

“I don’t speak firefly.”

## People-specific expressions and topics in “The Rings of Power”

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For our research, we investigated the different peoples present in the fictional world of the series “The Rings of Power”.

We decided to collect data based on four main groups: Harfoots, Elves, Southlanders and Númenóreans. We focus on these specific groups as we find the largest share of developed speaking in the English language among these groups.

We are going to present a collection of different people-specific-expressions divided into different categories/topics. Using Sketch Engine, we were able to extract vocabulary per species, highlighting and discovering the differences and similarities among single words and lexical terms used by these populations.

Examining five episodes of the series, we noticed a correlation between groups’ lifestyle and culture and their active vocabulary. This ranged from the frequency of certain words to particular expressions that were sometimes even exclusive to one group. One example for these phenomena is that the Harfoots, an ancestral group to the well-known Hobbits that regularly switch living environments in a nomadic style, tend to use terms related to wild nature and migration.

While there are various potential research angles on the “Rings of Power” protagonist groups and their language use, we benefited from the exceptional scientific condition of being able to look at a specific group of people and their language use without the constraints and considerations of real-life settings. In contrast to non-fictional “speech-communities”, their speech can be investigated as self-contained rather than the product of exchange and historic development.