Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

HJEMMEEKSAMEN - TAKE-HOME EXAM
2011 VÅR/SPRING
2 sider - 2 pages

ENG2153: ENGLISH CORPUS LINGUISTICS

3 dager / days   23.05 - 26.05.2011

Besvarelsen skal leveres i Fronter (fronter.uio.no) 26. mai 2011, senest kl 12.00
Submit your paper in Fronter (fronter.uio.no) 26 May 2011, by 12.00 noon

Answer ALL questions.
Question 1 counts 20%, Question 2 30%, and Question 3 50% of your final mark.
Proper reference must be given to any source that has been used.
Your answer should not exceed 10 standard pages. (Use Times New Roman 12, a line spacing of 1.5, and margins of 2.5.)

1   **Discuss briefly TWO of the following with reference to relevant literature on the subject. Illustrate with examples from the BNC and/or the OIEC where appropriate.**

   a) Normalized frequency
   b) Tagging
   c) Representativeness in corpora
   d) Type, token, hapax legomena

2   **Discuss the concept of** association between pattern and meaning **with reference to concordance lines for the verb *get* followed by an adjective vs. a noun (phrase) (possible search strings:** {get/V} _AJ0 **vs.** {get/V} _NN1, or {get/V} drunk **vs.** {get/V} a drink) **as found in the British National Corpus (use BNC*web* available through Fronter). Your discussion should be written as a piece of text and should include examples.**

3   **Perform the following corpus study (use BNC*web* available through Fronter). Your discussion should be written as a piece of text and should include examples.**

   Verb + adjective with positive and negative associations
   Some verbs, such as *become*, *grow*, *go*, *come*, *turn*, can describe a change of state when they are followed by an adjective, e.g. *grow old*, *turn pale*, etc. On the surface these verbs seem similar to one another, but in fact there are some interesting differences with regard to meaning, collocational preferences and register distributions. The focus here is on collocational preferences.

   a) Start looking at adjectives used with GO, using the search string {go/V} _AJ0
       (NB! remember the space before the underscore). Look at the first two pages of

hits (i.e. 100 instances – do NOT use the sort function), then categorize the adjectives as positive, negative or neutral, and give an overview of how many adjectives belong to each category.

b) Which adjectives have a clear positive or negative association? Include examples as appropriate.

c) Are there any of the adjectives that are more difficult to categorize? Why?

d) Now do the same analysis for COME and GROW and compare the results. Which of these verbs has the clarest pattern of positive or negative associations? How does this relate to the concept of semantic prosody?

Explanation: For an explanation of the mark obtained: contact the responsible teacher of the course no later than 1 week after the exam results have been published in StudentWeb. Remember to include your name and candidate number. The examiner will then decide whether to give a written explanation or call you in for an interview.