perfect author identifications to test the method.

WORDPRINT OF CHRIST

Next, Hamson turned to the New Testament. Here he discovered that the word patterns in verses attributed to Christ were distinct from the narration background. By actual measurement, Jesus had a wordprint as individual as that of Shakespeare.

Then the real test came. This ancient wordprint of Christ was compared with "revelations" of five modern sacred writers among two dozen other candidates.

The result? After 1740 years, the same Christ who spoke to John (Rev 1:8–3:22) had again delivered revelation, this time through Joseph Smith. This startling fact can now be tested by computer.



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The wordprint of Christ in the Bible distinctly matches the wordprint of Christ in the Doctrine & Covenants. There can be no mistake. Word frequency analysis is objective and unbiased. The computer does not get upset when the real world is found to be different from sectarian notions. Joseph Smith alone brought forth revelations bearing the word frequency signature of God.

EPISTLES AND REVELATIONS SORTED

Many sections of the D&C are revelations. They match the word patterns of Christ. But a few sections of the D&C are called epistles. Section 128 is an epistle of Joseph Smith. The computer word frequency analysis shows that D&C 128 is clearly a 19th Century creation.

CAN REVELATIONS BE FORGED?

Wordprint signatures have never been forged successfully. In 19 studies, ghostwriters were separated from real authors in every case by computer.

Now you can join Hamson in this marvelous discovery through his new book. It includes everything you need to check this research for yourself. The major items of evidence are scripture passages 1000 words long. These are printed with the word counts shown. It is so simple that anyone who can count and add, can prove the results.

This book is for students facing challenges to their religion at school, for investigators with scientific curiosity, for missionaries, and for all who desire to verify these simple observations that show the actual existence of prophets, revelation, and God.

Author's Note:

Stylometry has received renewed interest as a promising method of distinguishing between authors. Dr. Hamson has presented a very simplified approach to Stylometry in this chapter. New and different computer-aided techniques are being explored and developed. For information on new developments, contact Dr. Hamson or the authors listed in the Bibliography on P. 327.