

## INNOVATIVE METHODOLOGY FOR TEACHING EUROPEAN STUDIES USING A CORPUS APPROACH

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**Abstract.** *The most popular methodology for teaching European Studies is the methodology is corpus-oriented. The teacher is demonstrating the data and the translation finding information online (Sketch Engine) and in an offline mode (AntConc). It is possible to use many online resources available online avoiding the prepaid data libraries. In addition, we use the Open Library, which contains digitized works of European authors in audio format, access to which is provided by personal free access. In addition, students can provide their digital resources to the shared library. Thus, students may add their digital resources to the shared library. The purpose of this work is to create the shared data resources to learn the European Studies. The open access is viewed as the basic, other data flow is possible and welcomed.*

**Keywords:** *European Studies, open access, corpus-oriented approach, free data, the shared library.*

### Introduction

Today teachers prepare their lessons and doing their research mostly online. Free data permitting, they use the material online and innovative corpus approach (Baranova 2022, Bekhta 2023, Brovkina 2023, Tatarovska 2023, Kobyakova 2023, Shvachko 2021). We are accessing the European Studies dataset, using online resources. In this study we aim at finding currently working writers and columnists who work and publish their works in Europe. We are considering all writers who publish their works in Europe, including the Ukrainian writers and columnists who are considered part of the European literary tradition. As we know, Ukraine is a country located in Eastern Europe and has a rich history of literature and cultural contributions to the European literary landscape. Ukrainian writers have made significant contributions to various genres and themes in literature, including poetry, novels, plays, and more. The extracting of the information can be accessed by the corpus manager *Sketch Engine*. As we are aiming at creating the shared library of European Studies, we are extracting the information directly from open access zones.

The students compile the list of terms for entering new query searches, thus adding new data sets to the shared library. The preparatory work was done by the teacher based on American data and using the same methodology students use the European data for comparison and analysis. The team is working in Microsoft Teams where it is possible to compile documents using the shared drive and all information is highly protected.

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Also, the list of the European Studies key works was prepared by AI as it is the innovative approach of the data delivery that has the idea of open access limited to certain quantity of queries and some limits in resulting documents due to the policy of the developers.

Still, as we find any information useful and as it is absolute legal we highly recommend to use it for educational purposes.

Firstly, we have started the research from the access to the European Studies Association (<https://www.eustudies.org/>) fund having found many resources in pdf format converting to text KOIR-8 for further storage. Secondly, we added databases for EU law (<https://libguides.ials.sas.ac.uk/databases/eu>). Thirdly, the vast majority of the official documents can be extracted from the resource bank of the European Union ([https://european-union.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en)).

Secondly, we have compiled a small research corpus into txt files, easily checked for content using keyword feature of the *AntConc* corpusware.

Thirdly, we have included the raw material into corpus manager of *Sketch Engine* with possibility of processing raw material into the POS tagged corpus. In order to learn a foreign language and thus to find the best translation, we are to use the corpus manager *AntConc*, which allows you to quickly analyze texts and identify the best translation option by switching translation options using keyword search options (Fig. 1).

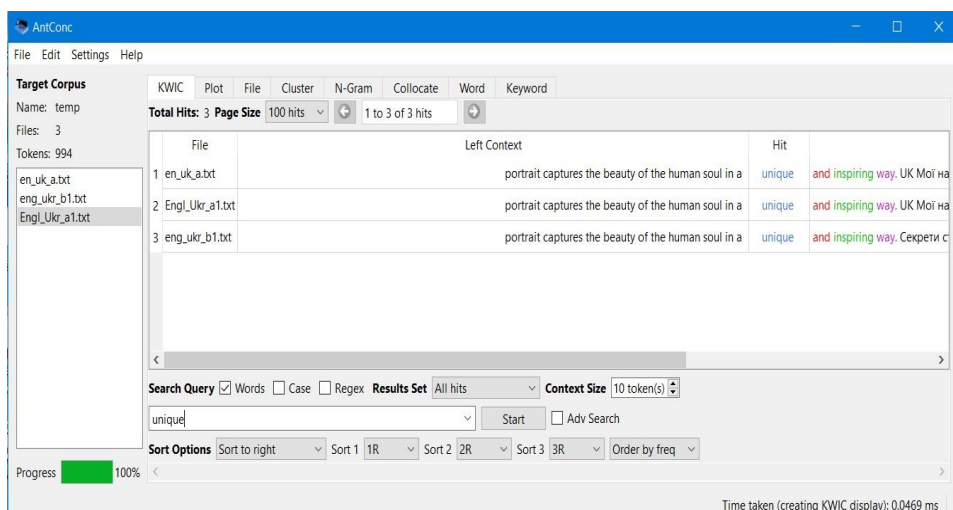


Fig. 1 Keyword search: analysis in the *AntConc* system

### Corpus managers for translation analysis

In the corpus manager, you can analyze both one text and a certain number of texts that make up the translation training corpus. Here it is worth analyzing both already printed translations and retransmissions, which help to improve the translation, eliminate lacunae, identify deleted or euphemized elements that fell under the editor's censorship, which sometimes occur in the best translations. Let us follow some individual texts and comparing them with originals (Fig. 2).

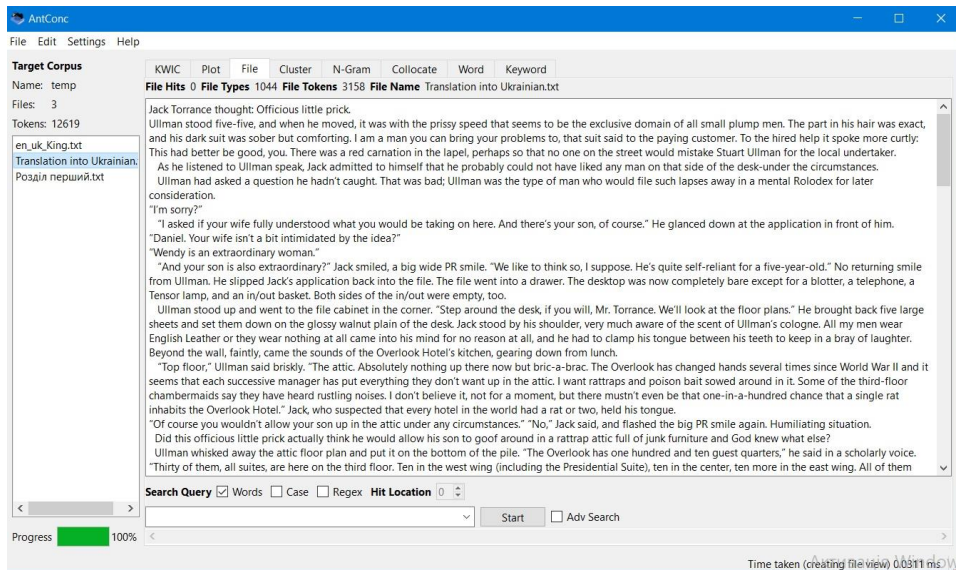


Fig. 2 The Original text: analysis in the *AntConc* system

Translations that have already taken place and differ by year can be analyzed separately. That is, you can compare translations and feel what changes the first eras provide. It is also worth paying attention to how vocabulary, jargon, and slang are changing (Fig. 3).

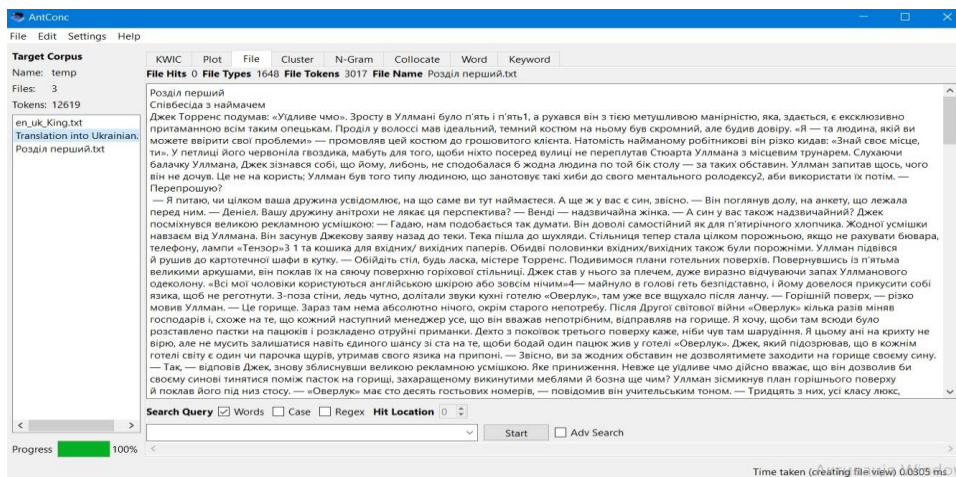


Fig. 3 Text translation: analysis in the *AntConc* system

You can also compare merged texts, which can be created automatically by merging tools (from the English align). Such texts may have merge tags or other additional non-textual information that can be removed at will (Figure 4).

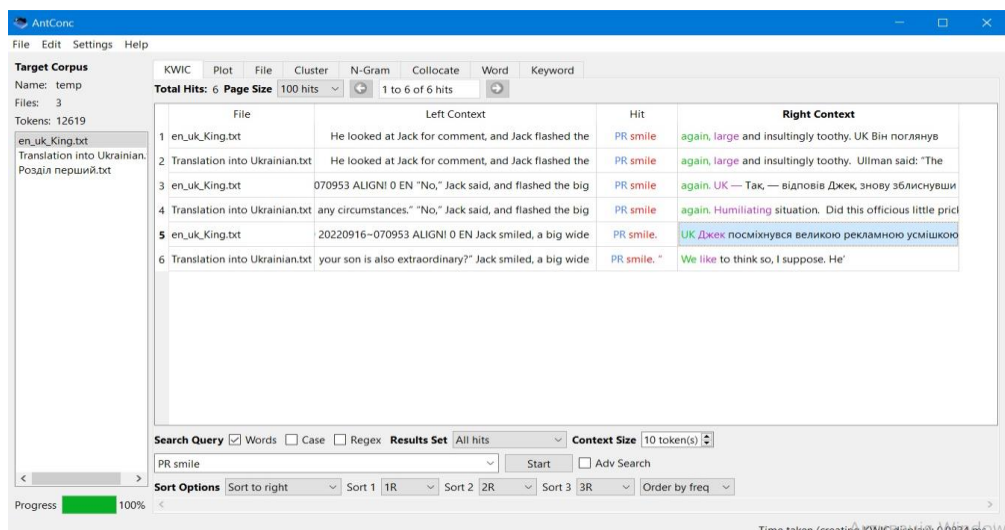


Fig. 4 The aligned text: translation analysis in the *AntConc* system

In order to work with a larger number of compared texts, it is possible to use such a corpus tool as *SketchEngine*, which will allow you to organize your own corpus online (Fig. 5).

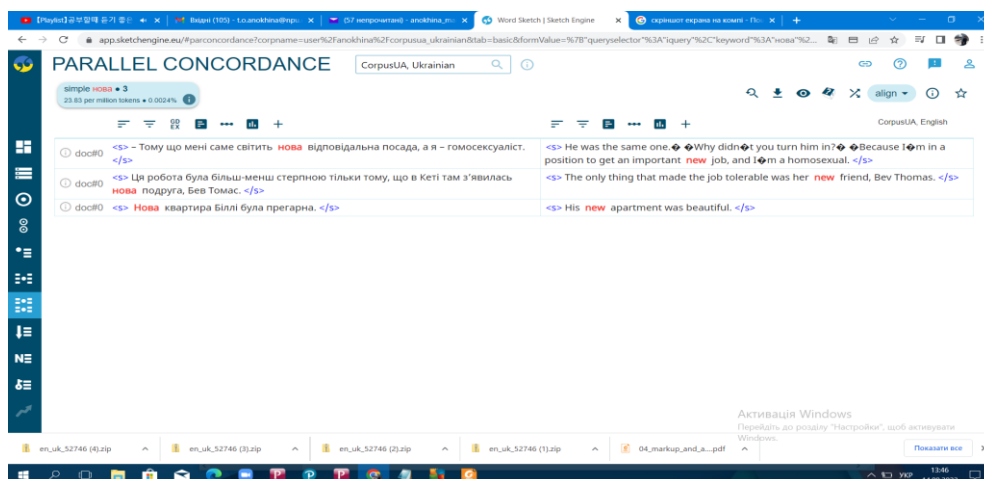


Fig. 5 Parallel concordance: translation analysis in the *SketchEngine* system

Comparing to the offline corpus manager *AntConc*, this tool must be prepaid. Here, storage takes place on the server and there are additional built-in tools, for example, keyword search (Fig. 5, Fig. 6), corpus markup, part-language analysis, accumulation and addition of texts.

This methodology we used and now our aim to teach in the innovative way about European studies. To do so we assess the European modern heritage to follow. In Order to teach more about the European writers we are asking for GPT advice to make a list of writers (Fig. 6), hopefully we have some authors which are available with the information until September 2021 (as it was stated in GPT option).

1. Patrick McGrath (UK): Known for works like "Spider" and "Dr. Haggard's Disease," McGrath often explores psychological complexities and disorders in his writing.
2. Sebastian Fitzek (Germany): A bestselling German author known for psychological thrillers that often incorporate themes of mental health and identity, such as "The Therapy" and "The Child."
3. Michel Houellebecq (France): Houellebecq's novels, like "The Elementary Particles" and "Submission," often touch upon psychological and existential themes.
4. Maxime Chattam (France): Chattam is a popular French author known for his psychological thrillers and suspense novels, such as "In Tenebris" and "The Fifth Kingdom."

Fig. 6 List of the European writers recommended by the GPT chat

As we go on with finding more information about the European writer we may start from the personal profile to select modern writers who work and publish their works in the current time.

**Sebastian Fitzek**  
13 Oct 1971 -

Sebastian David Fitzek (born 13 October 1971 in Berlin) is a German writer and journalist. His first book, *Therapy* (originally *Die Therapie*), was a bestseller in Germany in 2006, toppling *The Da Vinci Code* from the first position. Fitzek is currently one of the most successful writers of Germany. Max Rhode is a pseudonym of Sebastian Fitzek.

Source: [Sebastian Fitzek](#) on Wikipedia.

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Fig. 7 The public profile of the European writer

Other work can be done manually searching for books of EU writers and columnists and digitalizing them to compile a library, also, we can use electronic version and short samples to avoid copyright issues as we are collecting material for educational purposes and have no intention to sell the compiled library.

### Search Query and AI for collecting data for the corpus compilation

As we follow the style of the popular columnists we are able to enhance the style of the written works of students using the modern samples selected in the open press and other open resources. We can find the short samples of the best speeches and appreciate the string of words people use nowadays as we follow the European heritage of the adorable public figures, writers and columnists.

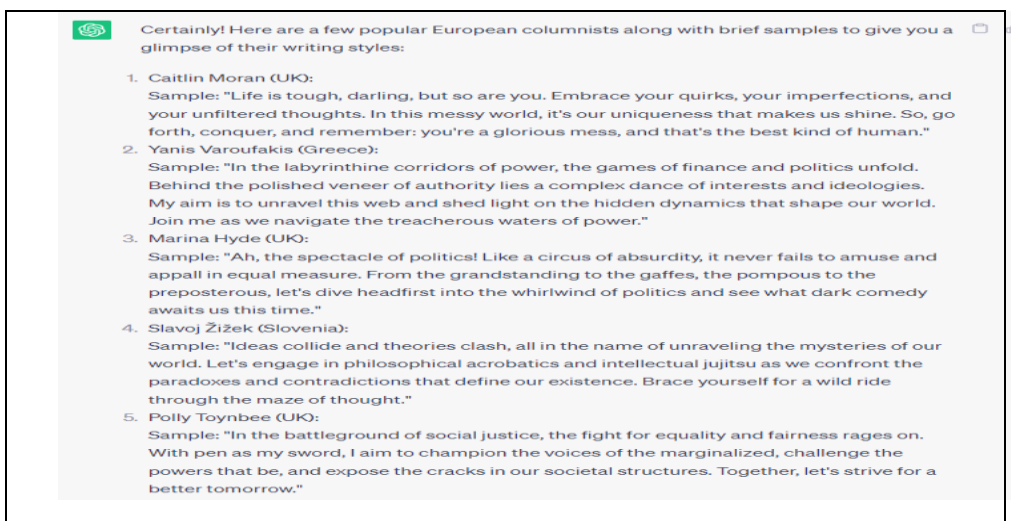


Fig. 7 The samples of works by popular European columnists recommended by the GPT chat

As we know from open sources the basic info we can go on further to look though paid or sample resources to give the glimpse on the European culture. Here we face gender issues, and we come to the conclusion that developed economies have many powerful and socially active women. To illustrate take the works by the famous English journalist, author, and broadcaster at The Times, where she has three columns a week: one for the Saturday Magazine, a TV review column, and the satirical Friday column "Celebrity Watch".



Fig. 8 Caitlin Moran, the famous British journalist who writes for The Times

As women get more independent they tend to do their own choices. As Caitlin Moran style is more explicit and women oriented what is can be traced by the new generation of women who write and write perfectly well. In Ukraine the women who are famous in Europe are Maria Matios, Oksana Zabuzhko and Irena Karpa who have specific style and manner.

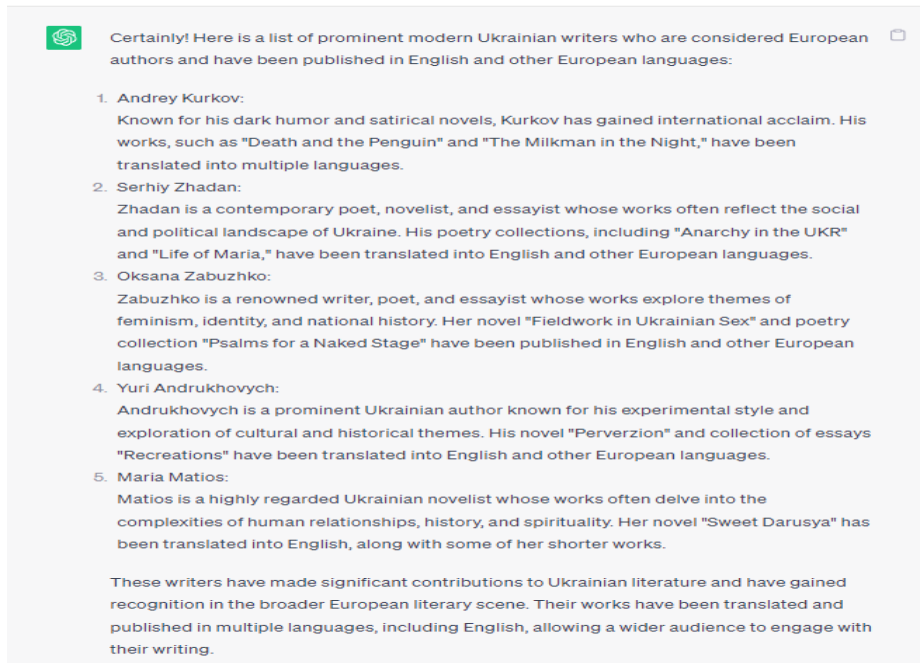


Fig. 7 The popular Ukrainian columnists and writers recommended by the GPT chat

When we find a few lines from Maria Matios' "Sweet Darusya: A Tale of Two Villages", we save in UTF8 txt format and add to the library.

*"Amidst the rolling hills and fertile fields, nestled two villages separated by a river. On one side, the village of Halya stood proud, its homes adorned with colorful flowers. On the other side, the village of Olena was known for its cozy cottages and bountiful orchards. Life flowed quietly, yet distinctly, in each village, shaped by their traditions and the whispers of the past."*



Fig. 9 Maria Matios the Ukrainian author of "Sweet Darusya: A Tale of Two Villages"

*"In Halya, the villagers held tightly to their customs, passing them down from generation to generation. Every harvest festival, the air buzzed with the melodies of folk songs, and the village square filled with laughter and dancing. The rhythm of the loom echoed through the houses, as women wove intricate patterns into vibrant textiles, a testament to their artistic heritage."*

When we find a few lines from Oksana Zabuzhko “Fieldwork in Ukrainian Sex” (2003):

*“In this vast land, where secrets are whispered among the reeds and the earth tells tales in its deep embrace, I search for the fragments of my identity. I unravel the threads of history, weaving my own story into the tapestry of forgotten voices. Through the complexities of love, desire, and the struggle for independence, I uncover the essence of being Ukrainian, a journey as elusive as the wind across the open steppe.”*



Fig. 8 Oksana Zabuzhko, the Ukrainian writer with active social position

These lines are also saved as txt file and added to the library, also in the same manner we can add bigger texts and abstracts, and reviews. Like Irena Karpa who writes for vanity Fair (2022):

*“I never tire of explaining the truth to individuals or to thousands of people through the TV screen. The optimist in me believes that there are more conscientious and open-minded people, like that grandfather from Bordeaux, than otherwise. But the realist in me says that the lazy consumer will always choose the most convenient option to quell their guilt for their own inaction. I’m going to ask again, of course, but I doubt very much that the owner of the hotel ever donated something to a dog shelter, or sent a box of humanitarian aid to any country, or—now we’re heading into fantasy—hosted migrants, as my mother and thousands of others are now doing in this difficult time for Ukraine. I explained to him what I could. This is his life and his decision—whose side to take.”*



Fig. 9 Irena Karpa, the Ukrainian writer who currently resides in France and supports Ukraine



To have a good start we aim at compiling of a library of worthy ideas and worthy people, Men and Women, bearing in mind the work by Irena Karpa where she asked “Why cats are better than men?” Maybe because they can have no gun and no word to kill.

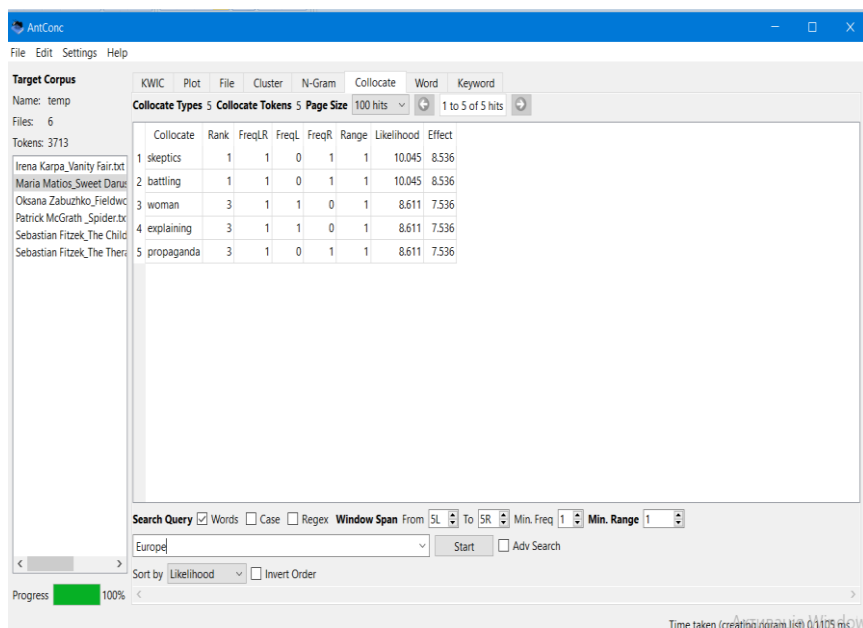


Fig. 9 The Small educational corpus of the European writers and columnists

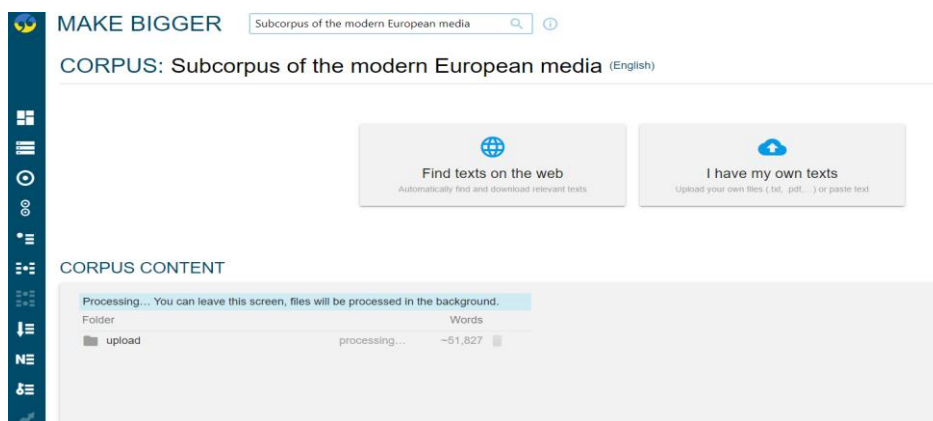


Fig. 10 Adding the selected files to the bigger corpus powered by the *Sketch Engine*

### Conclusions

In our short review we aimed to compile the educational corpus containing the European ideas and cultural heritage we share and thus we have added works by European writers and columnists that were selected semi-manually to the offline *AntConc* library for review and check and then added to the bigger dataset stored online in our *Sketch Engine* Library as subcorpus of the modern European digitalized texts (media and literature) in the structure of the bigger multilingual corpus.

Modern teaching today is very much on *YouTube* interviews and *Open Library* with audio texts as we have tendency as younger people watch and listen more than read because it is quicker and more effective access to data. This idea is for extra use of our corpus which

has some major start points for further research and study. We fully support texts reading and writing elaborating personal style, along with enhancing communicative habits by listening and discussing issues we investigate. By our study we have compiled some digitalized texts adding them semi-automatically to the *Sketch Engine* corpus and possibility to find more extra resources adding them to the shared library.

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