Collocations in context: A new perspective on collocation networks

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Abstract

The idea that text in a particular field of discourse is organized into lexical patterns, which can be visualized as networks of words that collocate with each other, was originally proposed by Phillips (1983). This idea has important theoretical implications for our understanding of the relationship between the lexis and the text and (ultimately) between the text and the discourse community/the mind of the speaker. Although the approaches to date have offered different possibilities for constructing collocation networks, we argue that they have not yet successfully operationalized some of the desired features of such networks. In this talk, we revisit the concept of collocation networks and introduce GraphColl, a new tool developed by the authors that builds collocation networks from user-defined corpora. In a case study using data from McEnery"s (2006a) study of the Society for the Reformation of Manners Corpus (SRMC), we demonstrate that collocation networks provide important insights into meaning relationships in language. This work is in collaboration with Vaclav Brezina and Steve Wattam.

Speaker Biography

Tony McEnery is a Professor in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University, and Centre Director and P.I. for the ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS).

Directions

Details for getting to Lancaster University can be found on their website, and Management School LT06 is building 52 on the Lancaster University Campus Map

Further information

For further information about this seminar, please contact michaeline.k.glover@manchester.ac.uk or about LuCiD, please contact helen.allwood@manchester.ac.uk