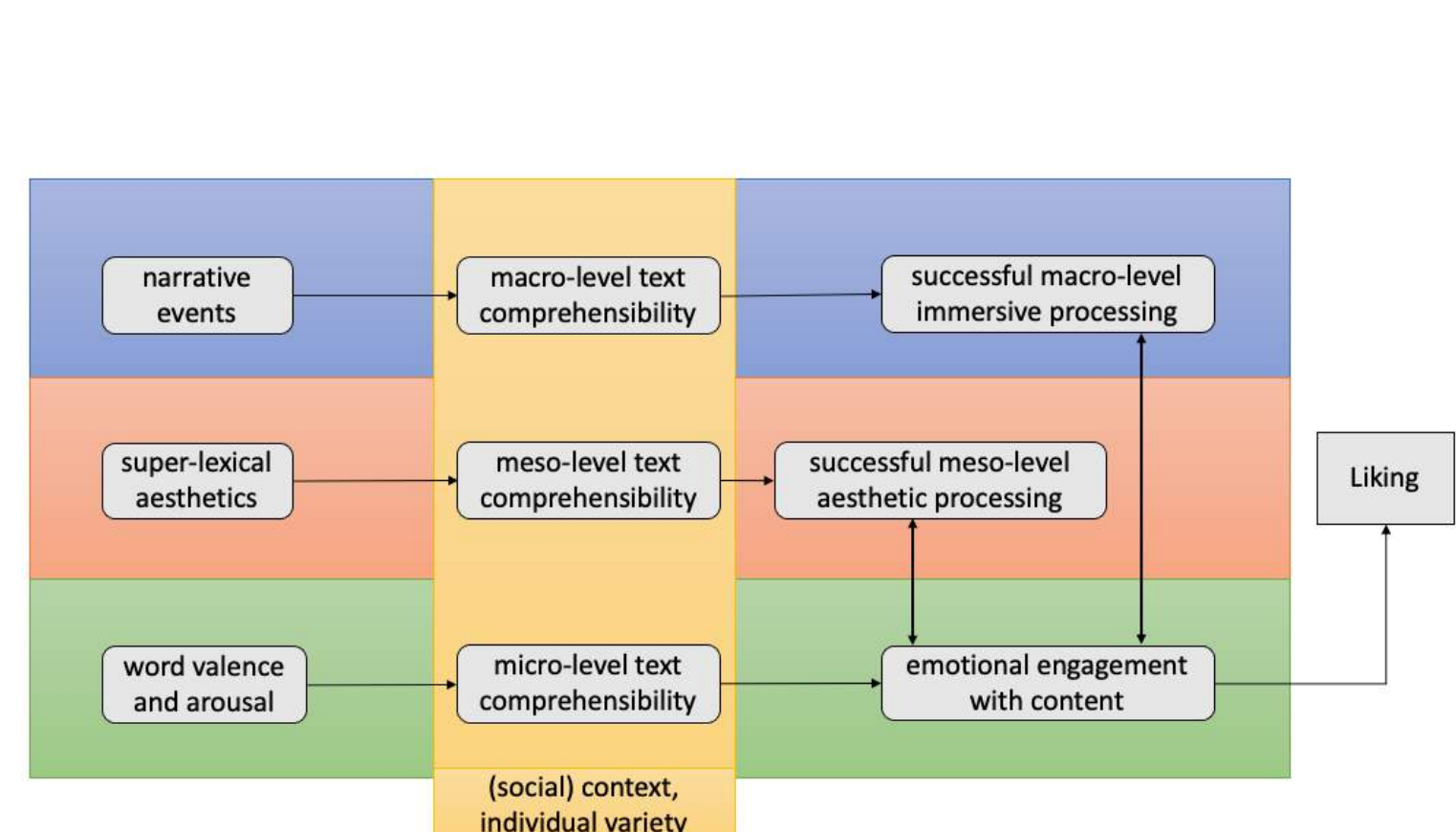


# Neurocognitive processing of textual cues in literary reading

a multi-methodological approach of measuring the reader response to written fiction



### Models of literary processing

- liking and comprehensibility as main motivators in reading
- interplay of multiple levels of evaluational processes determines liking
- evaluation of text should be predictable by text features<sup>1</sup>

### Machine-assisted text analyses

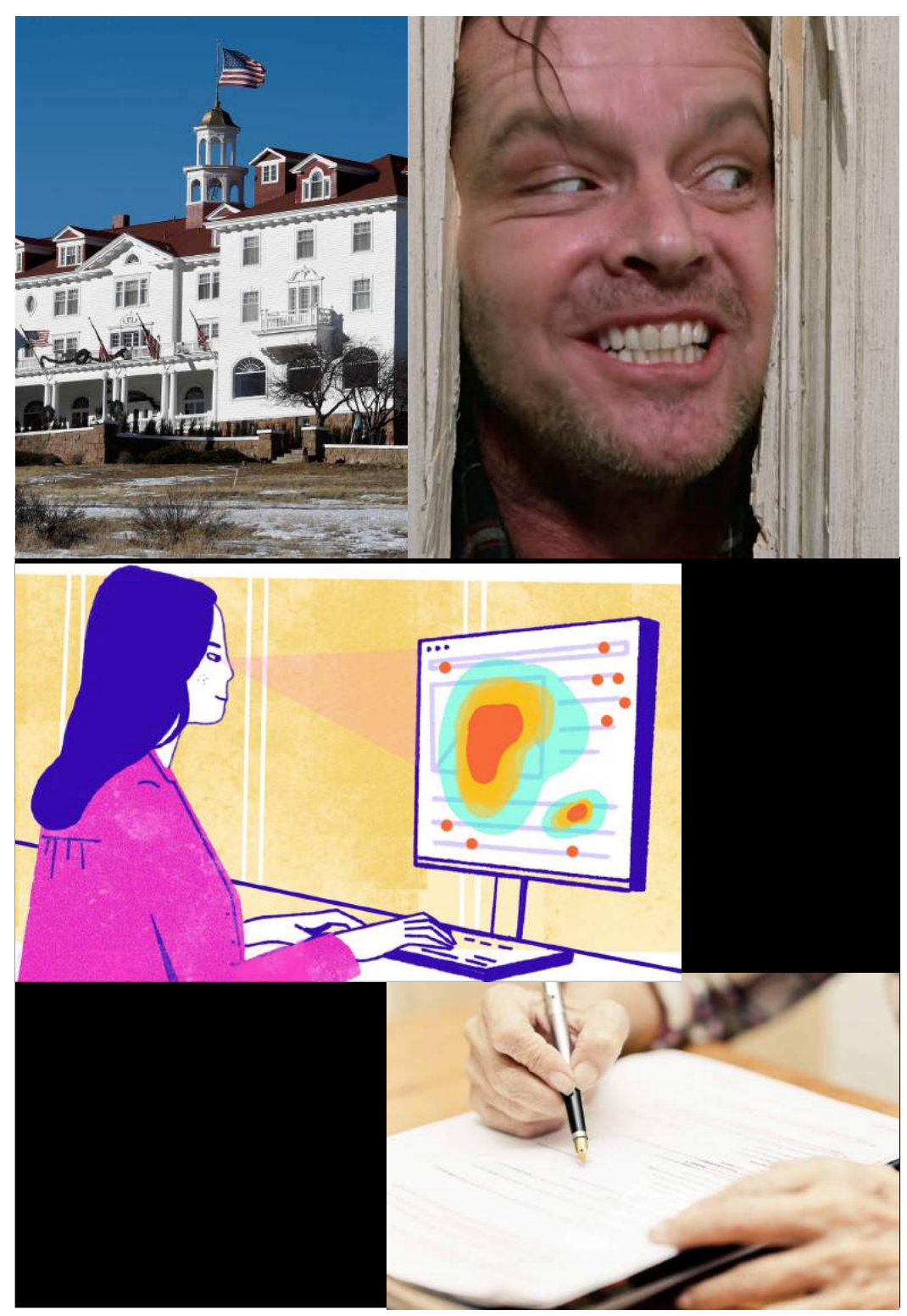
- text feature identification per single sentence / line / page
- partially based on semantic distances in corpora of actual language usage (e.g., SUBTLEX<sup>2</sup>)
- partially based on quantitative descriptors (e.g., word length)

word	AAP	ang_x	fear_x	disg_x	hap_x	sad_x
4015 Autobahnkreuz	-0.184	0.132	-1.239	-1.01	-1.267	-1.003
4016 Autobahnpolizei	-0.491	0.15	-0.851	-1.167	-1.315	-1.408
4017 Autobahnraststätten	-0.409	0.165	-0.603	-0.384	-0.772	-0.79
4018 Autobahnruhestätte	-0.552	0.174	-0.733	-0.462	-1.303	-0.925
4019 Autobahnverkehr	-0.43	0.091	-1.486	-1.49	-1.906	-1.639
4020 Autobatterie	-0.245	0.234	-0.45	-0.423	0.0596	0.0871
4021 Autobatterien	-0.245	0.171	-1.027	-0.785	-0.592	-0.578
4022 Autobesitzer	-1.249	0.263	0.1147	-0.355	0.206	-0.848
4023 Autobiografie	0.84	0.208	0.5503	0.859	0.7831	1.6398
4024 Autobiographien	0.84	0.28	0.3031	0.9568	0.6625	1.4373
4025 Autobiographien	0.6148	0.258	0.1618	0.7905	0.0837	1.0613
4026 Autobombe	-1.044	0.331	0.5385	-0.452	-0.194	-0.328
4027 Autobomben	-1.392	0.339	0.4208	-0.443	-0.471	-0.434
4028 Autobranche	-0.102	0.386	-0.568	-1.411	-1.098	-1.244

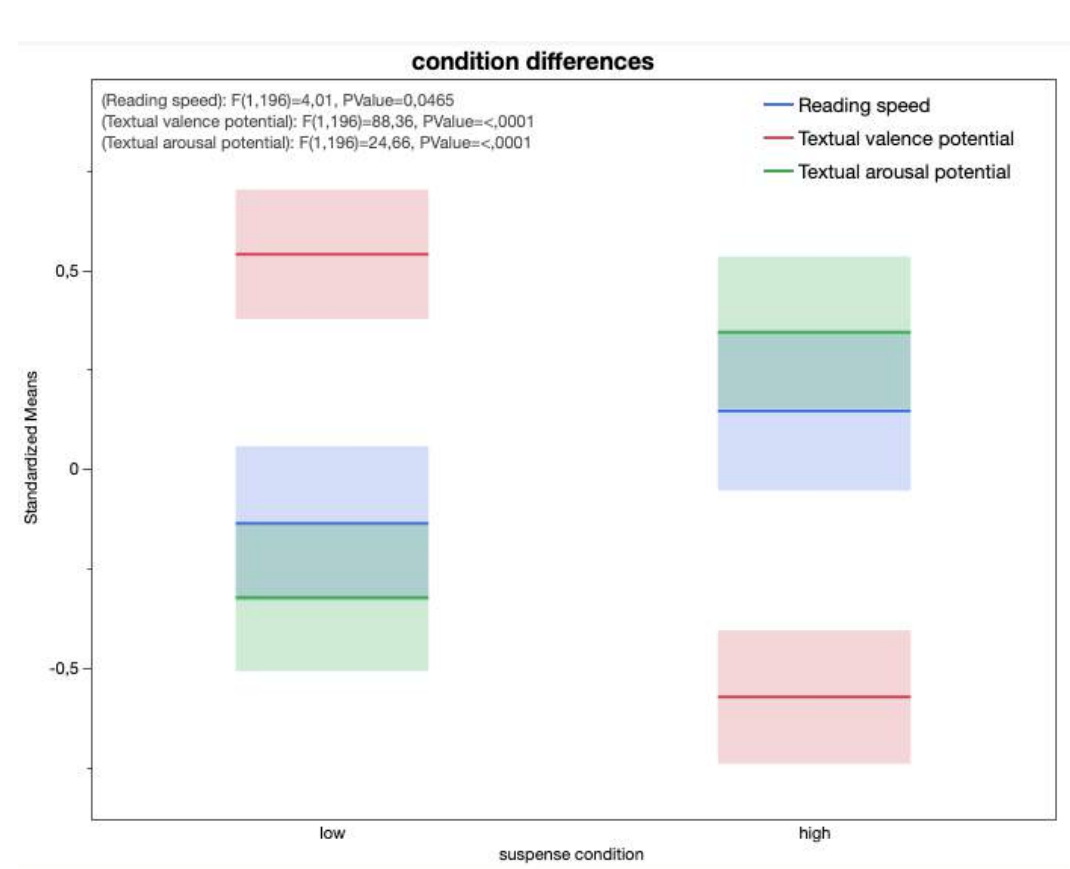
micro-level analysis of text document with tools like SentiArt<sup>1</sup> and GLEAN<sup>3</sup> and simple calculations to get a multidimensional quantification of its features

## Study 1

### Eye-movements as markers of suspenseful narrative reading

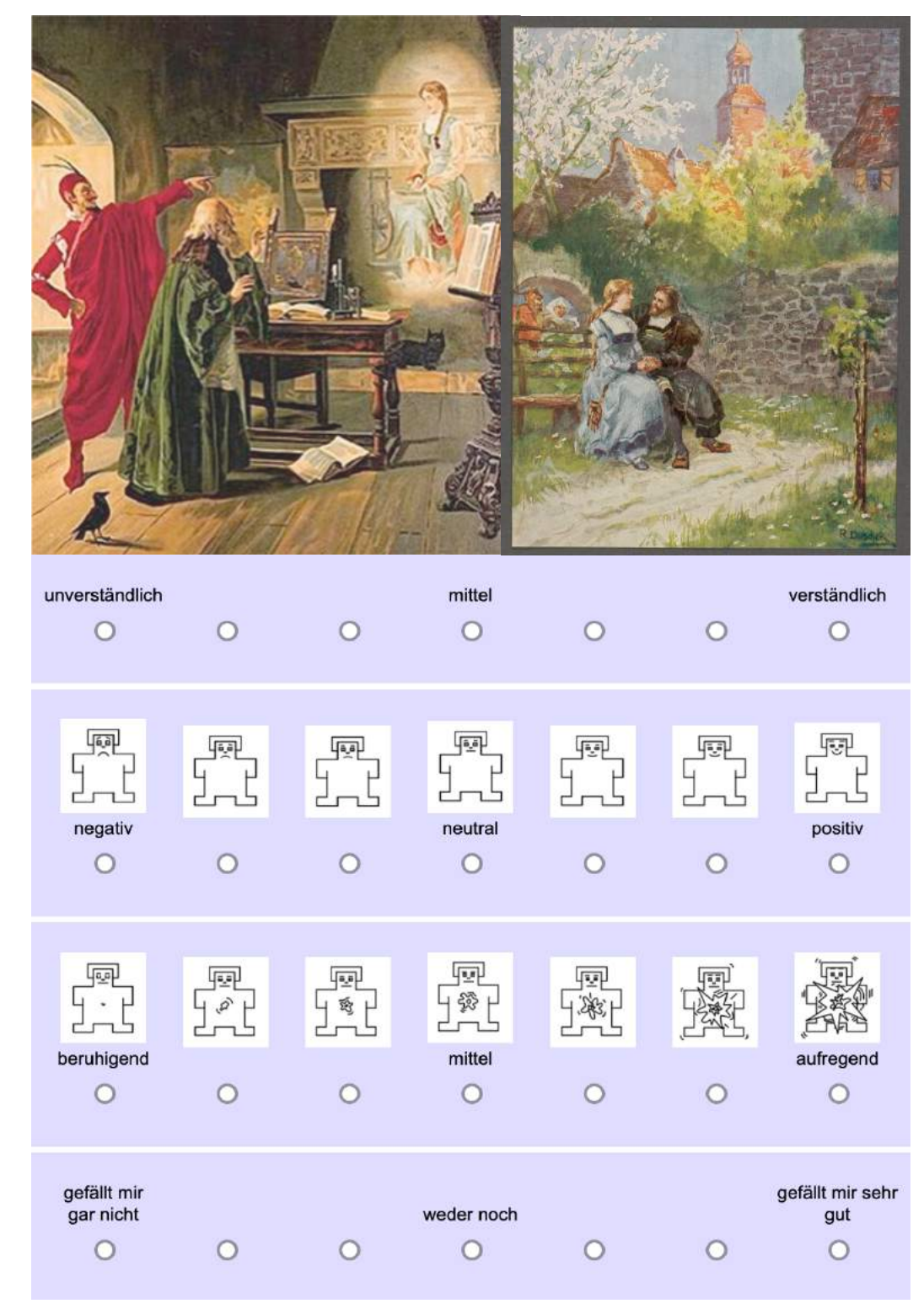


- reading chapters of Stephen King's *The Shining* with varying suspense
- eye-tracking during reading
- suspense ratings after reading
- analysis on level of chapter
- text features marking associations with negative valence and high arousal predict both subjective suspense ratings and faster reading
- reading behaviour and ratings are indicators of 'successful' text feature processing

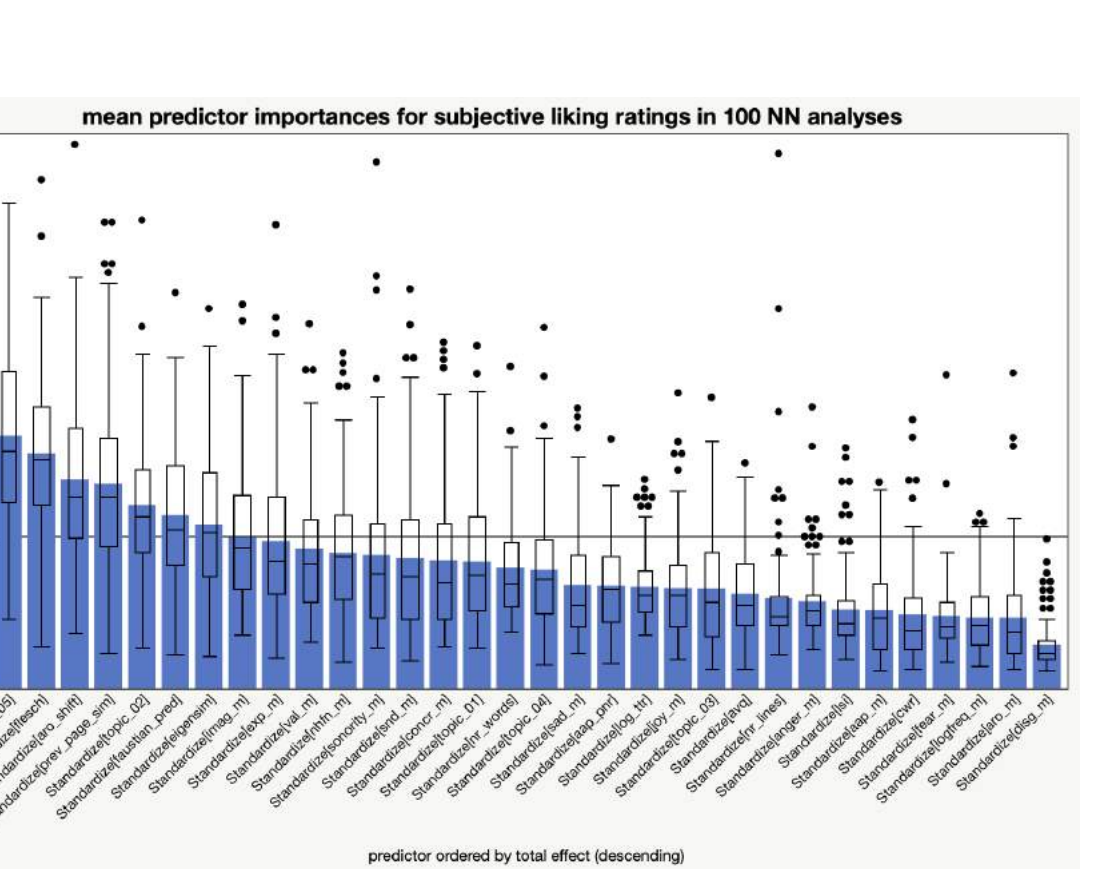


## Study 2

### Textual prediction of subjective narrative poetry ratings

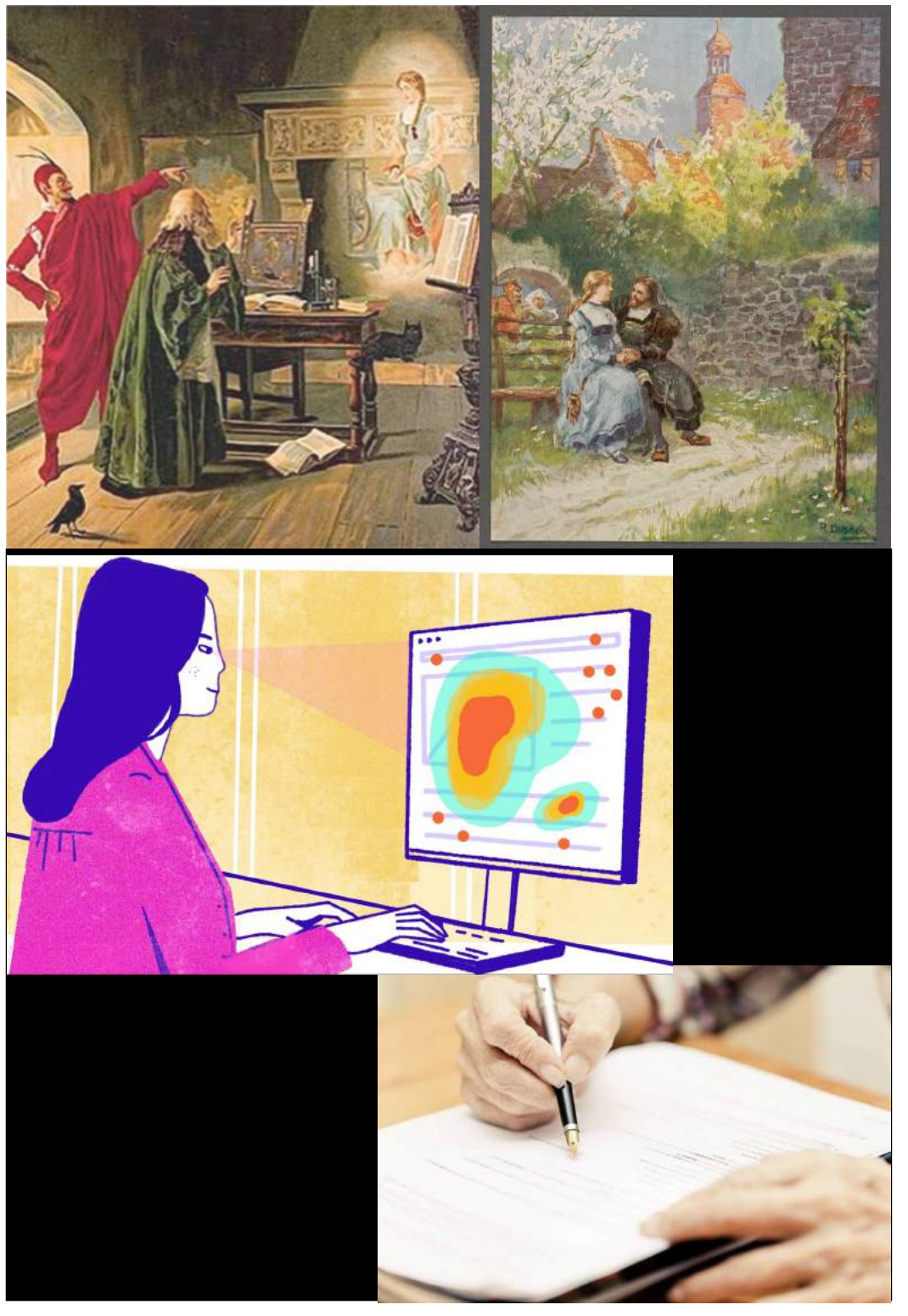


- reading one of two excerpts from Goethe's *Faust I*, subdivided into ~70 pages
- per page ratings on valence, arousal, liking and comprehensibility
- analysis of level of page
- valence and arousal ratings mostly predicted by content-related text features
- liking ratings depend on both surface and content features of the text
- comprehensibility ratings mostly depend on surface and structural features

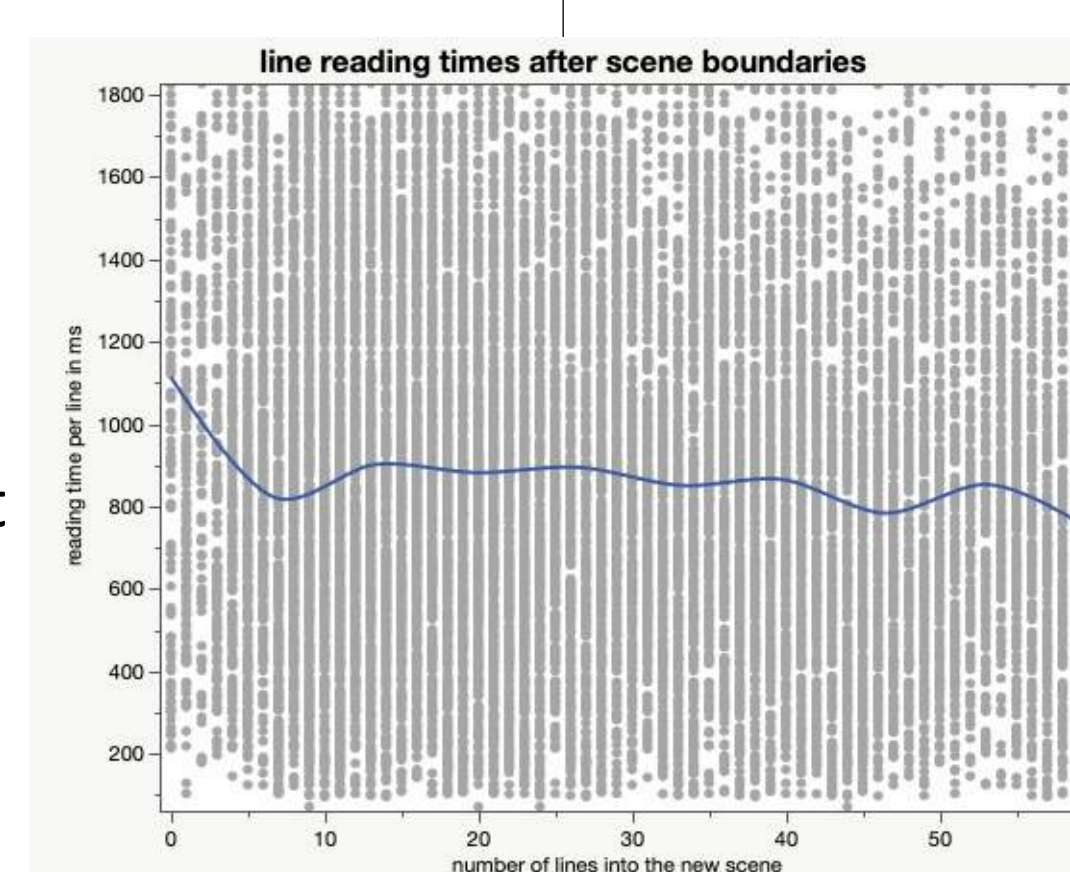
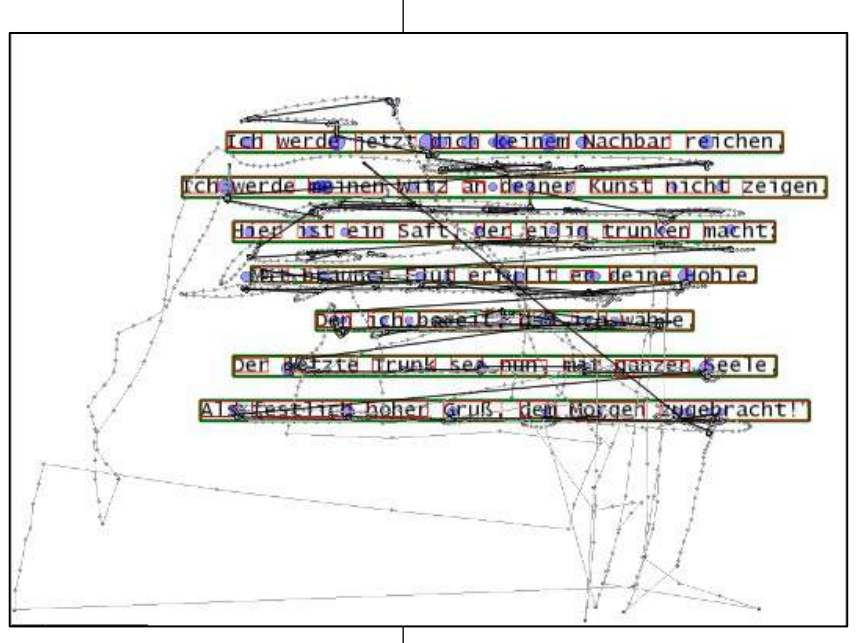


## Study 3

### Eye-movements markers of narrative poetry processing

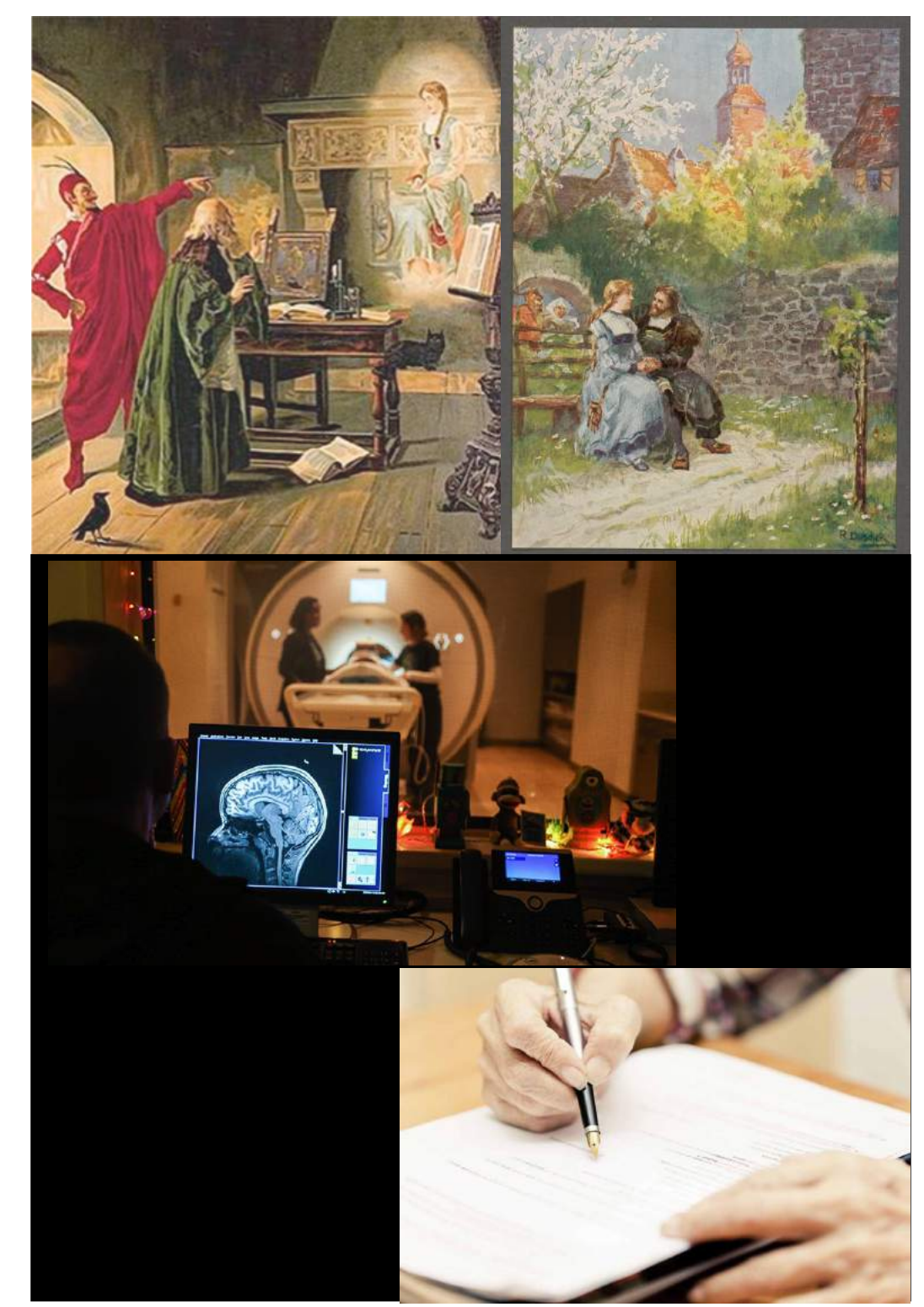


- reading two excerpts from Goethe's *Faust I*, each one subdivided into ~70 pages
- eye-tracking during reading
- various individual differences measures
- inclusion of independent event boundary measures
- analysis on level of lines
- clear effect of narrative event boundaries on reading times
- inclusion of narrative text features improves predictive performance



## Study 4

### Neural underpinnings of narrative poetry processing



- reading two excerpts from Goethe's *Faust I*, each one subdivided into ~70 pages
- fMRI and eye-tracking during reading
- various individual differences measures
- inclusion of independent event boundary measures
- analysis on level of pages
- test which text features predict neural activation associated with psychological constructs like liking, immersion, and comprehension

References:  
 - 1) Jacobs, A. M. (2019). Sentiment analysis for words and fiction characters from the perspective of computational (neuro-)poetics. *Frontiers in Robotics and AI*, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frobt.2019.00053>  
 - 2) Brysbaert, M., Buchmeier, M., Conrad, M., Jacobs, A. M., Bötke, J., & Böhl, A. (2011). The word frequency effect: A review of recent developments and implications for the choice of frequency estimates in German. *Experimental Psychology*, 58, 412-424.  
 - 3) Lüdtkke, J., & Hugentobler, K.G. (under review). Turney rethought: A new way to identify anchor words for calculating the German List of Extrapolated Affective Norms (GLEAN). *Behavior Research Methods*.