

# Package ‘stylest2’

July 23, 2025

**Title** Estimating Speakers of Texts

**Version** 0.1

**Description** Estimates the authors or speakers of texts. Methods developed in Huang, Perry, and Spiraling (2020) <[doi:10.1017/pan.2019.49](https://doi.org/10.1017/pan.2019.49)>. The model is built on a Bayesian framework in which the distinctiveness of each speaker is defined by how different, on average, the speaker's terms are to everyone else in the corpus of texts. An optional cross-validation method is implemented to select the subset of terms that generate the most accurate speaker predictions. Once a set of terms is selected, the model can be estimated. Speaker distinctiveness and term influence can be recovered from parameters in the model using package functions. Once fitted, the model can be used to predict authorship of new texts.

**Depends** R (>= 4.2),

**License** GPL-3

**Imports** Matrix, quanteda

**Suggests** devtools, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

**Collate** 'stylest2\_select\_vocab.R' 'stylest2\_fit.R'  
'stylest2\_predict.R' 'data.R' 'stylest2.R'

**Encoding** UTF-8

**VignetteBuilder** knitr, rmarkdown

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.1

**NeedsCompilation** no

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novels	<i>Excerpts from English novels</i>
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**Description**

A dataset of text from English novels by Jane Austen, George Eliot, and Elizabeth Gaskell.

**Usage**

data(novels)

**Format**

A dataframe with 21 rows and 3 variables.

**Source**

Novel excerpts obtained from Project Gutenberg full texts in the public domain in the USA. <http://gutenberg.org>

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novels_dfm	<i>Novel excerpts in quanteda dfm object</i>
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**Description**

A dataset of text from English novels by Jane Austen, George Eliot, and Elizabeth Gaskell. It has been tokenized and processed as a document-feature matrix in quanteda.

**Usage**

data(novels\_dfm)

**Format**

A quanteda dfm with a document variable titled "author".

**Source**

Novel excerpts obtained from Project Gutenberg full texts in the public domain in the USA. <http://gutenberg.org>

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stylest	<i>stylest2: A package for estimating authorship of texts.</i>
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**Description**

stylest2 provides a set of functions for fitting a model of speaker distinctiveness, including tools for selecting the optimal vocabulary for the model and predicting the most likely speaker (author) of a new text.

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stylest2_fit	<i>Fit speaker model to document-feature matrix</i>
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**Description**

This function generates a model of speaker/author attribution, given a document-feature matrix.

**Usage**

```
stylest2_fit(  
  dfm,  
  smoothing = 0.5,  
  terms = NULL,  
  term_weights = NULL,  
  fill_weight = NULL  
)
```

**Arguments**

dfm	a quanteda dfm object
smoothing	the smoothing parameter value for smoothing the dfm. Should be a numeric scalar, default to 0.5.
terms	If not NULL, terms to be used in the model. If NULL, use all terms.
term_weights	Named vector of distances (or any weights) per term in the vocab. Names should correspond to the term.
fill_weight	Numeric value to fill in as weight for any term which does not have a weight specified in term_weights.

**Value**

An S3 object, a model with with each term that occurs in the text, the frequency of use for each author, and the frequency of that terms' occurrence through the texts.

**Examples**

```
data(novels_dfm)  
stylest2_fit(dfm = novels_dfm)
```

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stylest2_predict	<i>Predict authorship of texts.</i>
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### Description

This function generates predicted probabilities of authorship for a set of texts. It takes as an input a document-feature matrix of texts for which authorship is to be predicted, as well as a stylest2 model containing potential authors.

### Usage

```
stylest2_predict(
  dfm,
  model,
  speaker_odds = FALSE,
  term_influence = FALSE,
  prior = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

dfm	a quantda dfm object. Each row should represent a text whose authorship is to be predicted.
model	A stylest2 model.
speaker_odds	Should the model return log odds of authorship for each text, in addition to posterior probabilities?
term_influence	Should the model return the influence of each term in determining authorship over the prediction set, in addition to returning posterior probabilities?
prior	Prior probability, defaults to NULL.

### Value

A list object:

### Examples

```
data(novels_dfm)
mod <- stylest2_fit(novels_dfm)
stylest2_predict(dfm=novels_dfm, model=mod)
```

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stylest2\_select\_vocab *Cross-validation based term selection*


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### Description

K-fold cross validation to determine the optimal cutoff on the term frequency distribution under which to drop terms.

### Usage

```
stylest2_select_vocab(
  dfm,
  smoothing = 0.5,
  cutoffs = c(50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 99),
  nfold = 5,
  terms = NULL,
  term_weights = NULL,
  fill = FALSE,
  fill_weight = NULL,
  suppress_warning = TRUE
)
```

### Arguments

dfm	a quanteda dfm object.
smoothing	the smoothing parameter value for smoothing the dfm. Should be a numeric scalar, default to 0.5.
cutoffs	a numeric vector of cutoff candidates.
nfold	number of folds for the cross-validation
terms	If not NULL, terms to be used in the model. If NULL, use all terms.
term_weights	Named vector of distances (or any weights) per term in the vocab. Names should correspond to the term.
fill	Should missing values in term weights be filled? Defaults to FALSE.
fill_weight	Numeric value to fill in as weight for any term which does not have a weight specified in term_weights.
suppress_warning	TRUE/FALSE, indicate whether to suppress warnings from stylest2_fit().

### Value

List of: best cutoff percent with the best speaker classification rate; cutoff percentages that were tested; matrix of the mean percentage of incorrectly identified speakers for each cutoff percent and fold; and the number of folds for cross-validation.

**Examples**

```
data(novels_dfm)
stylest2_select_vocab(dfm=novels_dfm)
```

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`stylest2_terms`*Select terms above frequency cutoff*

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**Description**

A function to select terms for inclusion in a stylest2 model, based on a document-feature matrix of texts to predict and a specified cutoff.

**Usage**

```
stylest2_terms(dfm, cutoff)
```

**Arguments**

<code>dfm</code>	a quanteda dfm object.
<code>cutoff</code>	a single numeric value - the quantile of term frequency under which to drop terms.

**Value**

A character vector of terms falling above the term frequency cutoff.

**Examples**

```
data(novels_dfm)
best_cut <- stylest2_select_vocab(dfm=novels_dfm)
stylest2_terms(dfm = novels_dfm, cutoff=best_cut$cutoff_pct_best)
```

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