Collocation, part 2

• "Kun Marita Hakala kohtasi Loirin mustassa minihameessaan, se oli menoa."



• Biber, Conrad, Reppen 1998: Corpus linguistics: investigating language structure and use: 2 korpuslingvistiikan päälähestymistapaa

Table 1.1 Association patterns in language use

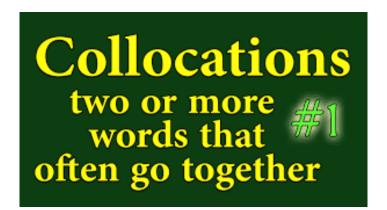
- A. Investigating the use of a linguistic feature (lexical or grammatical)
 - (i) Linguistic associations of the feature
 - lexical associations (associations with particular words)
 - grammatical associations (associations with particular grammatical constructions)
 - (ii) Non-linguistic associations of the feature
 - distribution across registers
 - distribution across dialects
 - distribution across time periods
- B. Investigating varieties or texts (e.g., registers, dialects, historical periods)
 - (i) Linguistic association patterns
 - individual linguistic features or classes of features
 - co-occurrence patterns of linguistic features

Analysis steps

- Step 1: analyze the frequency of the pattern
- Step 2: analyze the contextual factors that influence its use

• And why was context important?

- Difference in context → difference in meaning
- Similar context → similar meaning
- Both for words, groups of words and constructions
- Many methods to quantify context
 - Collocation is one of them



- Tendency of two words to occur together
- Target word and its collocate occur together more frequently than what would be expected
- Collocates tell about
 - →The target word meaning

(Meaning is not *atomic* but defined by the target word + context)

→ Conventionalized ways of using language

2.6.2 Immediate right collocates of big, large, and great

Table 2.6 shows the most frequently recurring right collocates of big. large, and great in the academic prose and fiction samples from the Longman–Lancaster Corpus. A fuller analysis would require looking at the complete list of collocates; here we focus only on the top ten collocates in each register, excluding collocates that occur less than once per million words.

Academic prose	(2.	7	million	words)	
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Big		Lar	ge	Great		
right collocate	freq. per million	right collocate	freq. per million	right collocate	freq. per million	
enough	2.2	number	48.3	deal	44.6	
traders	1.1	numbers	31.3	importance	12.5	
		scale	29.4	number	8.9	
		and	28.0	majority	8.1	
		enough	15.9	variety	7.0	
		proportion	11.8	extent	7.0	
		amounts	10.7	part	4.1	
		quantities	10.3	care	3.3	
		part	10.0	advantage	2.6	
		extent	8.9	detail	2.6	
				interest	2.6	

Fiction (3 million words)

Dig		ge	Great	
freq. per million	right collocate	freq. per million	right collocate	freq. per million
9.6	and	15.2	deal	40.4
8.9	black	4.3	man	6.6
8.3	enough	3.6	burrow	5.6
8.3	house	3.0	big	4.6
7.6	room	2.7	aunt	4.3
7.0	white	2.7	care	4.0
5.0	number	2.3	pleasure	4.0
4.6	for	2.3	and	3.0
4.3	man	2.0	relief	3.0
3.6	one	2.0	black	2.7
3.6	in	2.0	to	2.7
	freq. per million 9.6 8.9 8.3 7.6 7.0 5.0 4.6 4.3 3.6	freq. per million right collocate 9.6 and black 8.9 black 8.3 enough 8.3 house 7.6 room 7.0 white 5.0 number 4.6 for 4.3 man 3.6 one	freq. per million right collocate freq. per million 9.6 and 15.2 8.9 black 4.3 8.3 enough 3.6 8.3 house 3.0 7.6 room 2.7 7.0 white 2.7 5.0 number 2.3 4.6 for 2.3 4.3 man 2.0 3.6 one 2.0	freq. per million collocate million collocate 9.6 and 15.2 deal 8.9 black 4.3 man 8.3 enough 3.6 burrow 8.3 house 3.0 big 7.6 room 2.7 aunt 7.0 white 2.7 care 5.0 number 2.3 pleasure 4.6 for 2.3 and 4.3 man 2.0 relief 3.6 one 2.0 black

- Michael Stubbs 1995: Collocations and semantic profiles. On the cause of the trouble with quantitative studies. *Functions of Language*, 2, 1 (1995). Sections 1-3, 4.1, 5, 7
- Jantunen, J. H. 2009: Minulla on aivan paljon rahaa Fraseologiset yksiköt suomen kielen opetuksessa ['I have really lots of money' Phraseological units in the teaching of Finnish]. *Virittäjä*, 113(3). Noudettu osoitteesta https://journal.fi/virittaja/article/view/4202. Pages -368.

What is the objective of the study?

How are the terms collocation and semantic prosody defined? What about lemma?

What is the data used?

How is collocation analysis used?

Why are raw frequencies of collocates not enough?

Why is Stubbs worried about the representativeness of his dataset in Section 4.1?

What are the main results?

Semantic preference

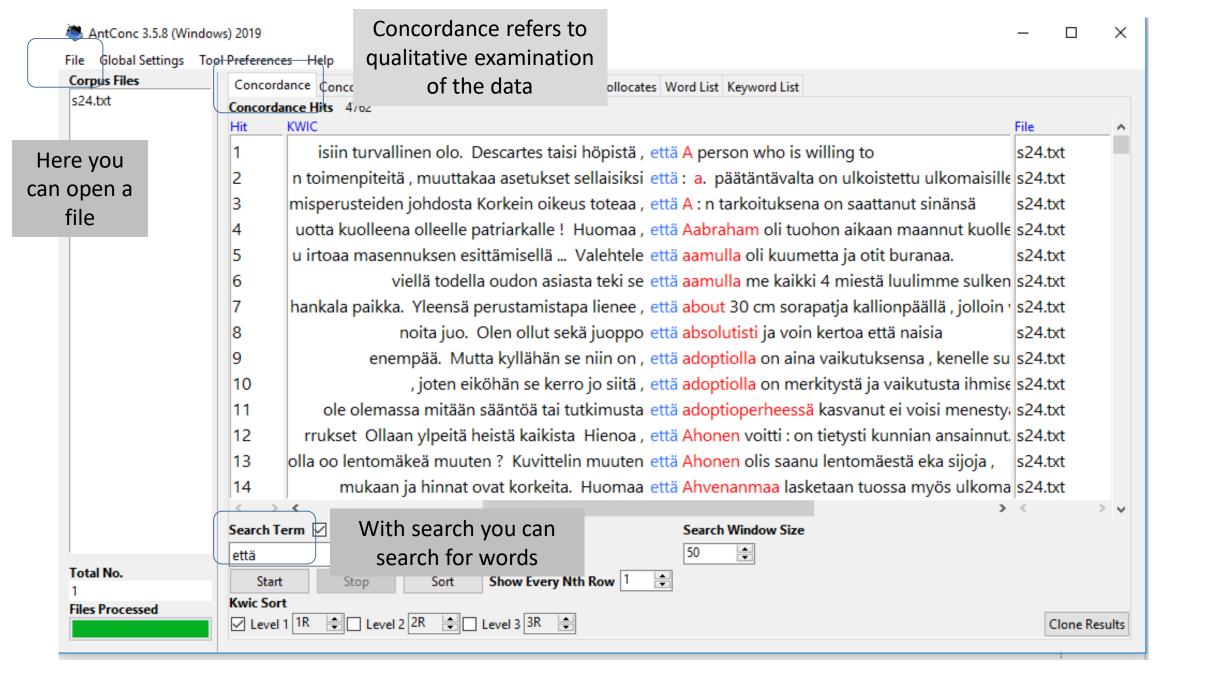
- Tendency of words to co-occur with semantically similar words
- Which semantic groups the collocates reflect?
- Stubbs (1995) reports that *cause* collocates with *abandonment* 'luovuttaminen', *accident* 'onnettomuus', *alarm* 'huoli' ja *anger* 'viha'.
- -> cause used in negative contexts

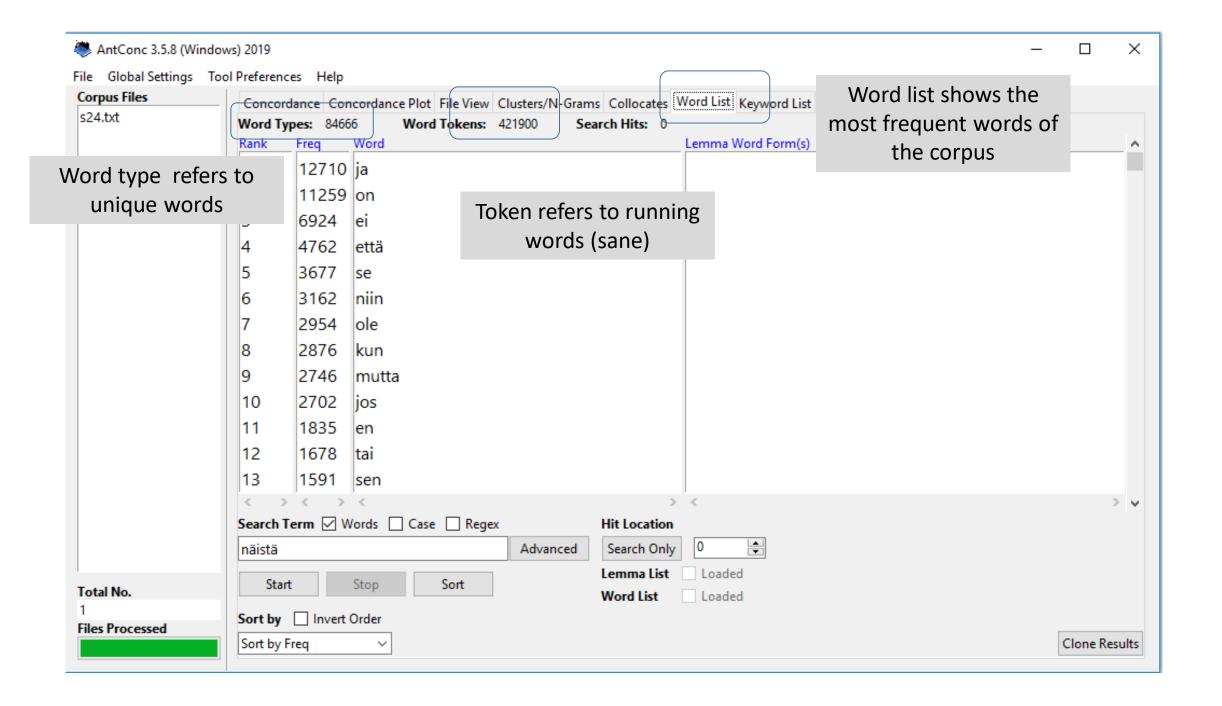
Semantic profile

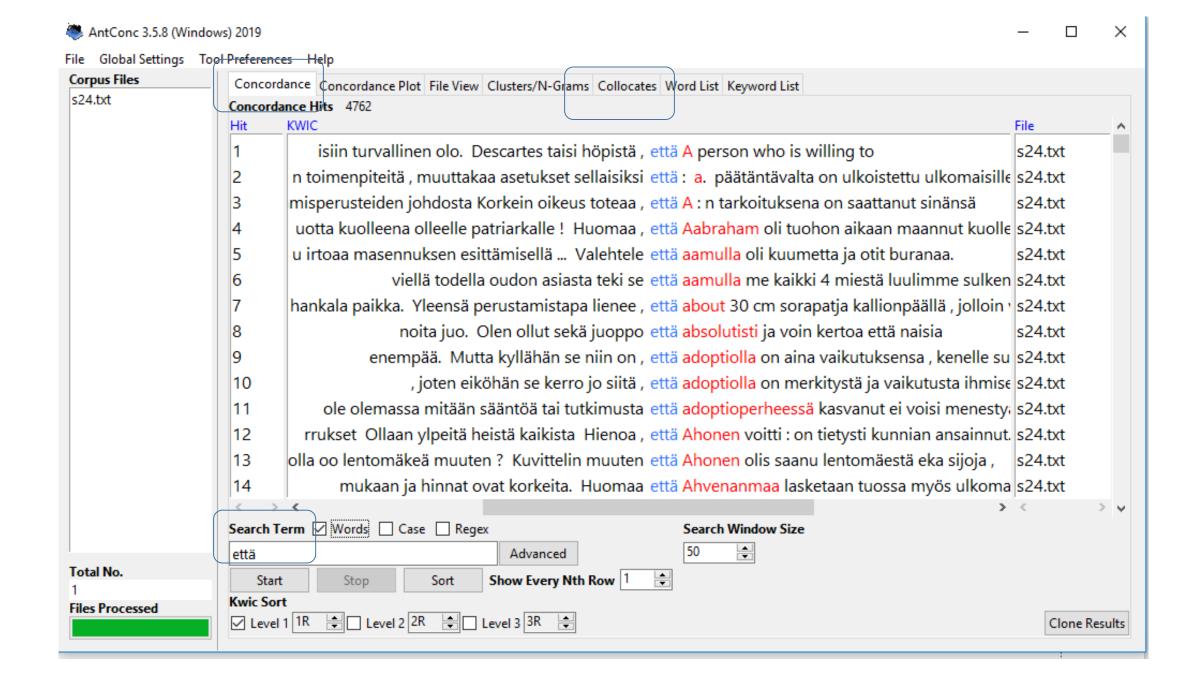
- Semantic groupings of the collocates
- Jantunen groups words collocating with tässä in research articles and in popular lifestyle texts
- Three groups of collocates
 - 1) Metatextual expressions: tässä kirjassa, tässä luvussa, tässä tutkimuksessa
 - 2) Point of view, perspective: tässä perinteessä, tässä kohden
 - 3) Abstract uses: tässä tapauksessa, tässä vaiheessa.
- Results tell about the use of tässä and its meaning more than what mere frequencies would
- Also register differences are clear
 - Metatextual expressions more frequent in academic texts → a typical way of structuring research articles

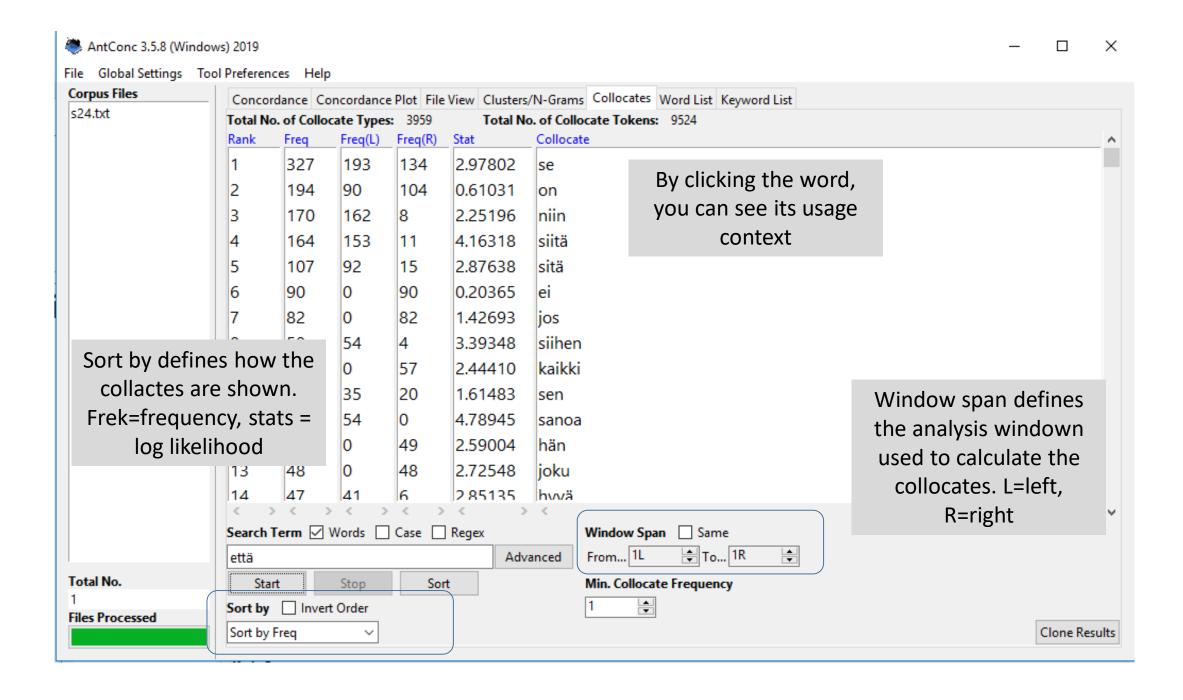
Let's first look a video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TsqFVrUYO0









Antconc, part 1

- 1. Install Antconc from https://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/
- 2. Load in a corpus, the soap.txt
- 3. Look at the most frequent words of the corpus. What are the 10 most frequent ones?
- 4. How many tokens (sane) does the corpus include? What about word types?
- 5. Let's analyze the use of big
- 6. Analyze in concordance line. How many occurrences?
- 7. Then count collocates
- 8. Try first with a window of L2 R2 and mimimum frequency of 5. How do the collocates look like?
- 9. Compare collocates sorted with frequency and stats. How are the results different? Can you guess why? Which option do you prefer?
- 10. Decrease minimum collocate frequency to 2. What happens? Can you guess why?
- 11. Increase the minimum frequency back to 5.
- 12. Analyze right and left collocates separately. How do they differ? Can you form functional groupings of the collocates? For this, you might want to read some texts too...

Antconc, part 2

• If you have time, do the same experiments with news.txt and compare the results