Feminine Suffixes in English

Takaaki KANZAKI

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to examine the distribution of some feminine suffixes in English and to discuss the way these suffixes are used. Fowler (1926) once discussed the use of the nouns with feminine suffixes and predicted that the day would come when feminine forms for vocation-words were a special need of the future, with the coming expansion of vocations open to women. Contrary to Fowler’s prediction, the use of feminine suffixes has declined and has become less acceptable due to the influence of feminism.

In this article, I observe several feminine suffixes such as -ette, -trix, and -ess and how they are used in the context of present-day English. I argue that -ette and -trix forms are of limited use. On the other hand, I demonstrate that -ess is the most common form among feminine suffixes, but that a reduction in the use of -ess forms over time is apparent. Besides, it is shown that forms in -ess convey negative connotations and that they tend to have derogatory meanings: author and authoress definitely have different connotations. While a number of forms with masculine suffixes such as -er or -or are also used for females, there still remains the use of -ess forms in English. I argue that the frequency of the use of -ess forms differs from word to word, i.e. some forms with -ess are still in use and others are no longer in use.

Key Words: gender, feminine suffix, masculine suffix
A Corpus-based Study of Synonyms:
With special reference to investigate, examine, explore and analyse/analyze

Atsuko FURUTA UMESAKI

ABSTRACT

This paper considers how corpora can contribute to the study of synonyms by seeking substantial differences between the following synonyms: investigate, examine, explore and analyse. These four verbs frequently appear with the subject this study/paper in academic writing. Non-native speakers have some difficulty in selecting the most appropriate one of the four, so it might be useful if differences could be defined by means of a survey. In the present research, the ukWaC and the BNC in the Sketch Engine, and a self-compiled corpus, the CEAP (Corpus of English Academic Papers), were used for collecting examples and collocation data. After reviewing the methodological change of synonym studies since 1990s, the paper presents comparisons of the four verbs quantitatively with regard to subject, object and -ly adverb collocates. Qualitatively, examples of each verb with the same object are compared in order to identify differences by examining their contexts. The results suggest that there are substantial differences in the kind of operation denoted by each verb. An attempt is made to define what is distinctive about them.

Key Words: synonym, collocate, corpus
Linguistic Theory and Evidence — In the Case of Phraseology

Katsumasa YAGI

ABSTRACT

This paper is an extensively revised version of a paper orally presented at the “Linguistic Theories and Evidence” symposium held in February, 2010 at the Kwansei Gakuin University Umeda Campus. This symposium was organized by Katsumasa Yagi and supported by a Grant-in-aid for Scientific Research (B) 20320089 as well as by KYODO-KENKYUHI from Kwansei Gakuin University.

Linguistics is an empirical science and linguistic theories are presumably based on linguistic facts. However, with the emergence of theoretical linguistics, namely generative grammar, linguistic evidence seems to have been relegated to a secondary or subsidiary position behind theory. On the other extreme, quite a few corpus linguists tend to do their research in a totally data-oriented way and statistically process the data and present the results of their analyses of the data in terms of whether the differences between item A and item B are statistically significant or not, without giving any reasons why A and B are “statistically significantly different.”

This symposium was planned to exchange views on how four different linguists representing four different linguistic standpoints (namely, semantics/pragmatics, cognitive linguistics/construction grammar, phraseology, and usage study, all of which claim their theories and practices are based on hard evidence or usage-based) obtain and utilize evidence to prove their theories. To be fair to generative grammar, a leading generative grammarian was also invited to the symposium as a discussant, and he gave extensive comments on the panelists’ presentations.

The main theme of this paper is to discuss how phraseology uses evidence to analyze linguistic phenomena, but before that, it looks back on what phraseology is and is about, and why the term “phraseology” is used, because this term is quite new to linguists in Japan. The recent rise of phraseology as an area of linguistics is closely related to the development of corpus linguistics during the past several decades, but it basically does not use statistics and instead theorizes about the obtained evidence. Phraseology is an area of linguistic study whose main interest is in collocations, set phrases, idioms, grammatical constructions, gambits, and proverbs. In other words, phraseologists are interested in individual linguistic facts which theoretical linguists have paid little attention to or even took no notice of. I have carried out my own research on phraseology from the viewpoint of “semantic syntax,” which is presented in detail with a large amount of evidence in Yagi (1999) and many other related works.

Key Words: phraseology, evidence, semantic syntax
A Background Study of Canadian English

— Canadian Daily Life and Language (4) —

Hisao ASADA

ABSTRACT

A more complete understanding of the background of language will be effective in any approach to the grammar and usage of language. A series of papers by the author (2011, 2012 a, 2012 b), argued that daily life in Canada— from the author’s personal experiences and knowledge from having lived in Toronto, Canada— will help in an understanding of Canadian English.

From March to September in 2010, the author was able to live and study in Toronto, Canada as a visiting research scholar at the Department of English, the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University, with financial support from Kwansei Gakuin University.

Toronto, the largest city in Canada, is fairly close to Ottawa, the capital city, and is situated less than several hours from French/English bilingual region of Quebec. It also has excellent transportation links to other areas in Canada, making it one of the best areas for the study of Canadian English.

The author found daily life and research at York University invaluable for gaining insights into the culture of the Canadian people, and discovered many things previously unknown in Japan. The present paper deals not only with Canadian English but also with Canadian culture, involving a number of aspects of everyday life in Canada including the manners and customs of the Canadian people. The topics dealt with are (1) “sox” as one of the American English expressions in Canadian English, (2) sunny as clear in Canadian weather forecasts, (3) barbershops and beauty salons in Toronto, (4) motor vehicles and related things in Canada, (5) Canada Post, postal services and a unique post office on Prince Edward Island. It may safely be said that these topics are explored from points of view not well known in Japan.

Daily life in Toronto showed the author a number of real images and actual situations of life in Canada not well known in Japan. In addition, the author has been inspired to study its background so as to have a better understanding of Canadian English.

It is hoped that the paper the author is currently writing on the background of Canadian English will add to the current state of knowledge, and will lead to a more complete understanding of the language as well as daily life in Canada.

Key Words: Canadian English, Canadian daily life, Canadian culture and tradition
How was Anime Institutionalized?

Mayumi YUKIMURA

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to clarify why industrial bases of animation were established in wartime though an analysis of the process of industrialization in Japan. Special attention is given to the birth of animators as professionals and specialized careers for the production system to be possible. The present study aims at clarifying the relationship between war and animation, by analyzing interviews and notes written by animators, as well as articles that appeared in movie magazines between 1928 and 1945. Another aim is to clarify the reason the government or military had supported making animated films during the war, in terms of comparison between cultures of their own country and other countries, by analyzing these articles and the context of the film “Momotaro Umi no Shimpei” (Soldier of the Sea) screened in 1945.

The results of my investigation show that the Japanese government pursued a cultural policy in the occupied regions and regarded the cultures in the areas as backward. In doing so, Japan could establish its superiority through the ordering of cultures. It can be concluded that animated films were produced on the basis of the representation of the other, and were developed through interactions with other ethnic groups. Animated films were produced as propaganda tools through the simultaneous acceptance of, and discrimination against, other cultures. In this way, anime was institutionalized through its interaction with different cultures.

Key Words: animation, war, institutionalization
On the Similarity of Religiosity from a Cross-National Comparative Perspective

Wolfgang JAGODZINSKI
Kazufumi MANABE

ABSTRACT

Underlying all international survey programs is the conviction that the nations can be compared. In the empirical analyses, comparability problems are either ignored or analyzed in terms of measurement equivalence. Criteria of equivalence are so strict, however, that they often lead to a double reduction — a reduction of the number of indicators, and a reduction of the number of countries. As a consequence of these reductions, the meaning of broad theoretical concepts is often narrowed.

This empirical analysis on religiosity attempts to overcome these limitations, first by defining softer criteria of comparability. We consider a theoretical concept fruitful if its relationships to the multiple indicators as well as to other independent and dependent variables are sufficiently similar to each other in all countries under investigation. In the early stage of comparative research, only a moderate degree of similarity should be required. In applying this standard, it turned out that the various aspects of religiosity have to be specified by different concepts. Religiosity therefore rather indicates a conceptual framework than a single concept. The concepts we use display an astonishing degree of similarity. Not only can they be reliably measured but most of them are also similarly related to gender, age, education, happiness, sexual morality and volunteering in almost all ISSP countries. This is particularly true for a two-item index of religiosity.

Key Words: religiosity, ISSP, data analysis, equivalence, similarity, correlation analysis, multiple-regression analysis
Preservation of War Heritage
——A case of the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dome——

Takeshi HAMADA

ABSTRACT

In studies on the preservation of the Hiroshima A-Bomb Dome, many have focused on its significance as a peace symbol. However, they have not fully examined why only the A-Bomb Dome has been able to get enough support and accorded value. In order to reexamine the process of creating monuments as a heritage representing tragic events, this paper attempts to focus on the relationship between the preservation of the A-Bomb Dome and peace movement by investigating the process in which the Hiroshima A-Bomb Dome was designated a World Heritage Site in 1996. This paper argues that the act for preserving the A-Bomb Dome has been enhanced by the peace movement against the outbreak of war and nuclear problems. Overall, this paper looks at the mechanism of how the preservation of the A-Bomb Dome as a part of peace activism has prevented us from facing the memories and experiences of A-Bomb victims.

Key Words: preservation, memories of A-Bomb experiences, peace movement
ABSTRACT

Following the explanation of multiple correspondence analysis theory, I analyzed the Life Survey data of Japan and Germany, especially the attitude toward religious minds, and proposed the usual MCA and some geometric analysis with respect to another questions and demographic variables. Moreover I tried the comparison of the results of MCA analysis and clustering.

Key Words: multiple correspondence analysis (MCA), R, FactoMineR, geometric data analysis, clustering
A Theory of Relative Deprivation Revisited (9)

Kenji KOSAKA

ABSTRACT

The present paper attempts to situate Runciman’s theory of relative deprivation based on his work in 1966, which is an extension of his 1962 paper where he introduced the concepts of magnitude, frequency and intensity. This paper explores what sort of “resource X” was considered to be relevant through his theoretical framework and the 1962 survey he implemented using a questionnaire. He examines the three dimensions of class, status and power along which any “X” is specified. In line with the class dimension, he examines income and provision, while along with the status dimension, the difference of reference groups over time is highlighted based on the empirical analysis of the 1962 survey data.

Key Words: relative deprivation, Runciman, reference group
Content Analysis of Films (2)

Different Japanese film preferences between film critics and film journal readers

Takehiro FUJIHARA

ABSTRACT

This study clarifies the differences in Japanese film preferences between film critics and readers of the film journal (Kinema Junpou), using ranking data from the film journal. Films that received rankings lower than 20 by film critics and over 20 by readers were defined as films that were popular with critics. In contrast, those ranked lower than 20 by readers and higher than 20 by film critics were defined as films that were popular with readers.

The results indicated that the films that were popular with readers might be characterized as simple, entertainment oriented, explicit and easily-understood films, such as animation films. On the other hand, films that were popular with critics might be characterized as complex, art oriented, implicit and difficult-to-understand films. The preferences of the critics may be affected by the diversity and complexity of the film stimuli.

Key Words: film preference, film critics, film journal readers