EXPLORING THE POWER OF CORPORA IN LITERATURE: UNVEILING INSIGHTS, ENHANCING INTERPRETATIONS

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Abstract

This article delves into the vast potential of corpus linguistics in literary research, showcasing its application across various domains. Through the examination of diverse corpora, including Shakespearean plays, feminist literature, African American works, and more, this study unveils a comprehensive framework for understanding literature. By tracing the development of feminist thought, analyzing intertextuality, tracking language changes over time, and identifying recurring themes and motifs, corpus linguistics offers novel insights into the intricate tapestry of literary works. Moreover, by comparing corpora from different time periods, the impact of historical events on literature is explored. The article also highlights the benefits of using large corpora in literary research, emphasizing the quantitative approach that corpus linguistics offers. Finally, it underscores the interdisciplinary potential of incorporating corpora in literary studies, fostering collaborations between linguists, literary scholars, historians, and other disciplines. Through this exploration, corpus linguistics emerges as a powerful tool for unraveling the rich complexities of literature and shedding light on its broader cultural significance.

Keywords: corpus, literature, corpora, stylistician, literary texts

ИЗУЧЕНИЕ СИЛЫ КОРПОРА В ЛИТЕРАТУРЕ: РАСКРЫТИЕ ИНСТИТУЦИЙ, УЛУЧШЕНИЕ ИНТЕРПРЕТАЦИИ

Аннотация

В этой статье рассматривается огромный потенциал корпусной лингвистики в литературных исследованиях, демонстрируя ее применение в различных областях. Благодаря изучению разнообразных корпусов, включая пьесы Шекспира, феминистскую литературу, афроамериканские произведения и многое другое, это исследование раскрывает комплексную основу для понимания литературы. Отслеживая развитие феминистской мысли, анализируя интертекстуальность, отслеживая языковые изменения с течением времени и выявляя повторяющиеся темы и мотивы, корпусная лингвистика

предлагает новое понимание сложной ткани литературных произведений. Более того, путем сравнения корпусов из разных периодов времени исследуется влияние исторических событий на литературу. В статье также подчеркиваются преимущества использования больших корпусов в литературных исследованиях, подчеркивая количественный подход, который предлагает корпусная лингвистика. Наконец, это подчеркивает междисциплинарный потенциал включения корпусов в литературоведение, способствуя сотрудничеству между лингвистами, литературоведами, историками и представителями других дисциплин. Благодаря этому исследованию корпусная лингвистика становится мощным инструментом, позволяющим разгадать богатую сложность литературы и пролить свет на ее более широкое культурное значение.

Ключевые слова: корпус, литература, корпуса, стилист, художественные тексты.

Introduction

The potential uses of corpus study are vast, as previously mentioned. Its primary application is to provide us, whether we are language researchers, textbook creators, language teachers, or language learners, with insights into the actual language that people use. Instead of offering subjective opinions like "In my opinion..." or "I feel that...", when addressing language-related queries, we can simply refer to a corpus and find the answer. By consulting the corpus, we can examine numerous instances of how individuals genuinely employ a word, grammar element, or phrase. This enables textbook writers and language instructors to present accurate information to readers and learners.

Moreover, corpus study allows us to uncover previously unknown aspects of language usage. For instance, through analyzing corpora, we have discovered that language often follows set patterns, meaning that we employ many fixed "chunks" when speaking and writing. While certain "chunks" such as 'on the other hand', 'a result of', and 'I don't know if' are already familiar to us, corpus study has revealed how these "chunks" serve as the fundamental building blocks of language. In other words, we do not necessarily learn and store individual words to construct sentences; instead, we learn, store, and utilize "chunks" of language. Corpus study also demonstrates that the "chunks" used in one style or context differ from those used in other styles and contexts.

Corpus linguistics (CL) has made significant contributions to the understanding of language use, particularly in critical discourse analysis (CDA). The relationship between CL and CDA has led to important findings in building representative data and generalizing social phenomena. Recent studies have focused on collocational analysis, which helps understand meanings and associations between words. Analyzing keywords and collocations in a corpus is crucial for identifying themes, topics, and the semantic structure of a text. Deep analyses examine changes in meaning through collocational networks.

However, statistical and quantitative analyses alone are insufficient for fully identifying semantic shifts in specialized corpora. Manual analysis of concordance lines for strong collocates can be time-consuming due to the large number of lines. Therefore, there is a need for an automatic thematic analysis methodology to increase representativeness when analyzing a corpus. Developing an algorithm-based methodology would assist linguists in analyzing all concordance lines of strong collocates.

Corpus linguists use tools like LancsBox to apply thematic analysis to collocations (word relationships) instead of a text's concordance lines. Hence, this article aims to contribute to the field of corpus linguistics by annotating/classifying the extracted lines from keywords in context (KWIC). Previous studies have not applied thematic analysis to the concordance lines of collocates; they only focus on thematic analysis based on the relationship between collocates. To provide a robust, thematic analysis of a corpus, we argue that corpus linguists need to analyze the lines of strong collocates while considering their collocational relationships. The proposed methodology suggests applying the proposed algorithms to automatically conduct a thematic analysis of the concordance lines in addition to the collocational analysis. By considering both the lines of strong collocates and their relationships, a robust thematic analysis can be conducted. Collocational analysis is also used to analyze topics and themes in a corpus, as well as the semantic relationship between words. It has been applied to various areas, such as analyzing language production, cultural values, and online reviews. However, some studies may not fully consider the analysis of keywords and shifts in their meanings within the discourse, so further analysis may be needed to understand how concepts relate to different representations.

Many studies have examined collocational analysis in the language production of native and non-native speakers. Other studies focus on analyzing the semantic relationship between words through their co-occurrence in a corpus. According to Evert , the frequency of occurrences, the exclusivity of collocates, and their directionality are important dimensions for understanding the semantic relationship

between co-occurring words. Brezina et al. emphasize the importance of analyzing collocation as it reveals the main topics and themes of a corpus. Gablasova et al. [9] further measure and interpret the use of collocation in both native and non-native language production. They argue that three dimensions have an impact on learners' knowledge, so these dimensions should be considered when selecting association measures for collocation.

Collocational analysis is also employed by various researchers to analyze how a corpus represents a topic with different ideas and themes. Neg and Tan investigated the diverse representations of COVID-19 and linked them to cultural values. They used the corpus approach and the mutual information score to measure word associations in the corpora. They also examined media coverage and the prevalence rate of COVID-19. Another study by Huang et al. emphasizes the importance of analyzing online reviews using the polymerization topic sentiment model (PTSM) for sentiment thematic analysis. They argue that PTSM can reveal the impact of reviews on shaping products and sales promotion. However, this study did not fully consider the analysis of keywords and shifts in their meanings within the discourse. Therefore, discourse analysts may need to delve deeper into the analysis and consider how the meanings of concepts relate to different representations.

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