

Design of Test-Making Tools for the Learner Corpus

- Olga Vinogradova
- Ekaterina Gerasimenko

3.50–4.20pm,
Lecture Theatre WG12, Aston Webb – B Block

The talk presents a new test-making tool for different kinds of tests generated automatically from learner texts with errors annotated by EFL experts for a learner corpus of texts written in English by Russian university students in the process of specialized English examination. The tool delivers the pool of testing questions for the instructors to choose the features of the future test among the variety of options. Students who take the test may also get to choose the mode of the test, and both students and the instructor get the results of the performance in the test.

FRIDAY 28 JULY SESSION 1

Dimensions of Collocation in American English

- Tony Berber Sardinha

9.00–9.30am,
Great Hall, Aston Webb – Central

This study presents a large-scale description of collocations in American English from a register perspective. Although collocation has long been a central topic in corpus linguistic research, the association between collocation and register has largely been ignored. To fill this gap, a multi-dimensional analysis of the most typical collocations in the six registers in COCA was conducted, revealing nine dimensions of collocation variation. Each dimension represents the predominant semantic preferences of contemporary American English. The results revealed that register is a relatively strong predictor of collocation, with 57% of the collocations being correctly assigned to their most typical register.

Using Corpora to Map Language: Geographical Text Analysis of UK poverty

- Laura Paterson
- Ian Gregory

9.00–9.30am,
Lecture Theatre S02, Poynting Building

This paper demonstrates the viability of using Geographical Text Analysis on multimillion-word corpora. It emphasises the use of geography as a variable within corpus-based discourse analysis. Using corpora of the Guardian and the Daily Mail from 2010-2015, the analysis focuses on discussions of UK poverty. By comparing the geographical spread of media mentions of poverty (and 85 related query terms) we can see how each newspaper locates poverty in geographical space. The analysis also contrasts the corpus-generated results with existing official statistics of poverty to determine whether the linguistic data and the statistical data tally.