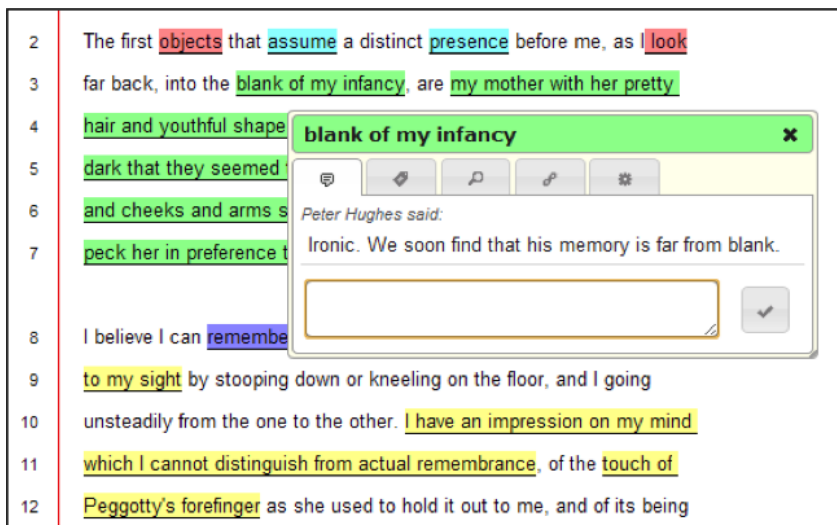# Research

Innovation in linguistic analysis

The Research and Development Unit for English Studies (RDUES) carries out research in corpus linguistics: the analysis of large text collections to discover new facts about the English language.

RDUES also produces software tools, including the widely used WebCorp and eMargin systems.

2	The first objects that assume a distinct presence before me, as I look
3	far back, into the blank of my infancy, are my mother with her pretty
4	hair and youthful shape
5	dark that they seemed
6	and cheeks and arms s
7	peck her in preference t
8	I believe I can remembe
9	to my sight by stooping down or kneeling on the floor, and I going
10	unsteadily from the one to the other. I have an impression on my mind
11	which I cannot distinguish from actual remembrance, of the touch of
12	Peggotty's forefinger as she used to hold it out to me, and of its being

blank of my infancy ✕

Peter Hughes said:
Ironic. We soon find that his memory is far from blank.

Find out more >>

WebCorp search tools

The WebCorp Live search tool - initially released as a prototype in 2000 - adds extra refinement options to conventional search engines like Google to show the changing use of language over time.

The team has also developed the larger-scale WebCorp Linguist's Search Engine enabling more advanced linguistic and statistical analyses to be performed. This tool makes available several specialist text collections, including the Birmingham Blog Corpus.

eMargin annotation tool

The open source eMargin tool allows collaborative annotation of texts through an online interface. With over 4000 registered users and integration with University Virtual Learning Environments worldwide, eMargin has had a significant impact on the teaching of English literature and a wide variety of other subjects.

Impact

WebCorp continues to be utilised by linguists and in education. Sessions using WebCorp have been introduced into syllabi at Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge, Toronto and many other institutions around the world.

The expertise at RDUES has also been used commercially. Andrew Kehoe and Matt Gee of RDUES were employed by Grey London as consultants on the language used by young people in social media, to assist with Puma's Dance Dictionary Campaign.

> **"The consultancy allowed us to reflect the actual language used by our target audience more closely"**
>
> - Grey London

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