

## Collocational patterns in lexical sets: A corpus-driven study

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Corpus studies have empirically shown that native speakers often make use of recurrent word combinations, which learners frequently underuse or misuse (Granger 1998; Altenberg and Granger 2002; Nesselhauf 2005; Meunier and Granger 2008; Laso 2009). Although some linguists claim that collocations are arbitrary (Lewis 1997, Woolard 2000), I take the view that many collocations are motivated and can be explained (Walker 2008). If collocates are not arbitrary, then they can be organized so that they can be more easily learnt and remembered by non-native speakers.

Verb taxonomies, aiming to capture the interrelation between syntax and semantics, have received considerable attention in linguistics (Levin 1993, FrameNet). Since verbs have been grouped into classes, the analysis of their collocates can also provide valuable insights into their behaviour. As part of a project consisting in a lexical database of English collocations and lexical bundles in scientific research papers, I will present a case study of the collocates that are recurrently used in combination with the verbs that belong to a lexical set. It will be shown that verbs that share semantic characteristics and syntactic patterns also share combinatorial properties, although they may also exhibit their own preferences in accordance with their specific meaning. Presenting verb collocates not in isolation but in groups that show similar characteristics will contribute to a more effective and meaningful learning process.

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