

# Package ‘pseudobibeR’

May 9, 2026

**Title** Aggregate Counts of Linguistic Features

**Version** 1.2

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**Description** Calculates the lexicogrammatical and functional features described by Biber (1985) <[doi:10.1515/ling.1985.23.2.337](https://doi.org/10.1515/ling.1985.23.2.337)> and widely used for text-type, register, and genre classification tasks.

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**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**LazyData** TRUE

**Depends** R (>= 3.5.0)

**Imports** dplyr, purrr, quanteda, quanteda.textstats, rlang, stringr, tibble, magrittr

**Suggests** testthat (>= 3.0.0), udpipe

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

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biber	<i>Extract Biber features from a document parsed and annotated by spacyr or udpipe</i>
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### Description

Takes data that has been part-of-speech tagged and dependency parsed and extracts counts of features that have been used in Douglas Biber's research since the late 1980s.

### Usage

```
biber(
  tokens,
  measure = c("MATTR", "TTR", "CTTR", "MSTTR", "none"),
  normalize = TRUE
)

## S3 method for class 'spacyr_parsed'
biber(
  tokens,
  measure = c("MATTR", "TTR", "CTTR", "MSTTR", "none"),
  normalize = TRUE
)

## S3 method for class 'udpipe_conllu'
biber(
  tokens,
  measure = c("MATTR", "TTR", "CTTR", "MSTTR", "none"),
  normalize = TRUE
)
```

### Arguments

tokens	A dataset of tokens created by <code>spacyr::spacy_parse()</code> or <code>udpipe::udpipe_annotate()</code>
measure	Measure to use for type-token ratio. Passed to <code>quanteda.textstats::textstat_lexdiv()</code> to calculate the statistic. Can be the Moving Average Type-Token Ratio (MATTR), ordinary Type-Token Ratio (TTR), corrected TTR (CTTR), Mean Segmental Type-Token Ratio (MSTTR), or "none" to skip calculating a type-token ratio. If a statistic is chosen but there are fewer than 200 token in the smallest document, the TTR is used instead.
normalize	If TRUE, count features are normalized to the rate per 1,000 tokens.

### Details

Refer to `spacyr::spacy_parse()` or `udpipe::udpipe_annotate()` for details on parsing texts. These must be configured to do part-of-speech and dependency parsing. For `spacyr::spacy_parse()`,

use the `dependency = TRUE`, `tag = TRUE`, and `pos = TRUE` arguments; for `udpipe::udpipe_annotate()`, set the `tagger` and `parser` arguments to "default".

Feature extraction relies on a dictionary (included as `dict`) and word lists (`word_lists`) to match specific features; see their documentation and values for details on the exact patterns and words matched by each. The function identifies other features based on local cues, which are approximations. Because they rely on probabilistic taggers provided by spaCy or udpipe, the accuracy of the resulting counts are dependent on the accuracy of those models. Thus, texts with irregular spellings, non-normative punctuation, etc. will likely produce unreliable outputs, unless taggers are tuned specifically for those purposes.

The following features are detected. Square brackets in example sentences indicate the location of the feature.

#### **Tense and aspect markers:**

**f\_01\_past\_tense** Verbs in the past tense.

**f\_02\_perfect\_aspect** Verbs in the perfect aspect, indicated by "have" as an auxiliary verb (e.g. *I [have] written this sentence.*)

**f\_03\_present\_tense** Verbs in the present tense.

#### **Place and time adverbials:**

**f\_04\_place\_adverbials** Place adverbials (e.g., *above, beside, outdoors*; see list in `dict$f_04_place_adverbials`)

**f\_05\_time\_adverbials** Time adverbials (e.g., *early, instantly, soon*; see `dict$f_05_time_adverbials`)

#### **Pronouns and pro-verbs:**

**f\_06\_first\_person\_pronouns** First-person pronouns; see `dict$f_06_first_person_pronouns`

**f\_07\_second\_person\_pronouns** Second-person pronouns; see `dict$f_07_second_person_pronouns`

**f\_08\_third\_person\_pronouns** Third-person personal pronouns (excluding *it*); see `dict$f_08_third_person_pronouns`

**f\_09\_pronoun\_it** Pronoun *it, its, or itself*

**f\_10\_demonstrative\_pronoun** Pronouns being used to replace a noun (e.g. *[That] is an example sentence.*)

**f\_11\_indefinite\_pronouns** Indefinite pronouns (e.g., *anybody, nothing, someone*; see `dict$f_11_indefinite_pronouns`)

**f\_12\_proverb\_do** Pro-verb *do*

#### **Questions:**

**f\_13\_wh\_question** Direct *wh*- questions (e.g., *When are you leaving?*)

#### **Nominal forms:**

**f\_14\_nominalizations** Nominalizations (nouns ending in *-tion, -ment, -ness, -ity*, e.g. *adjustment, abandonment*)

**f\_15\_gerunds** Gerunds (participial forms functioning as nouns)

**f\_16\_other\_nouns** Total other nouns

#### **Passives:**

**f\_17\_agentless\_passives** Agentless passives (e.g., *The task [was done].*)

**f\_18\_by\_passives** *by*- passives (e.g., *The task [was done by Steve].*)

#### **Stative forms:**

**f\_19\_be\_main\_verb** *be* as main verb

**f\_20\_existential\_there** Existential *there* (e.g., [*There*] is a feature in this sentence.)

#### Subordination features:

**f\_21\_that\_verb\_comp** *that* verb complements (e.g., *I said [that he went].*)

**f\_22\_that\_adj\_comp** *that* adjective complements (e.g., *I'm glad [that you like it].*)

**f\_23\_wh\_clause** *wh-* clauses (e.g., *I believed [what he told me].*)

**f\_24\_infinitives** Infinitives

**f\_25\_present\_participle** Present participial adverbial clauses (e.g., [*Stuffing his mouth with cookies*], *Joe ran out the door.*)

**f\_26\_past\_participle** Past participial adverbial clauses (e.g., [*Built in a single week*], *the house would stand for fifty years.*)

**f\_27\_past\_participle\_whiz** Past participial postnominal (reduced relative) clauses (e.g., *the solution [produced by this process]*)

**f\_28\_present\_participle\_whiz** Present participial postnominal (reduced relative) clauses (e.g., *the event [causing this decline]*)

**f\_29\_that\_subj** *that* relative clauses on subject position (e.g., *the dog [that bit me]*)

**f\_30\_that\_obj** *that* relative clauses on object position (e.g., *the dog [that I saw]*)

**f\_31\_wh\_subj** *wh-* relatives on subject position (e.g., *the man [who likes popcorn]*)

**f\_32\_wh\_obj** *wh-* relatives on object position (e.g., *the man [who Sally likes]*)

**f\_33\_pied\_piping** Pied-piping relative clauses (e.g., *the manner [in which he was told]*)

**f\_34\_sentence\_relatives** Sentence relatives (e.g., *Bob likes fried mangoes, [which is the most disgusting thing I've ever heard of].*)

**f\_35\_because** Causative adverbial subordinator (*because*)

**f\_36\_though** Concessive adverbial subordinators (*although, though*)

**f\_37\_if** Conditional adverbial subordinators (*if, unless*)

**f\_38\_other\_adv\_sub** Other adverbial subordinators (e.g., *since, while, whereas*)

#### Prepositional phrases, adjectives, and adverbs:

**f\_39\_prepositions** Total prepositional phrases

**f\_40\_adj\_attr** Attributive adjectives (e.g., *the [big] horse*)

**f\_41\_adj\_pred** Predicative adjectives (e.g., *The horse is [big].*)

**f\_42\_adverbs** Total adverbs

#### Lexical specificity:

**f\_43\_type\_token** Type-token ratio (including punctuation), using the statistic chosen in measure, or TTR if there are fewer than 200 tokens in the smallest document.

**f\_44\_mean\_word\_length** Average word length (across tokens, excluding punctuation)

#### Lexical classes:

**f\_45\_conjuncts** Conjuncts (e.g., *consequently, furthermore, however*; see dict\$f\_45\_conjuncts)

**f\_46\_downtoners** Downtoners (e.g., *barely, nearly, slightly*; see dict\$f\_46\_downtoners)

**f\_47\_hedges** Hedges (e.g., *at about, something like, almost*; see dict\$f\_47\_hedges)

**f\_48\_amplifiers** Amplifiers (e.g., *absolutely, extremely, perfectly*; see dict\$f\_48\_amplifiers)

**f\_49\_emphatics** Emphatics (e.g., *a lot, for sure, really*; see `dict$f_49_emphatics`)

**f\_50\_discourse\_particles** Discourse particles (e.g., sentence-initial *well, now, anyway*; see `dict$f_50_discourse_parti`)

**f\_51\_demonstratives** Demonstratives (*that, this, these, or those* used as determiners, e.g. [*That is the feature*])

#### Modals:

**f\_52\_modal\_possibility** Possibility modals (*can, may, might, could*)

**f\_53\_modal\_necessity** Necessity modals (*ought, should, must*)

**f\_54\_modal\_predictive** Predictive modals (*will, would, shall*)

#### Specialized verb classes:

**f\_55\_verb\_public** Public verbs (e.g., *assert, declare, mention*; see `dict$f_55_verb_public`)

**f\_56\_verb\_private** Private verbs (e.g., *assume, believe, doubt, know*; see `dict$f_56_verb_private`)

**f\_57\_verb\_suasive** Suasive verbs (e.g., *command, insist, propose*; see `dict$f_57_verb_suasive`)

**f\_58\_verb\_seem** *seem* and *appear*

#### Reduced forms and dispreferred structures:

**f\_59\_contractions** Contractions

**f\_60\_that\_deletion** Subordinator *that* deletion (e.g., *I think [he went].*)

**f\_61\_stranded\_preposition** Stranded prepositions (e.g., *the candidate that I was thinking [of]*)

**f\_62\_split\_infinitive** Split infinitives (e.g., *He wants [to convincingly prove] that ...*)

**f\_63\_split\_auxiliary** Split auxiliaries (e.g., *They [were apparently shown] to ...*)

#### Co-ordination:

**f\_64\_phrasal\_coordination** Phrasal co-ordination (N and N; Adj and Adj; V and V; Adv and Adv)

**f\_65\_clausal\_coordination** Independent clause co-ordination (clause-initial *and*)

#### Negation:

**f\_66\_neg\_synthetic** Synthetic negation (e.g., *No answer is good enough for Jones.*)

**f\_67\_neg\_analytic** Analytic negation (e.g., *That isn't good enough.*)

## Value

A data.frame of features containing one row per document and one column per feature. If `normalize` is TRUE, count features are normalized to the rate per 1,000 tokens.

## References

- Biber, Douglas (1985). "Investigating macroscopic textual variation through multifeature/multidimensional analyses." *Linguistics* 23(2), 337-360. doi:10.1515/ling.1985.23.2.337
- Biber, Douglas (1988). *Variation across Speech and Writing*. Cambridge University Press.
- Biber, Douglas (1995). *Dimensions of Register Variation: A Cross-Linguistic Comparison*. Cambridge University Press.
- Covington, M. A., & McFall, J. D. (2010). Cutting the Gordian Knot: The Moving-Average Type-Token Ratio (MATTR). *Journal of Quantitative Linguistics*, 17(2), 94-100. doi:10.1080/09296171003643098

**See Also**

[dict](#), [word\\_lists](#)

**Examples**

```
# Parse the example documents provided with the package
biber(udpipe_samples)

biber(spacy_samples)
```

---

dict	<i>Dictionaries defining text features</i>
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**Description**

For Biber features defined by matching text against dictionaries of word patterns (such as third-person pronouns or conjunctions), or features that can be found by matching patterns against text, this gives the dictionary of patterns for each feature. These are primarily used internally by `biber()`, but are exported so users can examine the feature definitions.

**Usage**

```
dict
```

**Format**

A named list with one entry per feature. The name is the feature name, such as `f_33_pied_piping`; values give a list of terms or patterns. Patterns are matched to spaCy tokens using `quanteda::tokens_lookup()` using the `glob` valuetype.

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udpipe_samples	<i>Samples of parsed text</i>
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**Description**

Examples of spaCy and udpipe tagging output from excerpts of several public-domain texts. Can be passed to `biber()` to see examples of its feature detection.

**Usage**

```
udpipe_samples

spacy_samples
```

**Format**

An object of class `udpipe_conllu` of length 3.

An object of class `spacy_parsed` (inherits from `data.frame`) with 1346 rows and 9 columns.

**Details**

Texts consist of early paragraphs from several public-domain books distributed by Project Gutenberg <https://gutenberg.org>. Document IDs are the Project Gutenberg book numbers.

See `udpipe::udpipe_annotate()` and `spacyr::spacy_parse()` for further details on the data format produced by each package.

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word\_lists

*Lists of words defining text features*

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**Description**

For Biber features defined by matching texts against certain exact words, rather than patterns, this list defines the exact words defining the features. These lists are primarily used internally by `biber()`, but are exported so users can examine the feature definitions.

**Usage**

word\_lists

**Format**

A named list with one entry per word list. Each entry is a vector of words.

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