

CREATION OF A CORPUS ANALYSIS OF A SPECIALISED LANGUAGE PSYCHOLOGY

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“ANXIETY DISORDERS”

A Corpus linguistic is a large collection of texts chosen according to some specific criteria.

Linguists utilize corpora in order to analyse the real use of the target language.

In this course we are using corpora mainly with the purpose of developing both learner's autonomy and teacher's autonomy.

The compilation and the analysis of a specialised corpus will allow us to have statistical answers about the frequency and use of the words used by real people in that area.

Checklist

Quantitative Analysis

1. What are the most frequent 100 words used in your corpus?

This corpus contains several text about anxiety disorder.

The corpus according to Ant Conc. contains 5660 words divided in 1494 word types.

(According to MS Word it contains 5591 words)

Percentages

Nouns	32%
Adjectives	16%
Verbs	14%
Adverbs	3%
Other words (articles, prepositions etc.)	35%

In the first 100 words of this corpus there are more nouns than verbs, adjectives and adverbs. The 32 % of the words are nouns, the 16% are adjectives, the 14% are verbs and only the 3% are adverbs. It's interesting to notice the fact that there are more prepositions and other words than adjectives. However this is probably due to the fact that the same words are repeated several times in the texts contained in the corpus. Furthermore some words have different functions: They can be adjectives or adverbs, adjectives or verbs. So for each word it would be necessary a more complete analysis.

2. What are the most significant items in that list?

The most significant items in that list are **Nouns, Verbs, Adverbs** and **Adjectives**.

[8]	is	81
[9]	child	74
[11]	may	63
[12]	that	55
[13]	be	54
[14]	are	52
[15]	depression	51
[16]	disorder	48
[18]	anxiety	43
[20]	children	37
[21]	have	35
[22]	can	34
[23]	symptoms	34
[24]	this	31
[25]	more	29
[26]	when	28
[28]	separation	27
[33]	people	23
[36]	other	22
[37]	mood	21
[38]	often	21
[41]	has	20
[42]	school	20

[43]	disorders	19
[45]	parent	19
[46]	physical	19
[47]	some	19
[48]	they	19
[49]	their	18
[50]	parents	17
[51]	depressive	16
[54]	loss	15
[55]	include	14
[57]	should	14
[59]	treatment	14
[61]	your	13
[63]	bipolar	12
[64]	experience	12
[65]	home	12
[66]	major	12
[67]	medications	12
[68]	person	12
[69]	brain	11
[70]	common	11
[72]	therapy	11
[74]	activities	10

[75]	been	10
[76]	day	10
[77]	episodes	10
[78]	factors	10
[79]	family	10
[80]	health	10
[81]	many	10
[83]	social	10
[84]	these	10
[85]	will	10
[87]	active	9
[89]	behaviour	9
[90]	being	9
[91]	do	9
[93]	make	9
[94]	manic	9
[95]	months	9
[96]	normal	9
[98]	sleep	9
[99]	time	9
[100]	women	9

3. Here is a **core vocabulary** of the target specialised language for each of the four word classes, i.e. **nouns, verbs, adverbs** and **adjectives**.

Nouns

1	child	74
2	depression	51
3	disorder	48
4	anxiety	43
5	children	37
6	symptoms	34
7	separation	27
8	people	23
9	mood	21
10	school	20
11	disorders	19

12	parent	19
13	parents	17
14	depressive	16
15	treatment	14
16	experience	12
17	home	12
18	medications	12
19	person	12
20	brain	11
21	therapy	11
22	activities	10

23	day	10
24	episodes	10
25	factors	10
26	family	10
27	health	10
28	behaviour	9
29	months	9
30	sleep	9
31	time	9
32	women	9

I found **32 Nouns**.

Child, depression, disorder, anxiety, children, symptoms, separation, people, mood, school, disorders, parent, parents, depressive, treatment, experience, home, medications, person, brain, therapy, activities, day, episodes, factors, family, health, behaviour, months, sleep, time, women.

Adjectives

1	that	55
2	this	31
3	other	22
4	physical	19
5	some	19
6	their	18
7	your	13
8	bipolar	12
9	major	12
10	common	11
11	many	10
12	social	10
13	these	10
14	active	9
15	manic	9
16	normal	9

I found **16 Adjectives**.

That, this other, physical, some, their, your, bipolar, major, common, many, social, these, active, manic, normal.

Verbs

1	Is	81
2	may	63
3	be	54
4	are	52
5	have	35
6	can	34
7	has	20
8	include	14
9	should	14
10	been	10

11	will	10
12	being	9
13	do	9
14	make	9

I found **14 Verbs**.

Is, may, be, are, have, can, has, include, should, been, will, being, do, make.

Adverbs

1	more	29
2	when	28
3	often	21

I found **3 Adverbs**.

More, when, often.

4. The **minimal core vocabulary**, that is a limited number of items that are essential in the target variety of language, is the final outcome of the quantitative analysis carried on so far. It tells you what is used, but not how it is used.

Nouns

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11	disorders	19
12	parent	19
13	parents	17
14	depressive	16
15	include	14
16	treatment	14
17	experience	12
18	home	12

Adjectives

2	this	31
3	other	22
4	physical	19
5	some	19
6	their	18
7	your	13
8	bipolar	12
9	major	12
10	common	11
11	many	10
12	social	10
13	these	10
14	active	9
15	manic	9
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Verbs

1	is	81
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Adverbs

1	more	29
2	when	28
3	often	21

Qualitative Analysis

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS: OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE LANGUAGE AND HOW IT IS USED.

The first aim of this analysis is to understand in what ways the target language is different from everyday language. In order to accomplish this task, at least at a basic level, here are some further hints.

This kind of analysis is useful to understand in what ways anxiety disorder language is different from everyday language. In this analysis I will take into consideration several aspects: The use of the same word with different meaning or function in the same corpus, technical words, concordances, modals, connectors, nominalizations, compound words, verbs and the use of the passive form.

□ **TECHNICAL OR SEMI-TECHNICAL VOCABULARY:**

- The noun **Depression** occurs in the corpus 51 times and it is a very specific word in the field of Anxiety disorder.
- The adjective **Depressive** occurs in the corpus 16 times. Its used is due to a typical adjective.
- The noun **Paediatrician** occurs in the corpus 3 times. Its used is due to the specific word of children doctor.
- The noun **Disorder** occurs in the corpus 48 times. We can often see it associated to the Anxiety word.
- The noun **Anxiety** occurs in the corpus 43 times. It expresses the specific illness of Disorder. Sometimes it is associated to the Disorder word , but we can also see it alone.
- The word **Symptoms** occurs 34 times in the corpus.
- The word **Psychosis** occurs 1 time in the corpus.
- The word **Hallucinations** occurs 1 time in the corpus.
- The word **Therapy** occurs 11 times in the corpus.
- The word **Hyperactivity** occurs 8 times in the corpus.
- The word Hypothyroidism occurs 1 time in the corpus.

These are some of the technical and specific nouns used in the corpus. They are very different from the everyday language because they are very specific according to the field they belong to (Psychology field, medical field).

□ **CONCORDANCES:**

Analysing concordances helps to understand, if in English for anxiety disorder, words acquire a specific meaning or functions which is different from general and everyday English. At first I will analyse the use of “**may**”, “**can**”, “**should**” and the other modals since they are very frequent in the texts belonging to the corpus, because all of them deal with suggestions, instructions, possibilities to do something.

Modals: May, Can, Should, Might, Would, Shall.

1) May

May occurs **63 times** in the texts belonging to the corpus. Its use does not seem different from general English. It is used to express possibility and give suggestions.

Examples:

- ...essentially alone with a baby, **may** feel isolated and depressed.
- ...excessive to one observer **may** not seem excessive to another....
- ...There **may** also be a review of the home.....

2) Can

Can occurs **34 times** in the corpus. Its use is not different from general English. It is used to express possibility and ability.

Examples:

- ...What **can** parents and Caregivers do?.....
-Performance anxiety **can** appear in late childhood and.....
-patients and parents often **can** be helped by joining a.....

3) Should

Should occurs **14 times** in the corpus. Its use is not different from general English. It is used to express suggestions and recommendations.

Examples:

- ...the child **should** be involved in making treatment....
- ...teacher **should** ask parent to comfort child.....
-the paediatrician **should** do a thorough physical exam....

4) Might

Might occurs **4 times** in the corpus. Its use is not different from general English. It is used to express possibility and give suggestions.

5) Would

Would occurs in the corpus only 1 time and it is mostly used as a conditional and in hypothetical clauses.

6) Shall

No hits for shall.

□ **ADJECTIVES:** The most common adjectives are that, this, other. That is used as the demonstrative adjective, but also as a preposition.

□ **CONNECTORS:**

Then I will analyse the use of “therefore”, “as a result of” and “because” to identify the cause-effect relationship in the corpus.

1) Therefore

Therefore does not occur in my corpus.

2) Because

Because occurs **9 times** in the corpus

3) As a result of

As a result of does not occur in the corpus.

□ **OTHER CONNECTORS AND ADVERBS:**

In the corpus there are connectors such as “however”, “even though”, “Although” used as concessive conjunctions or clauses to express contrast, to express that some particular conditions may appear anyway.

- **But** occurs in the corpus **15 times**.
- **Even** occurs in the corpus **5 times**.
- **Even though** occurs in the corpus only 1 time. It is used with the meaning of “in spite of the fact or belief that; no matter whether”. Example: “Even though children of this age....”
- **About** occurs **15 times** in the corpus. It is always used with the meaning of “a little more or less than; approximately; nearly”. Often “about” is used with the ing- verb Ex.: “.....about being separated...” or “....pretending about going...”.
- **Where** occurs **4 times** in the corpus. It is normally used to introduce place. Ex.: “...in situation, where medications...”
- **When** occurs **28 times** in the corpus. It is normally used to introduce time. Ex: “When the patients have an acute...”.

- **However** occurs **11 times** in the corpus. It is used to comment on a previously stated fact with the meaning of “although”, “nevertheless”. Ex.: “...however it is important for the parents....”
- **As** occurs **37 times** in the corpus. It is used a lot as a conjunction or preposition, often to express examples with “such as..”. Ex: “...
- **Although** occurs in the corpus **3 times**. It is used as a concessive conjunction. Ex.: “Although medications form the basis....”.

□ USE OF QUANTIFIERS

- **Few** (occurs **2 times** in the corpus, **Many** occurs **10 times** in the corpus, **Some** (occurs **19 times** in the corpus), **Any** (occurs **4 times** in the corpus). They are used to express the quantity of things, diseases as the normal use of the English language.

□ NOMINALIZATIONS

“Anxiety disorder” for example or “Generalized Anxiety Disorder”, “Separation Anxiety Disorder”, “Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder”, “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder”, “Psychomotor retardation or agitation”.

In most cases these nouns are normally used as nouns. In other cases, they are used with an adjectival function and position. Sometimes the nominalization of words consists of little sentences such as “Separation Anxiety Disorder” to identify a specific disease. In other cases such as “Generalized Anxiety Disorder” the adjective has a function of adjective instead of its function of verb, but the Total expression represented goes together and represents a specific kind of Anxiety Disorder. “Separation Anxiety Disorder” are 3 nouns together that represents only a sentence, this is the nominalization of 3 words that goes together.

□ COMPOUND WORDS:

- **Manic-depressive**, is a compound word which occurs in the corpus 2 times always associated with the noun “illness”. This compound word is an adjective that expresses the quality of anxiety disorder.
- All These words (compound words) are adjectives and they express the quality of specific Anxiety diseases .

Examples:

-A family history of **manic-depressive** illness...
-and bipolar disorder (**manic-depressive** illness).....

Other compound words

- **Hard-wired**
- **Post-traumatic**

- **Re-experience**
- **Empty nest**
- **Everything school**
- **Large-scale**
- **Over-involvement**
- **Health-care**
- **Self-esteem**
- **Goal-directed**
- **Overly-inflated**
- **Deep rooted**

❑ **USE OF THE PASSIVE FORM**

In the corpus there is also a large use of the passive form since generally the focus is on the object and not on the agent that accomplishes the actions.

- **Unknown**, occurs in the corpus 2 times. Its use is that of a general passive verb.

Examples:

-The exact cause is unknown.....
- **Will be obtained**. So the future tense in this case is used as a passive form with the past participle.

Examples:

-The medical history will be obtained.....
- **Are being handled**
- **Having been abandoned**

The passive form is used as normal passive form of the English Language.

❑ **OTHER VERBS:**

Will, occurs 10 times in the corpus. Its used is due to the future. It is mainly used as a future, to express that something will surely occur.

To have 35 times in the corpus. “Have” is used both as an ordinary verb and as an auxiliary. “Has” is used as an ordinary verb, but also as an auxiliary in the present perfect tense, both active and passive.

To be 54 times in the corpus. “Is” is the most frequent verb. It is used both as an ordinary verb and as an auxiliary followed by the past participle and it is used mainly in its passive form.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of my corpus demonstrates that the most frequent used words are nouns, adjectives and verbs. The nouns are specific or general, but they are used as simple nouns.

Adjectives and Adverbs are normally used and they do not present any particular use different from the everyday language. They express and strengthen the explanations and descriptions, therefore the language focuses on showing, indicating, pointing out.

Language Functions are some examples of the rhetorical functions of underlining cause and effect relationships (because), stating that in spite of some conditions results may be different or change (however, although, but, even though) as concessive conjunctions, giving examples and illustrating (such as).

The articles present a frequent use of nominalizations. They are present especially in the form of nominal phrases, compound word phrases. They are used to nominalize ideas, to express theory, ideas, concepts, symptoms, diseases and actions sometimes with nouns and other times with adjectives.

Nominalization is used to write concisely and formally as in my Medical Corpus in order to have always the same concepts in a very short way and very useful to understand of what the article is “speaking” about.

The most common **verbal tenses** are “present” and “future”, this because in the articles there are the descriptions and explanations of Anxiety disorder, the symptoms that this kind of disease can cause, the feeling of families and children, what they have to do to face up to the Anxiety in the present and in the future. So sometimes there is a list of factors, symptoms and treatments for this disease.

The articles’ aim is to explain, describe, to draw up a list of symptoms, treatments, factors, the precautions that families and children should have to take in cases of Anxiety disorders. There are different theories that suggest possible solutions to the problems of Anxiety Disorders.