

EVOLUTION OF DISABILITY TERMS IN U.S. LEGISLATION

Jack Hester

MAIN QUESTION

- How has the language surrounding and especially *describing* disabilities and the disabled changed in recent U.S. federal legislation?
- Hopefully, this sheds light on how the disabled are seen and treated by the government and society more generally.
 - Different terms have different connotations, movement away from inabilities to limited abilities

OVERVIEW

- Prominent U.S. Disability Legislation
 - inspired by “A Guide to Disability Rights Laws” (<https://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm>)
- Key Words Describing Disabilities
 - Disabled/Disability
 - Handicap/Handicapped
 - Cripple/Crippled
 - Dumb
 - Impaired/Impairment
 - Insane
 - Retarded

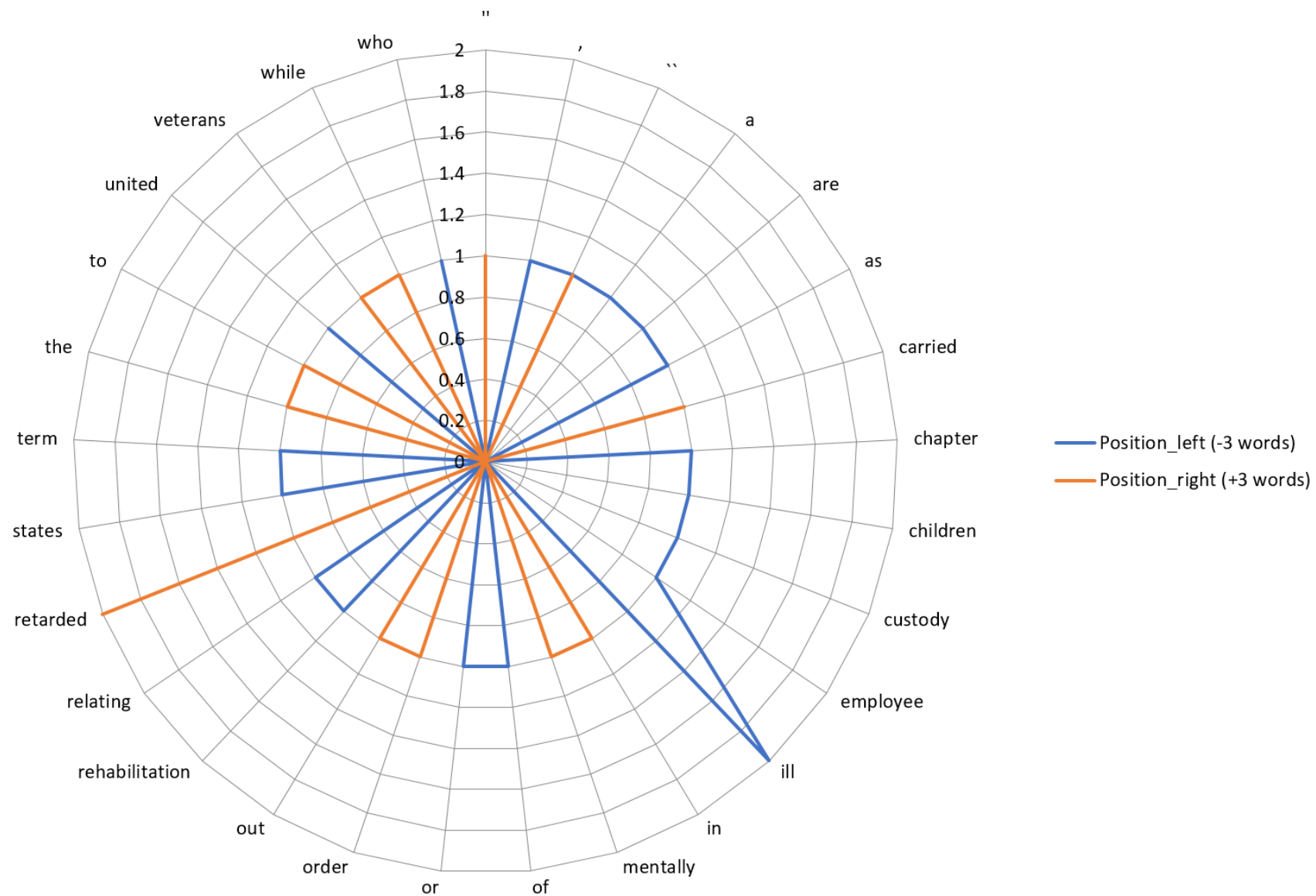
CORPUS

1. Fair Housing Act (1968)
2. Rehabilitation Act (1973)
3. Education for All Handicapped Children Act (1975)
4. Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons (1980)
5. Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped (1984)
6. American With Disabilities Act (1990)
7. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (1990)
 1. Part of Education for All Handicapped Children Act
8. National Voter Registration Act (1993)
 1. Part of Public Health and Welfare ch. 20
9. Telecommunications Act (1996)
10. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Air Travel (2012)
 - 202,896 words, plus amended ADA examined (22,586 words)

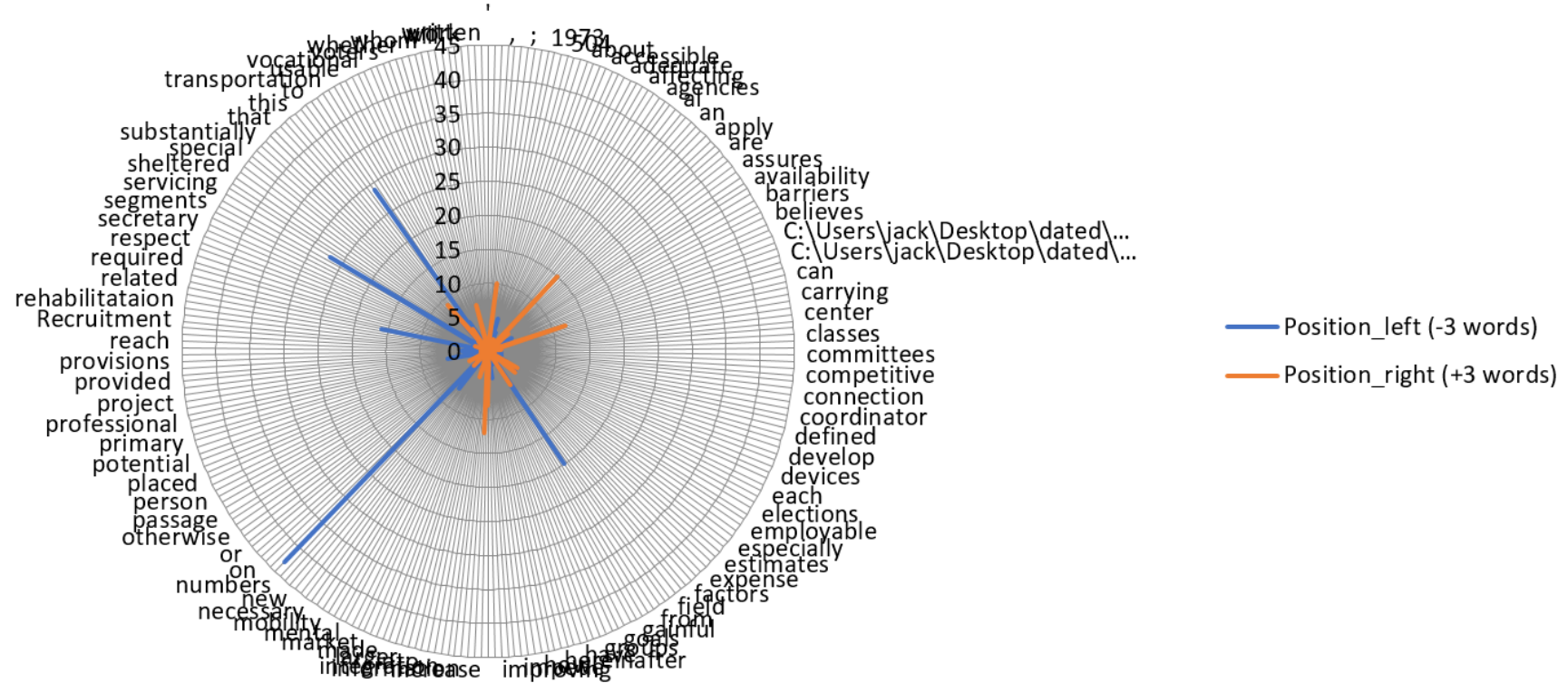
KWIC CHARTS

- Of preliminary list of words, only a few found
 - Disabled
 - Handicapped
 - Impaired
 - Retarded
- These words mapped in radial/spider chart using KWIC table

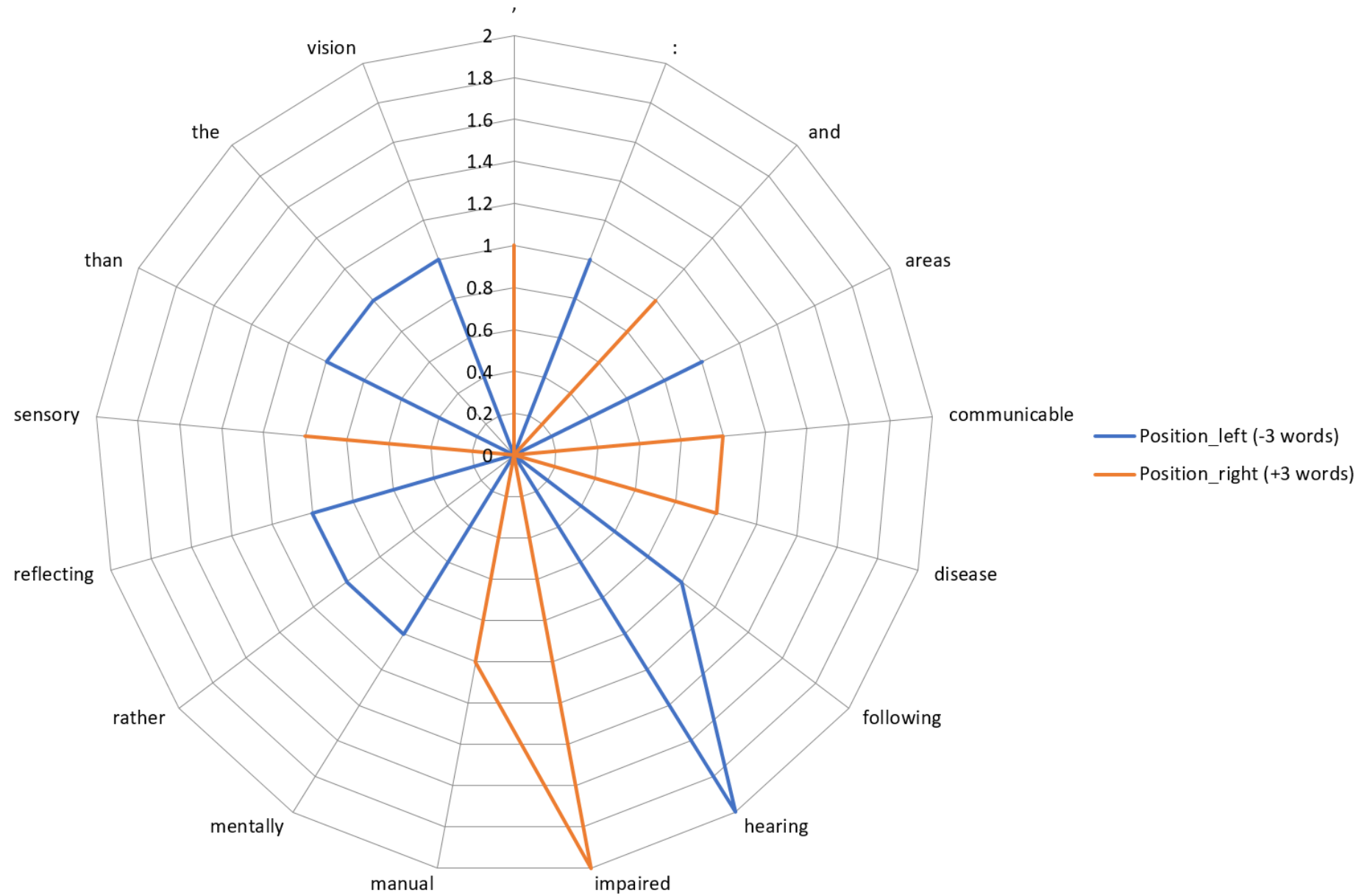
Word co-occurrences for word "disabled" from "usertable:NLP-KWIC_mergedConllTables"



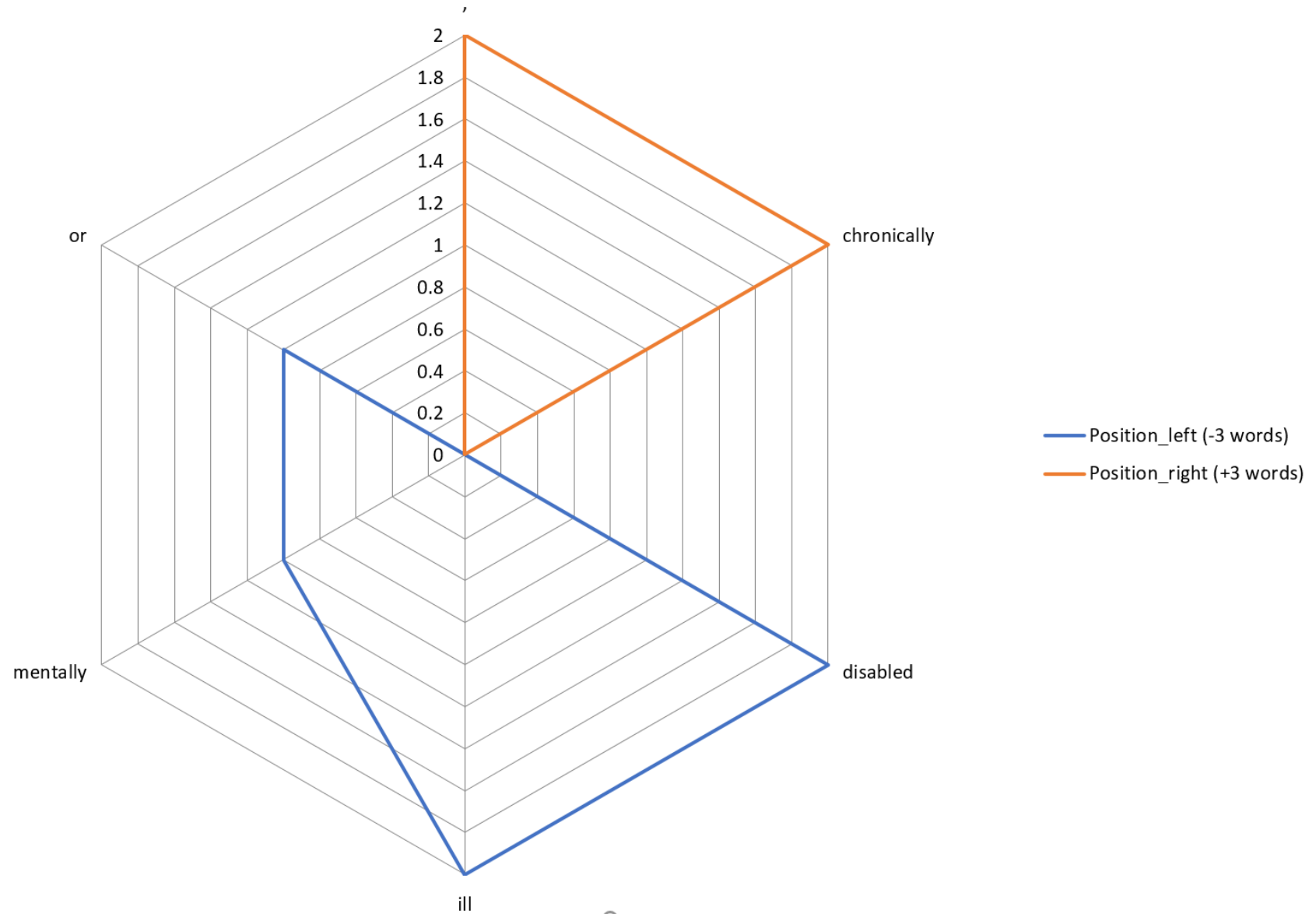
Word co-occurrences for word "handicapped" from "usertable:NLP-KWIC_mergedConllTables"



Word co-occurrences for word "impaired" from "usertable:NLP-KWIC_mergedConllTables"



Word co-occurrences for word "retarded" from "usertable:NLP-KWIC_mergedConllTables"



N-GRAMS

