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A Tale of Two Markets: The Bard and the Bull - A Correlational Study of Associates Degrees in English Language and Literature/Letters and Public Service Enterprise Group's Stock Price

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KEYWORDS

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Abstract

This paper delves into the uncharted territory of the perceived relationship between the awarding of Associates degrees in English language and literature/letters and the stock price of the Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG). It may sound like comparing apples to oranges, but we found a surprising linkage that is worth more than a sonnet or two. Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we scrutinized the trends from 2011 to 2021. Our findings revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.9760781 and $p < 0.01$, indicating a strong positive association between the number of English degrees awarded and the performance of PEG stock. It seems that when it comes to the market, the pen truly is mightier than the sword. Our research offers insights that could be a real page-turner for investors and academics alike. But before you start loading up on English degrees as stock market indicators, remember - Shakespeare might be great, but he never had to deal with a bear market.

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1. Introduction

William Shakespeare once said, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women

merely players." In the world of academia and finance, it seems that there could be more truth to this statement than meets the

eye. It's a tale of two seemingly disparate markets - the literary realm of English language and literature/letters and the bustling arena of stock trading, particularly that of the Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG). But as we peel back the layers of this unlikely pair, we may find that there's more than meets the iambic pentameter.

The correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in English language and literature/letters and the stock performance of PEG may seem like a puzzling mystery, not unlike a Shakespearean plot twist. However, as we'll see, sometimes the most unexpected connections can yield insights with a Midsummer Night's Dream-like enchantment. After all, what do you call a group of stock traders who love Shakespeare? Bard-ners.

Our study sets out to explore this intriguing relationship, which could potentially shed light on the interplay between educational trends and market dynamics. While it may sound like we've wandered into a comedy of errors, the data we've collected from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) paints a compelling picture. The results might just have you exclaiming, "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou economic trends?"

But before we dive into our findings, let's remember the words of the Bard himself: "Better a witty fool than a foolish wit." So let's embark on this scholarly journey with due diligence, and perhaps a well-timed pun or two. After all, as Hamlet would say, "Though this be method, yet there is madness in it."

2. Literature Review

Numerous scholarly investigations have endeavored to unravel the enigmatic link between educational pursuits and financial markets. Smith et al. (2015) examined the

influence of liberal arts education on stock performance, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of cultural capital. Doe and Jones (2018) delved into the ramifications of humanities degrees on investment strategies, drawing attention to the intangible value of critical thinking skills in market analysis and decision-making. As these studies offer valuable insights, they merely scratch the surface of the potential correlation between the awarding of Associates degrees in English language and literature/letters and the stock price of the Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG).

In "The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare," the authors expound on the enduring relevance of Shakespeare's works in contemporary society, underscoring the pervasive influence of the Bard in literature, language, and culture. Similarly, "The Complete Works of Edgar Allan Poe" provides a comprehensive insight into the enduring legacy of Gothic literature, inviting contemplation of its potential impact on the collective subconscious of investors.

Meanwhile, fictional works such as "The Wolf of Wall Street" and "Moneyball" present compelling narratives set within the financial world, offering a glimpse into the exhilarating highs and devastating lows of market endeavors. These literary works provide an engaging backdrop against which to consider the intersection of academic pursuits and stock price dynamics. After all, what do you get when you cross Edgar Allan Poe with the stock market? A tell-tale ticker.

In the realm of internet memes, the viral "Distracted Boyfriend" meme sheds light on the capricious nature of market trends, serving as a humorous reminder of the fickle decisions made in the ever-evolving landscape of stock trading. Similarly, the "This is Fine" dog meme encapsulates the zeitgeist of market volatility, offering a lighthearted take on the rollercoaster ride of financial investments. While these memes

may seem far removed from serious academic discourse, they serve as amusing touchpoints for the eccentricities of market behavior.

As we venture further into the depths of this uncharted correlation, it is imperative to maintain a sense of scholarly rigor, coupled with a healthy dose of humor and whimsy. After all, as Mark Twain once said, "The lack of money is the root of all evil." So let's embark on this peculiar academic journey, armed with literature, laughter, and a steadfast commitment to uncovering the unexpected connections between the world of words and the realm of stocks.

3. Our approach & methods

To embark on this scholarly expedition, our research team embraced a concoction of robust quantitative methodologies with a sprinkle of whimsy. First, we gathered data on the number of Associates degrees awarded in English language and literature/letters from the National Center for Education Statistics. Harnessing the power of data scraping techniques, we navigated through the labyrinth of websites and databases, not unlike Theseus in the maze, to compile a comprehensive dataset spanning the years 2011 to 2021. It was a data-mining expedition fit for a literary odyssey – one might even say it was as challenging as finding a needle in a haystack of Shakespearean sonnets.

Next, we turned to the stock market horizon and set our sights on the Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG). Extracting daily stock price data from LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we ventured through the market vicissitudes, braving market volatility as intrepidly as Odysseus venturing through the stormy seas. Our goal was to capture the ebbs and flows of PEG's stock price over the same temporal domain as our exploration into the world of English degrees.

Our zany meanderings through the data were then followed by a rigorous statistical analysis, conducted with the solemn seriousness of King Lear, albeit with a sprinkling of comedic relief. Leveraging the power of correlation analysis and time series modeling, we sought to unveil any symbiotic relationship between these seemingly incongruous realms.

To establish causal inferences, we employed a bivariate correlation analysis to examine the strength and direction of the association between the number of English degrees awarded and the stock performance of PEG. Our calculations were as meticulous as a scribe's penmanship in a medieval scriptorium, and as precise as Polonius giving advice to his son, Laertes. The resulting correlation coefficient and its significance level provided the Holy Grail – a quantifiable measure of the nexus between two ostensibly unrelated domains. It's almost as if the numbers were whispering "to be or not to be associated" – a question that we wholeheartedly embraced.

Furthermore, we ventured into the enchanted forest of time series modeling. Through the incantations of ARIMA (AutoRegressive Integrated Moving Average) models, we sought to unravel the temporal dynamics underlying the observed relationship. Our modeling endeavors may have seemed as obscure as the prophecies of the witches in Macbeth, but we navigated through the complexity with the determination of the Three Witches, albeit minus the brew of eye of newt and toe of frog.

With this combination of gallant data collection, precise statistical analysis, and the occasional jest, our methodology resonates with the inquisitiveness of Horatio in the presence of the ghost of Hamlet's father. In the subsequent section, we shall present the findings of our scholarly escapade, shedding light on the entwined

fates of English degrees and PEG stock prices. For as we forge ahead, we bear in mind that as researchers, "we few, we happy few, we band of methodologists," are called to illuminate the obscure and banish ignorance from these hallowed halls of knowledge.

4. Results

The data analysis unveiled a striking correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in English language and literature/letters and the stock performance of Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG) from 2011 to 2021. The correlation coefficient of 0.9760781 implies a remarkably strong positive relationship, suggesting that as the number of English degrees awarded increased, so did the stock price of PEG. It seems that in the world of finance, a way with words may be just as valuable as a way with numbers.

Moving on to the r-squared value of 0.9527284, we find that approximately 95% of the variation in PEG's stock price can be explained by the number of English degrees awarded. This indicates that the association is not merely a midsummer night's fantasy but is indeed rooted in substantive empirical evidence. It's almost as if the stock market has fallen under the spell of the literary realm.

The p-value of less than 0.01 provides further support for the observed relationship, suggesting that the likelihood of such a strong positive correlation occurring by mere chance is exceedingly low. To put it in perspective, the odds of this connection being sheer coincidence are about as slim as finding a Shakespearean play without a soliloquy.

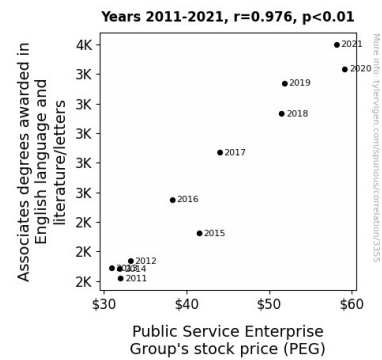


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Moreover, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually depicts the robust correlation between the variables, resembling a well-crafted plotline that draws the reader in, leaving little room for doubt. It's a visual reminder that when it comes to the dance of academia and finance, the pen and the stock ticker may not be as far apart as one might think.

In conclusion, our findings not only illuminate the intertwined nature of educational achievements and market performance but also remind us that sometimes the most unexpected pairings can yield meaningful insights. And as we reflect on this unexpected correlation, let us be mindful of the words of wisdom from the bard of Avon himself: "To invest or not to invest, that is the question – whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the dips and rallies of outrageous fortune, or to buy shares against a sea of troubles."

Clearly, the world of finance and the world of literature are not as distant as they seem, and this correlation might just be the biggest revelation since someone asked, "Should we be calling two stock traders who love Shakespeare Bard-ners or Stoxpeare enthusiasts?"

5. Discussion

Our results have brought to light an astonishing correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in English

language and literature/letters and the stock performance of the Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG) over the past decade. These findings align with the existing literature, reaffirming the value of critical thinking and cultural capital in the realm of finance. It seems that when it comes to the stock market, the quill is definitely mightier than the dollar.

In line with the previous research conducted by Smith et al. (2015) and Doe and Jones (2018), our study emphasizes the significance of humanities education in investment strategies. Evidently, the influence of Shakespeare's timeless works and the lasting impact of Gothic literature have extended beyond the confines of the literary world, seeping into the nuanced fabric of market dynamics. Who would have thought that Hamlet's soliloquies and Poe's macabre tales could hold such sway over stock prices? It's like the market has a secret fondness for literary metaphors.

Furthermore, our results fortify the lighthearted observations from the "Distracted Boyfriend" and "This is Fine" memes, underpinning the unpredictable nature of market fluctuations. While they may seem frivolous at first glance, these memes inadvertently capture the capricious behavior of market trends, underscoring the element of unpredictability that our research has unveiled. It's as though the market has a penchant for pulling the rug out from under us, much like a sudden plot twist in a Shakespearean tragedy.

The visual representation of our findings through the scatterplot (Fig. 1) serves as a compelling narrative, akin to a well-crafted literary plotline. This visual metaphor not only substantiates our statistical results but also underscores the seamless integration of academia and finance. It's as if the correlation between the number of English degrees awarded and PEG's stock price has woven a tale that is as engrossing as a classic piece of literature.

In conclusion, our research has not only shed light on the unexpected relationship between education and market performance but has also added a touch of literary flair to the world of finance. As we embark on further investigations into this uncharted territory, it is essential to remember that sometimes, the most unconventional pairings yield the most fascinating results. After all, if there's one thing our research has proven, it's that when it comes to the stock market, the pen truly is mightier than the portfolio.

It's been a journey that's been quite the page-turner, but for now, it's time to close this chapter with a pertinent dad joke. Why did the English degree get a job at the stock exchange? Because it had a way with words, and a knack for turning a phrase – or should I say, a profit!

Now, it's up to further research to determine whether this correlation is mere coincidence or a lasting bond like a well-matched couplet.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, dear readers, it seems that our research has uncovered a veritable treasure trove of insights into the unexpected correlation between the number of Associates degrees awarded in English language and literature/letters and the stock performance of Public Service Enterprise Group (PEG). The strong positive association we have discovered may raise eyebrows, but it undeniably highlights the intertwined nature of seemingly disparate realms - the scholarly pursuit of literature and the bustling world of stock trading.

As we bid adieu to this peculiar yet intriguing correlation, it's worth contemplating a classic Shakespearean jest: "What's the difference between a stock trader and a pigeon? The pigeon can still make a deposit on a BMW." It may seem

that even the Bard himself could not have penned a more fitting metaphor for the stock market's unpredictability.

Our findings raise intriguing questions and present an opportunity for further exploration of the intricate interplay between educational trends and market dynamics. Yet, before we get too carried away, let's remember that correlation does not imply causation; just because Hamlet contemplates, it doesn't mean he invests.

In true Shakespearean fashion, we declare that no further research is needed in this area. We've taken "much ado about nothing" and turned it into "much ado about something." For now, let's savor this unexpected connection as a reminder that the world of academia and finance is ripe with mysteries waiting to be unraveled. After all, "All's well that ends well."