

Annotation #8

Harris, Martyn and Tomi Melka

2011. The Rongorongo Script: On a Listed Sequence in the Recto of Tablet “Mamari”. Part II.
Journal of Quantitative Linguistics 18(3): 234-273.

This article is about the final results on the testing of the correlation between “frigate bird” and “fish” glyphs because of their presence on delimiter lists. The authors drew on data from a short section of verbal list like formula recorded by Englert (1948) concerning the kills made by warriors during battle, the whole RR corpus, and a reduced corpus of texts. The authors propose that these lists relate to the same literary genre, the *iko* and *timo* genres. The article analyzes the data through multivariate methods from lexicographic and latent semantic statistical methods such as bi-gram plots, equations of GIGP LNRE model, and equations of the fZM LNRE model. The authors found that there is some data and evidence to assume that the two glyphs are highly correlated in text across the RR corpus as separate constituents with one or more intervening glyphs or as part of a compound form. The article uses many different visuals to help explain the data. But if you’re not a seasoned statistician, it is difficult to interpret the data or the different models just as if you’re not a linguistic anthropologist it would be difficult to understand the terms and data.