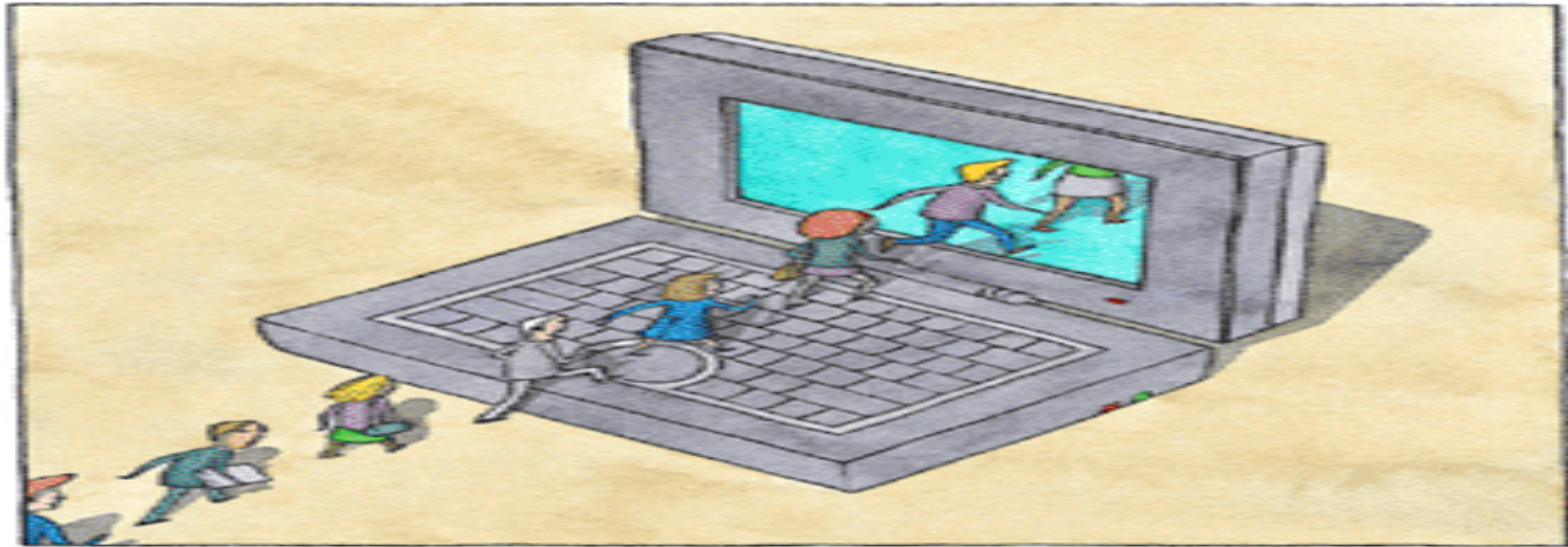


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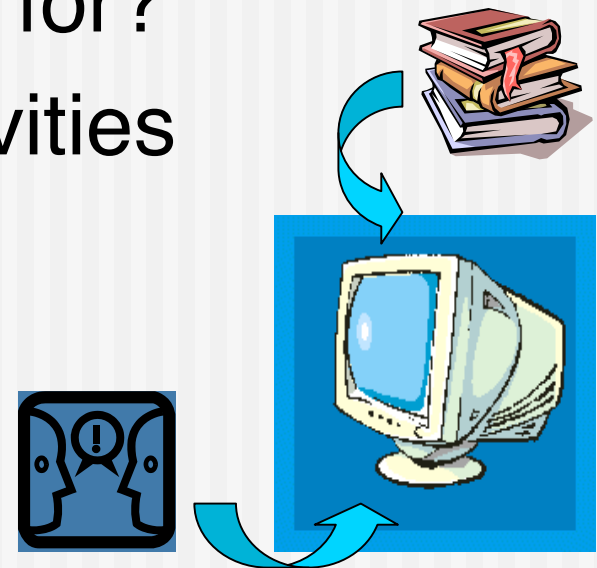


CORPORA in the CLASSROOM: UNVEILING LANGUAGE in USE

Cambridge Days

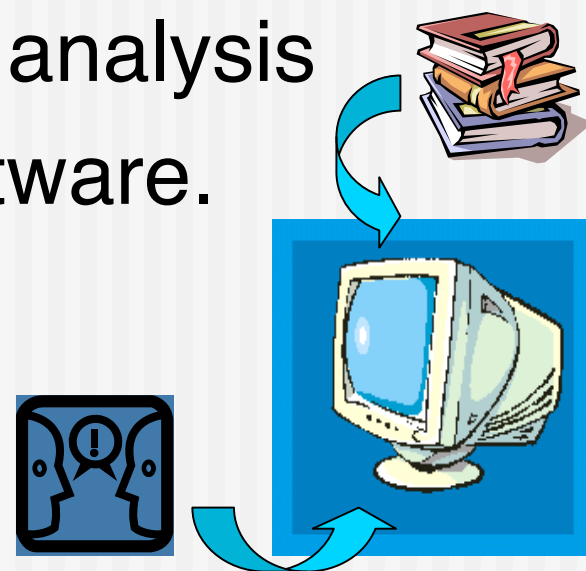
Today

- What is a corpus?
- Why using corpora in the classroom?
- How can we use corpora?
- What can we use corpora for?
- Samples of language activities



What is a corpus?

- A collection of a large amount of texts, **written**, **spoken** or **multimedia**, which is stored on a computer.
- A principled collection available for **qualitative** and **quantitative** analysis with specially designed software.



Corpus linguistics & Corpora in the class

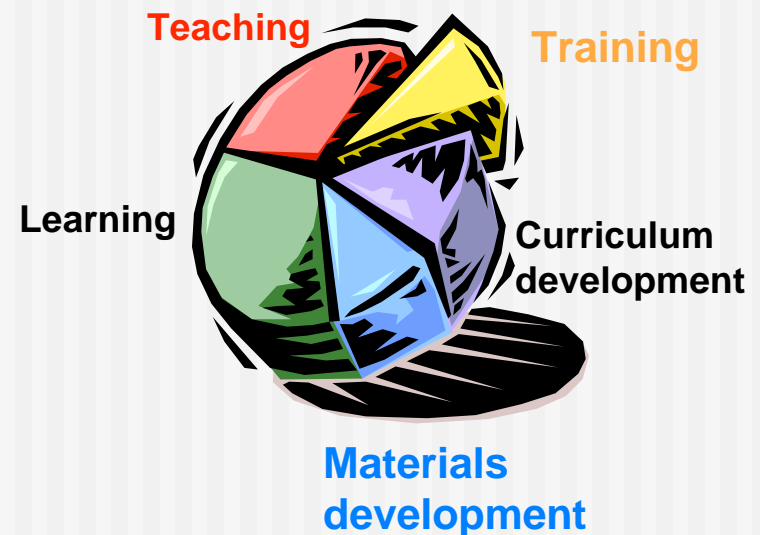
- A research approach for describing language in use
- A corpus is not a dictionary
- Corpora show us what grammar books do not: anomalies in written & spoken language that seem to violate rules but are acceptable
- Corpora can be used in the classroom by teachers and by students.

Why using corpora in the classroom?

“.. Let me tell you what kind of help I’ve found in corpora personally. As many other students I have some problems with choosing the right word to use or a preposition [...] now I just go on the website, consult a corpus, type the words I need to look for, and I look through the samples of sentences appeared on the screen and see what structure or pattern corresponds more to what I want to say...” (Yevgenya, 2009)

WHERE CAN CORPORA BE USEFUL?

- Language teaching
- Language learning
- Materials development and syllabus design
- Teacher education

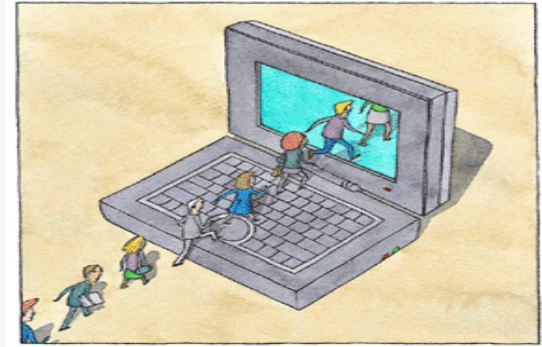


FREQUENCY in written (✍ W) and spoken (🗣 S) language

✍ W	🗣 S	✍ W	🗣 S	✍ W	🗣 S	✍ W	🗣 S	✍ W	🗣 S
1. THE	1. THE	11. IT	11. IN	21. BE	21. THEY	31. ARE	31. FOR	41. THEIR	41. DON'T
2. TO	2. I	12. ON	12. WAS	22. MY	22. WELL	32. AN	32. THIS	42. SHE	42. SHE
3. OF	3. YOU	13. HE	13. IS	23. HAVE	23. WHAT	33. THIS	33. JUST	43. WHO	43. THINK
4. A	4. AND	14. IS	14. IT'S	24. FROM	24. YES	34. HAS	34. ALL	44. IF	44. IF
5. AND	5. TO	15. WITH	15. KNOW	25. HAD	25. HAVE	35. BEEN	35. THERE	45. HIM	45. WITH
6. IN	6. IT	16. YOU	16. NO	26. BY	26. WE	36. UP	36. LIKE	46. WE	46. THEN
7. I	7. A	17. BUT	17. OH	27. ME	27. HE	37. WERE	37. ONE	47. ABOUT	47. AT
8. WAS	8. YEAH	18. AT	18. SO	28. HER	28. DO	38. OUT	38. BE	48. WILL	48. ABOUT
9. FOR	9. THAT	19. HIS	19. BUT	29. THEY	29. GOT	39. WHEN	39. RIGHT	49. ALL	49. ARE
10. THAT	10. OF	20. AS	20. ON	30. NOT	30. THAT'S	40. ONE	40. NOT	50. WOULD	50. AS

CIC – 1996 (written), CANCODE Cambridge University Press – 1999 (spoken); in Carter – 2001: 94

FREQUENCY



MAN: 1848 occurrences	WOMAN: 801 occurrences
HUSBAND: 395 occurrences	WIFE: 523 occurrences

Frequency of *man*, *woman*, *husband*, *wife* across corpora:

(Hunston, 2002: 8)

Greetings & leave-taking (p.21)

1. ..The first call of the day Mr from W.C. **Good morning!Good morning** Mr Johnston. I'd like to talk about 3.....
2.Nelly from Edinburgh's next, **good morning? Good morning** David. How are you?.. Very well thanks. Yourself?...
3.It is the, the Hearts school headmaster, **good morning. ... Morning** David. David, I just wanted to say that..
4.very much indeed for that. Mr.. from K., **good morning.** Hello! Yeah, I'd like to speak about the..
5. ..Okay, just past sorry Doctor. Right.... Ah **good morning.Good morning.....Morning** sir. What can .. I do for you?..
6. ... is the music with Trent F M.**Good morning,** hello, Trent F M here. How are you?
7.calls on that subject now, John from E., **good morning to you John...Morning,** Douglas, I think that's...

Greetings & leave-taking (p.21)

- 1...much indeed, thanks for your time. **See you later** class. About his car I wan...na know about three....
2. yourself now. Same with you. Right. **See you later**. Cheerio now. Bye bye. Yeah, yeah.....
3. Martin I'll **see you later**. **I'll see you later** anyway. I'll Okay yeah I'll ask the, when
4. now and see what I can do I'll **see you later** on in class. Yeah Come in. Oh hi Oliver, do
5. then. Okay. I'll do that. **See you later**. Speak to you later bye bye. Bye. Okay
6. No I can't. No. Oh **See you later**. Bye James. Bye bye. Okay let's er let's go
7. anyway, I'll **see you later**. I'll see you Monday morning then, have a good

Types of corpora



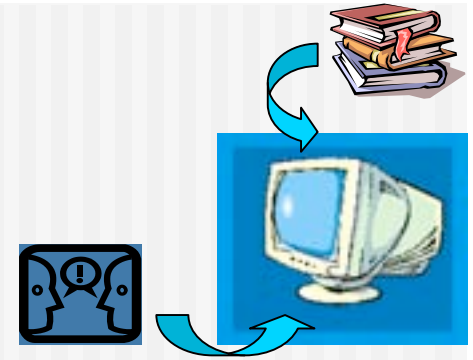
- General corpora (written or spoken language)
- Specialised corpora: CANCODE, MICASE
- Parallel corpora (eg. for translation purposes)
- Learner corpora: CAMBRIDGE LEARNER CORPUS
- English Varieties as a Lingua Franca: VOICE, ELFA

Consulting corpora: available software & websites

- **Software:**
- Wordsmith Tools, Monoconc Pro, SketchEngine etc.

- **Specific websites:**
- COLLINS CONCORDANCE
- Mark Davies BYU

Corpora available on the web



- COLLINS
- <http://www.collins.co.uk/Corpus/CorpusSearch.aspx>
- BYU (B. N. C., MICASE, C.O.C.A., etc.)
- <http://corpus.byu.edu/bnc/>

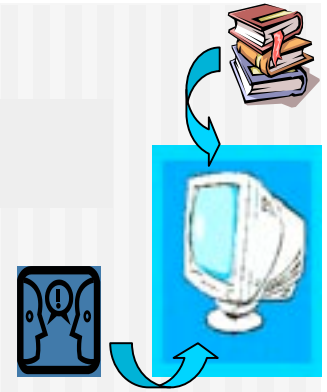
Observing the use of JOB (p.100)

1. ... for a garden, but, and er George got a	job	in Hatfield and they offered this three bedroom..
2. Well my husband had a	job	here we moved from Highbury in in London..
3. ... if people can't do a	job	then they go off to an ...
4. if she doesn't get a	job,	I hope she doesn't get a <u>job</u> , that's ...
5. ... basically they're doing the	job	that the public want cos they're successful.
6. I've just recently started a	job	as a drama teacher and I must say there ...
7. you're good at your	job	and if people get out of hand you know how to ...
8. ... only get the training vet's to do the	job	and then they reclaim from the ...
9. do you think your parents did a good	job?	Button one for yes, button two for no.
10. ...and they did an excellent	job	of bringing me up! I couldn't have asked for a
11. fact that I had a part time	job,	and erm we were able to pay for some home help
12. cos I start, I'm starting a full time	job.	again, I, I'll ask to share it hopefully.
13. Mm. and I'm an actress, that's my	job.	you know. But, I just came across so much
14. and when that is the case then its my	job.	to help them to come to terms with who they are
15. . If you can imagine someone losing their	job	the depression that actually causes, perhaps both ..

What would software show?

- **Concordancing:** using corpus software to find every occurrence of a particular word or phrase
- **Concordance lines:** a concordance is an index to the words in a text. It gives access to many important language patterns in texts.
- **Key-Word-In-Context** displays:
The **NODE** word/phrase in the centre of the line
- Concordance lines are scanned vertically
- **KEY-WORDS:** unusually high frequency (keyness)

What would software allow us to do?



A **corpus-access software** allows you to process data from a corpus:

- **Frequency**
- **Phraseology**
- **Collocations**

Enhancing reflection on communication

Learners asked to:

- 1. Reflect upon features of telephone conversation;**
- 2. Different ways of answering & replying (p.77)**
- 3. Observe extracts of phone conversations from spoken corpora;**
- 4. Identify features of different ways of answering & replying within the extracts (p.85)**

When I call

1) I can say who I am and then ask for the person I want to speak to =.....

2) I can ask for the person I want to speak to or just check if I'm speaking with him/her =

3) I can greet the person who answers the phone, then introduce myself and ask for the person I want to speak to.
=

- a. Good morning. This is Mary speaking. I wonder whether I can speak to Philip?
- b. This is Julius. Can I speak to John, please?
- c. Hello, Susan speaking. Is Maud in?
- d. Is Frances in, please?
- e. Hello. My name is Jennifer. I'd like to speak to Matt.
- f. Is that Alison?
- g. Stephen here. Is Brenda in?
- h. Sophie?

When I answer

1. I can say the English for '*Pronto*' and wait for the person who called to speak =
2. I can say my surname and ask who is speaking or if the person needs anything =
3. I can say my phone number and ask who is speaking =

- a) "Smith. Who's speaking?"
- b) "Hello?"
- c) "06 – 11 345 78. Who's calling?"
- d) "0776-293074028. Who is calling?"
- e) "Rodgers. Can I help you?"
- f) "Yes?"

Extracts from telephone conversations:

1...beep, beep, beep, ..
hello this is Sergeant
Briggs ..who's calling?

2. Hello. Hello, can I speak
to Sasha please?

3. Hello this is
Antonio again....

4. Hello, can I speak
to Bob, please?

5. ..Hi there, can I speak
to your headmaster
please?

6. Hello, can I speak to Adrian
please? It's Maggie, is that Eva?

7. Can I speak to Tony
please? It's Jan from Mold ..

8.....leave a message on the
answerphone and someone will
call you back.

Enhancing reflection upon spoken language

Learners are asked to:

- 1. Observe different patterns of conversation*
- 2. Match samples of oral interactions with their function (101 ways of interacting, p.81)*
- 3. Observe features of spoken language*
- 4. Identify those features within the extracts of conversations from spoken corpora (p. 84)*

Enhancing reflection upon spoken language

Typical features of spoken language

- **Fillers**, as *erm*
- **Abbreviations** or **short forms**, as *cos* for *because*
- **Repetitions** (of words, verbs, etc.) , as *I, I, I*
- **Slang forms**, as *Yeah*
- **Discourse markers**, used by the speaker to take time to reply or to say something, such as *Well, You know, I mean*
- **Tag-questions**, as *....didn't she?*
- **Hesitations...**

1. ...only five of us. **But eh. Right, well** , we'll have to,
2. ...that's right. **Yes, I mean** that would be very good...
3. Sixth is the Friday. **Yeah, well I mean** I think we
4. That car they going in? **Yes, well eh.** Ten till two, usual?
Ten till two, yes.....
5. ...**we, we** produced **erm, eh I mean** we talked to
6. we've already been told that **haven't we? Well I. Erm,**
7. A place in Harlow? **Well , I, I, I** have asked for that...
8.**Right, so I mean this is..** Listen, **this is....**
9. ..Yes, I've got plenty. **Okay, well** if you've got it,
- 10..The twenty fourth of September **isn't it? Yes,** twenty
fourth. **Well , it'll, it'll be the er,** the twenty fourth...
11. Don't leave it too long Norman. **Well yeah, I mean,**
your in the second week **aren't ya?..**
12. ...Is this on yet? **Yeah. Oh. Okay well** , good.....

STARTING FROM THE TEXT (p.140)

Read the text about Sri Lanka and check the use of the underlined words in the corpus extracts.

Sri Lanka is an island **situated** in the Indian Ocean, at the base of the Indian Sub-Continent, 880 km **north** of the equator.

Sri Lanka has a pleasant tropical climate.

The average temperature of the low lands ranges between 25-30 degrees Celsius.

It is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country with a **diverse** and rich culture with a total population of 19 million.

Observe what follows 'situated': prepositions - time expressions - distance Can you identify different uses/meanings?

1. ..at the Booking Office **situated** at street level next to the theatre's main entrance..
2. The University of York is **situated** on the East side of the City..
3. Delightfully **situated** in open country just outside Upleatham village..
4. The terrific open air restaurant and bar **situated** on the beach front..
5. ..**Situated** only five minutes from the nearest beach..
6. ..the clinic is **situated** between Katesbridge and Castlewellan,..
7. **Situated** on the Tees estuary, the area is already an internationally-famous..
8. Tea/coffee facilities, **situated** two minutes from Railway Station..
9. Copthorne Hotel B **situated** in the heart of the City,...
10. ..a 148 bedroomed hotel, **situated** just 200 yards from...
11. They are all centrally **situated** and within easy reach of all the main sights...
12. The Popi Hotel is well **situated** for everything...
13. Hastings is ideally **situated** for the ports of Dover, Folkestone...
14. Llyn Brenig is **situated** some 35 miles from Colwyn Bay...

Observe the use of **NORTH** in the extracts -
as an adjective, when preceded by 'the', or by a
verb ...Can you identify its use in the text?

1.We headed **north** to Port de Centuri...
2. ...just 80 miles **north** of the equator,..
3. ... two-bedroom flat in **North** London..
4. ...A recent study by the **North** London Polytechnic..
5. ...missing in the **north** Atlantic for a month..
6. ...Police rang them as they headed **north** after a friend's wedding..
7. ..Lee's reluctance to move to the **North**...
8. ...Bamburi beach, just **north** of Mombasa..
9. ..heading in loose formation towards the **North** Sea..

Applications

- Investigate language in use (idioms, collocations, lexical phrases, grammar patterns, and more);
- Analyse errors in learner corpora;
- Identify uses of a language (register, genre, ESP);
- Understand how spoken language works;
- Contextualise translation tasks;
- Explore varieties of discourse;
- Study language variations diachronically;
- **Reflect upon your mother tongue!!**

Looking ahead

Using language corpora might help:

- **Teachers**, who can become researchers into their own practice and provide more learning-centred, consciousness-raising activities
- **Students**, who can be made to “act as language detectives (Jones, 1997: 101)” = more autonomous
- **Material writers and syllabus designers**, who can base their work on naturally-occurring language

... darkness a brighter day will come. **[[Thank you]]** and God bless you.
... February 21, 2005 **[[Thank you]]**. It's an honor to be here tonight to ce ...
... people of a great nation willed it so. **[[Thank you]]**, John, for going back. Thank you
... Thank you, John, for going back **[[Thank you]]** for marching again. Thank you for
... back. Thank you for marching again **[[Thank you]]** for reminding us that in America,
... ke our own two hands and bend that arc. **[[Thank you]]** John. May God Bless you,
... we can still keep that promise alive. **[[Thank you]]**. Tuesday, March 8, 2005...
... at TechNet **[[Thank you]]** John. It's great to be here
... to this organization and this country **[[Thank you]]** Rick. We're here today... take a
few questions from the audience **[[Thank you]]**. Friday, March 11, Keynote ...
... March 11, 2005CURE Keynote Address **[[Thank you]]** David for that warm
... o I've been honored to have by my side. **[[Thank you]]** David for everything you do.
...of families for generations to come **[[Thank you]]**, and God Bless you. March 1,
... RallyRemarks by Senator Barack Obama **[[Thank you]]**. It's an honor to be here
... hink of them ? always ? when they come. **[[Thank you]]** and God Bless you.
... more than that. We owe them much more. **[[Thank you]]**.

Lucilla

SAVE THE DATE!

- Rome 19-20 November 2010
- TESOL Italy National Conference

“LANGUAGE FLOWS”