

# What makes dream text dreamy?

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The analysis of dreams has a long history. One of the earliest recorded dream analyses was written on clay tablets in Mesopotamia, 5000 years ago (Black and Green, 1992). In ancient Greek and Egyptian times, dreams were seen as messages from the gods. Nowadays, many different fields study the meaning and purpose of dreams such as psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience and religious studies, but a definite explanation of the purpose of dreams is still far from being found.

Previous studies on content analysis of dreams have shown that the content of dreams reflects a person's daily life and personal concerns. Around 75-80% of dream content relate to everyday settings, characters, and activities. A much smaller part of dreams descriptions related to bizarre topics shared by numerous people like dreaming about flying, teeth falling out or being naked in public (Domhoff & Schneider, 2008).

We aim to detect what it is that makes a dream text different from other texts. What are those features that distinguish a dream description from personal true stories such as personal stories, diary entries or confessions? In our study we investigate several strategies such as n-gram analysis, topic modeling, text classification and discourse coherence measures. We apply these supervised and unsupervised methods to a collection of about 20K dream reports from the benchmark data set Dreambank ([www.dreambank.net](http://www.dreambank.net)) and a collected sample of true personal stories. We present the outcomes of our experiments and show to what extent we uncover what makes a dream text dreamy.

## References

Black, J., and A. Green (1992) *Gods, Demons and Symbols*. University of Texas Press

Domhoff, G. W., & Schneider, A. (2008). Studying dream content using the archive and search engine on DreamBank.net. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 17, 1238-1247