Student abstract sample #1

This paper describes the development of a spoken English wordlist (SEW), which was compiled from the 11.5-million-word Spoken British National Corpus 2014 (Spoken BNC2014) (Love et al., 2017). The SEW, which is intended for pedagogic use, contains 500 lemmas of pedagogic value in present-day spoken British English selected according to criteria such as frequency, range and dispersion. This research aims to fill the gap in the literature by developing a wordlist of spoken discourse in informal contexts and complement existing pedagogic materials. This research built a wordlist based on a corpus of Hong Kong English textbooks, developed at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Mismatches between the SEW and the wordlist of textbook corpus were extracted and analysed for the purpose of generating a vocabulary list which contains the underused spoken vocabulary in textbooks. It is hoped that the vocabulary list can be utilised as part of the official English language syllabus for secondary education in Hong Kong. By highlighting the words which students will meet in English conversations but are currently underrepresented in Hong Kong English textbooks, the wordlist shows learners with colloquial communicative needs which words, other than current lexical items in academic textbooks, are most worthy of acquisition.

Student abstract sample #2

Recent research indicates that given the same company provisions, levels of employee satisfaction are influenced by employee personalities (Chi and Gursoy, 2008). Studies investigating the role of personal characteristics in employee satisfaction typically adopt top-down approaches including questionnaires and interviews, which may not be able to elicit genuine responses from employees. Therefore, this research adopts a bottom-up corpus-driven approach to examine 321,124 free-text reviews produced spontaneously by employees to evaluate their employers on the online career community Glassdoor.com. Two corpora (Unsatisfied Employee Corpus and Satisfied Employee Corpus) are compiled based on employees’ overall satisfactory ratings of their employer. Keyness analysis is used to identify three prominent pairs of linguistic items characterizing each corpus – keywords *name* vs. *work*, key parts of speech *they* vs. *I*, and key semantic domains *Evaluation: Bad* vs. *Difficult*. Discourse analysis conducted on the collocates and concordance lines of the selected features elicits three pairs of characteristics of unsatisfied and satisfied employees: extrinsically driven vs. intrinsically driven, broadcaster vs. narrator, and critic vs. doer. This bottom-up approach allows both quantitative and qualitative analysis and offers a new approach for studying employee satisfaction.