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# Classroom Concordancing and Learner Autonomy

*Jon Mills*  
*University of Luton*

## 1 Introduction

A concordancer is a computer software package that enables large quantities of text to be rapidly searched for all the occurrences of a particular lexical item. Each occurrence of that word is then displayed in its context, usually one complete line with the key word centred. In addition, many concordancers perform a number of other, related tasks such as producing wordlists, indices and frequency counts. The concordance is central to corpus linguistics, because it acts as an informant of linguistic usage. It facilitates rapid scanning and comparison, and thereby allows many important language patterns in texts to be accessed. Concordances thus provide evidence about a language that is not easily elicited by any other method. It is not surprising, therefore, that, with the availability of good easy-to-use software and sources of machine readable text, the use of concordance-generating computer software is also becoming increasingly popular in the field of language teaching. A concordancer may, on the one hand, be used by the teacher for the preparation of course materials. However this discussion will limit itself to the student's direct employment of a concordancer as a learning resource because this brings about a learner centred approach involving purposeful interaction with texts and selective attention to linguistic features. In considering the pedagogical value of such tools, there are three main areas that need to be considered.

## 2 Automatic Concordance Generation

First it might be helpful to give a summary of what a concordancer can provide. Concordances can be produced in a variety of formats. KWIC, an acronym for Key Word In Context, is used to refer to a concordance in which a whole line of text is printed for each occurrence of a word, with the word under examination in the middle. The item under investigation is known as the key word or node. A wide range of linguistic features can be the key word of a concordance. In the following concordance, made from a short newspaper article, the key word is a single item, the definite article.

```

5 e Players promised to bring the house down with their annual pan
12 islodging a ceiling tile in the new village hall where Jack and
13 village hall where Jack and the beanstalk opened last night. Pla
20 re was no danger to anyone. The cannon was simply too highly cha
26 cartridge but we've now got the right ones. We had dislodged som
30 shifted an inch or two when the cannon went off, nothing more. C
34 opher Ringrose, chairman of the village hall committee who is al
36 ee who is also in charge of the pantomime lighting, denied the b
37 pantomime lighting, denied the blast had caused any damage. No
42 l Disco Services in Redruth the cannon was hired, said he always
47 ves, I issue a message over the PA system. I consider this is a

```

The numbers in the left hand margin, refer to line numbers in the text. By bringing these noun phrases together we get a list of items that serve as props to the story. Even without having read the account in its original form, this short concordance gives a very good idea of what the story is about.

Phrasal studies are among the most interesting opportunities for new research. A collocation of two items, for example, such as *village hall*, may, for example, be the subject of a concordance:

```
12 g a ceiling tile in the new      village hall   where Jack and the bean
34 r Ringrose, chairman of the     village hall   committee who is also i
```

Alternatively a search can be done for a morpheme. For example, a concordance of *\*ing* could be used to examine all the gerunds in an English language text.

```
4 ckhouse Players promised to bring the house down with their annu
12 a finale song, dislodging a ceiling tile in the new village hall
27 ones. We had dislodged some ceiling tiles to install microphones
32 non went off, nothing more. Confirming Mr. Watson's statement, M
11 t off during a finale song, dislodging a ceiling tile in the new
36 in charge of the pantomime lighting , denied the blast had cause
21 oo highly charged but we're using smaller cartridges now. Produc
24 tson said We made a mistake using a wrong cartridge but we've no
```

Of course several words that are not gerunds, such as *bring* and *ceiling*, will also slip through, but they can easily be edited out.

A search can be made for all the inflected forms of a given lemma, such as *be, is, are, was, were, 're*.

```
48 PA system. I consider this is a good idea
35 village hall committee who is also in charge of the pantomime l
9 unday's technical rehearsal was brought to an abrupt halt when a
42 vices in Redruth the cannon was hired, said he always issued len
18 caused and certainly there was no danger to anyone. The cannon
29 install microphones and it was one of these which shifted an in
20 anger to anyone. The cannon was simply too highly charged but we
16 s. Lynne Smith, said: There was very little damage caused and ce
21 mply too highly charged but we're using smaller cartridges now.
```

Concordances can be sorted in a number of ways. They may be sorted in the order in which the examples occur in the text, as in the examples above. It has been suggested that sorting alphabetically by the right of the keyword is the form that is most generally helpful (Sinclair 1986 : 197). In other words, the words occurring immediately after the keyword are in alphabetical order, *beanstalk, blast, cannon, house*, etc..

13 village hall where Jack and **the** beanstalk opened last night. Pla  
 37 pantomime lighting, denied **the** blast had caused any damage. No  
 42 l Disco Services in Redruth. **the** cannon was hired, said he always  
 20 re was no danger to anyone. **The** cannon was simply too highly cha  
 30 shifted an inch or two when **the** cannon went off, nothing more. C  
 5 e Players promised to bring **the** house down with their annual pan  
 12 islodging a ceiling tile in **the** new village hall where Jack and  
 47 ves, I issue a message over **the** PA system. I consider this is a  
 36 ee who is also in charge of **the** pantomime lighting, denied the b  
 26 cartridge but we've now got **the** right ones. We had dislodged som  
 34 opher Ringrose, chairman of **the** village hall committee who is al

Notice how this arrangement brings the 3 occurrences of *the cannon* together; *the cannon was hired, the cannon was simply too highly charged, the cannon went off*. These provide a sort of summary of the whole article, and thereby demonstrate the centrality of *the cannon* to the story.

Alternatively a concordance may be sorted alphabetically by the left of the node. In other words, the words occurring immediately before the keyword are in alphabetical order, *and, anyone, bring, denied, etc.*

13 village hall where Jack and **the** beanstalk opened last night. Pla  
 20 re was no danger to anyone. **The** cannon was simply too highly cha  
 5 e Players promised to bring **the** house down with their annual pan  
 37 pantomime lighting, denied **the** blast had caused any damage. No  
 26 cartridge but we've now got **the** right ones. We had dislodged som  
 12 islodging a ceiling tile in **the** new village hall where Jack and  
 34 opher Ringrose, chairman of **the** village hall committee who is al  
 36 ee who is also in charge of **the** pantomime lighting, denied the b  
 47 ves, I issue a message over **the** PA system. I consider this is a  
 42 l Disco Services in Redruth **the** cannon was hired, said he always  
 30 shifted an inch or two when **the** cannon went off, nothing more. C

Many concordancing programs will also produce wordlists. Wordlists may be alphabetically arranged, arranged in reverse alphabetical order, or in descending order of frequency. By way of illustration, here are extracts from three wordlists prepared from the same short local newspaper article. The wordlist in descending order of frequency lists the most frequently occurring items first. It can be seen from this example that the articles *the* and *a* are the most frequently occurring items in this sample of text. Their number of occurrences are listed as 11 times for the definite article and 8 times for the indefinite article. The first lexical item in the list is, however, *cannon*, which again indicates it as the central theme of this story. The wordlist in alphabetical order speaks for itself; but notice how the reverse alphabetical order list brings suffixes together. In particular we see here all the -ed verb endings brought together.

Descending Order of Frequency		Alphabetical Order		Reverse Alphabetical Order	
the	11	a	8	a	8
a	8	abrupt	1	idea	1
was	6	actually	1	PA	1
to	5	added	1	had	2
cannon	4	also	1	added	1
Mr	4	always	1	dislodged	1
of	4	an	2	charged	1
said	4	and	3	denied	1
and	3	annual	1	opened	1
He	3	any	1	hired	1
I	3	anyone	1	promised	1
in	3	bang	1	caused	2
it	3	beanstalk	1	shifted	1
no	3	blast	1	issued	1
When	3	bring	1	said	4
an	2	brought	1	and	3
but	2	but	2	kind	1
caused	2	cannon	4	good	1
ceiling	2	cartridge	1	made	1
damage	2	cartridges	1	committee	1
down	2	caused	2	damage	2
had	2	ceiling	2	message	1
hall	2	certainly	1	cartridge	1
is	2	chairman	1	charge	1
now	2	charge	1	he	3
off	2	charged	1	the	11
one	2	Christopher	1	mistake	1
pantomime	2	Clockhouse	1	finale	1
Players	2	committee	1	tile	1
rehearsal	2	confetti	1	little	1
there	2	Confirming	1	pantomime	2
these	2	consider	1	some	1
this	2	Cornwall	1	Lynne	1
tiles	2	damage	2	one	2
use	2	danger	1	anyone	1
using	2	denied	1	There	2
village	2	Disco	1	where	1
We	2	dislodged	1	we're	1
went	2	dislodging	1	more	1
with	2	down	2	these	2
abrupt	1	during	1	whose	1
actually	1	explosives	1	Ringrose	1
added	1	fell	1	use	2
also	1	finale	1	house	1
always	1	firm	1	Clockhouse	1
annual	1	from	1	issue	1
any	1	Gary	1	we've	1
anyone	1	goes	1	We	2
bang	1	good	1	off	2

### 3 Text sources and software

The second area to be considered concerns sources of electronic text and the software to analyse these texts. In order to use a concordancer, it is necessary to have texts in machine readable form. There are a number of options regarding the preparation of texts. The keying

in of texts manually is slow and laborious. However the conversion of printed matter to electronic form can be automated. An optical character reader (OCR) is a device that converts printed text into ASCII format electronic text. The process is rather like using a photocopier but much slower. Alternatively texts can sometimes be obtained already prepared in electronic form from certain publishers, often on CD-ROM. Other sources are the Oxford Text Archive in Britain and Project Gutenberg at Oregon State University in the United States. These serve as international co-ordinating sites for the endeavour to accumulate texts in machine readable form and include many literary texts. There are also a number of publicly available English language corpora, varying in size from around a hundred thousand to a million or more running words. The largest of these, the British National Corpus, consists of 200 million words of spoken and written text representing a wide variety of styles and genres. It comes with its own text analysis and retrieval software, SARA, and is available over the internet - free to the academic community.

The learner may work with an individual text, a general corpus or a specialised corpus (Tribble 1990 : 5; Tribble & Jones 1990 : 15). An individual text is likely to be the subject of a literature class. A general corpus supplies information about the global behaviour of the items under investigation. A specialised corpus, by contrast, provides the student with a picture of how the language is used within a particular genre or register. A collection of academic papers, for example, can provide valuable insight into usage of vocabulary and grammar appropriate to the genre of academic writing. The comparative study of different writers or analysis of image and metaphor, on the other hand, is permitted by a collection of short stories or poems (see Kirk 1990; Mparutsa *et al.* 1991).

Many students prepare their own essays with a word processor. In this form they are easily adapted for use with a concordancer, so that students can learn directly from both their own and their fellow students' mistakes (Tribble 1990 : 5-6). Concordance analysis may be used to investigate transitivity, tense, order of adverbs, article usage, etc.. The learner's awareness of English is enhanced as s/he becomes involved in the process of exploring the corpus data.

In order to extract data from a corpus and put it to some sort of use, software tools are necessary. A number of applications packages have been specially developed for extracting information from a corpus. If software is to be suitable for use by language learners, it needs to be user friendly. It also needs to be interactive. In other words, it must respond to the user's commands rapidly. If the user has to wait for a long period, say half an hour or more, between entering commands and receiving output, then the concordancer is not really practicable in the classroom situation.

I will start with *OCP (Oxford Concordance Program)* and its PC version *Micro-OCP* because they have been widely used by language students (Burgess 1987 : 33; Dodd 1987 : 27; Davidson 1990; Kirk 1990). *Micro-OCP* is a flexible package that can be used to produce word-counts, word-lists, indices, KWIC concordances and statistical information from texts. It can sort word-lists in ascending or descending order of frequency, alphabetical or reverse-alphabetical order. However it is not the most user friendly of the software packages available, nor is it interactive. *WordCruncher* allows a set of parameters to be defined that enable the user to search using a phrase, a list of words, two or more words in a defined context, tag words for text fields, or any logical combination of these. *MicroConcord* and the *Longman Mini Concordancer* are concordance programs designed with the language learner in mind. They offer the opportunity to study the uses, collocations and meanings of selected items, and the structure of language. Unlimited quantities of text may be investigated at speeds fast enough to make interactive classroom concordancing viable. *MicroConcord* and the *Longman Mini Concordancer* both contain their own selected corpora of texts but can, in addition, be used with other texts. *TACT* is a very easy-to-use interactive concordancer that was devised for literary analysis. It is especially suitable for use by students and also features a collocation generator program that lists all the maximal phrases in a text. For the Macintosh, *Conc 1.70* and *Free Text* are available as freeware.

## 4 Learner Activities

In the third and final area of this discussion the sort of activities that students might undertake with a concordancer, are surveyed. Faerch and Kasper (1983) suggest that the foreign language learner first forms hypotheses concerning target-language rules and then tests these. In line with this assumption, there have been a number of innovations and rediscoveries in recent years which come under the heading of what might be described as 'discovery learning'. According to this approach, the learner is equated with the researcher who having formed a hypothesis on the premise of intuition or slender evidence, goes on to test, reject or refine this in the light of further evidence (Johns 1988 : 14).

It has been suggested that it is as a learning resource to be used freely by students on their own initiative that the most important potential use of an interactive concordancer lies (Johns 1986 : 161). Electronic text analysis offers the student the opportunity to take control of his/her own learning by means of purposeful interaction with text(s). Johns (1991) calls this approach 'Data Driven Learning' (DDL). The computer is, thus, not seen as a surrogate teacher but is instead regarded a special kind of informant, which is passive and silent until the learner poses a question. It then responds to the question by providing data that the learner tries to interpret. The higher level skills of inferencing, connecting, interpreting and evaluating are then brought into play and informal acquisition is facilitated in addition to selective attention to linguistic or literary features. Once students are familiar with a concordancer, they may use it as readily as a dictionary to find examples of usage from their chosen corpus of text. Their task, then, is to discover the rules from the examples.

The role of the teacher thus becomes that of director and coordinator of student-initiated research rather than transmitter of knowledge. The teacher is restricted to suggesting points at which it may help to solve learning difficulties. It has been observed that since open-ended uses of the computer utilise the computer as a facility or resource, the type of activity is not pre-determined (Phillips 1987 : 176; Johns 1988 : 11, 14; 1991 : 3). Students' use of a concordancer involves more than looking up facts. A single consultation has a tendency to raise other questions, requiring further concordances, which leads to a kind of conjectural learning. The teacher may feel that s/he is being placed at risk, since this sort of activity may be difficult for the teacher to control and therefore difficult to incorporate into a tightly planned lesson (Higgins 1988 : 43; Johns 1988 : 11). The teacher, therefore, must be prepared to stand back and hand autonomy over to the student.

Errors in students' written work can be dealt with by comparing the items which the students have misused with examples from authentic text. Johns (1986 : 161) describes how he used this method with his students.

One possibility with which we have experimented is its use in helping students to correct their written work, some mistakes being underlined and a 'C' placed in the margin signifying "You have used this word in a way which is different from how an English person would use it: if you get a concordance of the word you should be able to work out a suitable correction for yourself."

It has been observed that overseas students frequently have difficulty remembering word collocation (Fox 1987 : 146). Moreover teachers rarely find collocation errors easy to explain. Overt explanation of collocational rules is not practicable. Nevertheless students could gain an insight into word usage from the set of examples that a concordance provides (Levy 1990 : 178; Johns 1988 : 11-12). Concordances could, for example be obtained for the words *interest* and *depend* in order to ascertain which prepositions normally follow them.

tes of use; and, far from being **interested** in studying the possibi  
 e-cream van - children are more **interested** in ice-cream than in tr  
 iane, when did you first become **interested** in politics? <Diane Abb  
 Diane Abbott:> I've always been **interested** in politics, as um, far  
 mbridge, and umm I'm still very **interested**. I'm just doing a serie  
 iewer:> One ... one thing which **interested** me was. um, polite viol

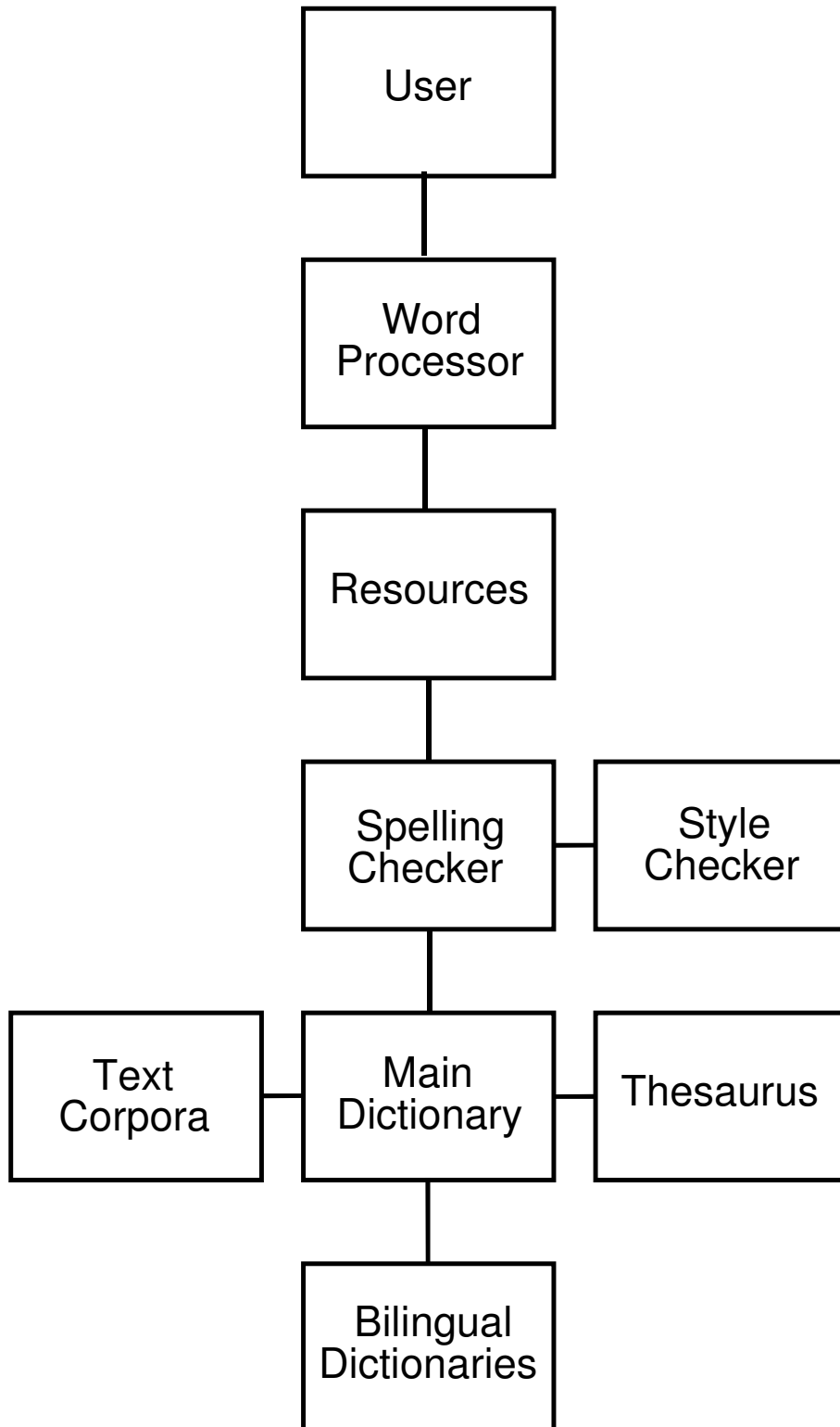
een to nineteen-year-old group, **depending** on whether her birthday  
 patterns of living which do not **depend** on fossil fuels at all or de  
 pend on fossil fuels at all or **depend** on them only to a very sligh  
 egin to get cross or amused. It **depends** upon their temperament. <I  
 ge to pay this by direct debit. **Depending** on when you use it, your  
 irst applications of fertilizer **depend** on when the turf was laid. I

(Tribble & Jones 1990 : 38)

Differences in register are another area that students can investigate with text analysis and retrieval software. Kirk (1990) describes a project undertaken by undergraduate students of English in which different varieties or registers of English were investigated for the frequency distribution of individual features or groups of features among their vocabulary and grammar. Amongst the varieties investigated were the language of reporting in national and provincial daily and Sunday newspapers, a comparison of learned and scientific writings with romantic fiction, 18th century prose, lyrics of contemporary popular song, and spoken and written humour. Kirk concludes that the students involved learnt both about the structure of the vocabulary and syntax of English on the one hand, and about the structure of individual texts and how these could be shown to differ systematically on the basis of frequency bundles on the other hand. Furthermore he found the activity to have been instrumental in constructive personal learning and observed a growth of proficiency in linguistic identification and of understanding of language use. The students got a feel for the nature of empirical enquiry and their understanding of the structure and relationship of texts was enriched.

A concordancer may be used as an accessory to writing. Levy (1990 : 184 *ff.*) sees one use of a concordancer as being integrated into a word processing environment with an on-line spelling checker, grammar checker and thesaurus. The whole system might then be combined in a hypertext environment with the word as the basic link. The following diagram illustrates the concept.





Levy (1990 : 185)

Working with this system students have a variety of options as they write or after they have completed a draft. For example, a student might first consult the thesaurus to find a synonym, secondly cross-check with the dictionary for the meaning and then consult a concordance of the item to observe its usage. The system may be either used to check the student's accuracy of usage or alternatively provide a broader approach to linguistic discovery.

In the field of literary studies, there are a number of approaches regarding the use of a concordancer. It has been suggested that the teaching of literature in ELT encourages personal response to text by increasing students' sensitivity to the linguistic means by which textual affects are achieved. A close focus on the linguistic or stylistic features of text is therefore latent. Within the field of literary studies, the application of electronic text analysis to stylistics is of value to the study of structure, style, prosody and content of texts. It is feasible to draw conclusions about *why* a writer uses words in a certain manner if it is accurately known *how* they use words. It then becomes possible to theorise about how texts achieve their effects. An empirical basis is essential if a theory is to be credible and the computer provides the means to collect data not only more accurately but also for much longer texts than would prove feasible by human endeavour (Phillips 1987 : 176, 181). Working with a group of students of German, Burgess (1987 : 35) observes that concordance work brought awareness of the complexity of the average literary text. The nature of the literary text as a pattern, a composite form made up of recurring elements, dependent for this effect on both content and form is made explicit by such work. Discussion of what can be done with text analysis software involves consideration of the reasons for making concordances and wordlists, which leads to scrutiny of literary analysis methodology.

Word frequency analyses are well known in the field of authorship studies (Wisbey 1971; Hockey 1980). Electronic text analysis offers statistical investigation of, amongst other things, the size and diversity of an author's vocabulary, or detailed study of single words or small sets of words such as *and* or the use of *on* vs. *upon*. In the first paragraph of Hemmingway's short story *Cat in the Rain*, out of 93 word tokens, only some 8 adjectives, *big, green, good, bright, gravel, long* and *empty* are employed. This feature of Hemmingway's style may be easily discovered by students from a wordlist that they have generated and result in useful class debate of Hemmingway's reasons for deliberately adopting such an ascetic technique (Phillips 1987 : 177).

A descending frequency wordlist may be used to select likely candidates for concordancing. The first lexical item encountered in a descending frequency list is normally found to operate, in some way, at the level of the 'literary device' (Louw 1990 : 166). To illustrate, here is a list for Dylan Thomas' *Fern Hill*.

the	61	with	4	is	2
and	34	fields	3	let	2
i	13	happy	3	light	2
was	13	high	3	like	2
in	11	long	3	lovely	2
of	11	on	3	means	2
as	9	under	3	mercy	2
green	7	young	3	moon	2
to	7	a	2	night	2
it	6	about	2	nothing	2
my	6	apple	2	once	2
that	6	by	2	out	2
time	6	cared	2	over	2
his	5	easy	2	sang	2
all	4	foxes	2	simple	2
among	4	from	2	sky	2
farm	4	grass	2	sleep	2
golden	4	hay	2	so	2
house	4	him	2	white	2
me	4	honoured	2		
sun	4	horses	2		

Word frequency list for Dylan Thomas' *Fern Hill*

The first lexical item encountered is *green*. If a concordance is produced for this item, its metaphorical use becomes apparent.

e mercy of his means, And green and golden I was huntsman a  
 songs Before the children green and golden Follow him out o  
 ovely and watery And fire green as grass, And nightly under  
 f his means, Time held me green and dying Though Isang in m  
 f his means, Time held me green and dying Though Isang in m  
 nd happy as the grass was green The night above the dingle  
 warm Out of the whinnying green stable On the fields of pra

One approach requires literature students to examine an argument or set of arguments found in critical literature and use a concordancer to check their validity. The study of thematic patterns or recurrent images in literature may be aided by data concerning the distribution of selected words throughout a given text. For example, Humphreys (1984 : 48), in a discussion of the language of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, maintains that "Blood likewise figures symbolically in many guises - the blood of noble race, the life-stream of heroic figures, the guarantee of Roman quality ...". By means of a text analysis and retrieval program, a student could produce a concordance of the words *blood* and *bloody* to verify Humphreys' assertion (Davidson 1990 : 81, 84).

215 n triumph over Pompey's  
 1161 ath; when every drop of  
 1205 irit of men there is no  
 1487 of war, Which drizzled  
 1567 d spouts, Did run pure  
 1575 : Your statue spouting  
 1578 me shall suck Reviving  
 1864 rtesies Might fire the  
 1867 Caesar bears such rebel  
 1900 And men are flesh and  
 1973 e our hands in Caesar's  
 2043 , Who else must be let  
 2047 ch With the most noble  
 2097 s they stream forth thy  
 2178 d that shed this costly  
 2185 ll the parts of Italy;  
 2462 r napkins in his sacred  
 2526 eel away, Mark how the  
 2537 hich all the while ran  
 2581 speech, To stir men's  
 3055 my heart, And drop my  
 3112 rutus, When grief, and  
 3426 devil, That makest my  
 3854 o-night, So in his red  
 884 we have in hand, Most  
 1199 ur course will seem too  
 2057 ough now we must appear  
 2080 each man render me his  
 2094 his peace, Shaking the  
 2249 he cruel issue of these  
 2540 f us fell down, Whilst  
 2555 ! First Citizen O most  
 2880 they should endure the  
 3531 in gallant show; Their

blood? Be gone! Run to your houses, fa  
 blood That every Roman bears, and nobl  
 blood: O, that we then could come by C  
 blood upon the Capitol; The noise of b  
 blood: and many lusty Romans Came smil  
 blood in many pipes, In which so many  
 blood, and that great men shall press  
 blood of ordinary men, And turn pre-or  
 blood That will be thaw'd from the tru  
 blood, and apprehensive; Yet in the nu  
 blood Up to the elbows, and besmear ou  
 blood, who else is rank: If I myself,  
 blood of all this world. I do beseech  
 blood, It would become me better than  
 blood! Over thy wounds now do I prophe  
 Blood and destruction shall be so in us  
 blood, Yea, beg a hair of him for memo  
 blood of Caesar follow'd it, As rushin  
 blood, great Caesar fell. O, what a fa  
 blood: I only speak right on; I tell y  
 blood for drachmas, than to wring From  
 blood ill-temper'd, vexeth him? BRUTUS  
 blood cold and my hair to stare? Speak  
 blood Cassius' day is set; The sun of  
 bloody, fiery, and most terrible. CASC  
 bloody, Caius Cassius, To cut the head  
 bloody and cruel, As, by our hands and  
 bloody hand: First, Marcus Brutus, wil  
 bloody fingers of thy foes, Most noble  
 bloody men; According to the which, th  
 bloody treason flourish'd over us. O,  
 bloody sight! Second Citizen We will b  
 bloody spur, They fall their crests, a  
 bloody sign of battle is hung out, And

The development of a given type of imagery in, for instance, a Shakespeare play, could be traced in this manner. One could, for example, produce a concordance of all the examples of eye imagery in *King Lear*, with each occurrence cited according to its line number (Phillips 1987: 181).

187 he matter; Dearer than  
 327 he true blank of thine  
 447 er, A still-soliciting  
 3046 nd the pin, squints the  
 3566 ! My lord, you have one  
 3856 ast not in thy brows an  
 3886 g to put out The other  
 3888 r. ALBANY Gloucester's  
 3900 ter! Lost he his other  
 4056 , And bring him to our  
 4068 e power Will close the  
 5135 RIL Holla, holla! That  
 500 our father, with wash'd  
 1249 eak thus? Where are his  
 1363 se about thee! Old fond  
 1435 s. ALBANY How far your  
 1491 ol Why, to keep one's  
 2032 d, Take vantage, heavy  
 2194 noses are led by their  
 2368 ames Into her scornful  
 2377 o'er to harshness: her  
 3259 d glares! Wantest thou  
 3423 GONERIL Pluck out his  
 3525 Pluck out his poor old  
 3537 the chair. Upon these  
 3656 , and therefore want no  
 3662 touch, I'd say I had  
 3725 must.--Bless thy sweet  
 3914 when they did take his  
 3930 , And to revenge thine  
 3979 hat guests were in her  
 3991 water from her heavenly  
 4126 ignorance, Gloucester's  
 4213 zzy 'tis, to cast one's  
 4282 CESTER Alack, I have no  
 4299 re below, methought his  
 4387 G LEAR I remember thine  
 4399 What, with the case of  
 4401 e you there with me? No  
 4402 ney in your purse? Your  
 4409 his world goes with no  
 4430 's lips. Get thee glass  
 4437 ep my fortunes, take my  
 4466 an of salt, To use his  
 5054 like foxes. Wipe thine  
 5101 impress'd lances in our  
 5327 ee he got Cost him his  
 5476 Had I your tongues and  
 5512 me. Who are you? Mine  
 eye-sight, space, and liberty; Beyond  
 eye. KING LEAR Now, by Apollo,-- KENT  
 eye, and such a tongue As I am glad I  
 eye, and makes the hare-lip; mildews t  
 eye left To see some mischief on him  
 eye discerning Thine honour from thy s  
 eye of Gloucester. ALBANY Gloucester's  
 eye! Messenger A servant that he bred,  
 eye? Messenger Both, both, my lord. T  
 eye. [Exit an Officer] What ca  
 eye of anguish. CORDELIA All blest sec  
 eye that told you so look'd but a-squin  
 eyes Cordelia leaves you: I know you w  
 eyes? Either his notion weakens, his d  
 eyes, Beweep this cause again, I'll pl  
 eyes may pierce I can not tell: Strivi  
 eyes of either side's nose; that what  
 eyes, not to behold This shameful lodg  
 eyes but blind men; and there's not a  
 eyes! Infect her beauty, You fen-suck'  
 eyes are fierce; but thine Do comfort  
 eyes at trial, madam? Come o'er the bo  
 eyes. CORNWALL Leave him to my displea  
 eyes; nor thy fierce sister In his ano  
 eyes of thine I'll set my foot. GLOUCE  
 eyes; I stumbled when I saw: full oft  
 eyes again! Old Man How now! Who's the  
 eyes, they bleed. GLOUCESTER Know'st t  
 eyes? Messenger Come with my lady hith  
 eyes. Come hither, friend: Tell me wha  
 eyes; which parted thence, As pearls f  
 eyes, And clamour moisten'd: then awa  
 eyes being out, To let him live: where  
 eyes so low! The crows and choughs tha  
 eyes. Is wretchedness deprived that be  
 eyes Were two full moons; he had a tho  
 eyes well enough. Dost thou squiny at  
 eyes? KING LEAR O, ho, are you there w  
 eyes in your head, nor no money in you  
 eyes are in a heavy case, your purse i  
 eyes. Look with thine ears: see how yon  
 eyes; And like a scurvy politician, se  
 eyes. I know thee well enough; thy nam  
 eyes for garden water-pots, Ay, and la  
 eyes; The good-years shall devour them  
 eyes Which do command them. With him I  
 eyes. EDMUND Thou ha  
 eyes, I'd use them so That heaven's v  
 eyes are not o' the best: I'll tell you

Certain themes throughout a particular play could be traced by calling up all the verses in which certain keywords crop up. Phillips (1987 : 181-2) shows how a KWIC concordance of the *-ing* form of the verb can be used as a powerful tool in the stylistic analysis of Hemmingway's *Cat in the Rain* .

had a momentary feeling of being of supreme importance. She  
 an in a rubber cape was crossing the empty square to the c  
 ouches under one of the dripping green tables. The cat was  
 m was on the second floor facing the sea. It also faced th  
 ght colours of the hotels and the gardens and the sea.  
 nt. She had a momentary feeling of being of supreme impor  
 and looked out. It was getting dark. 'I want to pull my  
 sent her. With the maid holding the umbrella over her, sh  
 heavy face and big hands. Liking him she opened the door a  
 cat'. George was not listening. He was reading his book.  
 the cafe a waiter stood looking out at the empty square.  
 wife stood at the window looking out. Outside right under  
 r of the dressing-table, looking at herself with the hand  
 ir grow out?' she asked, looking at her profile again. Geo  
 aid. 'I get so tired of looking like a boy.' George shift  
 ing again. His wife was looking out of the window. It was  
 e husband went on reading, lying propped up with two pi  
 get the cat?' he asked, putting the book down. 'It was go  
 ned in the rain. It was raining. The rain dripped from th  
 and looked out. It was raining harder. A man in a ruber  
 was quite dark and still raining in the palm trees. 'Anywa  
 e'. The husband went on reading, lying propped up with the  
 . George was on the bed reading. 'Did you get the cat?' h  
 d, resting his eyes from reading. Sge sat down on the bed.  
 n the rain.' George was reading again. She went over and  
 d,' George said. He was reading again. His wife was looki  
 s not listening. He was reading his book. His wife looked  
 . 'Oh shut up and get something to read,' George said. He  
 t get wet', she smiled, speaking Italian. Of course, the h  
 were only two Americans stopping at the hotel. They did no  
 reen tables. The cat was trying to make herself so compac

Together the words 'looking' and 'reading' account for 13 out of 31 citations or 42%. The word 'looking' has a marked association with the female character and 'reading' with the husband. Phillips suggests that this possibly indicates that the wife is confined to the passive role of observer of life because the husband is too involved in his reading and therefore pays too little attention to his wife.

In one final example, Misesk-Falkoff (1983 : 2-6) discusses the concordancing of theme words such as *love*, *hope* and *fear*. The following is a concordance of the word *love*, spoken by the character Eve, in Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

answering looks   Of sympathy and love:	There I had fixed   Mine eyes	EVE	85
y in out mutual help   And mutual love,	the crown of all our bliss	AD&EVE	107
qual fear, that my firm faith and love	Can by his fraud be shaken	EVE	340
n the event.   And what is faith, love,	virtue, unassayed   Alone, wi	EVE	344
female sex, the more to draw his love,	And render me more equal; a	EVE	373
me in bliss or woe:   So dear I love	him, that with him all deaths	EVE	373
deprived   Thy presence: agony of love	till now   Not felt, nor shal	EVE	375
May join us, equal joy, as equal love:	Lest, thou not tasting, dif	EVE	375
O glorious trial of exceeding love,	Illustrious evidence, examp	EVE	383
,   Shall separate us, linked in love	so dear,   To undergo with me	EVE	383
esented   This happy trial of thy love,	which else   So eminently nev	EVE	383
te of thy so true,   So faithful, love	unequalled: but I feel   Far	EVE	383
us. Adam: witness Heaven   What love	sincere, and reverence in my	EVE	450
ceptance, hopeful to regain   Thy love,	the sole contentment of my heart	EVE	454

Misek-Falkoff (1983 : 6) observes that Eve's use of *love* alters rapidly after the fall, before which it is coupled with *faith* (stanza 340) and after which it pairs with *agony* (stanza 375).

## 5 Conclusion

The possibilities for increased learner autonomy that electronic text analysis provides have far reaching implications for language pedagogy. Old convictions, such as the centrality of the syllabus, begin to fade. In any given educational setting, a decision has to be made as to what extent students can take charge of their own learning.

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## Appendix

### **Some Useful Addresses**

**British National Corpus** Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP. Tel.: 0865 56767. Fax: 0865 56646. E-mail: natcorp@uk.ac.ox.vax.

**Conc 1.71** is available as freeware from the International Academic Bookstore, Summer Institute of Linguistics, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Road, Dallas, TX 75236, USA. Tel. 214-709-2404; Fax: 214-709-2433; E-mail: academic.books@sil.org. It can also be downloaded by anonymous ftp. Contact lexical@nmsu.edu for details.

**Electronic Text Library** Janet Caldwell Publishing, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP. Tel.: 0865 56767.

**English Poetry Full Text Database on CD-ROM** Chadwyck-Healett Ltd., Cambridge Place, Cambridge CB2 1NR. Tel.: 0223 311479.

**International Corpus of English Project** Professor Sidney Greenbaum, Director, Department of English, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT. Tel.: 071 387 7050 ext 3121. E-mail: uclseu@uk.ac.ucl.

**Machine Readable Spoken English Corpus** Gerry Knowles, Dept. of Linguistics and Modern English Language, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YT. Tel.: 0524 65201 ext 3023. Fax: 0524 843085. E-mail: eia008@uk.ac.lancaster.central.

**Oxford Text Archive** contact Lou Burnard, Oxford University Computing Services, 13 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN. Tel.: 0865 273238. Fax: 0865 273275. E-mail: archive@uk.ac.ox.vax.



*Project Gutenberg* general enquiries to Project Gutenberg Director of Communication, E-mail: dircompg@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu

*TACT* text-retrieval and concordance application is available by FTP as /pub/cch/tact/tact2.1gamma on <epas@utoronto.ca>. Disks with an obsolete printed manual are about \$22 from the Centre for Computing in the Humanities, Robarts Library, Room 14297A, 4 Bancroft Ave., Toronto, ON M5S 1A5, Canada <cch@epas.utoronto.ca>. Ask Ian Lancashire (ian@epas.utoronto.ca) about the TACT-L@utoronto.bitnet discussion group.

*Text Encoding Initiative* contact Lou Burnard, Oxford University Computing Services, 13 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN. Tel.: 0865 273238. Fax: 0865 273275. E-mail: lou@uk.ac.ox.vax.