

# **AELINCO 2015 BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

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dependency relations found at a more abstract level of analysis, i.e., between different grammatical slots in the environment of the node. Our analysis will be focused on the three most common syntactic types of collocation: subject-verb, object-verb, and modifier-noun. Using the nouns *cause* and *basis* as nodes, we will first determine whether they tend to occur more frequently in subject or in object position, and if so, whether the observed tendency is correlated with a tendency to occur in collocations where they modify other nouns or in collocations where they are modified by other nouns or by adjectives. The lexical association score used is *logDice* (an improved version of *Dice*); the scores will help us determine the inter-collocability dependency; that is, given  $Prob_1 = Prob(collocate_1 | node, collocate_2)$  and  $Prob_2 = Prob(collocate_1 | node)$ ; if  $Prob_1 > Prob_2$  then we find positive inter-collocability; else negative inter-collocability ( $Prob_1 < Prob_2$ ). All the data used in this research have been extracted from the corpus *enTenTen [2013]*, accessed at SketchEngine.

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### (22)

**Casas-Pedrosa, Antonio Vicente (University of Jaen, Spain):** Differences between spoken and written English: the case of the predicative Prepositional Phrases in the ICE-GB

#### PANEL: CORPUS-BASED GRAMMATICAL STUDIES

This paper is aimed at describing the main differences between spoken and written English. More specifically, attention is paid to the different examples which are classified as predicative Prepositional Phrases (PPs) in the International Corpus of English-Great Britain (ICE-GB) and their frequency in spoken and written texts. These units can be defined as those phrases which are introduced by a preposition and followed by a Noun Phrase (NP) acting as its complement. Furthermore, they perform the function of Subject Complement (Cs) at clause level. Such is the case of "She first fell in love with Will when she was eighteen, and she adores him still" (ICE-GB:W2F-019 #47:1).

Although in terms of frequency this is not the syntactic function PPs more often perform, they are taken into account because of their complexity and due to the lack of detailed analyses. In most cases they are described as isolated examples and this phenomenon is not considered to be a very productive one.

After introducing some basic notions, these structures are analyzed focusing on their presence in both spoken and oral texts within the ICE-GB. This is a one-million-word corpus which is both morphologically tagged and syntactically parsed. Moreover, it was compiled in the nineties and consists of both spoken (60%) and written material (40%).

The ICECUP (ICE Corpus Utility Program) software retrieved 3307 examples from 3223 sentences. These instances were then filtered since some of them were later classified as “noise” (in some cases the PPs were performing other functions either at phrase or at clause level and in others the element acting as the complement of the preposition was not a NP). For these reasons the final subcorpus consists of 1332 examples.

67.49% of these instances (899) are found in oral texts whereas 32.51% of them (433) belong to written texts. All these examples have been classified into different groups and subgroups corresponding to the different text categories available in this corpus (Nelson, Wallis and Aarts, 2002: 307-8). The results are presented in charts by means of both figures and percentages and different conclusions are later drawn based on the analysis of these charts.

Thus, for example, it can be noticed that, although it was expected that the amount of structures under study would be higher in spoken than in written texts because of the structure of the corpus itself, the relative frequency (which takes into account the relationship between the number of examples and the number of words) proves so, too: 0.1410% in spoken texts as opposed to 0.1022% in written texts, with an average of 0.1255% in the whole corpus. Moreover, there are more examples in dialogues (581) than in monologues (318) and in printed texts (332) than in non-printed ones (101).

This information proves especially relevant for non-native speakers of English since it allows them to become aware of the differences between speaking and writing. According to the evidence, some units are used more often in spoken language than in written English. Therefore, when producing any kind of text, students will feel more confident for they will be able to choose the appropriate structures bearing in mind these issues.

## (23)

**Casas-Pedrosa, Antonio Vicente (Universidad de Jaén, Spain):** The economy principle and English predicative prepositional phrases

### PANEL: CORPUS-BASED GRAMMATICAL STUDIES

This paper is aimed at analysing the relationship between the economy principle and English Predicative Prepositional Phrases (henceforth, PPPs). These can be defined as those phrases which are headed by a preposition whose Complement (C) is a Noun Phrase (NP) and which perform the function of Subject Complement (Cs). Such is the case of “under arrest” in [1]:

[1] The vessel remained under arrest from September the twenty-sixth until October the nineteenth (ICE-GB:S2A-065 #18:1:A).

As for the economy principle and the principle of the least effort, Vicentini (2003) studied the origin of these theoretical notions. Different examples obtained from the BNC and ICE-GB corpora and from various dictionaries confirm the hypothesis according to which the selection of certain PPPs will allow speakers to convey a given meaning by means of a