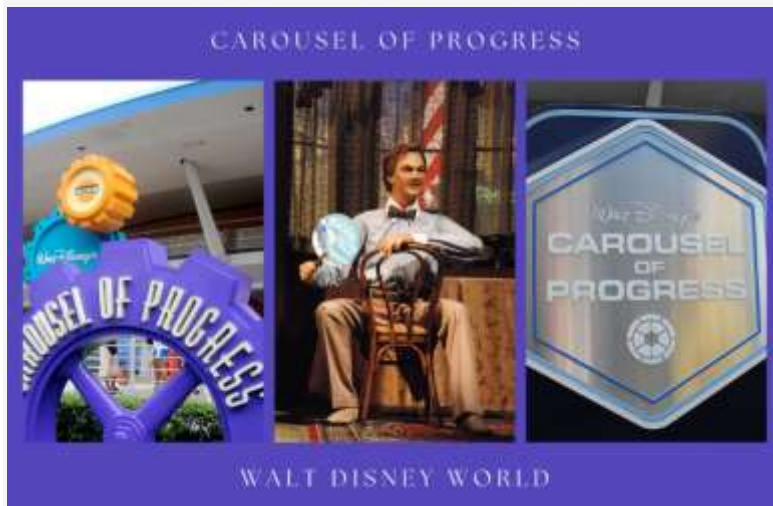
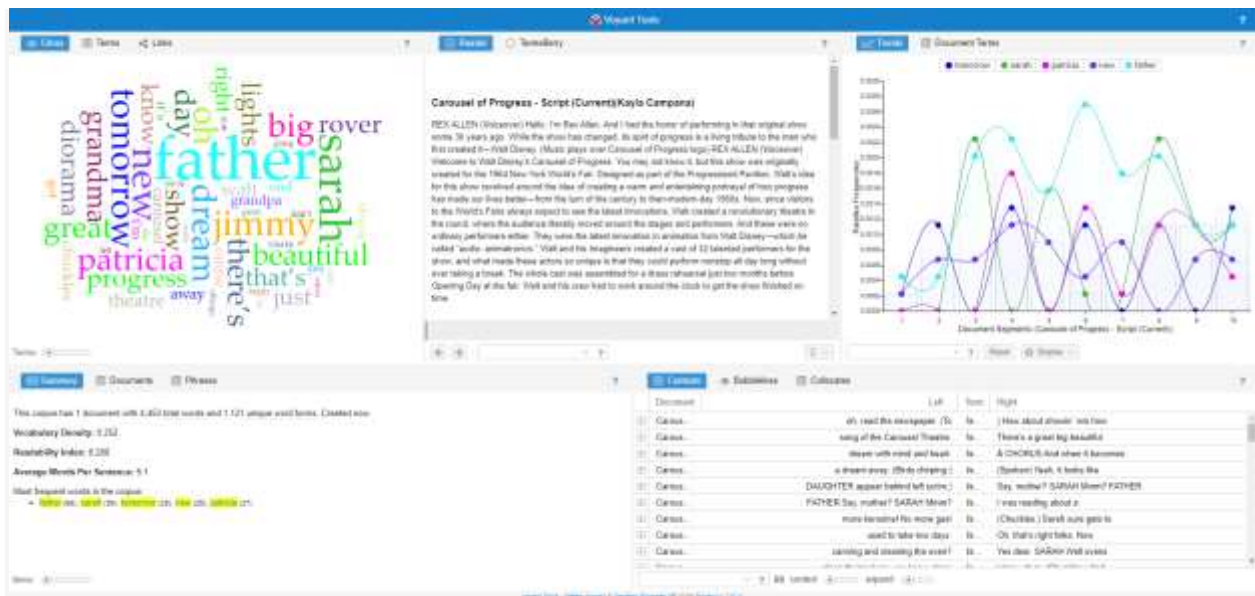


As I was reading our texts for this module, I was struck by a phrase in the second afterward in *Your Computer is On Fire*, “How Do We Live Now? In The Aftermath of Ourselves” by Benjamin Peters. It reads, “media technologies and computing power tend to coincide with straightforward beliefs about progress... that is a mistake, or at least “progress” presents a mistakenly incomplete picture” (Peters 378). The term “progress” stood out to me, and as I have been reading *Your Computer is on Fire*, it has made me think several times about the show/attraction in Magic Kingdom, The Carousel of Progress. And then this show/attraction came to mind again during Dr. Salter’s lecture with the discussion on retro-futurist visions and the optimism surrounding this idea (Salter).



The *Your Computer is On Fire* talks about the fire and about “modernity and its merciless waves of cutting-edge science and technology have brought forth many fruits- some of them sweet and many bitter” (377). The show/attraction highlights what I would call the “Disneyfied” candy-coated version of “progress,” which I will reflect more on below. But, for this module’s exercise in Voyant, I decided to upload the script to The Carousel of Progress and see what popped up, specifically when looking at the term “progress.” I know the term is used many times in the show/attraction, but I was curious how many and in comparison, to the rest of the script.

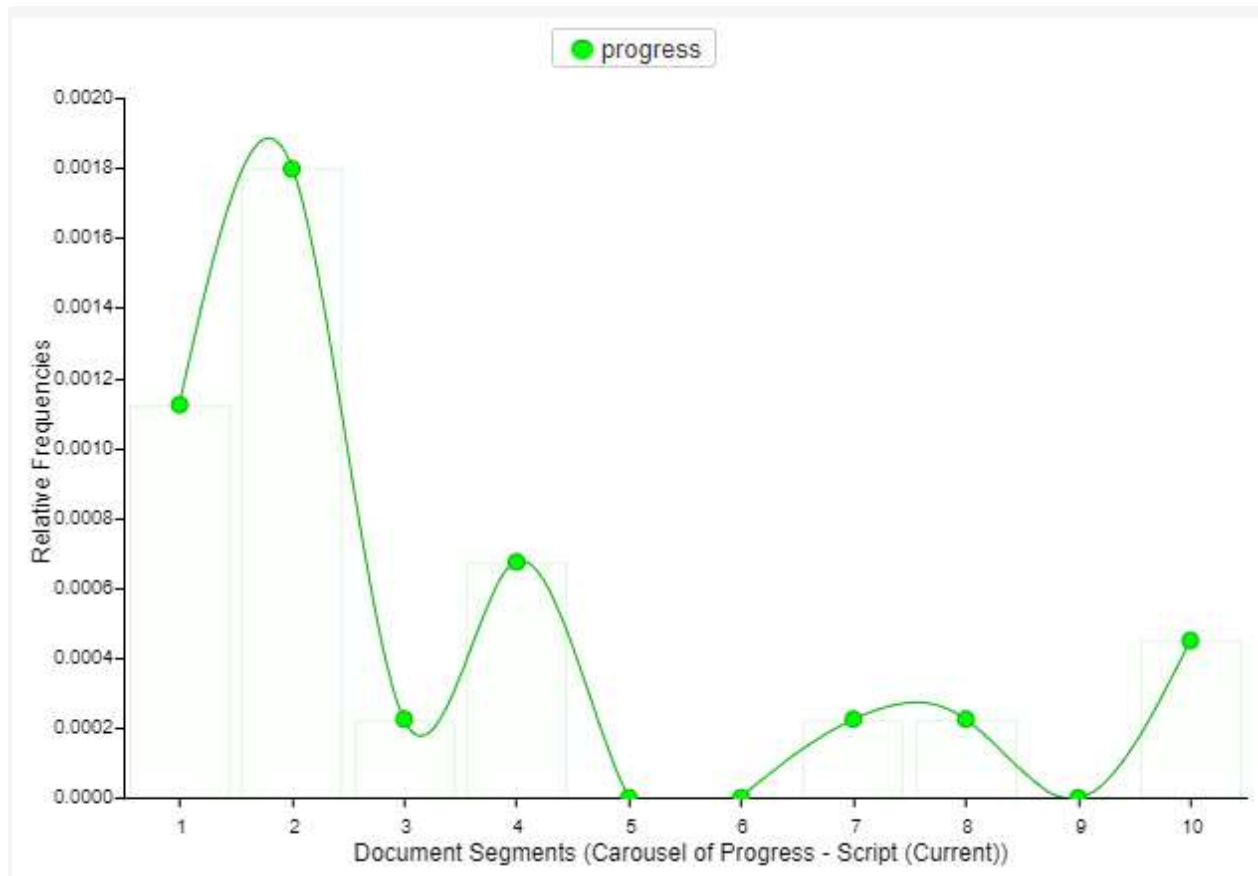
Based on the script I found online (it is from 2015- I am not sure if The Carousel of Progress has been updated since, but that was the most recent one I was able to find and (somewhat) easily put in Voyant), it appears that “progress” is used/said 21 times, which is fairly high for the script in comparison to other words outside of identifying words of who is talking, like “Father” or “Sarah.” And this is of course skewed because the script formats the text with who is talking first and then the dialogue, for example, “Father: There’s a great big, beautiful tomorrow...”. So, it is probable that “progress” is one of the highest terms used in the dialogue.



I explored further with the graphs and other visualizations in Voyant. One that I thought was telling was using the Bubblelines feature to see where in the show the word is used, which scenes. “Progress” is mainly verbalized at the entrance where you wait outside the “Theater of Progress.” On the television screens outside the show, Walt Disney and Rex Allen (who performed the show I believe in the late 1960s and/or 1970s) talk about how the show/attraction demonstrates how “Walt loved the idea of progress,” “how progress has made our lives better,” and how after so many iterations of the show/attraction, the “show still revolves around the same theme- and that’s progress” (COP Script). In the show itself, it is only used a few times, a majority in the opening monologue before guests are taken through a century of “progress.”



The show/attraction is extremely limited to this one nuclear “idealized” family with clear privilege. It is what Peters, in the Afterward in *Your Computer is On Fire*, talked about- how the term “progress” is a very incomplete look. But thinking about it not just in terms of using the word “progress” but the show/attraction is incomplete look in so many ways, including race, class, gender, sexuality, as well as the negative (and maybe we could call neutral) ways in which “progress” has affected individuals, including Walt’s “American family.”



I am not sure this data is telling, at least beyond the obvious ways in which it is- including how the show/attraction really hones in on the word “progress” and argues the ways in which certain technologies have (theoretically) made life better/easier (maybe with the exception Father’s paint stirrer and the Siri-like stove at the end), but specifically for individuals in the same position as this idealized animatronic family.

For my additional making outside of Voyant, I wanted to play with a word cloud that I could customize beyond what Voyant offered. The [word cloudLinks to an external site.](#) I did is below, with it shaped like a home and very bright colors that were on the show’s sign before it was switched (I have the images above... I personally prefer the pre-2015 one (on the left), but that is just me).



- Carousel of Progress (Photos)
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt\\_Disney%27s\\_Carousel\\_of\\_Progress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Disney%27s_Carousel_of_Progress)[Links to an external site.](#)
- Additional Photos - <https://www.micechat.com/290724-walt-disney-carousel-of-progress-history/>[Links to an external site.](#)
- Anastasia Salter – Video Lecture for ENG 6810, Spring 2024, Week 9: Analysis
- Johnson and Salter, Chapter Eight: Analysis