

---

## THE CLOSING ANTHEM

Robert Dillan also wrote a second anthem to be sung at the end of a successful Corpus Linguistics conference.

---

Come gather round linguists  
Wherever you be  
And admit that statistics  
Can set you all free  
You can calculate chi  
On your cellular phone.  
If your data to you  
Is worth savin'  
Just back up your files  
Or you'll sink like a stone,  
    For the times they are a-changin'.

Come all software writers  
Learn that now is not then  
Keep your code clean  
The chance won't come again.  
We're warning you now  
It's a new discipline  
And there's no tellin' who  
That it's namin'.  
Introspection is dead  
Observation will win,  
    For the times they are a-changin'.

You can use any language  
Perl, AWK or Spitbol  
But remember to test both  
Precision and recall  
Don't ignore any data  
Write a clear protocol.  
There's a battle outside ragin'  
It's empirical science  
Versus neanderthals,  
    For the times they are a-changin'.

Come literary critics  
Throughout the land  
Just don't criticize  
What you can't understand  
Get out of the way  
If you can't lend a hand.  
Old methods are  
Rapidly agin'.  
Empirical evidence  
Is beyond your command,  
    For the times they are a-changin'.

The program is written  
The die it is cast  
The sentence is small  
But the corpus is vast  
What was novel last week  
Is already past.  
The order is  
Rapidly fadin'.  
Humans are slow  
But computers are fast,  
    For the times they are a-changin'.