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# Hodnotící adjektiva ve vláknech diskuzních fór zaměřených na prezidentské volby v USA (2020)

## Evaluative adjectives in forum threads dedicated to the presidential race in the U.S. (2020)

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.....  
Bc. Tomáš Kukačka

## Poděkování

Rád bych na tomto místě poděkoval vedoucímu diplomové práce Mgr. Jaroslavu Emmerovi za jeho trpělivost, podnětné rady a čas, který mi při jejím vytváření věnoval. Velké díky také patří mé rodině, která mě po celou dobu studia podporovala.

## Anotace

Obsahem diplomové práce je analýza adjektiv užívaných v anglickém jazyce. Diplomová práce je rozdělena na tři části, a to část teoretickou, metodologii a část praktickou. Teoretická část se zaměřuje na anglická adjektiva, jejich vlastnosti a diferenciaci od jiných slovních druhů. V metodologické části jsou popsána teoretická východiska korpusového výzkumu. Praktická část vychází z korpusu dat získaných z internetového fóra Reddit, konkrétně z vlákna reflektujícího vývoj prezidentských voleb v USA v roce 2020. Samotný korpus je vytvořen pomocí programu #LancsBox, s jehož pomocí je sestaven seznam nejčastěji se vyskytujících hodnotících adjektiv v blízkosti jmen jednotlivých prezidentských kandidátů. Autorův komentář k možnému vysvětlení výsledků výzkumu je obsažen v následném diskurzu.

## Abstract

The content of the diploma thesis is an analysis of adjectives used in the English language. The diploma thesis is divided into the theoretical part, methodology, and practical part. The theoretical part focuses on English adjectives, their properties and differentiation from other word types. The methodology part describes the theoretical basis of corpus research.

The practical part is based on a corpus of data obtained from the Reddit Internet forum, specifically on a thread reflecting the development of the US presidential election in 2020. The corpus itself is created using #LancsBox software, which is used to compile a list of the most frequent evaluative adjectives in collocation with names of presidential candidates. The author's commentary on a possible explanation of the research results is included in the subsequent discourse.

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## 1 Introduction

'Democracy is a form of government in which people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation, or to choose the governing officials to do so.' (Wikipedia, 2022) And the essential process by which people can choose a political party or a candidate is called elections. However, this process tends to divide society into blocks of supporters of a given party or candidate, and right between these blocks is a place of potential friction that might cause tension. It is natural because the opinions, visions, and ideas of one candidate or a party will differ to some extent from the opinions, views, and ideas of an opposing candidate or a party.

One of the most extreme examples of a society divided into blocks can be seen in the political system of the United States, where, despite the existence of several political parties, there are only two parties that have a major impact on governing the country. To support this claim, I present the statistics of membership of the 117th Congress, which was done by the Congressional Research Service to the date of 25 May 2022. According to party breakdown statistics, there are 50 Republicans, 48 Democrats, and 2 Independents out of 100 members of the Senate. Of 435 members of the House of Representatives, 224 are Democrats and 210 are Republicans (Manning, 2022). Furthermore, since 1869 the upcoming president of the United States has been a candidate of either the Democratic or Republican party, that is, 29 presidents during more than 150 years in absolute numbers. That said, it is clear that the vast majority of American society is historically divided into 2 blocks of supporters of these political parties.

The presidential elections uncover the polarization of American society to the full extent as political parties nominate a candidate that represents the party as a whole and becomes its face. This gives an otherwise very abstract clash of views, opinions, and visions a much more concrete shape and form. People may show their approval, sympathy, and support for their preferred candidate, as well as their disagreement, antipathy, and resentment towards the other candidates. They often do that by using evaluative adjectives, as it is the easiest, most common, and natural way to assign either positive or negative quality that reflects their opinion about a given candidate.

Internet forums such as Reddit or Quora provide a place where people under cover of anonymity from all over the world can discuss or comment on their opinion about one or another candidate. Anonymity ensures that the writer does not have to restrain himself while writing, which creates an opportunity for the usage of expressive words.

In the theoretical part of my diploma thesis, I decided to focus on English adjectives, their function, division, and semantic properties.

In the practical part, I did quantitative research on evaluative adjectives written by Reddit users discussing and commenting on the topic of the American presidential elections in the year 2020.

## 2 Theoretical part

### 2.1 Word

Before focusing solely on adjectives, and their properties, we must describe what exactly they are and how to approach them. Adjectives as any other word class are words. But what is a word?

Surprisingly, there is no strictly correct definition of a word as it embodies quite a broad and abstract term. Matthews (1991 p. 24-31) suggests that difficulties connected with the definition of a word are caused by its ambiguity. To define a word, we must distinguish our perception of the word. If we define a word as a string of letters, syllables, and sounds, we are dealing only with its orthographic and phonological form. In that case, any other word, which differs in a single letter from the original one, is a new word. Another approach regards a word as a lexeme. Lexeme represents an abstract lexical unit that includes every form of the word caused by inflexion. These two approaches can be well illustrated by the word *man* and its plural form *men*. Strictly considering orthographical forms, these two are distinguished as two different words. However, these two different words are still just two forms of one lexeme. The last possible approach takes into account the usage of a word in grammar. Some words might acquire several grammatical meanings without changing their orthographical or phonological form. Furthermore, each of these grammatical meanings can be considered a different word. An example of such a word is the word *put*, which has the very same form in past simple, present perfect, and present simple tense. An even better example represents the word *round*, which can be classified as a noun, adjective verb, adverb, or preposition, depending on its function in a sentence.

### 2.2 Word classes

Quirk, Greenbaum et al. (1985, p. 67) classify adjectives as a member of open word classes alongside nouns, full verbs or in other words lexical verbs, and adverbs. Authors say that list of words in these classes is 'indefinitely extendable' because 'New items are constantly being created, and no one could make an inventory of all the nouns (for example) in English and be confident that it was complete.' (Quirk, Greenbaum et al., 1985, p. 72)

Closed word classes contain prepositions, pronouns, determiners, conjunctions, modal verbs, and primary verbs. This distribution by Quirk, Greenbaum et al. is in accordance with Lipka (1992, p. 133). Members of these classes are also denoted as 'function words, structure words, or grammatical words', which further stress their true function in a sentence. According to Quirk, Greenbaum et al. (1985), 'the sets of items are 'closed' in the sense that they are only exceptionally extended by the creation of additional members.' (p. 71)

To illustrate the basic difference between open and closed word classes, I will try to provide a simple example without getting into linguistics terms too much. When a new item or process is invented, there is a basic need to name it to be able to refer to this new item or process. If that item performs some action, there might be a need to name even this new action. Thus, a new noun or verb is created, and the possibility of the creation of new words labels such classes as open ones. Items of members of close word classes seem to be complete and there are no new additions to those classes. An exemplary member of such a class is pronouns. Huddleston et al. (2002) recognize 5 main categories of pronouns: personal, reciprocal, interrogative, relative, and temporal and describe them as 'a closed category of words.' (p. 425) However, in the context of the latest gender studies, new pronouns might be established. As people do not identify as male or female, they refuse to use classic pronouns assuming a person's gender, such as he or she. Such people tend to use gender-neutral pronouns they or, furthermore, create completely new nonbinary pronouns that fit their assumptions of themselves. Springfield College on its website presents the pronoun Ze with the objective form Zir/Hir, possessive form Zirs/Hirs and reflexive form Zirself/Hirself. Based on such examples, the current perception of pronouns as a closed-word class might change in the future.

The last world class according to Quirk, Greenbaum et al. (1985), and Lipka (1992), are the so-called 'lesser categories' which include numerals and interjections. However, because the main aim of the theoretical part of the thesis is solely to study adjectives and not the world classes, further details will be neglected.

## 2.3 Phrases

This diploma thesis deals with adjectives as single words and their relationship to other words and syntactic structures within a sentence. Therefore, it is appropriate when this chapter is devoted to phrases in the meaning of syntactical structures.

Plag in his research (2003, p. 8), suggests that a phrase is a group of words linked together to express a unified semantic concept without the possibility to be described by a single word. As such a word simply does not exist in the English language. An example of such a situation might be the phrase 'the broken man in his fifties after a divorce.' It is obvious that we mean the specific man that we met last year, probably during some special occasion; however, unless we call him by his name or nickname, there is no one-word expression in the English language that would describe the man. Not just any group of words can be considered as a phrase. A phrase does not include a subject and a predicate at the same time. If it does, it is considered a clause or a sentence. Every verb is considered a verb phrase, and since a verb must be included in a clause or a sentence, one or more phrases are present in every clause or sentence.

### 2.3.1 Types of Phrases

We recognize five types of phrases, based on part of speech of its head. Plag (2003, p. 173) refers to the head as 'the most important unit in complex linguistic structures.' We may say that the other words are built around the head element, after which the phrase is often named.

#### 1. A Noun phrase

A noun phrase is a group of words that functions as a noun. However, that is a broad term since various linguistic categories may represent the noun and should be further specified. In such categories belong pronouns, infinitives, gerunds, appositions, and nouns themselves. The rest of the words in the noun phrase modifies and develops the semantic meaning of the head. In the following examples, the head element is bold.

*I saw **a race car** yesterday.*

***To smoke** is injurious to health.*

***Smoking** is injurious to health.*

*Tom Cruise, **the famous actor**, is the main protagonist of the movie *The Edge of Tomorrow*.*

As you can see, the noun phrase consists of 3 words. Determiner a, adjective race, and finally noun car. However, regardless of the part of the speech of the non-head words, they are part of the noun phrase as they develop the meaning of the head element *car*.

2. **An Adverb phrase (or An Adverbial phrase)**

It is an adverb or a group of words with the adverb as its head, often accompanied by its modifiers. In a sentence, it functions as an adverb that modifies verbs, other adverbs, or adjectives. In the following example, the head is bold.

*I will meet you **tomorrow**.*

3. **A Verb phrase**

A verb phrase consists of one or more verbs with a lexical verb standing as a head and others being auxiliaries. In terms of syntactic categories, a verb phrase functions as a verb.

*She **was walking** quickly to the mall.*

4. **A Prepositional phrase**

It is a group of words that consists of a preposition and an object. There can be modifiers present as well, but they are not compulsory. A prepositional phrase acts as an adjective or an adverb since it modifies nouns, and verbs, and specifies the relationship between subject and verb.

*We are **on the way** to Wisconsin.*

*The man **in the red shirt** looks suspicious.*

In the first example, the prepositional phrase functions as an adverb as it modifies the verb to be. On the other hand, the second case of prepositional phrase functions as an adjective because it further describes the appearance of the suspicious man.

5. **An Adjective phrase**

An adjective phrase is a group of words consisting of an adjective and other words that may modify it or complement the semantic meaning.

## 2.4 Adjectives

In simple terms, Huddleston et al. (2002, pp. 527-528) denote adjectives as words that modify nouns. Typically, they add a property that specifies the noun. Those properties often relate to size (small, huge), shape (round, narrow), colour (orange, white), worth (good, bad), age (young, old), physical properties (sturdy, soft), perception of appearance (beautiful, ugly), speed of movement (fast, slow), and so on. However, this basic and general definition cannot be applied as a rule of distinction to determine whether a particular lexeme might be considered an adjective or not.

Huddleston et al. (2002, p. 528) then state negative properties a word must follow to be considered an adjective. For first, a word cannot inflect for tense or number. In other words, the form of the word remains the same. I will illustrate this condition in two sentences with adjectives underlined.

- 1) *During the event she was wearing a beautiful necklace.*
- 2) *The shop restocks those beautiful dresses every week.*

In the first sentence, there is past progressive tense and the adjective beautiful refers to a single item. The second sentence is written in present simple with the word beautiful referring to multiple items (in this case dresses), yet its form is still the same.

Huddleston et al. (2002, p. 528) also mention that adjectives cannot be modified by other adjectives and except in a few cases '*they do not take noun phrases as a complement.*'

Now, when it is clear what a word that might be considered an adjective cannot do, let us move on to the three main properties that an adjective should have. Huddleston et al. (2002) name them 'function', 'gradability', and 'dependents' and add that many adjectives do not meet all the stated properties. Furthermore, none of the properties is unique to adjectives. However, a combination of listed properties should provide us with a very good lead in distinction whether the word given is an adjective or a member of another word class.

### 2.4.1 Function

We recognize three main functions concerning the role the adjective plays on the level of clause constituents.

## Attributive adjectives

An attributive adjective takes place as the pre-head part of the noun phrase. In the following cases, adjectives with an attributive function are underlined.

*I saw a very expensive car*                      You will find us behind that old house.

As we can see, adjectives with the attributive function develop the meaning of the whole sentence by adding quality or feature to the noun or a noun phrase.

## Predicative complements

A predicative component follows a linking verb such as be, seem, find, and feel and completes the meaning of the sentence, therefore, is dependent on the clause structure. The predicative complement is underlined in the following examples.

*They are tired.    She found it difficult.    I feel cold.    Your father seems formidable.*

## Postpositive adjectives

According to Huddleston et al. (2002, pp. 528-529), postpositive adjectives are the least numerous group compared to attributive adjectives and predicative adjectives. They function as post-head internal modifiers in the NP structure and commonly occur after compound determinatives such as anyone or someone.

### 2.4.2 Gradability and intensification

In English grammar, gradability is the semantic property of an adjective that identifies different levels or degrees of the quality it denotes. If the intensity of the quality can vary, the adjective is gradable.

In terms of gradable adjectives, there are three ways adjectives can be graded. The first way deals with phonetics, specifically the number of syllables. If the gradable adjective consists of only one syllable, its grading is formed by adding suffixes -er for comparative and -est for superlative form.

*Cold -> colder, the coldest*

If the adjective consists of 2 syllables or more, modifiers more, and most are placed before the adjective for comparative and superlative form.

*Favourite -> more favourite -> the most favourite*

The last case involves adjectives with irregular grading. Their grading forms must be remembered as there is no rule the grading would follow.

*Good -> better -> the best*

*Bad -> worse -> the worst*

The semantic meaning of gradable adjectives can also be modified or intensified without changing their form by using intensifiers. The following example shows 3 different grades of cold.

*Rather cold -> cold -> very cold*

Adjectives describe the qualities of nouns. For some qualities, the intensity can vary. For others not. There is a group of qualities where scaling of the intensity is not possible. Such adjectives are non-gradable. The main reason why the intensity cannot vary is that the adjectives are as follows.

- Extremes (freezing)
- Absolutes (dead)
- Classifying (nuclear)

The grade of intensity is very often expressed with 'grading adverbs' such as *A little, dreadfully, extremely, fairly, hugely* or *immensely*.

## 2.5 Types of adjectives

### **Comparative and superlative adjectives**

Comparative adjectives are used to compare two things. They are usually formed by adding the suffix '-er' (or '-r'). For two-syllable words that end in 'y', 'y' is replaced with '-ier'.

Comparative adjectives can also be formed by adding 'more' or 'less' before an adjective that has not been modified.

*The room is cosier with the fire and less cosy without it.*

Superlative adjectives are used to indicate that something has the most or least of a specific quality. They are typically preceded by the definite article 'the' and are usually formed by adding the suffix '-est' (or '-st'). For two-syllable words ending in 'y', 'y' is replaced by '-iest'.

*Even the greatest athletes need adequate rest.*

### **Absolute adjectives**

An absolute adjective is an adjective describing an absolute to be compared. For example, dead is considered an absolute adjective because it is not possible to be 'deader' than someone else.

### **Coordinate adjectives**

Coordinate adjectives are two or more adjectives that modify the same noun in a sentence.

*Aaron wrote a heart-breaking, inspiring novel.*

### **Adjectives with linking verbs**

Adjectives are often mistaken for adverbs when they are used as complements for linking verbs. A common mistake is to use an adverb in place of an adjective. While adverbs describe how an action is performed, linking verbs often refer to a state rather than an act and, therefore, take an adjective.

*Jesse feels badly when he does not finish his homework. (not correct). Vs.*

*Jesse feels bad when he does not finish his homework.*

### **Appositive adjectives**

An appositive adjective is an adjective (or series of adjectives) that occurs after the noun it modifies.

*Then the cliffs, ominous and dark, came into view.*

### **Compound adjectives**

A compound adjective is an adjective that is formed using two or more words that express a single idea. When a compound adjective occurs before the noun it modifies (attribute), the individual words are typically connected by a hyphen. The non-hyphen is needed when the compound adjective is placed after the noun.

*A well-known man lives here.*

*Mark is well known.*

## Participial adjectives

An adjective that is identical to the participle form of a verb (typically ending in '-ing', '-ed' or '-en').

*It is a very annoying song.*

*Eva was pretty confused.*

## Proper adjectives

A proper adjective is an adjective formed from a proper noun and used to indicate the origin. Proper adjectives are always capitalised.

*There is a popular Indian restaurant nearby.*

## Denominal adjectives

A denominal adjective is an adjective formed from a noun, often with the addition of a suffix (eg, '-ish', '-ly', '-esque').

*Amira thinks Han is childish, but at least he is friendly.*

## Nominal adjectives

A nominal adjective (also called a substantive adjective) is an adjective that functions as a noun. Nominal adjectives are typically preceded by the definite article 'the'.

*The candidate appealed to both the rich and the poor.*

### 2.5.1 Evaluative adjectives

This chapter deals with adjectives on the level of semantics. An evaluative adjective expresses the speaker's opinion, the amount, value, or quality of something. The perception might be positive, negative, or neutral. Examples of clearly positive evaluative adjectives are *awesome*, *amazing*, *beautiful* or *magnificent*. Examples of clearly negative evaluative adjectives are *awful*, *disgusting*, *horrible*, *ridiculous* or *lousy*. Neutral adjectives often describe measurements or physical properties such as *tall*, *short*, *heavy*, *long* or *small*.

## 2.6 Derived Adjectives

The next few chapters will be devoted to the derived adjectives. The derived adjectives are built with a help of affixes, and the full range of affixes will be considered. Their formal characteristic as well as their semantic range will be considered. Further, the placement will be explained, as the extent to which the affixes are productive and the extent of possible interchangeability of them.

The next part will be dedicated to some other characteristics of derived adjectives as if they are gradable versus non-gradable, relational, or qualitative. The final part will be dedicated to the base or the context in which individual items appear. The source for this analysis including the examples is taken from the book *The Oxford Reference Guide to English Morphology* (Bauer, Lieber and Plag 2013, pp.288-320).

### 2.6.1 Formal characteristics of affixes

There are two main groups of affixes according to their etymology. (p. 289)

- Affixes with non-native origin
- Affixes with native origin

Affixes with non-native origin have the following characteristics: often attach to bound bases and are frequently associated with both base allomorphy and stress shift. (p. 289). This group unify the majority of adjectives forming affixes.

Specifically:

*-able, -al, -ant, -ary, -esque, -an, -ible, -ic, -ical, -ine, -ive, -oid, -ory, -ous*

Affixes with native origin have the following characteristics: often attach to free bass of any provenance, they are inert to stress and are not associated with base allomorphy. (p. 289)

Specifically:

*-full, -ing, -ish, -ly, -some, -y, -less*

All characteristics are summarized in attachment 1 of this thesis.

## 2.7 Non-native affixes

According to Bauer et al. (2013, pp. 291-292), non-native affixes can be divided into two groups depending on the word class they attach to.

-Nouns

-Verbs

Primarily attached to nouns are the following affixes:

*-al, -ary, -esque, -ian -ic, -ical, -ine, -oid, -ous*

Primarily attached to verbs are:

*-able, -ant, -ive, -ory*

Examples of words derived for each of these affixes are summarized in the following overview:

-al	elemental, behavioral, germicidal, hexagonal, incestual, familial, germicidal
-ary	alimentary, budgetary, customary, dietary, supplementary, transitional, urinary
-esque	futuresque, grotesque, divaesque, traveloguesque, violinesque, shamanesque
-an	animalian, centaurian, jackassian, mammalian, pscivorian, republican, tragedian
-ic	alcoholic, basaltic, cyclonic, diadic, ectomorphic, fumarolic, halalic, satiric
-ical	alphabetical, brahminical, charlatanical, demiurgical, nonsensical, theatrical
-ine	alkaline, crystalline, dinosaurine, tridentine, vulturine,
-oid	albinoid, beastoid, bungaloid, ellipsoid, parasitoid, plasmacytoid
-ous	bulbous, cadaverous, gelatinous, scandalous, tempestuous, victorious
-able	abradable, blendable, cancellable, matchable, networkable, zoomable
-ant	ascendant, defiant, floatant, guidant, inhalant, manifestant,
-ible	admissible, combustible, defensible, extensible, perceptible,
-ive	adaptive, decisive, emanative, formulative, oppressive, formative, receptive
-ory	applicatory, combinatory, defecatory, executory, hallucinatory, satisfactory

### 2.7.1 Types of bases

Bauer et al. (2013, pp. 292-296) suggest that majority of deverbal adjectives have transitive verbs as the base and all of them show variety in the selection of the verbal bases.

Suffix *-able* is preferably connected with transitive bases, they are cases of ditransitive, and even verbs which take prepositional objects. Only a few examples with unergative or unaccusative bases.

-able on ditransitive bases: *addable, addressable, quotable, faxable, placeable,*

-able on bases with prepositional objects: *accountable, atoneable, commentable, comfortable*

-able on unergative bases: *stutterable*

-able on unaccusative bases: *abatable, eruptible, flowable, rottable*

The suffix *-ant* is mainly to be found on transitive verbs with prepositional objects.

-ant on transitive verbs: *arrestant, combinant, considerant, excitant, executant, expectant, transcendant, observant*

-ant on bases with prepositional objects: *accordant, actant, aspirant, convegant*

-ant on unergative bases: *respirant*

-ant on unaccusative bases: *ascendant*

Almost no formations with other types of verbs. Similar situation is visible with the suffixes *-ive* and *-ory*.

-ive on ditransitive bases: *ascriptive, associative, donative, inductive*

-ive on bases with prepositional objects: *collaborative, commiserative, elaborative, reactive*

-ive on unergative bases: *gesticulative, perseverative*

-ive on unaccusative bases: *accelerative, degenerative, putrefactive, regressive*

-ory on ditransitive bases: *applicatory, compensatory, explanatory*

-ory on bases with prepositional objects: *collaboratory, contributory, discriminatory*

-ory on unergative bases: *genuflectory, hallucinatory, ovulatory*

-ory on unaccusative bases: *acceleratory, escalatory*

Further, many of these affixes attach to bound bases and the variation extends to other categories.

- -able: *communicable, educable, isolable*
- -al: *apical, carnal, decimal*
- -ant: *clairvoyant, distant, malfeasant*
- -ary: *ancillary, binary, culinary, limitary*
- -an: *circadian, equestrian, median, metropolitan*
- -ic: *aquatic, barbaric, eclectic, hedonic*
- -ical: *amical, identical, practical*
- -ine: *calcarine, equine, saline, uterine*
- -ive: *amative, captive, diminutive, fictive, native*
- -oid: *android, asterioid, benzoid, cuacasoid*
- -ory: *amatory, gustatory, nugatory, perfunctory*
- -ous: *abstemious, bibulous*

Affixes, which typically attached to nouns, as: -al, -ary, -ic, -ous, is possible to see connected to verbal bases:

- -al: *confiural, continual, excretal*
- -ic: *beatific, beautiful, encryptic, integratic*
- -ous: *continuous, coventous, prosperous, usurpatious*
- -ary: *deputary, expeditiary, imaginary*

Similarly, affixes which are typically attached to verbal bases, are possible to see on nominal bases:

- -able: *avalanchable, brailable, knowledgeable*
- -ive: *agentive, contemptive, qualitative, sportive*
- -ory: *statutory, preceptory*

From time to time, these affixes are used on adjectival bases:

- -al: *accusatorial, inclemental, molnetarial*
- -ant: *benignant, contrariant, malignant*

- -ary: *mobilary, sanguinary*
- -esque: *africanesque, brutalesque, globalesque, suburbanesque*
- -ic: *astralic, civilic, sanguinic*
- -ive: *abruptive, distinctive, diversive, profusive*
- -oid: *fantastic-oid, modernoid, simploid*
- -ous: *complicitous, duplicitous, sanguineous, triumphalous*

As earlier stated, the non-native adjective-forming affixes attach mainly to non-native bases. There exist a few exceptions, which are listed below. Some of them are intended as jocular, however, the majority is well established:

- -al: *bridal, tidal, crotchital, queerial*
- -ant: *floatant*
- -an: *elvan*
- -ic: *apostolic, councilmanic, folkloric, freshmanic*
- -ical: *churchical, coxcombical, folkrolic, rasberrical*
- -ive: *talkative, walkative*
- -ous: *heinous, pompous, plunderous, scabrous*

There are three non-native affixes, which freely attach to native bases. Those are: *-oid*, *-esque* and *-able*. The affix *-esque* is borrowing from French, *-oid* of Greek origin. Below are some examples of those affixes on the native bases:

- -esque: *girlesque, hell-esque, holly-esque*
- -able: *bakeable, bearable, bite-able, hangable*
- -oid: *bluesoid, craboid, freakoid, rubberoid*

Affixes *-esque* and *-oid* further show a preference to attach to names and other proper nouns. The same aspect shares the suffix *-an*:

- -esque: *Aspen-esque, Barbieesque, Halloweenesque, Nazi-esque*
- -oid: *Dawkins-oid, Jacksonoid, Putoid*
- -an: *Alaskan, Aristotelian, Beethovenian, Burgundian*

In connection with compounds, the situation is following: some frequency can be found by the affix *-esque*, occasional examples for *-an*, *-ic* and *-ical*, followed by *-able*. The overview is summarized below:

- *-able*: *backpackable, bushwackable, copyrightable, downloadable*
- *-an*: *fisticuffian, jackassian*
- *-ic*: *aldermanic, folkloric, freshanic, freemasonic*
- *-ical*: *coxcombical, folklorical*
- *-esque*: *appleseed-esque, coldplay-esque, dot-comesque, ragtime-esque*

There is no case of the connection of the non-native forming affixes on phrasal bases in English. The suffixes *-ive* and *-ory* are available on selective phonological form of their bases:

- *impressive, dismissive, conductive, associative*
- *dispossessory, locomotory, vomitory*

#### 2.7.2 Base and affixal allomorphy

As known by Bauer et al. (2013, pp. 296-303) some of the non-native trigger allomorphy or stress shifts or both. The suffixes are divided into three groups:

- do not affect stress
- themselves bear stress
- can trigger stress shift

In English, the stress assignment in general often depends on the structure of the syllables involved. An important distinction is a differentiation between heavy and light syllables with the consideration of the patterns in the following examples.

The non-stress-shifting adjectival suffixes will be explained in the example of the suffix *-ine*. This suffix has secondary stress, but there is no stress shift or base allomorphy connected with it. For the suffix *-able*, it is typical to follow these rules: it does not alter the stress pattern in case the base has only one or two syllables. It appears on the following bases, without stress shift:

- monosyllabic
- iambic
- trochaic

- disyllabic ending in a secondarily stressed syllable

Below are examples given:

- monosyllabic: *askable, bakeable, wantable*
- iambic: *abridgeable, abusable, besmirchable???*
- trochaic: *alterable, answerable, budgetable, balanceable*
- Base ending in a secondarily stressed syllable: *archivable*

There are a few exceptions, highly lexicalized or on a monosyllabic bound base:

- *admirable, preferable, revocable*
- *baptizable????*

The suffix -able on a base longer than two syllables shows three types:

- heavy antepenultimate syllable, non-variable
- heavy antepenultimate syllable, variable
- light antepenultimate syllable

In the case of non-variable, heavy antepenultimate syllables the stress falls on the antepenultimate syllable, which leads to a stress shift with one subset of these forms. The second group with heavy antepenult shows variable stress shifts. The last group, the light antepenultimate syllable, is not connected with a stress shift.

- Heavy antepenultimate syllable, non-variable: *al.lo.cá.ta.ble, a.ro.ma.tí.za.ble, ar.ticu.lá.ta.ble, ca.te.go.rí.za.ble, com.mer.lí.za.ble, cul.ti.vá.ta.ble, di.ver.si.fí.a.ble, do.cu.mén.ta.ble, e.xe.cú.ta.ble*
- Heavy antepenultimate syllable, variable: *á.na.ly.za.ble ~ a.na.lý.za.ble, cér.ti.fy.a.ble ~ cer.ti.fý.a.ble, drá.ma.ti.za.ble ~ dra.ma.tí.za.ble, i.dén.ti.fí.a.ble ~ i.den.ti.fí.a.ble, í.te.mi.za.ble ~ i.te.mi.za.ble*
- Light antepenultimate syllable: *jét.ti.so.na.ble, mó.ni.to.ra.ble*

The suffix -al can occur in the forms -ial, -ual, -ar. The used form of the first three (-al, -ial, -ual) is not based on a rule, but on the respective Latin allomorphy patterns. Doublets or near doublets are possible, as:

- *monarchal/monarchical*

- *accentual/agential/cliential*

The extender -u is typical for bases ending in clusters of obstruents, or n + obstruent:

- *aspect-u-al, concept-u-al, context-u-al*
- *consens-u-al, accent-u-al*

The usage of the -ar is somehow rule-governed. There is visible some consistency on bases that end in /l/ or a consonant cluster containing /l/, further on cases where /l/ is in a preceding syllable:

- *tonsillar, polar, capsular*
- *bulbar, vulgar*
- *linear, lumbar, lunar*

However, the fact, that there is /l/ in a preceding syllable does not automatically trigger the -ar. There are other forms, like:

- *clausal, colonial, influential, larval*

In some cases, the suffix appear as -ular:

- *clavicular, carbuncular, vehicular.*

The suffix is so deeply integrated, it triggers resyllabification and stress shift where necessary to achieve certain output pattern that signifies this morphological category. If the penultimate syllable is light, the stress is on the antepenult. If the penult is heavy, it is also stressed:

- Penult is light: *aboriginal, actional, clósuar, digital*
- Penult is heavy: *affinal, ancestral, archival, collódial*

The suffix -al includes its variants involving extenders to trigger allomorphy of their bases. Palatalization or spirantization of a base-final consonant is frequent:

- *agential, appendiceal, consensual, facial*

The suffix *-ant* shows the tendency toward an output pattern just as the suffix *-al* does.

The suffix *-ary* shows a variety of possibilities. In the main cases, no stress shift, which means some derivatives stress the pre-antepenult or even the fifth syllable from the right:

- *de.pó.si.ta.ry, dí.sci.pli.na.ry, ac.cré.tio.nary*

In few cases, there is a stress shift on the antepenult or pre-antepenult:

- *a.li.mén.ta.ry, di.sci.plí.na.ry, e.vi.dén.cia.ry*

In a few cases, there is segmental base allomorphy with form in *-ary*: palatalization of base-final consonants, and deletion of base final vowels:

- *beneficiary, evidentiary*
- *medullary*

The suffix *-an* use extenders *-e-* and *-i-* very often, however, it seems there is no principled reason for the appearance. There are two variants of stress shift: to ensure penultimate or ante-penultimate stress. Derivatives with *-an* stressed on penultimate or ante-penultimate, while *-ean* and *-ian* show consistency on stress on the antepenult.

- *arizónan, carnivóvan, diocesan*
- *actórian, bacchanalian, barónian*

There is only a small amount of segmental base allomorphy with *-an*. Base-final vowels are often deleted, but not always:

- *ambrósian, volcánean*

The suffix *-ic* and *-ical* shift the stress, whatever the stress pattern of the base, the stress is on the syllable before the suffix:

- *agéntic, ballétic, halálic*

Derivatives in *-ical* stress the antepenult, also including stress shifts:

- *apocalýptical, eléctric, meteoritical*

Further, in some cases the deletion of base final vowels is available:

- *aromatic, asthmatic, empathetic, draconic*

Bases which end in /s/ exhibit /t/ before suffix:

- *apocalyptic, chaotic, pelvic, synaptic*

The suffix *-ive* uses three extenders: *-at-ive*, *it-ive*, *ut-ive*. The extender *ut-ive* appears only on verbs containing the formatives *solve*, *volve*:

- *dissolutive, evolutive*

The extender *-itive* on verbs with formatives *quire*, *pos*, or *pet*

- *inquisitive, acquisitive,*
- *oppositive*
- *competitive, repetitive*

The extender *-ative* appears more frequently, but there is no scheme visible in this connection, compared to the *-ive*. Even some doubles are known:

- *augmentative/augmentive, adaptative/adaptive,*

Verbal bases that end in /r/ or consonants like /m/ or /k/ prefer the variant *-ative*:

- *comparative, explorative, confirmative, informative*

With regards to stress, there is no effect in case of the suffix *-ive*. Few non-stress-shifting examples with penultimate stress, pre-antepenultimate, or pre-antepenultimate stress are listed below:

- penultimate stress: *extrospéctive, apprehésive, corréctive*
- antepenultimate stress: *dónative, attributive, depósitive*
- pre-antepenultimate stress: *dédicative, intégrative, speculative*

The preferred bases of the *-ive* are non-native bases, it displays full range allomorphy in Latinate verbs:

- *adhere – adhesive*
- *appeal – appellative*
- *ascribe – ascriptive*
- *assume assumptive*
- *cohere – cohesive*
- *compel – compulsive*
- *conjoin – conjunctive*
- *induce – inductive*
- *inquire – inquisitive*
- *perceive – perceptive*
- *submit – submissive*
- *succeed – successive*

The suffix *-oid* is not connected with stress shift. It often attaches to bound bases, which could be named as truncated nouns:

- *Bungalow – bungaloid*
- *Magma – magmoid*
- *Negro – negroid*
- *Piccaso – piccassoid*

The situation on the suffix *-ory* is comparable with that of *-ive*. There are two variants of extenders: *it-ory*, *at-ory*. The variant *-itory* is infrequent, mainly on the bases of the Latinate formatives *pos* and *pet*:

- *expository, competitory*

In the case of the extender *-atory*, it appears with no particular pattern discernible:

- *applicatory, comparatory, persipatory, condolatory, amendatory*

The stress pattern of the base is almost always maintained.

With regard to base allomorphy, *-ive* triggers allomorphy on Latinate verbs:

- *compulsory, introductory, redemptory, satisfactory, intercessory*

Base-final /d/ becomes /s/:

- *conclusory, delusory, derisory*

Frequently there is laxing of a vowel in the final syllable of the base:

- *declamatory, declaratory, definatory, divinatory, explanatory*

The suffix *-ous* uses a lot of extenders: *-iti-ous, -ati-ous, -t-ous, -in-ous, -u-ous, -i-ous* and *-e-ous*. The last two are spelling variants only. As well here is difficult to find exact regulation in usage.

- *-iti-ous: excrementitious*
- *-ati-ous: flirtatious, usurpatious, vexatious*
- *-t-ous: edematous, eczematous*
- *-in-ous: altitudinous, cartilaginous, leguminous,*
- *-u-ous: contempuous, sensuous, sprituous*
- *-i-ous: cparicious, censorious, felonious*
- *-e-ous: censanguineous, nectareous*

Regarding stress, the words with *-ous* are stressed on the penult, in case the penult is heavy and, on the antepenult, in case the penult is light. There is a stress shift if necessary to achieve the pertinent stress pattern.

- Former pattern: *fi.la.mén.tous, ca.ta.rác.tous, ca.prí.cious*
- Latter pattern: *a.cró.ny.mous béau.te.ous, ca.dá.ve.rous*

Concerning base allomorphy, there is occasional vowel laxing, and palatalization of a base final /s/.

- *capricious, gangrenous, zealous*
- *disastrous, lustrous*

### 2.7.3 Productivity

The productivity by non-native affixes shows different levels; however, the full range of productivity is available.

The most productive, which can be named as completely productive are two of them. The affix *-able* can be connected on just any transitive verb, and the affix *-esque* on many personal names. Those two groups build a nearly endless base to which these affixes can be attached:

*-able, -esque.*

The lowest level of productivity relates to the affixes *-ant*, *-ary* and *-ine*. There are almost no forms that appear to be novel:

- *-ant: averrant*
- *-ary: testimony*

The suffixes *-ine* and *-ive* show novel forms.

- *-ive: assertive, contestive, precessive*
- *-ine: dinosaurine, cervantine*

All other non-native affixes are ranged between those two poles. The suffix *-al* is productive to a bases ending in the suffixes *-oid*, *-ation*, and others.

- *al: altazimuthal, appendiceal, pelletaltapestral*

Some productivity shows the suffix *-ic*. It attaches to a wide range of neo-classical combining elements like *meter*, *naut* or *phile*. It also attaches to a form derived from the suffixes *-ite* and *-ist*. Finally, it also appears on proper nouns.

- *civilic, anodynic, gelemic, halalic, tantrumic, tortic*

The suffix *-ical* also attaches to neoclassical combining forms, especially those ending in *-ology*. Further in combination with derived words in *-ist*.

- *chessical, churchical, existorical*

The last two suffixes *-ory* and *-ous* have a very low level of productivity. Mainly on verbs in *-ate*. The suffix *-ous* partially to neoclassical combining forms *lie*, *vore*, *nym*, *mat*.

- -ory: *divinatory, enduratory, immolatory, incarnatory*
- -ous: *ginormous, grandilomentitudinous, redunculous*

## 2.8 Native affixes

Bauer et al. (2013, pp. 303-306) state, that next to the non-native affixes there is a group of native affixes in the English language. The first group are the derivational suffixes:

*-ed, -en, -ern, -ful, -ish, -ly, -some, -y*

Further there is the prefix *-a*

The last group are the participial adjectives. The first part of this chapter will be dedicated to the first two groups, the participial adjectives will be commented on at the end separately.

Compared to non-native affixes, native affixes can be connected with a range of categories. In the following summary, there are examples for each of the suffixes:

-ful	
On nouns:	deceitful, faithful, gleeful, lawful, mindful
On verbs:	reflectful, resentful, vengeful, wakeful
On adjectives:	gladful, proudful, rightful, wrongful

-ish	
On nouns:	babyish, clannish, doggish, gluish
On verbs:	skitterish, sluggish, shnappish, ticklish
On adjectives:	angry-ish, brownish, freeish, goodish, modernish
On numerals:	fivish, twentyish

-some	
On nouns:	adventuresome, fruitsome, healthsome, joysome
On verbs:	frolicsome, irksome, meddlesome, vexsome
On adjectives:	blithesome, darksome, lithesome, lonesome

-y	
On nouns:	arty, bitchy, coppery, feathery, girly, houndy
On verbs:	blowy, choosey, droopy, grabby, moochy, picky
On adjectives:	crispy, dreary, greeny, moderny, swanky

The suffixes *-ly* and *-ed* occur on nouns and noun phrases:

- *-ly*: *actorly, beggarly, comradely, innerworldly, fleshly, nightly, rarely*
- *-ed*: *bearded, blue-eyed, broad-minded, empty-headed, four-footed, wooded*

The suffixes *-en* and *-ern* are unproductive, appearing in connection with geographic directions in the case of *-ern*, and as a deriving adjective from nouns indicating materials or substances:

- northern, western,
- earthen, silken, wooden

#### 2.8.1 Participial adjectives

There is no consensus on whether these word forms should be referred to as adjectival.

The content of this group is built by 2 groups:

- *-ing* form of verbs
- past participle form of verbs

They can accept the prefixation with negative *un-*, to form the comparative and superlative, sometimes even the morphological comparative and superlative, and to be

sub-modified by *very*, or *so*. Formally, the participial adjectives are identical to the present and past participles. They are more often used in verbal contexts. Specifically:

- *burnt, cloven, bereft, mown, shorn, shod, smitten, spilt, spoilt, sewn*

### 2.8.2 Native and non-native base

There is no difference if the adjective-forming suffixes are on native or non-native bases. They are equally comfortable on both variants. Examples are given in the following overview:

-ful	
Native:	heavenful, deathful
Non-native:	deceitful, beautiful

-ish	
Native:	doomish, freeish
Non-native:	caricaturish, modernish

-some	
Native:	mirthsome, wholesome
Non-native:	adventuresome, joysome

-y	
Native:	handy, cheesy
Non-native:	actressy, chocolatey

There is no association with stress shift or allomorphy typically.

### 2.8.3 Productivity

In connection with productivity, there can be clearly stated, that the most productive are the following suffixes:

*-ish, -y*

These attach almost any kind of available base. Therefore, it looks like they are the most productive suffixes of contemporary English. The major part is used on nominal bases, however, there are novel forms of adjectives for *-ish* and verbs for *-y*.

*-ish: beginnerish, dungeonish, gloomish*

*-y: spoofy, flinchy, moochy, lumooxy*

The suffix *-ful* reached second place, which is less productive. It is mainly used with a specific semantic category, that poses natural limitations for potential novel forms. Typically connected with bases that denote psychological states or processes:

*verveful, angstful, groundful, importful, groundful*

Only few novels are available:

*fluteful, ghostful, girthful, limbful*

As modest can be called the productivity of the suffix *-some*, with following novel forms:

*fiercesome, furitsome, hunksome, problemsome, whoresome, clattersome, droolsome*

Barely productive is the adjectival *-ly*. Its new forms are confined to person nouns and places:

*demonly, duedely, speakerly, spectatorly, neighborhoodly*

As mentioned earlier, the suffixes *-en* and *-ern* are unproductive.

## 2.9 Semantic considerations

This chapter is devoted to the semantic interpretation of adjectival derivation in contemporary English. There will be considered various aspects of the semantics of adjective-forming affixes: cases of specific semantic content carried by various affixes, the differences between so-called relational and quantitative adjectives, described also as gradable or non-gradable.

### 2.9.1 Semantic content

According to Bauer et al. (2013, pp. 306-317), the characteristics of derived adjectives to some extent depend on what sort of base they are attached to. When attached to verbal bases, adjectival affixes typically reference either an argument of the base or the event itself.

There are typically two interpretations possible considering adjective-forming affixes, which accept verbal bases:

- subject-referencing interpretation
- object-referencing interpretation

More complex participial *-ing* will be treated separately.

Object-referencing affixes are less numerous compared with subject-referencing.

The most important is the suffix *-able*. As earlier stated, this suffix prefers transitive bases, and a connection with this suffix always refers to the object argument.

*conceal – concealable, adapt – adaptable, grill – grillable*

In the given sample the adjective *concealable* refers to the theme, the thing concealed, rather than the agent of the action.

Further suffix *-able* can be found on the occasional unergative verb. In this case, the *-able* adjective does not refer to the subject, the only available argument, it references to a contextually or pragmatically determined referent.

...making the atmosphere *stutterable*.. - wanted people to have permission to stammer openly.

Another case where *-able* appears as an unergative verb is the case of the word *perspirable*. Those verbs have been coerced into a transitive reading:

.....for the air will immediately relieve the skin, by receiving, licking up, an carrying off, the load of perspirable matter that incommoded it....

An *-able* adjective is conceivable for the verb perspire as long as it is possible to imagine some output or product of perspiring.

In connection with nominal bases, there is typical, that those bases are amenable to an eventive or stative interpretation. In those cases, *-able* refers to an implied argument, which is either subject or object, or participants in the associated event.

- subject referencing interpretation: *knowledgeable, pleasureable*
- object- referencing interpretation: *marriageable, brailable, impressionable*

Further the suffix *-able* is modal in nature, indicating capacity to undergo the action denoted by the verb, or occasionally inclination to undergo the action denoted by the verb:

- action denoted by the verb: *washable, heatable*
- inclination denoted by the verb: *perishable, agreeable*

The past participial adjective is another object-referencing group. It can refer to the object of the verb, further transitives predominate and unaccusatives are possible. Unergatives are rare.

- an *eaten* apple
- sent specially *trained* dogs
- among recently *arrived* refugees

The last affix is *-ary*, which occasionally attaches to a verb. The majority of the adjectives are too *lexicalized*, and in a few cases of transparent derivations are object-referencing:

- *documentary, imaginary, salutary*

Subject referencing affixes *are* – *ant*, *ive*, and *-ory* in the same way as do *-al*, *-ous*, and *-y* when they attach to verbal bases. The interpretation is more fluid. There is typically no fixed interpretation, there is a variation between subject referencing and eventive interpretation depending on context.

Below are listed examples with these affixes with a subject-referencing interpretation:

- ...as a mother to a 4-year-old who remains *compliant* .....
- .... voted for higher taxes, higher deficits and a more *intrusive* government.
- ..... and microscopic *vibratory* forms of live.....
- .....examine whether the *causal* factors influencing...
- .... alternating between acting awkward and being *flirtatious* toward me...
- .... albeit he is less *chatty* and has.....

Participial *-ing* is strongly subject-referencing. On transitive bases refers to the subject:

- *annoying* neighbor is a neighbour who annoys

Further unergative or unaccusative verbs are predicated on the subject:

- *sneezing* parakeet, *falling* leaf

In connection with verbs that vary between transitive/causative uses and unaccusative/inchoative uses, the *-ing* participle is rather referencing to the subject:

- *boiling* water, *rowing* weeds

The next group are event-referencing adjectives. It means the adjectives don't refer to one argument, but they can alternatively focus on the nature of the event denoted by the verbal base. The interpretations can vary between characterized by verbing, pertaining to verbing, or involved in verbing.

- ..... repetitive play, *avoidant* play behavior, and negative affect...

- .... embedded a variety of *explorative* activities into her classroom....
- ....their machines hum a *vibratory* song like a gather of insects...
- ....this suggests that the *configural* aspects of the other-race....
- .... gazed at me with *predaceous* intensity....

The next groups are non-argumental adjectives. Here the affixes are *-al, -ary, -ed, -esque, -ful, -an, -ic, -ical, -ine, -ish, -ly, -oid, -ous, -some* and *-y*. Those are predominantly attached to nominal and adjectival bases. Their meaning cannot depend on the referencing of base arguments. Critical is to determine to what extent various meanings are dependent on the semantic characteristics of the base.

The suffix *-ful* can have the following interpretations:

- *sorrowful* – means full of sorrow

- *insightful* – means having insight

However:

- *dutiful* – means displaying duty
- *effortful* – expending effort

The group of formatives *-esque, -ish, -like* and *-oid*, can be paraphrased as 'like X, in the shape of X, in the style of X, resembling X' depending on the kind of base.

- ....Babysitter Courtney and Babysitter Skipper are two *Barbie-ish* dolls....
- ...which is encated entirely by *Barbie-like* dolls....
- ....that sells *Barbieesque* telle dolls for kids....

Despite the fact, in these examples, it seems not to be a semantic difference, this is not the case every time. In some cases there is a difference, like in the following example:

- ....looks more specifically *amberish* or apricot orange and....
- ... and emerging with the *amber-like* keepsake....

In the first sentence, *amberish* refers to the colour, while *amber-like* to the substance.

On adjectival bases, there is a slightly different semantic to *-esque*, *ish*, *like*, and *-oid*. They rather mean ‘approximating X’ than ‘similar to X’. In the example below, if we say something is similar to dull, baptismal, lunar, or modern, the inference is drawn that we cannot mean exactly dull, baptismal, lunar, or modern but rather something not exactly the same as those qualities, that is approximating those qualities.

- ...Ted’s wedding; they were good, *dullish*, ordinary people.....
- ... blessed oils, herbs, and a pool of water for *baptismal-like* cures.....
- ... jet cinders in a setting that looks *lunaresque* – if the moon had burned....

### 2.9.2 Relational vs. qualitative, gradable vs. non-gradable

Bauer et al. (2013, pp. 317-318) further describe the properties of relational and quantitative adjectives. Relational adjectives can appear prenominal, cannot be modified with a degree modifier, and no predicative usage is possible. They are non-gradable, for this reason, do not occur in comparative or superlative forms.

- We can have *nuclear reactor*, but not *a very nuclear reactor*

Quantitative adjectives can occur as premodifying nouns, can themselves take a degree modifier and are gradable. They cannot occur predicatively.

### 2.9.3 Multiple affixes and semantic interpretation

Bauer et al. (2013, pp. 320-321) declare, that sometimes it is possible to find forms which exhibit more than one adjective-forming suffix on a single base.

- *-or-ial*: *accusatorial, combinatorial, gustatorial, improvisatorial*
- *-oid-al*: *arachnoidal, cuboidal, ovoidal, planetoidal*
- *-iv-al*: *conjunctival, gerundival*
- *-an-esque*: *africanesque, americanesque, suburbanesque*
- *-ar-ian*: *equalitarian, millenarian, sectarian*

In some cases, there can be a semantic distinction:

- *industrial*: means related to industry,
- *industrialesque*: means something like industrial in style

## 2.10 Corpus and the corpus linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, and its focus is the systematic investigation of the properties of particular languages as well as the characteristics of the language in general. It encompasses not only the study of sound, grammar, and meaning but also the history of language families, how languages are acquired by children and adults, how language use is processed in the mind and how it is connected to race and gender. With close connections to the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, linguistics complements a diverse range of other disciplines such as anthropology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, biology, computer science, health sciences, education, and literature. (University at Buffalo, 2023)

Linguistics is a very broad branch, with a lot of subfields, or sub-branches. To name some of them:

- Phonetics – the study of speech sounds; how they are produced and perceived
- Pragmatics – usage of the language in context
- Semantics – the study of linguistic meaning

For some of them the first part of the naming can give some indication, of what is related content:

- Sociolinguistics – the relation between language and the society
- Neurolinguistics – the relation between language and neurological processes in the brain
- Psycholinguistics - the relation between language and the mind

In the case of corpus linguistics, ‘corpus’ does not tell what is studied, but it is explaining the methodology being used.

Corpus linguistics is a methodology that involves computer-based empirical analyses (both quantitative and qualitative of language use by employing large, electronically available collections of naturally occurring spoken and written texts, called corpora.

As per Hainz Lindquist and Magnus Levin (2018), the major advantages of corpora over manual investigations are speed and reliability: by using a corpus, the linguist can investigate more material and get more exact calculations of frequencies. The results from corpora are usually presented in one of two ways: as a concordance or as frequency figures. (p. 5)

#### 2.10.1 The types of corpora

Over the years, linguists have compiled a large variety of corpora for various purposes, and the number of corpora is growing rapidly.

On the internet page of the Corpus-based Linguistics Links started by David Lee, there were in November 2017 listed following types of linguistics corpuses (p. 22):

- Written language
- Spoken language
- Historical
- First language learning
- Second and Foreign language learning
- Specialised corpora
- Parsed corpora (treebanks)

And finally, in the twenty-first century, the World Wide Web has been recognised as a huge source for linguistic investigations.

### 3 Methodology

Quantitative research was conducted from 13.2.2021 to 25.3.2021. Data were extrapolated from the Reddit online forum. I picked this online forum for its high popularity. Web Backlinko.com (2021) presents statistics for the year 2021. According to statistics, Reddit has 52 million active daily users around the world. 48 % of Reddit users are in the US, which makes the Americans majority of the Reddit population nation-wise. This statement is further supported by another quite interesting point, saying that 25 % of US adults use Reddit. Taking into account the total US population to 2021 published on Macrotrends.net, reaching 332,915,073 people, that is, more than 83 million adults in the US using Reddit. This is already a remarkable number considering that the research included only adults. Assuming that Reddit is also heavily used by teenage users, the real number of US users will be significantly higher. After Americans, the second and third most common users are from the United Kingdom and Canada with 7,6 % and 7,45 %. The fourth place takes the Australians by a hundredth below 4 %. The controversial topic of USA supreme politics, just like presidential elections, naturally congregating English speakers, in combination with an English-speaking majority, makes Reddit a suitable place for a linguistic survey about the English language.

The data were obtained by copying the main part of the discussion forum to the text editor. I decided not to copy the entire forum comment by comment; instead, I chose to copy the entire comment section. This approach allowed me to copy several comments and replies in one attempt quite quickly without having to mark, copy, and paste every single comment. However, the main part of the discussion also contains meta-information about a comment or a reply, which is not suitable for the research and therefore needs to be filtered out. Such meta-information is the nickname of the user who wrote that comment, the number of upvotes the comment received from other users, and badges or emblems the users obtained for various activities he did in the past. While on the web the badges and emblems are displayed as pictures, after copying to the text editor, however, only the title of the picture remains. This fact helped to filter the text using the 'Find and Replace' function, which I used to eliminate everything except user comments.

## 4 Practical part

### 4.1 #LancsBox

The #LancsBox programme is a corpus software developed by the University of Lancaster. It is intended for linguists and those who work with a huge amount of linguistics data, such as corpora. The software can visualise the corpus and automatically annotate parts of speech of the words. Furthermore, #LancsBox compiles statistics from occurrences of the given word or number of words in a whole corpus. To be more specific, there are six different tools in the #LancsBox programme.

#### 4.1.1 The KWIC function

KWIC (key word in context) allows the user to look for occurrences of the node, with its concordances sitting on the right side and the left side according to the set span. Figure 1 shows the KWIC function using the word 'house' as an example. The word house is displayed almost in the middle of the window described as a node. The node is a standard term commonly used in corpus linguistics. We can see 7 collocations on the right side and the left side of the node.



The screenshot shows the #LancsBox 6.0 interface with the KWIC function active. The search term is 'house'. The results are displayed in a table with columns for Index, File, Left, Node, and Right. The Node column contains the word 'house' in orange. The Right column contains the text to the right of the node, and the Left column contains the text to the left of the node. The table shows 34 rows of results, with the first row being the most relevant.

Index	File	Left	Node	Right
1	Koment 1, 2, :	single shitstain he brought into the White	House.	I hope those folks who have yet
2	Koment 1, 2, :	upvotes Lock him up! From the White	House	to the Big House: the Donald Trump
3	Koment 1, 2, :	From the White House to the Big	House:	the Donald Trump story I need a
4	Koment 1, 2, :	official petition to get this into the	house	or something? If him, or even Obama,
5	Koment 1, 2, :	DC starts chanting that outside the White	House.	This is the comment I'll come revisit
6	Koment 1, 2, :	dragging his ass out of the White	House	NYT called it just now and they've
7	Koment 1, 2, :	all go party. I just cleaned my	house	and sat down for a beer. Can't
8	Koment 1, 2, :	Parents are driving through and cheering every	house	with one. I've lived here through both
9	Koment 1, 2, :	anything like this since Dorothy dropped her	house	on the Wicked Witch. Feels good to
10	Koment 10.bt	and film it in a replica White	House,	so everyone can watch. This is pretty
11	Koment 10.bt	them in leftover McDonald's from the White	House	fridge. Treat yourself to this thread. A
12	Koment 11.bt	going to take everything to really clean	house.	You guys did great, I wish Texas
13	Koment 13.bt	and wasn't laughed out of the white	house	is just beyond me. It's all beyond
14	Koment 13.bt	they were advisory positions in the White	House.	Cabinet positions would have been subject to
15	Koment 13.bt	all 4 years while in the White	House.	They promoted brands, hurt brands, allowed access,
16	Koment 14.bt	wanted to enjoy this. Maryland in da	house!	Y'all have been really kind. Thank you.
17	Koment 14.bt	VA (but pretended he still had a	house	here in PGH so that he could
18	Koment 14.bt	electd position despite this being fraud), his	house	fell into disrepair, he wouldn't pay to
19	Koment 15.bt	breaking out the Irish whiskey in my	house,	in honor of the Scrappy Kid from
20	Koment 15.bt	a glass to Biden in the White	House!	hopefully he get Yang in to lead
21	Koment 16.bt	treatment Nixon chose to leave the White	House	at some point. We don't know if
22	Koment 17.bt	as we kick him out the White	House.	nah mate, give him half a twizzlers
23	Koment 17.bt	because America managed to cure the White	House	of cancer before they cured Covid This
24	Koment 18.bt	tough anymore, his address is the White	House.	"You had the last four years," Biden
25	Koment 18.bt	Meadows beside himself. Driving around downtown White	House	begging (thru plexi) Trump's family 4 address
26	Koment 18.bt	this shit to him at the white	house,	hes jacked. not only that but he
27	Koment 20.bt	it will be much easier for the	House	to just impeach the bastard if he
28	Koment 22.bt	her life, and my dad owned a	house	and paid for his own college degree
29	Koment 22.bt	circumstances that play to their strengths, like	house	wives or CEOs etc. but of course
30	Koment 22.bt	entrenched in the system handle the White	House	at least. Joe Biden is a buffon
31	Koment 22.bt	models including a woman(!!) in the White	House	Character fucking matters I was watching Crosby,
32	Koment 22.bt	of wrongdoing. Watch the hearings in the	House.	The trial was held in the Senate,
33	Koment 22.bt	was acquitted. Senate. The senate is the	house	that judged the impeachable offenses and like
34	Koment 22.bt	no evidence because the dems controlled the	house.	So stop bringing that up because it's

Figure 1: The KWIC function

#### 4.1.2 The GraphColl function

The GraphColl function draws a graph with the node in its centre. Around the centre are expressions that are most frequently used in connection with the node, and on the peripheries are expressions that do not collocate with the node so often.

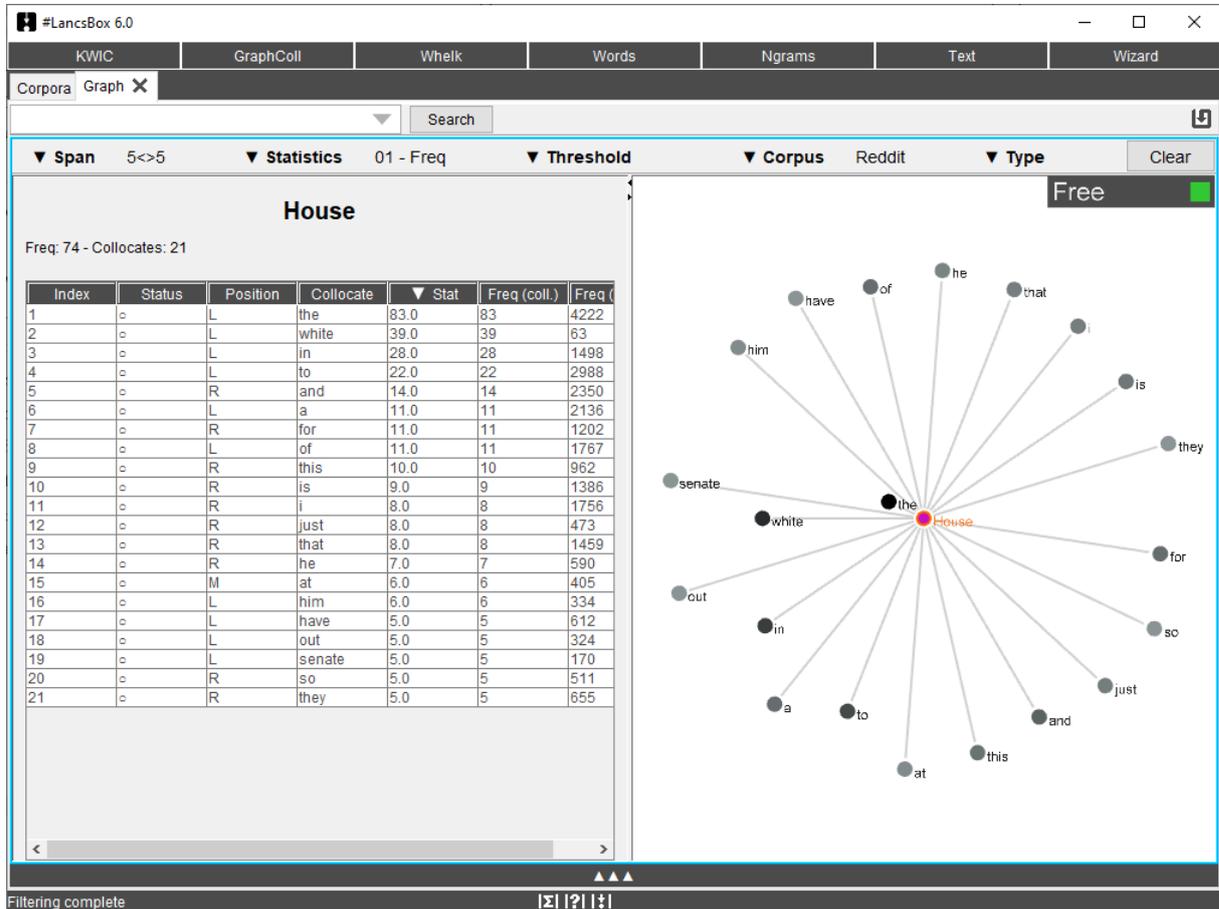


Figure 2: The GraphColl function

The word house is in the middle of the graph. Its closest neighbour is the determinant ‘the’, which makes it the most common occurrence of the word house. The important mention is the drawn position of the determinant ‘the’ on the left side of the word house. The position in the graph corresponds to its real position in the text, therefore, before the word house.

### 4.1.3 The Whelk function

The Whelk tool, in addition to KWIC, informs a user about occurrences of the node in the files the corpus consists of, as shown in Figure 3.

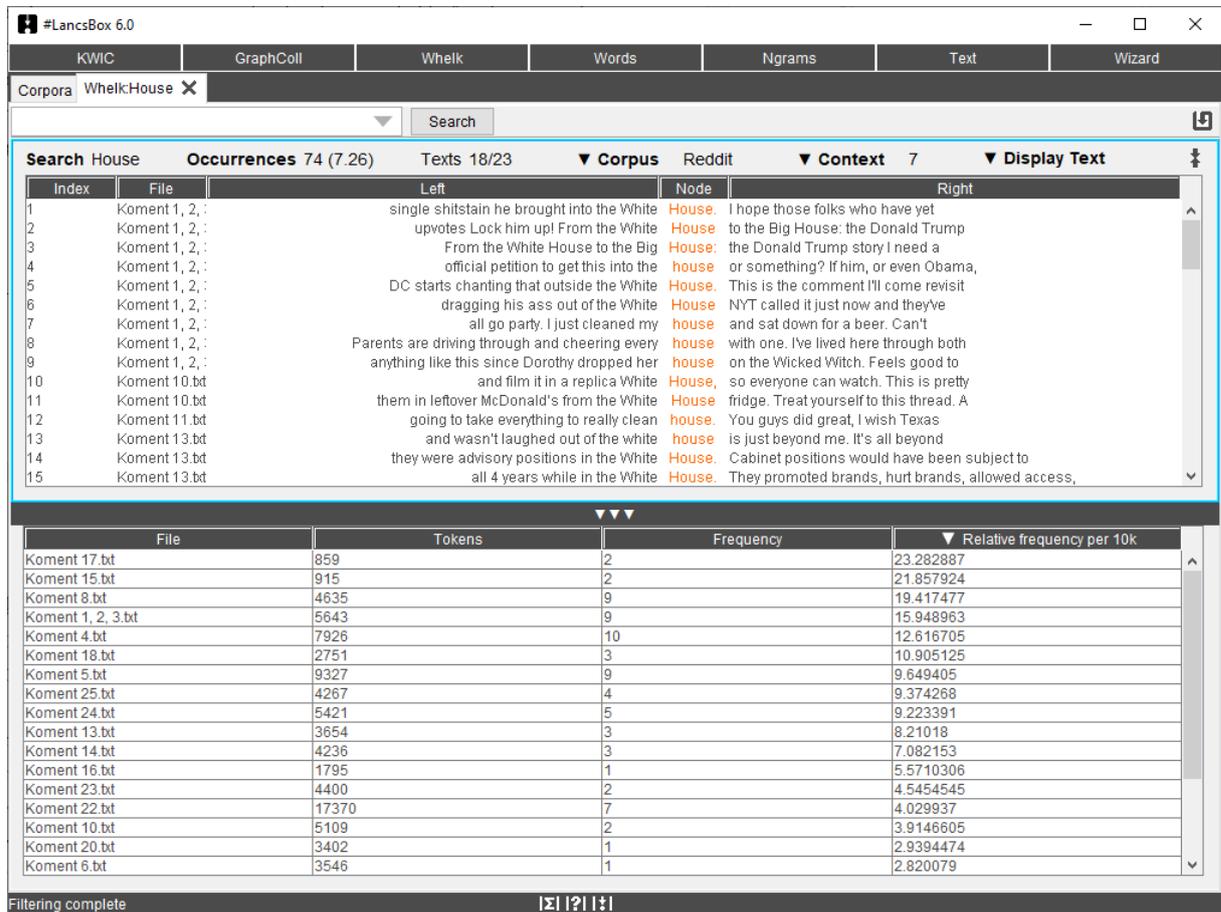


Figure 3: The Whelk function

### 4.1.4 The Words function

The Words tool creates a frequency list of all words in the corpus. An automatic part of speech recognition may be applied to this list, which provides more options for deeper study. The graph displays the sizes of files the corpus consists of. The graph on the right side of Figure 4 visually shows the size of each file that the corpus consists of. The bigger the circle, the more tokens the file contains. In this corpus, the largest file is 'Koment 22' with 17370 tokens and the smallest is 'Koment 19' with only 459 tokens.

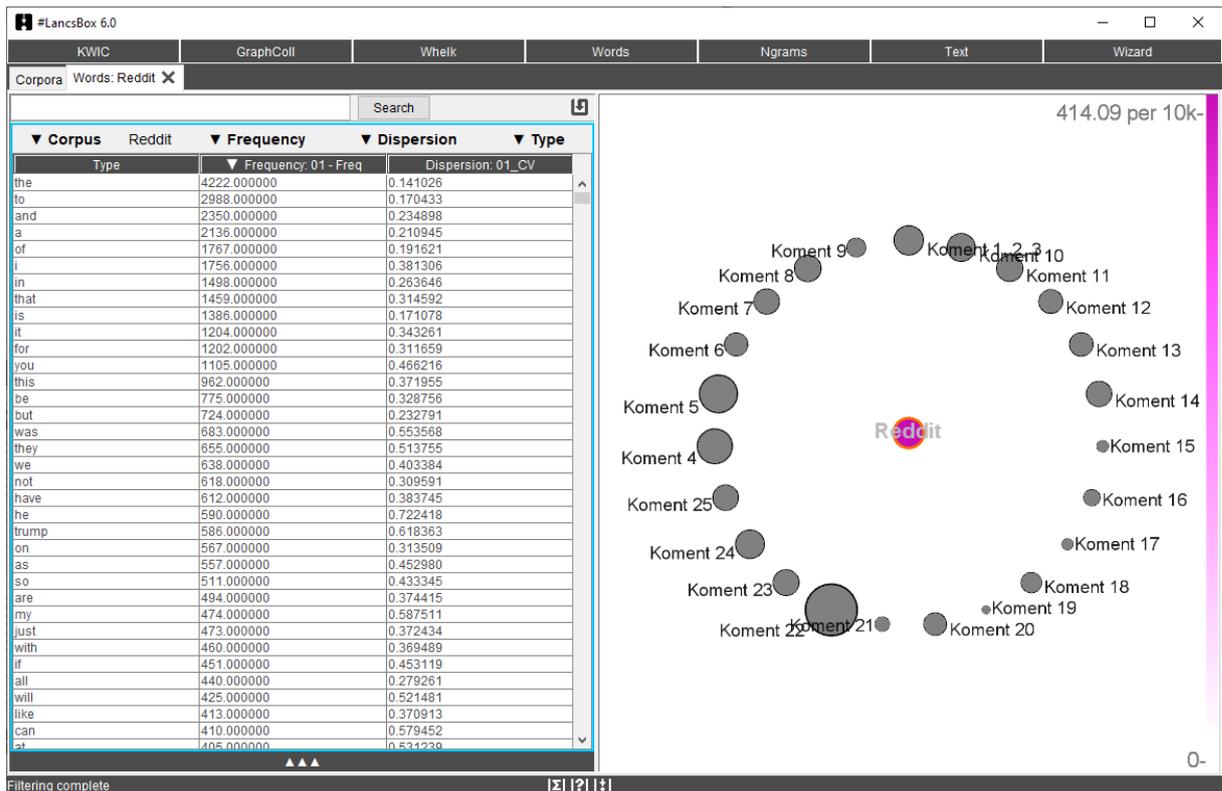


Figure 4: The Words tool

#### 4.1.5 The Ngrams function

The Ngrams tool connects these most frequent collocations into 'ngrams', where 'n' stands for the number of words the ngram consists of and also annotates part of the speech of the tokens.

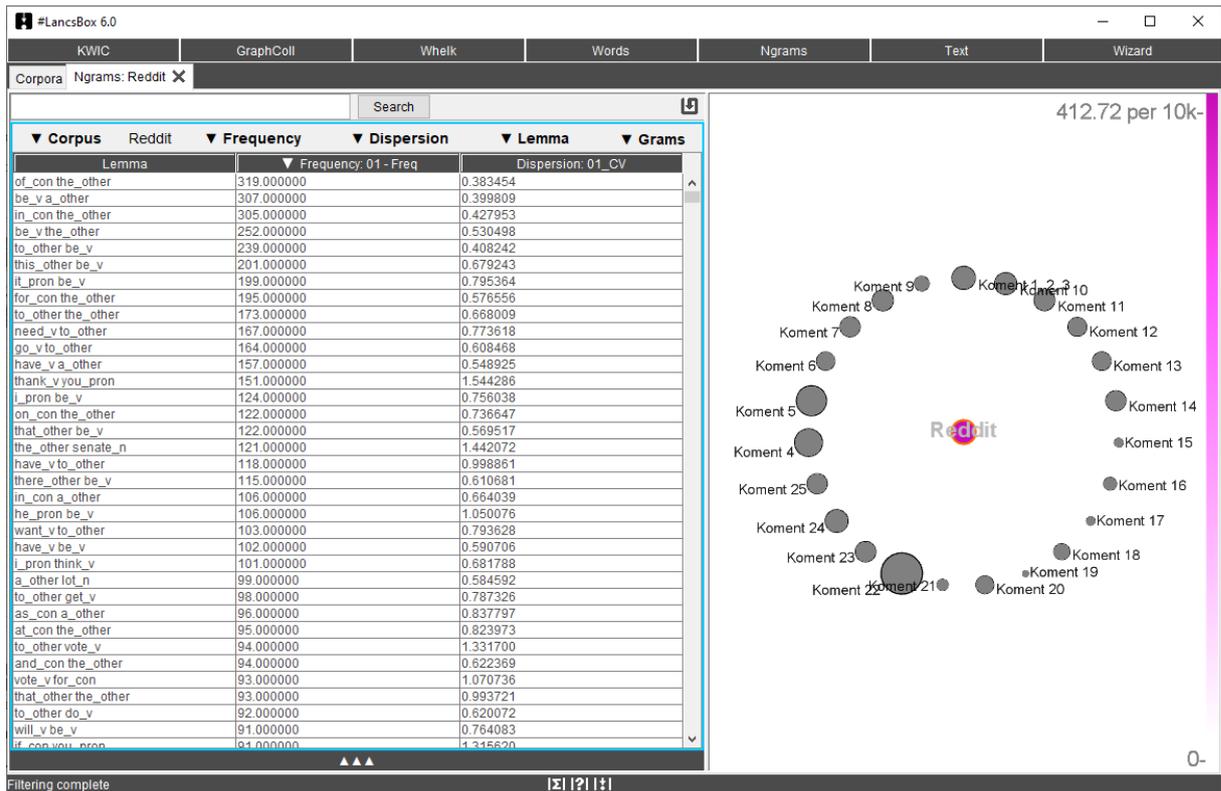


Figure 5: The Ngrams tool

#### 4.1.6 The Text function

The last tool Text displays the full context in which the node was used (Love et al., 2017).

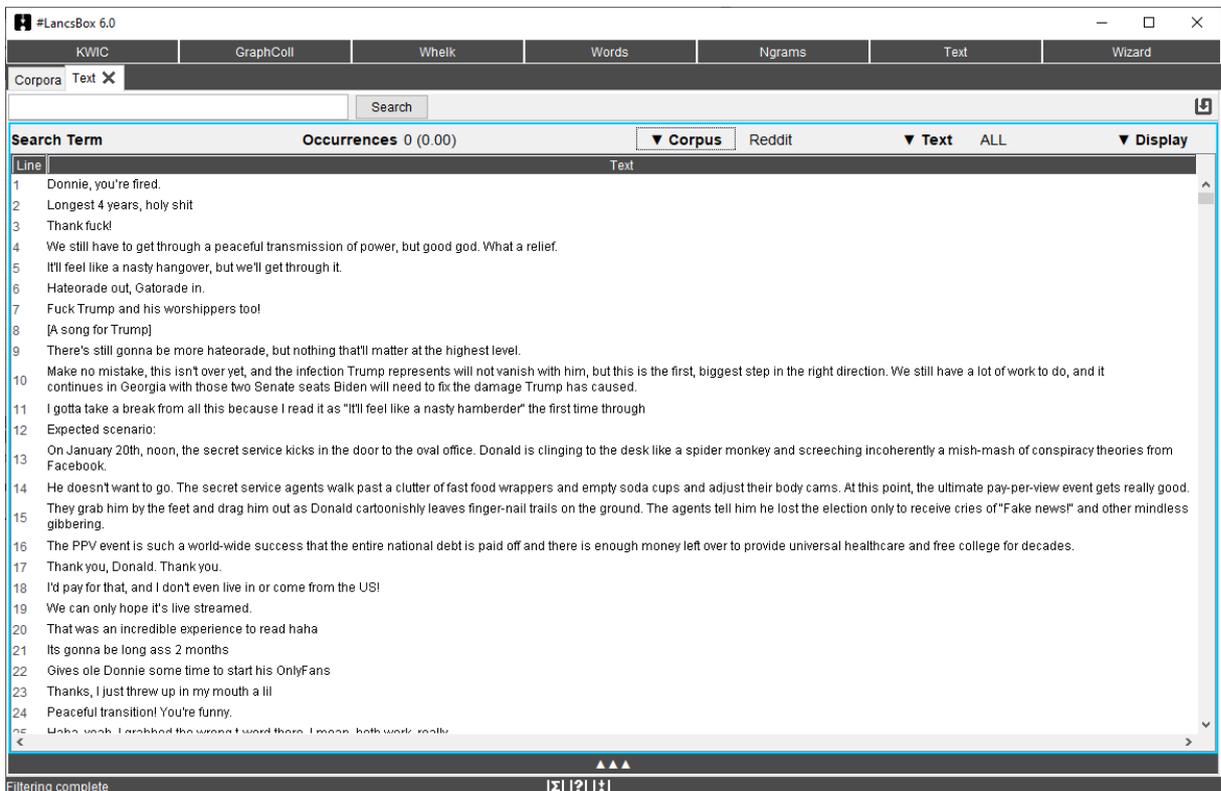


Figure 6: The Text tool

## 4.2 The Corpus and the frequency list

The corpus was compiled from comments from Reddit users on the thread ‘Megathread: Joe Biden Projected to Defeat President Donald Trump and Win the 2020 US Presidential Election’.

The whole corpus contains 101958 tokens. Using the GraphColl tool, I created a frequency list of words collocating with the names of presidential candidates. Subsequently, the frequency list was limited to the list of lemmas to eliminate words whose forms were modified by flexion, not changing their meaning. In addition, #LancsBox tagged parts of speech of the words. From the listing of lemmas, I filtered out everything except adjectives by typing the **\*\_adj** command, as they represent the main interest.

The frequency list is sorted in descending order by the number of adjectives in the collocations with the node. It is important to distinguish the frequency in collocations and the simple frequency. Frequency in terms of corpus linguistics denotes the number of appearances in the whole corpus, while frequency in collocations describes the number of occurrences within a span area of a node. The span number describes how many words before and behind the searched one are part of the collocation. In general, the frequency of the word in collocations is lower than the frequency of the word in a corpus because not every word occurs within the set span. For all our nodes, the span is set to 5.

Thanks to the partial anonymity that Internet forums offer, users can express their opinions and thoughts in a manner that they normally would not use. Such an example might refer to presidential candidates by nicknames, name diminutives, or words of a defamatory or disrespectful character. For this reason, I decided not only to include the proper names and surnames of presidential candidates but also the nickname Donnie, which commonly describes Donald Trump.

#LancsBox software also provides the Threshold limitation, in which the user can limit the listing by the number of minimal occurrences within the span. In the research, I set the threshold value to 2. This excludes adjectives that collocated with the names or nicknames of candidates only once, as well as insignificant and misspelt expressions.

For every candidate name or nickname, I picked the 20 most frequent adjectives in collocation, since the more frequent ones are the most indicative.

#LancsBox also shows the textual position of the collocate. This can be either right (R) of the node, left (L) of the node, or middle (M) in the case of equal frequency between the left and right positions.

### 4.3 The Research

When dealing with politics, it is crucial to avoid any possible bias. For that reason, I decided to describe the result of the investigation in alphabetical order. At first, I introduce adjectives collocating with the candidates' surnames, and after that their first names and their nicknames, at last. In this chapter, only the results of the research are provided; the discourse and a possible explanation of the results will be included in the next chapter.

#### 4.3.1 The Biden node

The first in alphabetical order is the word, Biden. In the corpus, there are 285 occurrences of the Biden node. In the picture, the 20 most frequent adjectives are shown.

Position	Collocate	Stat
R	senile_adj	14.0
L	more_adj	10.0
R	good_adj	9.0
R	old_adj	5.0
R	able_adj	4.0
L	least_adj	4.0
L	blue_adj	3.0
R	next_adj	3.0
L	popular_adj	3.0
R	republican_adj	3.0
L	46th_adj	2.0
R	47th_adj	2.0
M	actual_adj	2.0
M	big_adj	2.0
L	certain_adj	2.0
M	dead_adj	2.0
R	democratic_adj	2.0
M	different_adj	2.0
R	former_adj	2.0
M	great_adj	2.0

Figure 7: Top 20 adjectives collocating with Biden

In the corpus, the most frequent adjective collocating with Biden is *senile*. It collocates with the name Biden fourteen times, and it is significantly more common than the other

adjectives. It is followed by the adjective *more* with 10 occurrences and the adjective *good* with 9 occurrences. After the 3 most frequent adjectives, there is a slump in the number of occurrences. In fourth place is the *old* adjective that occurred 5 times. On the fifth and sixth place are adjectives *able* and *least* with 4 occurrences. The rest of the 35 threshold-limited collocates occurred three times or twice and are not of such importance.

#### 4.3.2 The Trump node

The Trump node with 586 occurrences is more than twice as frequent as the Biden node. With the higher appearances of the node, there is a presumption of a higher amount of collocates with a higher number of occurrences. This presumption seems to be valid, as there are 72 threshold-limited collocates with a higher frequency of appearance.

Position	Collocate	Stat
M	good_adj	18.0
L	bad_adj	14.0
R	more_adj	12.0
L	next_adj	9.0
L	old_adj	8.0
R	last_adj	7.0
M	only_adj	6.0
M	senile_adj	6.0
R	electoral_adj	5.0
L	much_adj	5.0
R	new_adj	5.0
L	republican_adj	5.0
L	white_adj	5.0
L	donald_adj	4.0
R	first_adj	4.0
R	high_adj	4.0
L	other_adj	4.0
M	real_adj	4.0
L	same_adj	4.0
L	wrong_adj	4.0

Figure 8: Top 20 adjectives collocating with Trump

The most frequent adjective that collocates with the Trump node is *good* with 18 occurrences, followed by *bad* and *more* with 14 and 12 occurrences, respectively. In the top 5, there are also collocates *next* and *old*. From the rest of the top 20, I pick those I find interesting. Adjective *senile*, which is also present in the Biden node, the name Donald that #LancsBox incorrectly tagged as an adjective, and two slightly contradicting adjectives, *new* and *same*.

#### 4.3.3 The Donald node

Very similar to the Biden node is the Donald node. Although the Donald node is more frequent than the Joe node, the difference is disproportionate to the Biden-Trump comparison.

Position	Colloca...	Stat
R	last_adj	3.0
M	different_adj	2.0
M	donald_adj	2.0
M	good_adj	2.0
M	little_adj	2.0

Figure 9: Top 5 adjectives collocating with Donald

There are only 60 occurrences of the name Donald and practically only 4 collocations as #LancsBox software incorrectly tags the name Donald as an adjective. The most frequent collocation is the adjective *last* occurring three times. The remaining 3 are *different*, *good*, and *little*.

#### 4.3.4 The Joe node

Surprisingly, there are only 5 words that #LancsBox tagged as adjectives collocating with the node Joe at least twice. Overall, in the corpus, there are 43 occurrences of the word Joe.

Position	Collocate	Stat
R	good_adj	2.0
R	more_adj	2.0
M	oval_adj	2.0
M	same_adj	2.0
R	stop-gap_adj	2.0

Figure 10: Top 5 adjectives collocating with Joe

Those are *good*, *more*, *oval*, *same* and rather interesting expression *stop-gap*, which is more thoroughly inspected in the discourse chapter.

There is one more adjective that collocates with the name Joe and is missing from the list above. This happened because #LancsBox mistakenly tagged the adjective as a noun.

Position	Collocate	Stat
L	sleepy_n	2.0

Figure 11: The adjective *sleepy*

The adjective is *sleepy* with only 2 collocations with Joe.

#### 4.3.5 The Donnie node

Donnie, the diminutive form of the name Donald, indicates the speaker or writer's tendency to express their opinion about Donald Trump in a mocking and dishonouring way. There are 12 occurrences of this word in the corpus.

Position	Colloca...	Stat
R	least_adj	2.0
L	orange_adj	2.0

Figure 12: Most collocating adjectives with Donnie

Only two adjectives collocate with Donnie at least twice. These are *least* and *orange*.

Position	Collocate	Stat
L	diaper_n	2.0

Figure 13: The noun diaper

There is the word *diaper* that I decided to include in this chapter, although the word is not an adjective but a noun. This is because the word precedes the diminutive Donnie in both of its occurrences, which makes them closely connected.

## 4.4 The Discourse analysis

In this chapter, I provide a possible interpretation of the most frequent evaluative adjectives and expressions and try to put them into context. For that purpose, I use the #LancsBox Keyword in Context (KWIC) function, which allows the user to see the node in the original sentence. I would like to emphasize that the following discourse analysis is my interpretation, which I believe reflects the feelings and opinions of the writers about the presidential candidates. There is no guarantee that my interpretation is the only correct way to interpret corpus research results. In the end, no one except the authors can be sure what thoughts and emotions are hiding behind the plain text.

At first, I focus on collocations with the names of presidential candidates and their nicknames. An overview, where I summarise the attitude of Reddit users towards presidential candidates is concluded in its chapter.

### 4.4.1 Senile and Old collocations

The presidential elections in the US, also referred to as the presidential race, in 2020 were set to break a record. Regardless of whether Joe Biden or Donald Trump wins the elections, the winner becomes the oldest president-elect in the history of the US. Joe Biden, the winner of the elections, was 78 years old at the start of his presidency, whereas Donald Trump, the defeated candidate, was less than 4 years younger. At this advanced age, there were concerns about the physical and mental health of the candidates. People wondered whether the will of the candidates would not be easily influenced by the interests of others and whether they can represent the country with dignity. The age of the presidential candidates was also one of the topics on the Reddit forum. Understandably, users were more worried about the older of the two candidates, Joe Biden. In his public appearances, he sometimes looked disoriented, and his speech was not always coherent, especially when answering questions that were not published before. When we look at the most frequent Biden adjectives, two of the top four are related to age. This indicates that his age was quite an important factor and subject of discussion. Although the senile is disparagingly coloured, thus we could put it on the negative side of the evaluation scale; In a wider context, Reddit users mostly disapprove of this claim, saying it is just Trump's narrative.

Both senile and old adjectives quite frequently collocate with the presidential candidates. The explanation of this phenomenon might be the conjunction of two

reasons. In the first case, both candidates are factually old and their mental health might be the subject of polemic. In the latter case, it is a factor of comparison. When we pay attention to the position of the adjective in relation to the node, we notice that in the Biden node, *senile* and *old* are both on the right side of the node. However, in the Trump node, the *old* adjective is on the left side, and in the case of *senile*, the occurrences on the left and right sides of the node are even. Such a change of position between the candidates might be explained by the grading property of adjectives. #LancBox is set to list only the lemmatical form of words; therefore, the grading suffixes and forms are neglected. Sentences such as 'Biden is older than Trump', offer a fitting explanation, as the *old* is on the right side of Biden and the left side of Trump at the same time.

#### 4.4.2 Good and Bad collocations

The most frequent adjectival collocation with Trump is the lemma *good*; however, it would be wrong to conclude that Reddit users prefer Donald Trump over Joe Biden. After browsing through every collocation, to my surprise, I have not found a single occurrence, where *good* is directly connected to the Trump node.

On the other hand, of the 9 lemmas of *good* collocating with the Biden node, only two had a narrow connection to Biden. In the first case, it was about appreciation for Biden's speech and the second was about Biden not being so strict about banning weapons.

Very interesting is the collocate *bad*. While the Trump node has the lemma *bad* the second most common adjective, it is not present in the listing of most frequent Biden adjectives at all. Looking into the context, 6 of 14 occurrences are directly connected to Trump or his administration. A user says that *Trump's senility is just as bad as Biden's*, the next one claims that '*Trump is the absolute worst a modern president has been*' two times Trump is labelled as a '*bad man*' and the last occurrence is a user wondering how it is possible that '*people still vote for Donald Trump after everything bad he has done*'.

The context provided above shows that Trump was criticised much more than his counter-candidate, despite collocate *good* being the most frequent adjective of the Trump node. The opinion of Reddit users also affirms the adjective *bad* as the second most frequent collocate of Trump, whereas in the Biden node it is missing completely.

#### 4.4.3 Last and least collocates

I decided to involve these two words in discourse analysis even though they are not strictly speaking evaluative, *last* is quite a frequent collocate of the Trump and Donald node, and least often collocates with the Biden node. Reddit users use *last* collocate when speaking about some period of Donald Trump's presidency, for example, the last four years. *Least* in the context indicates very low expectations of Joe Biden's presidency, furthermore, a user called him a '*buffoon*' likening him to a clown.

#### 4.4.4 Blue and White adjectives

The blue colour collocated two times with the Biden node. This is caused by the visual representation of the Democratic and Republican parties. The Republican party is portrayed in red colour, while to the Democratic party, the blue colour is assigned. The blue colour collocated with Biden as Reddit users commented on states turning blue on the map of the US, as the result of the democratic party winning in those states.

The white colour, on the other hand, collocates with the node Trump. Donald Trump is described as '*an old white guy*', Trump's senior advisor is described as '*far right white supremacist*', and one user thanks '*the white voters who left Trump*'.

#### 4.4.5 Great and Wrong adjectives

Adjective great is a strong evaluative adjective, unfortunately, despite its two collocations with the Biden node, none of the two is connected to him. Adjective wrong has an evaluative proper as well, and in this case, out of 3 collocations, 2 closely deal with the Trump node. In the first case, there is a statement that '*Trump has done something wrong.*'; the second is a mocking commentary that says: '*Something must be wrong with Trump if he can't beat a senile man.*'

#### 4.4.6 Collocations with candidates' first name and nicknames

In this chapter, I conclude the evaluative adjectives and other expressions that collocate with the first names of presidential candidates and their nicknames, while not being analysed in previous chapters.

The adjectives *different* and *little* do not influence the Donald node. The oval adjective corresponds to the oval office of the President of the USA. Reddit users wrote about Joe Biden walking into or hitting the oval office as he won the elections.

The *same* adjective is used when Reddit users discuss other people who claim that 'Joe has been the same for 40 years but is also now a socialist'.

The last but one expression collocating with candidates first name is 'stop-gap'. #LancsBox tagged this word as an adjective, however in the sentence it has a function of a noun. Here is an excerpt: 'Uncle Joe may be a stop-gap to the forces of American fascism,...'. Similar to the word sleepy, even the word stopgap exists as a noun and also as an adjective. This may be the reason why #LancsBox did not tag these words correctly.

Now we will deal with Joe Biden's nicknames. In the final list, there are only two – Sleepy Joe and Uncle Joe with two occurrences each. In my opinion, the origin of those nick names lies in Joe Biden's advanced age and his character. During the presidential campaign, Joe Biden was more than 77 years old and did not leave an impression of a brisk person. His speech was not coherent and suffered a stutter and a gaffe. Sometimes he even looked confused. On the other hand, unlike Donald Trump, his behaviour was neither choleric nor aggressive, and he tried to wear the image of a friendly man. The combination of the factors mentioned above created the Uncle Joe nickname.

The only adjectives collocating with Donnie are *least* and *orange*. They are closely connected as both of them refer to Donald Trump often having an orange face. A Reddit user was complaining that he saw ads where Joe Biden was photoshopped to look like a ghoul. Some other user replied that 'there were many orange filters for diaper Donnie', so 'at least it is evenly distributed'.

That brings us to Donald Trump's nickname, Diaper Donnie. Donnie is a diminutive form of the name Donald, often used to refer to small children named Donald. In my opinion, the nickname Diaper Donnie reflects Donald Trump's impulsive, maybe even choleric character and his presentation style that lacks more complex vocabulary and etiquette. One of the most noticeable moments of this happened when Donald Trump announced the death of an ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi back in 2019.

## 4.5 Statistics and overview

In this chapter, I completely neglect the semantic context and only comment on raw statistical data about the corpus and collocates of presidential candidates.

The whole corpus contains 101958 tokens, from which there are 7336 occurrences of lemmas #LancsBox software tagged as an adjective. When we count each occurrence of such a lemma just once, we get 1477 uniquely tagged adjectives.

The lemma of the name Donald is in the corpus contained 60 times, and the Trump lemma has 586 occurrences. The lemma Joe appears 43 times in the corpus, and the lemma Biden can be found 285 times. This statistic tells us that Donald Trump was much more likely to be discussed, regardless of the tone of the discussion. This seems quite logical since Donald Trump at the time of the elections had already been 4 years in the oval office. People and Reddit users can judge, discuss, and dispute each decision he has made as a president, or even share their experiences meeting him.

Regarding the #LancsBox GraphColl function with the Span value set to 5, of 1477 adjectives, 72 collocated with Trump, 5 with Donald, 35 with Biden, and 5 with Joe within the set span. From these statistics, we can see those presidential candidates are mostly referred to by their last names. That is quite logical considering it is the surname that makes the wearer of the name recognizable. According to the 1990 Decennial Census, there were over a million persons named Joe (Most Common Male First Names in the United States, n.d.); however, according to the data provided by U.S. Census Bureau in 2010, there were only 159 people with the last name Biden. The statistics show that referring to the last name of any person specifies the person to a narrower extent in comparison to the person's first name.

The following graphs illustrate proportions between the numbers of positive, negative, and neutral evaluative adjectives using the top 20 adjectives lists for each candidate's last name and the top 5 adjectives list for each candidate's first name.

The positive evaluative adjectives collocating with Joe Biden are *good*, *popular*, and *great*. The negative evaluative adjectives collocating with the candidate are *senile*, and *dead*. I counted the rest as neutral.

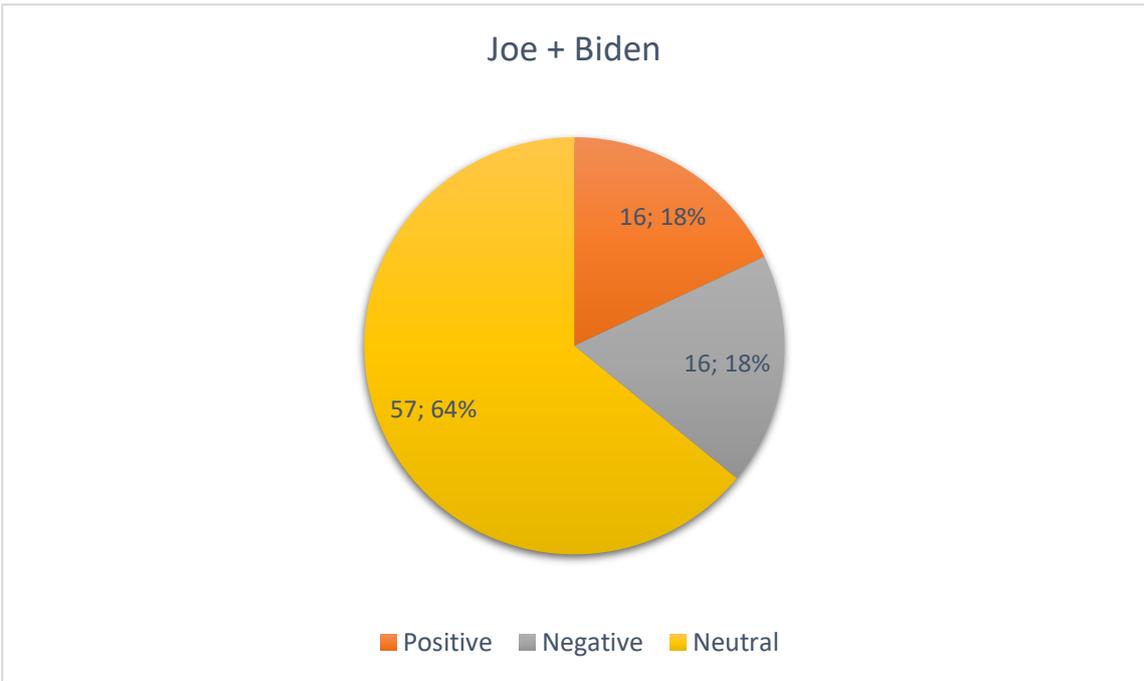


Figure 14: Proportion of positive, negative and neutral adjectives collocating with the name Joe and Biden

The positive evaluative adjective collocating with Donald Trump is good. The negative evaluative adjectives collocating with the candidate are bad, senile, and wrong. From the lists, I excluded the name Donald as it is not an adjective. I counted the rest as neutral.

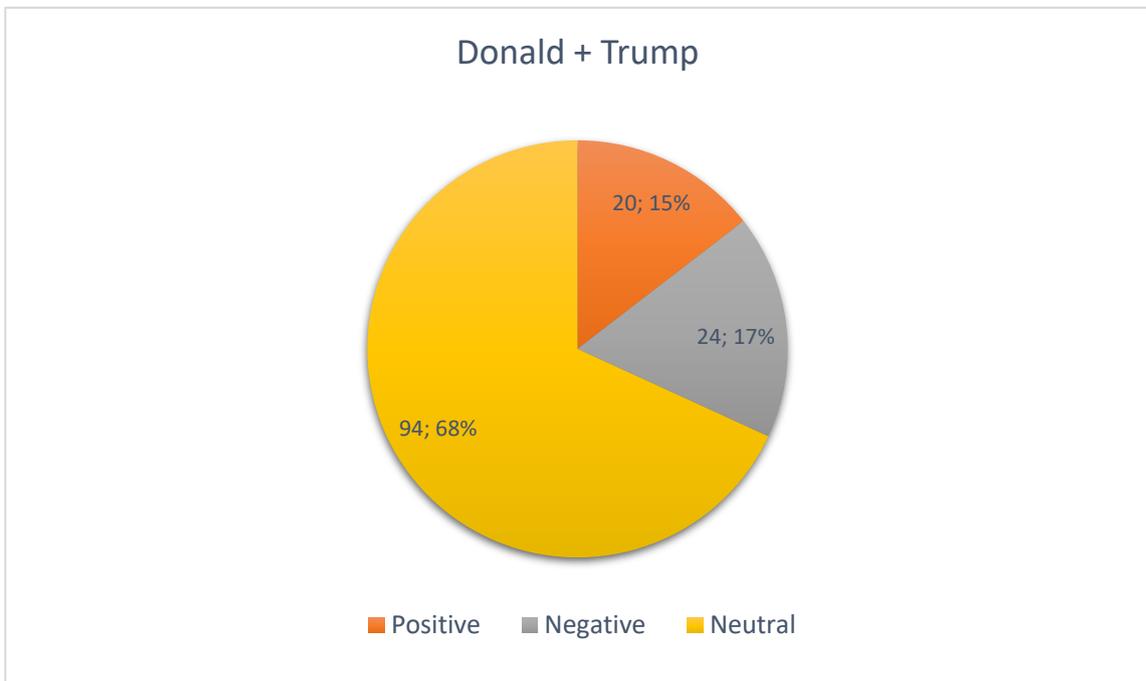


Figure 15: Proportion of positive, negative, and neutral adjectives collocating with the name Donald and Trump

The graphs show that the percentual distribution of different types of evaluative adjectives is almost the same in both candidates, with a maximal deviation of only 4 %.

I must emphasize that these graphs reflect only pure statistical data and do not consider the semantic context that has been discussed in Chapter 4.4.

## 4.6 Conclusion

This diploma thesis aims to analyse evaluative adjectives, Reddit users used in collocation with the names of the U.S. presidential candidates during the American presidential race back in 2020.

The results showed Donald Trump to be the subject of discussion much more often than his counter candidate Joe Biden. Considering pure statistical data counting only the number of occurrences of evaluative adjectives collocating with the names of presidential candidates, the percentage ratio of positive, negative, and neutral evaluative adjectives between the candidates differs marginally.

The statistics surprised me. While copying the users' comments, I noticed that most of the users were critical of Donald Trump, portraying Joe Biden as an auspicious change, which does not correspond to the statistic. After looking through the users' comments, I strengthen my opinion about Reddit users being more inclined to Joe Biden. I realised that the semantic context of an evaluative adjective cannot be omitted to analyse the linguistic data correctly.

One of the causes of discrepancy between the statistic and the semantics might be the way #LancsBox analyse the text. When text data are compiled into a corpus, #LancsBox converts it into a string of words. Thus, an adjective at the end of a comment relating to Donald Trump collocates with Joe Biden at the beginning of the following comment.

It would be interesting to study further the opinions and attitudes of Reddit users concerning their demographical and geographical data or to compare the attitudes and views about the candidates of Reddit users living in the USA and a sample of the U.S. population towards American presidential elections. Or determine the favoured presidential candidate of Redditors of different ages. Since Reddit is an internet platform accessible from almost all over the world, there might be a survey for Redditors not having U.S. citizenship, asking their opinion about the U.S. presidential candidates. Maybe the foreign Reddit users would evaluate Donald Trump and Joe Biden differently.

## 4.7 Resumé

Tématem této diplomové práce jsou anglická adjektiva a jejich kolokace. Teoretická část je zaměřena na popis anglických adjektiv a jejich morfologickou stavbu. Pro praktickou část jsem sbíral komentáře uživatelů internetového diskusního fóra Reddit, konkrétně vlákna věnované volbě amerického prezidenta v roce 2020. V praktické části jsem představil uživatelské rozhraní a funkce korpusového software #LancsBox, který jsem použil pro analýzu dat.

V úvodu diplomové práce jsem uvedl problematiku prezidentských voleb ve Spojených Státech Amerických. Tyto volby přirozeně polarizují společnost na dvě skupiny podporovatelů prvního či druhého kandidáta, resp. politické strany. Voliči vyjadřují nejenom svou podporu a sympatie svému kandidátovi ale i nevoli a nespokojení nad možným zvolením protikandidáta. Díky připojení k internetu mohou lidé jako uživatelé diskusních fór či sociálních sítí vyjádřit jejich názor či emoce z pohodlí domova a do značné míry pod rouškou anonymity. Tyto faktory usnadňují uživatelům vyjádřit své myšlenky, případně je vyjádřit otevřeněji než v reálném světě, kde by se mohli setkat s odsouzením nebo konfrontací s nesouhlasným postojem. Ve svých prohlášeních uživatelé používají adjektiva, která kandidátům přisuzují nějakou vlastnost či kvalitu.

Jelikož adjektiva jsou slova, na začátku teoretické části jsem definoval slovo, krátce okomentoval slovní druhy a zařazení adjektiv do kategorie otevřených slovních druhů. Poté jsem popsal fráze jako syntaktické struktury, ve kterých se adjektiva často vyskytují a uvedl jejich příklady. S pomocí odborné literatury jsem definoval adjektiva, jejich rozdělení a nejčastější slovotvorné procesy, kterými adjektiva vznikají. Značný podíl na utváření adjektiv má slovotvorný proces odvozování, konkrétně afixace pomocí přípon. Vypsal jsem tedy ty nejproduktivnější přípony a také popsal stupňování adjektiv.

Z dat sesbíraných z internetového diskusního fóra Reddit software #LancsBox zkompiloval lingvistický korpus. V teoretické části práce jsem tedy také uvedl problematiku korpusové lingvistiky a různé druhy lingvistických korpusů.

Pro praktickou část byla klíčová data zkompilovaná korpusovým softwarem #LancsBox, která jsem sesbíral a vyfiltroval z internetového diskusního fóra Reddit. Představil jsem uživatelské rozhraní programu #LancsBox a jeho nástroje. Vytvořil jsem

korpus skládající se z uživatelských komentářů vlákna dedikovaného volbě prezidenta ve Spojených Státech Amerických v roce 2020. Pomocí nástroje GraphColl jsem vytvořil frekvenční seznamy lemmat nejčastějších kolokací se jmény a přezdívkami prezidentských kandidátů a ty poté omezil pouze na výpis nejčastěji kolokujících slov, která #LancsBox automaticky označil jako adjektiva. Záměrně se vyhýbám slovnímu spojení nejčastěji kolokujících adjektiv, jelikož automatické označování slovních druhů v #LancsBox nefunguje vždy úplně správně. Jako příklad mohu uvést vlastní jméno Donald, které #LancsBox označil jako adjektivum. Z frekvenčního seznamu adjektiv jsem poté ručně vybral ta, která měla hodnotící vlastnosti

Ze statistických dat vyplynulo, že prezidentským kandidátem, o kterém uživatelé více diskutovali byl Donald Trump. Ve srovnání s Joe Bidenem má jméno Donald Trump v korpusu více než dvakrát větší počet výskytů a s ním spojený i větší počet kolokujících slov. Čistě statistický přístup ovšem nabízí poměrně zkreslenou představu o tom, jakým způsobem uživatelé internetového fóra Reddit jednotlivé prezidentské kandidáty hodnotí. Přestože s příjmením Trump nejčastěji kolokuje lemma *good* a mohlo by se tak zdát, že uživatelé jmenovaného kandidáta hodnotí kladně, není tomu tak. Po zohlednění kontextu vyplynulo, že ani jeden výskyt hodnotícího adjektiva *good*, není přímo spojený s osobou Donalda Trumpa. Oproti tomu adjektivum *bad*, souviselo s tímto kandidátem šestkrát ze čtrnácti výskytů.

Výzkum tedy mimo jiné ukázal, že pro správnou analýzu korpusových dat hodnotících adjektiv, nelze uvažovat pouze statistická data, ale je nutné do interpretace zahrnout i sémantický kontext, ve kterém byla adjektiva užitá.

Celkově lze říci, že uživatelé internetového fóra Reddit, byli v době extrakce komentářů kritičtější k Donaldu Trumpovi. Tento jev může být způsoben tím, že Donald Trump už byl na konci svého funkčního období funkce prezidenta a uživatelé mohli hodnotit jeho vládu. Protikandidát Joe Biden naopak představoval změnu, ke které uživatelé fóra Reddit mohli upínat své naděje.

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Table 14.1 Formal characteristics of adjective-forming suffixes

Suffix	N	A	V	bb	Compound	Phrase	Native	Non-native	Stress shift	Base allomorphy
-able	(✓)		✓	✓	(✓)		✓	✓	✓	(✓)
-al	✓	(✓)	(✓)	✓			✓	✓	✓	(✓)
-ant			✓	✓			✓	✓		
-ary	✓	(✓)	(✓)	✓			✓	✓	✓	(✓)
-esque	✓	(✓)		•	(✓)		✓	✓		
-ful	✓	(✓)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	(✓)
-ian	✓	(✓)		✓			✓	✓		✓
-ible	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
-ic	✓	•	(✓)	✓			•	✓	✓	✓
-ical	✓			✓			•	✓	✓	✓
-ine	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	
-ing	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		
-ish <sup>1</sup>	✓		(✓)			✓	✓	✓		
-ive	(✓)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
-like <sup>2</sup>	✓	(✓)		✓	✓		✓	✓		
-ly	✓					✓	✓	✓		
-oid	✓	(✓)		✓			✓	✓		✓
-ory	•			✓			✓	✓		
-ous	✓	(✓)	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
-some	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
-y	✓	(✓)	✓	(✓)	✓		✓	✓		(✓)
past ppl			✓		✓		✓	✓		

✓ well-attested, (✓) infrequently attested, • isolated examples

<sup>1</sup> includes proper nouns

<sup>2</sup> mostly proper nouns

<sup>3</sup> also occasionally pronouns and numbers

<sup>4</sup> also occasionally pronouns