

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	ix
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>To readers</i>	xvi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xviii
1 Corpus linguistics	1
1.1 Introducing corpus linguistics	1
1.2 The professor's shoeboxes	2
1.3 The tape-recorder and the computer	3
1.4 What can we get out of corpora?	5
1.5 Criticism from armchair linguists	8
1.6 Types of corpora	10
1.7 Very large and quite small corpora	22
1.8 Summary	22
Study questions	23
Corpus exercises	23
Further reading	23
2 Counting, calculating and annotating	25
2.1 Qualitative and quantitative method	25
2.2 Frequency	26
2.3 Comparing frequencies	37
2.4 Distribution in the corpus	40
2.5 Using percentages and normalising	41
2.6 Representativity	43
2.7 Corpus annotation	44
2.8 Summary	50
Study questions	50
Corpus exercises	50
Further reading	51

3	Looking for lexis	52
3.1	The role of the lexicon in language	52
3.2	How lexicographers use corpora	52
3.3	The meaning of words	53
3.4	Semantic preference, semantic prosody and evaluation	58
3.5	How words change in frequency over time	60
3.6	How words spread between varieties of English	63
3.7	How authors use words	66
3.8	Summary	69
	Study questions	70
	Corpus exercises	70
	Further reading	71
4	Checking collocations	72
4.1	Two types of collocations	72
4.2	Collocations in a window	74
4.3	Adjacent collocations	79
4.4	Summary	88
	Study questions	88
	Corpus exercises	89
	Further reading	89
5	Finding phrases	90
5.1	Phraseology	90
5.2	Idioms	92
5.3	Recurrent phrases	96
5.4	A literary application: Dickens's recurrent long phrases	107
5.5	Summary	108
	Study questions	109
	Corpus exercises	109
	Further reading	109
6	Metaphor and metonymy	111
6.1	Introduction	111
6.2	Using corpora in the study of metaphor	119
6.3	Using corpora in the study of metonymy	129
6.4	Summary	134
	Study questions	135
	Corpus exercises	135
	Further reading	135

7	Grammar	137
7.1	Introduction	137
7.2	<i>Who</i> and <i>whom</i>	137
7.3	<i>Get</i> -passives	140
7.4	Adjective complementation	143
7.5	Prepositional gerund or directly linked gerund	145
7.6	Using a parsed corpus: passives revisited	153
7.7	Summary	154
	Study questions	154
	Corpus exercises	155
	Further reading	155
8	Male and female	156
8.1	Introduction	156
8.2	Referring to men and women	157
8.3	The way men and women use language	165
8.4	Summary	171
	Study questions	172
	Corpus exercises	172
	Further reading	172
9	Language change	174
9.1	Introduction	174
9.2	What is likely happening with <i>likely</i>	176
9.3	Grammaticalisation: The history of <i>beside(s)</i>	180
9.4	The <i>OED</i> as corpus: Starting to say <i>start to</i> and <i>start V-ing</i>	188
9.5	Sociolinguistic explanations of language change: The rise of third person singular <i>-s</i>	191
9.6	Summary	193
	Study questions	193
	Corpus exercises	194
	Further reading	194
10	Corpus linguistics in cyberspace	195
10.1	Introduction	195
10.2	The web as corpus	196
10.3	Using commercial search engines for linguistic research	199
10.4	Regional variation: Agreement with collective nouns	201
10.5	Grammar: Adjective comparison	203
10.6	Dialect and non-standard language	206

10.7	Web genres and compiling corpora from the web	208
10.8	Summary	216
	Study questions	217
	Corpus exercises	217
	Further reading	217
	<i>References</i>	219
	<i>Index</i>	232