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Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Act I:
Some Comparisons of Laughter in Text and Film

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1. Why we study laughter
2. Why we compare the laughter in Albee's text with the
    laughter in its performance in the film
3. Our methodology for assessing laughter in text and film
4. Data analyses and results
5. Conclusions

Table 1
Frequency of Described (D) and Transcribed (T) Laughter (L), Giggle (G), and Chuckle (C);
Number of Syllables (Syl) and Syllables per Laughter, Giggle, and Chuckle (Syl/LGC) for
Speakers in Act I of Albee's (1962/1990) *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Speaker	Type									Syl	Syl/LGC
	Laughter		Giggle		Chuckle		Overall				
	D	T	D	T	D	T	D	T	Overall		
George	3	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	4	5611	1403
Honey	3	1	13	-	1	-	17	1	18	700	39
Martha	17	9	3	-	-	-	20	9	29	4543	157
Nick	7	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	8	1026	128
Overall	30	10	16	1	2	-	48	11	59	11880	201

Examples
Described Giggle: "HONEY (*giggling a little as she and Nick advance*)" (p. 18).
Transcribed Laughter: "MARTHA. Ha,ha, ha, HA!" (p. 18).

Table 2
Frequency of Bouts (B) and Pulses (P), Pulses per Bout (P/B), Duration (D) in Seconds, and Pulses per Second (P/S) of Laughter for Speakers in Act I of the FilmVersion (Lehman, 1966/2006) of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Speaker	B	P	P/B	D	P/S
George	14	44	3.14	7.11	6.19
Honey	16	99	6.19	19.16	5.17
Martha	31	143	4.61	34.33	4.17
Nick	3	22	7.33	4.13	5.33
Overall	64	308	4.81	64.73	4.76

Table 3
Frequencies (*f*) and Percentages (*%*) of Pulses for Orthographic Transcriptions of Phonetic Realizations of HA-HA-laughter (According to Transcription Conventions of *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*, 11th ed., 2003) and of Overlaid Laughter for Speakers in Act I of the Film Version (Lehman, 1966/2006) of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Orthographic Transcriptions	Speakers									
	George		Honey		Martha		Nick		Overall	
	f	*%*	*f*	*%*	*f*	*%*	*f*	*%*	*f*	*%*
eh	-	-	-	-	1	0.7	-	-	1	0.3
ha	10	22.7	5	5.0	76	**53.1**	-	-	91	**29.5**
he	-	-	12	12.1	14	9.8	-	-	26	8.4
hm	15	**34.1**	42	**42.4**	3	2.1	-	-	60	19.5
ho	-	-	4	4.0	-	-	-	-	4	1.3
hu	15	**34.1**	24	24.2	19	13.3	21	**95.5**	79	**25.6**
huh	-	-	1	1.0	2	1.4	-	-	3	1.0
hum	1	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.3
uh	1	2.3	5	5.0	11	7.7	1	4.5	18	5.8
yuh	-	-	-	-	1	0.7	-	-	1	0.3
Overlaid	2	4.5	6	6.1	16	11.2	-	-	24	7.8
Overall	44	100.0	99	99.8	143	100.0	22	100.0	308	99.8

Table 4

Percentages (*%*) of Expected and Observed Frequencies of Occurrence for the most Frequent Phonetic Realizations of HA-HA-laughter (*ha, hm,* and *hu*) in Act I of the Film Version (Lehman, 1966/2006) of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* for All Bouts with Articulation Rates Greater than 6.00 Pulses/Second

Phonetic Realizations	Expected Frequencies (*%*)	Observed Frequencies (*%*)	Difference (*%*)
ha	30	18	- 12
hm	20	29	+ 9
hu	26	36	+10

References

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