Creative Language Lab

Contemporary Learning

Improving your Autonomy as a Learner of English

Details of Course and Available Resources

The idea is to present a number of free and readily accessible tools which will enable you to become more **independent** and improve your **English language skills** without having to have a teacher or attend class. These linguistic tools will be of particular interest to **advanced learners and language teachers**.

The first tools presented are those commonly used in what is called *Corpus Linguistics*. In this field, language databanks are analysed for various purposes. The tools these linguists use are readily available online, quite easy to use, and can be of great use to both learners and teachers.

Classes will involve both a great deal of group discussion and the participation of students in autonomous practical activities. These activities will be interspersed with brief presentations.

Reference materials will be provided free of charge.

Details of Course

1. Introduction to Corpus Linguistics. What is a corpus?
   - Introduction to Course and Its Contents
   - Introduction to Corpora
   - Introduction to Key Terms
   - Warm up Activity: What types of corpora might help you?

2. Corpora and language learning. What is a concordance? What is collocation? What is a frequency distribution in a corpus?
   - Why do we study them?
   - Quick Quiz
   - Discussion

3. Introduction to corpus browsing software and various corpora. A practical Introduction focusing on collocation.
   - Why do I need software?
   - Introduction to AntConc software
   - Introduction to various corpora and different genres within corpora

4. An autonomous practical activity, followed by reflection and group discussion.
   - Building wordlists
   - Discussion: what you would like to use corpora for? Which types of corpora would you need to use?

5. Another autonomous practical activity, followed by reflection and group discussion.
   - Short Introductory activity
   - Introduction to more key terminology
   - Quick Quiz
   - Using keywords and wordlists to analyse geographical variations and different genres of English
   - Discussion: How has your view of the importance of corpora in studying language changed, if at all?

6. Building your own Corpus. Exploring corpora. A class tailored to your personal needs as an advanced language learner.
   - Quick warm up activity
   - Practical activity: Tagging your corpus
   - Collaborative Task: Compare aspects of British and American English using two corpora and provided data

7. Using corpora to help you improve awareness of spoken language.
   - Examining differences between male and female speech and other variations
   - Practical activity – analysing differences in how males and females talk about colour
   - Discussion: Swearing in contemporary English: Gender and class differences
   - Examining differences between spoken and written English: A revealing look at transcription

8. An introduction to lexical bundles or chunks.

- Introductory activity
- Quiz
- Discussion: To what extent does language rely on lexical bundles?

9. Discussion: Can Corpus Linguistics help you learn or teach English? Traditional and contemporary approaches to language learning.

- Introductory Discussion: How did you learn English?
- Learner Corpora, learner dictionaries and error correction
- Data-driven learning: Direct use of corpus-generated concordances in the language classroom
- Practical Activity: Modal verbs and collocation
- Discussion. Do you think what you have learned will change your approach to learning and/or teaching English?

We may also look at how corpora can be useful in discourse analysis and forensic linguistics, should these topics be of interest.

10. Discourse analysis and the politics of language

- Practical Task: Analysis of news articles using quantitative and statistical methods
- Newspaper language use: refugees, migrants and asylum seekers
- Reflection and discussion

11. Forensic linguistics

- Practical activity and discussion: Witness or suspect statements -what factors about them, the crime, or the larger social context should be taken into account? We look at a famous case.
- Discussion: The witness statement as a transcription or video recording – the strengths and weaknesses of each approach.

Course Resources

1. Introduction to Corpus Linguistics. What is a corpus?

Corpus: Some key terms, published 2013 by The ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS), Lancaster University, UK: http://cass.lancs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CASS-Gloss-final1.pdf

McEnery, T. and Hardie, A. (2012) *Corpus Linguistics: Method, theory and practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mc Enery, T. and Wilson, A. (2001) Corpus Linguistics: An Introduction, Edinburgh University Press, 2001.

Gabrielatos, C. (2005) 'Corpora and Language Teaching: Just a fling or wedding bells?', Volume 8, Issue 4. http://www.tesl-ej.org/wordpress/issues/volume8/ej32/ej32a1/

Biber, D., Conrad, S. and Reppen, R. (1998) Corpus linguistics: Investigating language structure and use, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Davies, M. (2012) Expanding horizons in historical linguistics with the 400-million word Corpus of Historical American English, Corpora 2012 Vol. 7 (2): 121–157 DOI: 10.3366/corp.2012.0024 © Edinburgh University Press

In Spanish:

Lingüística de corpus: una introducción al ámbito - G. Parodi: http://www.scielo.cl/scielo.php?pid=S0718-48832008000100006&script=sci_arttext

Lingüística de corpus y Lingüistica del español - Guillermo Rojo: http://gramatica.usc.es/~grojo/Publicaciones/Lgca_corpus_lgca_espanol.pdf

Introducción - Manuel Alcántara: http://www.inicios.es/introduccion-linguistica-corpus/index.html

2. Corpora and language learning. What is a concordance? What is collocation? What is a frequency distribution in a corpus?

Corpus: Some key terms, Published 2013 by The ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS), Lancaster University, UK: http://cass.lancs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CASS-Gloss-final1.pdf

In Spanish:

Hacia una definición del concepto de colocación: de J. R. Firth a l. A. Mel'cuk Margarita Alonso: http://ruc.udc.es/bitstream/2183/5383/1/RL_1-1.pdf

En torno al concepto de colocación Gloria Corpas: http://www.euskaltzaindia.eus/dok/euskera/11643.pdf

3. Introduction to corpus browsing software and various corpora. A practical Introduction focusing on collocation.

Software Resources:

Antconc: http://www.antlab.sci.waseda.ac.jp/software.html

Graphcoll: http://www.extremetomato.com/projects/graphcoll/

Part of Speech Tagger: http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/claws/

Semantic Analysis System: http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/usas/

BNC64 Comparison of male and female speech: http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/bnc64/

Categorizing queries: https://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk/

Sketch Engine: http://the.sketchengine.co.uk

TagAnt and other resources: http://www.laurenceanthony.net/software.html

Corpus: Some key terms, Published 2013 by The ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science (CASS), Lancaster University, UK: http://cass.lancs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CASS-Gloss-final1.pdf

Brown and LOB corpora: http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/futurelearn/corpus/brown-lob/brown_and_lob_untagged.zip

Annotated Brown and LOB corpora: http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/futurelearn/corpus/brown-lob/brown_and_lob_tagged.zip

BNC: http://bncweb.lancs.ac.uk/bncwebSignup/user/login.php

Cqpweb log-in: https://cqpweb.lancs.ac.uk/usr/?thisQ=create&uT=y

Parts of speech tagging reference: http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/claws6tags.html

Corpus Annotation: https://ugc.futurelearn.com/uploads/related_file/file/958/99b7292434bf21f83e5446907ce457d2-corpus_annotation_text.pdf

Anthony, Laurence. 2013. A critical look at software tools in corpus linguistics. *Linguistic Research 30(2), 141-161*.

4. An autonomous practical activity, followed by reflection and group discussion.

Software Resources: See Section 3.

5. Another autonomous practical activity, followed by reflection and group discussion.

Software Resources: See Section 3.

Baker, P. (2010) *Sociolinguistics and Corpus Linguistics.* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Buchstaller, I. (2011) Quotations across the generations: A multivariate analysis of speech and thought introducers across 5 decades of Tyneside speech, Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory. Volume 7, Issue 1, Pages 59–92.

6. Building your own Corpus. Exploring corpora. A class tailored to your personal needs as an advanced language learner.

Software Resources: See Section 3.

In Spanish:

Compilación de un corpus ad hoc para la enseñanza de la traducción inversa especializada Gloria Corpas: http://www.trans.uma.es/trans_05.html

Diseño de corpus textuales y orales: http://liceu.uab.cat/~joaquim/publicacions/Torruella_Llisterri_99.pdf

7. Using corpora to help you improve awareness of spoken language.

McEnery, T. (2006) 'So you recorded swearing' Bad language in present-day English, Routledge.

Mollin, S. (2008) The Hansard hazard: gauging the accuracy of British parliamentary transcripts, Edinburgh University Press.

In Spanish:

Diseño de corpus textuales y orales: http://liceu.uab.cat/~joaquim/publicacions/Torruella_Llisterri_99.pdf

Hacia una teoría compleja de la entonación y análisis de la melodía del habla de Navarra María Pilar Ballesteros Panizo: http://www.unav.edu/publicaciones/revistas/index.php/rilce/article/view/303

8. An introduction to lexical bundles or chunks.

Software Resources: See Section 3.

Haidee Elizabeth Thomson, Presenting Lexical Bundles for Explicit Noticing with Schematic Linguistic Representation: http://www.tesl-ej.org/wordpress/issues/volume20/ej78/ej78a4/

9. Discussion: Can Corpus Linguistics help you learn or teach English? Traditional and contemporary approaches to language learning.

Gabrielatos, C. (2005) 'Corpora and Language Teaching: Just a fling or wedding bells?', Volume 8, Issue 4. http://www.tesl-ej.org/wordpress/issues/volume8/ej32/ej32a1/

Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory: http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/cllt

Is There a Core General Vocabulary? Introducing the *New General Service List*: http://applij.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/08/25/applin.amt018/suppl/DC1

In Spanish:

Alonso, E. El corpus lingüístico en la didáctica del léxico en el aula de E/LE: http://www.mecd.gob.es/dctm/redele/Material-RedEle/Biblioteca/2010_BV_11/2010_BV_11_1er_trimestre/2010_BV_11_01Alonso.pdf?documentId=0901e72b80e18f0a

Rojo, G. Sobre la construcción de diccionarios basados en corpus: http://webs2002.uab.es/tradumatica/revista/num7/articles/02/02.pdf

10. Discourse analysis and the politics of language

Sketching Muslims: A Corpus Driven Analysis of Representations Around the Word 'Muslim' in the British Press 1998–2009: http://applij.oxfordjournals.org/content/34/3/255.short

In Spanish:

Metadiscurso y persuasión: estudio de editoriales de periódicos españoles sobre la muerte de Osama Bin Laden: http://www.dissoc.org/ediciones/v08n04/DS8%284%29Jimenez.html

¿Una sinergia metodológica útil? Combinar análisis crítico del discurso y lingüística de corpus para examinar los discursos de los refugiados y solicitantes de asilo en la prensa británica: http://www.dissoc.org/ediciones/v05n02/DS5(2)Baker%20et%20al.pdf

11. Forensic linguistics

Software Resources: See Section 3.

Other Relevant Resources

Online Journals:

http://clu.uni.no/icame/journal.html

http://www.euppublishing.com/journal/cor

Linguistic Research: http://isli.khu.ac.kr/journal/content/current.php

http://cass.lancs.ac.uk/?page_id=956

Interesting Teaching Resources: http://www.tesl-ej.org/wordpress/

Research Publications:

http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/faculty/stgries/research/overview-research.html

If interested, please get in touch:

CREATIVE LANGUAGE LAB @ Bordados Sister

Info: kevin (@) creativelanguagelab.com