ⁱ Information

University of Oslo
Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages
Spring 2021
ENG2153 – Analysing real English

Disclosure of exam assignment: May 31 at 11:00 AM
Submission deadline: June 3 at 11:00 AM

Practical information about the examination

You will be answering the examination in a word processor (Word), and then upload your answers to Inspera as a PDF before the examination time is up.
NB: you should calculate at least 2-3 minutes to convert your answers from a Word document to a PDF-document, and to upload the PDF-document to Inspera.

The uploaded document will be automatically submitted when the time is up.

Please follow the link for more information regarding converting to pdf: https://www.uio.no/english/services/it/web/open-document-formats/pdf/

After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

If you want to withdraw from the examination, please click on the icon in the upper right corner, and then choose "withdraw".

Requirements

Your paper must contain the following information:

- candidate number, NOT your name, your candidate number is available in Studentweb;
- course code and course name;
- semester and year

Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text. The pages must be numbered.

Your answer should be around 10 standard pages (a standard page consists of 2,300 characters). Pass marks are required on all three questions.

Sources and referencing

It is important that you familiarize yourself with the rules for sources and referencing: https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html

Using other people's material without declaring it properly may be considered as cheating or attempted cheating. The consequences of cheating or attempted cheating may be severe for you

as a student, please follow the link for more
information: https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/

¹ Exam

Answer ALL THREE questions.

Question 1 counts 20%, Question 2 20%, and Question 3 60% of your final mark.

Proper reference must be given to any source that has been used. Your answer should be around 10 standard pages (a standard page consists of 2,300 characters). Pass marks are required on all three questions.

The British National Corpus (BNC*Web* cqp edition - ilos/bnc) and the Oslo Interactive English (OIE - interactive/oslo) Corpus are also available through Canvas.

Question 1 (20%)

Discuss briefly TWO of the following points with reference to relevant literature on the subject. Illustrate with examples from the BNC and/or the OIE Corpus.

1. Semantic prosody
2. Data-driven learning
3. Qualitative vs. quantitative corpus method(s)
4. Part-of-Speech tagging
5. Real English and corpora

Question 2 (20%)

Discuss what is meant by "collocations in a window" and "adjacent collocations". Then discuss – and illustrate with examples from the BNC – how corpora can be used to investigate the two types of collocation.

Question 3 (60%)

Perform a corpus study, using BNC*web* to write a paper addressing the questions in (a)-(d) below. Your discussion should be written as a coherent text and should include examples from the corpus.

In your study, you will investigate the syntactically and semantically versatile nature of the lemma CROSS.

a. Use the search string **{cross}** in the BNC, and investigate a random sample of 50 concordance lines. On the basis of these concordance lines try to establish the various uses of CROSS in terms of word class. Give an overview of your findings in a table, where you indicate frequency of use according to word class. You should also comment on the different meanings of CROSS in the sample and give an example from the corpus of each use (word class and meaning) you identify.

b. Focus on *cross* as an adjective, searching for **cross_AJ0**. In a random sample of 30 concordance lines, how many instances of *cross* have been incorrectly tagged as an adjective? If any, give an example of each and state what the correct tag would be.

c. On the basis of the 30 concordance lines, analyse the context of the correctly tagged instances of the adjective *cross* to determine its typical use, focusing on type of subject and premodification.

d. Finally, perform a similar search for the near-synonym *annoyed* (**annoyed_AJ0**). On the basis of a random sample of 30 concordance lines, carry out the same kind of analysis as in (c) and compare your findings for *cross* and *annoyed*, discussing to what extent the two adjectives are used in similar contexts. Based on your findings, to what extent would you consider *cross* and *annoyed* to be true synonyms?

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Maximum marks: 0