

THE ROLE OF CORPUS LINGUISTICS IN VOCABULARY TEACHING: A DIGITAL METHODOLOGY FOR MODERN LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS

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It is known that vocabulary is one of the key issues in language learning. A learner with limited vocabulary has problems with understanding written text, understanding in conversations, and being able to accurately communicate in speaking. Vocabulary learning has been traditionally in language courses with the traditional method of memorization for decades. A whole host of lists of separate words was proposed in parallel with their meanings as given in a dictionary and had to be memorized by the student, who would then be tested and examined on them.

Keywords: *Corpus linguistics, vocabulary teaching, digital learning, collocations, frequency analysis, Data-Driven Learning, learner autonomy, language education.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada korpus lingvistikasining zamonaviy lugʻat oʻqitishdagi oʻrni va ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. Anʻanaviy lugʻat oʻqitish usullari koʻpincha yodlash va alohida soʻzlar roʻyxatiga asoslangan boʻlib, bu talabalar uchun yetarli kontekst yaratib bermaydi. Korpus lingvistikasi esa haqiqiy til materiallari asosida soʻzlarning qoʻllanilishini oʻrganishga imkon beradi. Maqolada korpuslarning kollokatsiyalarni oʻrganish, soʻz chastotasini aniqlash, uslubiy farqlarni tushunish, mustaqil taʼlim va samarali dars tashkil etishdagi oʻrni yoritiladi.*

Kalit soʻzlar: *Korpus lingvistikasi, lugʻat oʻqitish, raqamli taʼlim, kollokatsiyalar, Data-Driven Learning, mustaqil taʼlim.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье рассматривается роль корпусной лингвистики в обучении лексике и ее значение для современного языкового образования. Традиционные методы обучения словарному запасу часто основаны на механическом запоминании слов, тогда как корпусный подход позволяет изучать реальные примеры использования языка. В статье анализируются преимущества корпусной лингвистики для изучения колокаций, частотности слов, стилистических особенностей языка и развития самостоятельности обучающихся.*

Ключевые слова: *Корпусная лингвистика, обучение лексике, цифровое обучение, колокации, частотность слов, самостоятельное обучение.*

Introduction. *Memorization can facilitate acquisition in the short-term but lacks the ability to aid learners to use the vocabulary in effective communication. There are many*

pupils who know what a given word means and can identify the word but aren't certain about using that word at the correct time and place. As a result, they frequently are unable to apply the words in their lexica to non-verbal communication such as speech and writing.

With the recent progress of digital technologies, new opportunities in the field of language education have opened up. Corpus linguistics has been a very popular field amongst the developments, and has been focused on by both researchers and practitioners. A large collection of authentic spoken and written texts, representing real language use, saved in an electronic format. Corpora may be different text sources compared to traditional textbooks, and learners can see evidence from authentic communication situations and how these words work in natural contexts.

Through observation and analysis, using corpus materials, teachers and students can learn vocabulary. Using authentic language illustrations allows for exploration of meaning, patterns, common combinations, and frequency, as well as styling. Therefore, the corpus-based approaches are of growing significance in modern classrooms.

The theoretical foundations of Corpus Linguistics. In the latter half of the 20th century, corpus linguistics grew rapidly, particularly growing out of the use of advances in computer technology. As computing power grew it was possible to store and analyze more and more linguistic data. Modern corpora have many more words (billions) taken from many different sources, while early corpora held millions of words.

One of the principles of corpus linguistics is to study language with authentic materials. Instead of going on intuition or one's own opinion on a language in use, researchers are interested in observing and analyzing concrete instances that are produced by speakers and writers. This empirical point of view has had a profound impact on language research and language instruction.

There are many corpora available for educational use nowadays. The British National Corpus (BNC), Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and the different learner corpora that are specifically created for language teaching are all popular examples.

These materials offer the opportunity to access to natural uses of authentic vocabulary in various communicative contexts and registers.

Table 1

Vocabulary Learning Through Corpora	Authentic examples
	Contextual learning
	Real-life communication
	Vocabulary retention
	Practical application

Collocations and Vocabulary A field where corpus linguistics can really be of great use is the research of collocation. Collocations are words that go together and normally

sound 'natural' in the mouths of native speakers. Using such combinations is often challenging for language learners, since it can be correct, but doesn't necessarily sound natural in the learner's language.

In other cases, such as “make a decision,” “heavy rain,” “strong argument,” such expressions are common among the English speakers. While alternative combinations can make sense, they will lack the naturalness of the authentic language. The collection of numerical data from the corpus enables the learners to notice patterns of frequent co-occurrence and determine the native speakers' preferences for word combinations.

Frequent exposure to actual collocations can enhance the retention of vocabulary components and help to facilitate greater fluency of language production. Students' pronunciation and written language are more natural and precise when they memorize frequently used combinations of words.

Table 2

Common Benefits of Learning Collocations	Increased fluency
	More natural speech
	Better writing quality
	Improved comprehension
	Enhanced confidence

Data-Driven Learning Another important contribution of corpus linguistics is the Data-Driven Learning (DDL). This is a strategy that focuses on the student rather than focusing on the teacher. Students are not provided explanations and rules, but they analyze authentic data and identify patterns themselves.

This investigation lends the students the impetus for thinking critically. Allowing students to practice comparing word usage and meaning in a real context can help promote a sense of meaning and usage. For example, for the pair “gaze” and “stare”, corpus evidence can help students to understand that these might present the same definition in a dictionary, but can have different connotations and uses.

Table 3

Stages of Data-Driven Learning	Observation
	Pattern identification
	Rule formation
	Practice
	Independent application

Frequency Analysis and Vocabulary Selection Independent analysis has been found to produce longer retention of discoveries as it involved the process of learners' construction of knowledge as opposed to the process of reception of information. Concurrently, the novice might need to be directed by teachers as to how best to understand the corpus data. Identification of words through frequency and selection of vocabulary.

Another advantage of corpus resources is that they provide with frequency information. Any language course won't teach every word in the language, and a teacher will need to decide which vocabulary items are worthy of priority.

Words that come up most often in real communication are revealed using corpus analysis. This information helps teachers target the vocabulary that students will hear, read, speak, and write most often in their everyday reading and listening. This can allow for better use of instruction time.

Vocabulary selection based on frequency also helps the curriculum developers to create syllabi based on real language use. It is well known that by learning to use high frequency words first one can achieve communicative competence sooner than one which focuses mainly on less frequent or highly specific words.

Register Awareness Words are used as they are by speakers and writers and for their purposes in different contexts and to different audiences. Words and phrases that are suitable in informal settings might not be suitable for a school paper or report.

These differences can be highlighted for learners by using examples from a range of genres and contexts in the Corpus resources. Students can contrast words in newspapers, academic texts, blogs, social media, and in conversations with others. These comparisons emphasize the transfer of language in registers.

Learners can recognise some stylistic differences, making it easier to choose words for specific communicative purpose. Such awareness not only helps with linguistic competence but also with pragmatic competence.

Table 4

Register Types in Corpus Analysis	Academic writing
	Business communication
	News reporting
	Social media interaction
	Informal conversation

Corpus Linguistics and Teacher Development Corpus linguistics has other applications than student learning. The confidence of teachers in using corpus to verify language patterns, in developing teaching materials and in answering their learners' queries is enhanced.

If anything, teachers need not rely solely on their own intuition but can check the authenticity of the evidence from the use of words or patterns of usage when they are uncertain. Implementation of this evidence-based practice enhances trust in what happens in the classroom and helps with professional learning.

Moreover, corpus data may help teachers determine what they can expect their students to have difficulty with at the phrase or lexical level and to provide materials for their students to help them with these problems.

Learner Autonomy and Lifelong Learning Emphasis given to autonomy of the learner and lifelong learning. The value added by corpus-based learning includes the support to learner autonomy. Students who have been taught how to use the tools on the corpus can explore the language autonomously, and enhance their language skills on their own.

Corpora enable students to look up and study words meanings and collocations, as well as to check the frequency and patterns of which a word is used if they have any doubts. Through this students reduce their reliance on teachers and textbook for all their information.

There is, however, a degree of digital literacy and training needed for effective use of corpora in their autonomy. After their acquisition, corpus resources can aid the learner's ongoing language learning and development throughout his/her academic and professional careers.

Conclusion. The use of Corpus Linguistics has been a great addition to the current vocabulary teaching as it has introduced authentic, evidence-based and learner-oriented strategies to vocabulary teaching. Using authentic language materials, learners acquire a deeper knowledge of the frequency patterns of words, collocations and register variation. Data-Driven Learning keeps language being used actively to generate reflection and analytical thinking, and corpus tools facilitate learner autonomy and independent learning. While initially training and guiding this curriculum is needed, the educational value of corpus-based instruction is very great. This is because digital technologies are rapidly developing and corpus linguistics will take on greater role in language teaching and vocabulary courses across the world.

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