

# Concordance: Practice

Gede Primahadi Wijaya Rajeg

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The source code files for all materials are available here: <https://github.com/complexico/dipscorling2024>

## Operationalising conceptual aim into query in the Concordance feature of SkE

- Corpus: English Web 2021 (enTenTen21)
- Your aim (read through this till the end before conducting the query):
  - You only start using the **BASIC**
  - You are interested in comparing the uses of the form *touch* in two text types under the **Topic** (*sport* and *beauty & fashion*) based on 20 random concordance lines from each topic.
  - Before you download each of the generated concordance, you want to sort the concordance such that more revealing pattern emerges for further inspection.
  - Moreover, in the concordance output window, you want to have information about the tag of the words in the concordance (recall Niall's session yesterday).
  - You also want to save/download each concordance output from the two **Topic** into two different .xlsx files.
- Your turn:
  - I will let you share screen to show how to go about operationalising that aim.
  - NB: my concordance of *touch* in *beauty & fashion* topic (it will be different from yours because it is randomised): <https://ske.li/151>
  - NB: my concordance of *touch* in *sports* topic (it will be different from yours because it is randomised): <https://ske.li/152>

## Heuristic inspection of the usage pattern found in the concordance

- Corpus/Data: your *touch* data
- Task:
  - with only 20 lines, could you spot some recurring patterns with *touch*? (e.g., whether *touch* appears in certain syntactic phrases with a more-or-less other fixed word?)

## Word class/Part-of-speech of *touch*

- Corpus/Data: your *touch* data
- Conceptual aspect:
  - intuit about what is the predominant word class/part-of-speech of *touch* in the sample? For me, I'd bet that *touch* is predominantly verbal.
- Task:
  - if you have included information about the tag for each word via the **View options** feature, quantify the frequency of tag types for *touch* in each concordance file (i.e., for *sports* and for *beauty&fashion*).
    - \* what is the proportion of noun-oriented tag (that starting with N) vs. verb-oriented tag vs. others (if any).
    - \* does your intuition correspond with the sample data?

## literal vs. metaphorical meaning

- Corpus/Data: your *touch* data
- Background:
  - As an oversimplification for this exercise, the metaphorical meaning for *touch* (a physical action lexeme) refers to the meaning where it does not involve any physical touching. That is a more abstract sense of *touch* (like in the domain of emotion [e.g., *I am touched by your kindness*], or others [e.g., expertise of someone at doing something]).
  - This is where you will practice further reading concordance data line-by-line and annotating each line for a given variable of interest (in this case, say, MEANING variable with two or more levels/categories: *metaphoric*, *literal*, or *unclear*).
- Task:

- In your Excel sheet concordance data, make a new column (immediately to the right of the column for the right context) with the variable name
- Then, inspect line by line *qualitatively* to determine whether the use of *touch* in each line is metaphorical, literal, or unclear
- Quantify the proportion of these meanings per concordance file.
  - \* Does certain meaning of *touch* appear relatively more frequently in one text type over the other?