

SEMANTIC PROSODY AND PREFERENCE OF "HEALTHY" AND "UNHEALTHY" COLLOCATIONS IN COVID-19 CORPUS

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Abstract

This study is conducted in order to know the collocations of 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' as well as to explore the lexical meaning of those collocations. Corpus-based approach is employed in this study since the sole source of the data is the corpus data. Qualitative research method is used in order to find the hypotheses from the corpus data which is taken from Sketch Engine. The results demonstrate that the collocations of two node words are dissimilar in the categorization. 'healthy' node word indicates that three major semantic preferences are associated with it - human, animal, disease. On the contrary, the semantic preferences of 'unhealthy' node word are diverse. Thus, the classification is based on the meaning of the collocations. The collocations with negative meaning occur more frequently than those with positive meaning. It is due to the fact that they use the prefixes –in and –un which create the opposite meaning of the original word. Therefore, the negative semantic prosody is more frequently found the two node words – 'healthy' and 'unhealthy'.

Keywords: collocations; semantic preference; semantic prosody

1. Introduction

Language has been widely investigated by many scholars all over the world. Since then, the study of language has been broadly developed in order to make the investigation get easier. In learning language, it is not only about understanding the meaning of word by word, but also about finding its relation with other words trough collocation. In the 1950s, Firth, a British linguist, has employed the term collocation which is addressed to the meaning of words that are related to the interaction with other words (Hu, 2015). The analysis of collocation is based on its concordance and then becomes the root of semantic prosody analysis. Collocational analysis has been the concern of some experts, such as Salama (2011) who focuses on the study of ideological collocation and Jevric (2019) who relies on the different uses of prefixes on derivational analysis.

The examination of semantic prosody and semantic preference has also been a growing interest for many scholars. Sinclair (1987) firstly referred some words to be followed by positive or negative view (Cheng, 2013; Begagić, 2013). The terms semantic prosody and semantic preference were firstly proposed by Sinclair in 1991 (Begagić, 2013). Semantic prosody can be defined as the collaborative meaning of node word and collocates which are obtained from a larger unit of text (Liu, 2020). Semantic preference, then, can be seen as a feature of collocates so that it can affect wider part of the text (Partington, 2004). Therefore, semantic preference is also beneficial in constructing semantic prosody (Begagić, 2018).

Study on semantic prosody and semantic preference are inseparable from corpus. It can be proven by the existing of some previous studies of semantic preference and semantic prosody by using corpus data (Nabu, 2020; Prihantoro, 2015; Oster & van Lawick, 2008). In addition, the examination of lexical meaning itself has also used corpus as the main data nowadays (Gulec & Gulec, 2015). The existence of 'corpus' indicates that the expansion of computer technology has enormously affected the study of language nowadays. The term corpus can be defined as the collection of texts which contain written or spoken material, such as transcriptions, created based on certain purposes that lead to how the text is tagged (Bloomer & Wray, 2006). Thus, huge number of words make corpus able to provide the researchers comprehensive evidence which help them design their projects in Linguistics.

As an approach in doing Linguistics research, corpus is divided into two – corpus-based and corpus-driven study. According to Tognini-Bonelli (2001), corpus-based approach refers to the analysis which is under the certain frameworks which are limited in scope because of the restricted theoretical framework itself. McEnery & Hardie (2011) clearly defines corpus-based studies is a study that employs corpus data to explore theory or hypotheses to create the existing literature or ensure the literature. Corpus-driven approach uses corpus data as the only source of the hypotheses about such study of language.

This present study is conducted using corpus-based approach since it also combines the corpus as the source of data as well as to ensure the existing theory of semantic prosody and semantic preference which are closely related to the issue of corpus. The main objective of this research is to know the collocations of 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' as well as to explore the lexical meaning of those node words 'healthy' and 'unhealthy'. Therefore, semantic prosody and semantic preference are the major scrunity of this study.

2. Literature Review

Semantic prosody was originally introduced by (Sinclair, 1987). According to Sinclair, some words are associated with pleasant or unpleasant matters (Alrajhi, 2019). Semantic prosody is highly connected with connotations. It is usually taken due to the similarity in the viewpoint of expression (Partington, 2004). The notion of semantic prosody exists because it becomes the way the speakers share their purpose of speech which is seen in the entire semantics and pragmatics viewpoint (Liu, 2020). Semantic prosody also refers to the common discourse function of something followed by the repeated existence of the meaning of the that item (Sinclair, 1991). Unlike the semantic prosody, semantic preference can be viewed as familiar existence of a lexical item connected with some terms which can express a more specific meaning (Hunston, 2007).

The study of semantic prosody and semantic preferences has been a popular issue in corpus-based examination. According to Partington (2004), the notion of semantic prosody is even discussed in the post-Firthian corpus linguistics by Sinclair (1987), Sinclair (1996), Sinclair (1998), Louw (1993) and Stubbs (2001). The sufficient data provided by corpus can be an essential need for the examination of semantic prosody and semantic preference.

The importance of semantic prosody and semantic preference has received increasing attention in the study of Corpus Lingustics during the past decade, such as the investigation of synonymous pairs (Hu, 2015); semantic prosody of a specific language (Prihantoro, 2015); semantic prosody of certain words in a corpus (Nabu, 2020); semantic prosody and semantic preference (Alrajhi, 2019; Liu, 2020). The corpus-based study has become very significant since it provides either the tool of creating the analysis of corpus data or the appropriate theory for examining the corpus. Two features are then very essential in the investigation of

corpus – collocation and concordance. Due to the development of corpus study, more sufficient and more recent data were provided. Hence, it is crucial to carry out an investigation that is closely related to the current phenomena, such as what everyone all over the world has faced since 2019 – Covid-19.

The present study explored the appearance of *healthy* and *unhealthy* by considering their collocation. Unlike several investigations that focused on one side, semantic prosody only or semantic preference only, this study combined both sides in order to create a comprehensive analysis of those two node words in the corpus of Covid-19. Covid-19 corpus can become the representation of what this phenomenon is like nowadays. Therefore, this study is not only crucial in terms of reaching pedagogical goals, such as what previous studies mentioned (Zhang, 2010) and (Özbay, 2017), but also beneficial in general since Covid-19 has been a very debatable issue. In addition, this study also enlightens the authors or the author candidate of covid-19 research to present a clear description about covid-29 that will be very significant for people all over the world.

3. Research Method

The approach used in this study becomes essential to indicate the method used for this study. Since this study is conducted under the corpus-based approach, it obviously uses qualitative method to analyze the corpus data. Qualitative research refers to the study which is to form structures and patterns as well as how something is like (Litosseliti, 2010). Qualitative is an inductive approach that uses textual data to derive theory. This notion fits the focus of this study which is to use the corpus data in order to prove the existing theory.

The data employed in this research is taken from one of the well-known corpus tools used by many experts all over the world - Sketch Engine. This engine helps the researcher finds the data in order to create collocational analysis for this study. Sketch Engine allows many scholars to do a lot of kinds of analysis, such as keywords, n-grams, word frequency, concordance, and some others. This present study employed the tool 'concordance' in order to find the collocations of the node words.

The corpus used in Sketch Engine is 'Covid-19'. It is an existing corpus which consists of texts that were published as a part of COVID-19 Open Research Dataset (CORD-19). The data were retrieved from https://pages.semanticscholar.org/coronavirus-research (doi:10.5281/zenodo.3715505) accessed on 02-05-2020. 'Covid-19' is an English corpus which contains 224,061,570 words. The amount of the words has been sufficient for a corpus-based study.

The node words 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' are chosen because of several important criteria. Since the data is in accordance with health sciences, the terms which are most frequently used are terms related to medicine. In addition, the corpus 'Covid-19' consists of texts which are mostly discussed in journal articles. The articles are closely related to health contexts. The collocation part in the Sketch Engine is mainly used to determine the words which associate with the node words 'healthy' and 'unhealthy'. The collocations of the node words are employed to answer the research objective – to know the collocations of 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' as well as to explore the collocations of those node words.

The collocations are limited to the lexical words which are considered as the meaningful words. On the contrary, the grammatical words or the words which are not meaningful unless they are attached to the other lexical words are not under the consideration of the researcher. In addition, the collocations of the node words must be the words which are

related in meaning with the node words since the analysis of this research is in accordance with the classification of the lexical meaning. Thus, the meaning of the words is essential.

The node words become the standard to find the collocations in Sketch Engine. The collocations are expanded to four words on the left and four words on the right. The span of four words is adopted to find the comprehensive data for the collocation analysis. The data taken is manually put in the list of the amount of MI score. The higher the number of MI score represents how the relation of the collocations with node words is like. The high MI score is associated with the possibility to establish the certain characteristic collocations compared with those with low MI score (McEnery, 2019). The collocations that are utilized to conduct analysis are based on the data showed in the first page based on the list of MI. However, there are only 20 collocations chosen in order to focus the analysis on each categorization. The collocations were classified based on some categories made by the researcher in order to find the clear pattern of the data.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 The Collocations of 'Healthy'

The node word 'healthy' is followed by some collocations. There are some words which are associated with the node word 'healthy'. The first 20 row collocations based on the score of MI was taken (Table 1).

Collocate	Collocate	Freq	Coll. freq.	T-score	MI
Controls	3672	43248	6.048.870	912.764	1.045.257
Volunteers	1972	6541	4.438.485	1.095.578	1.036.031
Donors	1802	11170	4.241.003	1.005.367	1.010.041
Adults	1956	29874	4.412.416	875.272	978.818
Subjects	1829	27454	4.266.937	877.774	974.031
Individuals	2868	67690	5.336.185	812.481	973.466
Dogs	2606	63778	5.085.936	807.248	964.855
apparently	1107	7663	3.323.665	989.438	949.474
Cats	2264	66013	4.737.092	781.983	941.560
otherwise	1074	11268	3.271.975	929.447	935.118
Clinically	1143	18338	3.372.595	868.169	926.315
Adult	986	28793	3.126.145	781.765	882.161
Calves	1022	42467	3.176.710	730.876	862.058
Children	1634	98882	4.005.146	676.640	856.376
Young	764	26142	2.749.699	758.898	850.817
compared	2169	157922	4.605.782	649.959	846.929
Diseased	456	3456	2.132.959	976.363	834.126
Diarrheic	444	3829	2.104.372	957.730	829.115
Animals	1355	120410	3.631.380	621.211	808.933
People	728	48446	2.670.893	662.934	803.322

Table 1. Collocations of 'healthy' in Corpus 'Covid-19'

The collocations of 'healthy' seem to have various parts of speech. However, the most dominated part of speech is noun, followed with adjective. Most of them have positive meaning. Thus, it means that they are usually used in positive context. There are few words with negative meaning or the words which are usually associated with negative context.

Furthermore, the detail application of each collocations in the collocation analysis of 'healthy' is portrayed in Figure 1.

1	Reference	Left	Kwic	Right
		(Fig. 2D) . <s> The Moraxella,</s>		
		Streptococcus and Haemophilus MPGs were		NP samples, even after adjusting for a large
		significantly more frequent in ARI compared		set of potential confounders (age, gender,
2	doi.org	to	healthy	season, number of prior
		2 shows the more disordered turnover of		individuals (Fig. 2b) . Incidence was also
		species between samples for recently ill		more ordered amongst winter (Table 5) .
3	doi.org	individuals (Fig. 2a) compared to	healthy	Conversely, frequency
		cell types, then on a p53 knockout		compared to siblings with a functional copy
		background, males ought to be born at		of p53. <s> We therefore crossed the</s>
4	doi.org	normal ratios, and ought to be relatively	healthy	iDUX4[2.7] transgene onto the p53
		of chronic wet cough in young children.		children and to 21 assess the impact of the
		<s>This 20 study aimed to characterise</s>		changes associated with the development of
5	doi.org	the respiratory bacterial microbiota of	healthy	persistent bacterial 22
		with the development of persistent bacterial		controls and 24 children with 24 persistent
		22 bronchitis. 23 <s> Blind, protected</s>		bacterial bronchitis, with an additional
6	doi.org	brushings were obtained from 20	healthy	directed sample obtained from
		accessing the airway microbiota. <s></s>		children . 32 A significant decrease in
		This has important 31 implications for		bacterial diversity (P < 0.001) and change in
7	doi.org	collecting lower respiratory samples from	healthy	community 33 composition (R 2 =
		4 In this present study bronchial brushings		children who were free of any respiratory
		were obtained from infants and children		symptoms or 69 significant previous lower
8	doi.org	with a 68 diagnosis of PBB and from	healthy	respiratory tract illness. <s>This</s>
		were recruited if they were undergoing an		without any history of acute or chronic 86
		intervention requiring 85 endotracheal		upper or lower respiratory tracts symptoms.
9	doi.org	intubation but were otherwise	healthy	87 88 Sixteen mothers of
		preprint (which was not peer-reviewed) is the		controls 169 The bacterial community of
		. https://doi.org/10.1101/181982 doi:		patients diagnosed with PBB (N=24) was
10	doi.org	bioRxiv preprint PBB versus	healthy	compared to healthy 170 controls (N=18

Figure 1. Concordance of 'healthy' Corpus 'Covid-19'

4.2 The Collocations of 'Unhealthy'

The node word 'unhealthy' is followed by some collocations. There are some words which are associated with the node word 'unhealthy'. The first 20 row collocations based on the score of MI was taken (Table 2).

Collocate	Collocate	Freq	Coll. freq.	T-score	МІ
Inactivity	11	447	331.638	1.373.139	856.007
Lifestyles	11	485	331.636	1.361.368	850.378
Follicles	30	2651	547.635	1.261.066	828.164
Unhealthy	9	482	299.971	1.333.312	821.864
Habits	19	1587	435.824	1.269.193	821.519
GCs	10	766	316.184	1.281.682	800.678
Lifestyle	18	2027	424.178	1.226.088	786.215
Foods	27	3603	519.490	1.201.599	774.961
hyposialylated	3	22	173.203	1.620.162	753.511
Behaviours	15	2389	387.187	1.176.079	740.655
Beverages	4	310	199.972	1.279.996	732.404
Oocyte	4	371	199.966	1.254.081	722.028
Advertising	4	378	199.966	1.251.385	720.884
Choices	12	2168	346.297	1.157.890	719.910
Untreatable	3	163	173.188	1.331.232	719.479
Oocytes	6	990	244.876	1.170.977	703.614
Alcohol	28	6844	528.916	1.114.282	696.343

Unsafe	4	659	199.940	1.171.195	681.141
Behaviors	20	7377	446.915	1.054.920	637.703
Eating	8	2760	282.666	1.064.564	632.581

Table 2. Collocations of 'unhealthy' in Corpus 'Covid-19'

The collocations of 'unhealthy' seem to have various parts of speech. However, the most dominated part of speech is noun, followed with adjective. They are also diverse in meaning. Some of them relate to negative context which has negative meaning. The others do not refer to any of positive or negative meaning. Furthermore, the detail use of each collocation in the collocation analysis of 'healthy' is provided in Figure 2.

1	Reference	Left	Kwic	Right
				life habits 16 and multiple comorbid
		<s> Another potential limitation is that it is</s>		diseases 17, 18 . Here we conducted
		difficult to control for all confounders, as		a phenome-wide Mendelian randomization
2	doi.org	smoking may be related to other	unhealthy	(MR)
		the world. <s> It is already widely</s>		
		acknowledged and demonstrated that		diet, physical inactivity , smoking, alcohol
		several modern behavioural factors such as		misuse and the use of illicit drugs are having
3	nih.gov	an	unhealthy	a profound impact on human
		a profound impact on human health [49] [50]		lifestyle options and choices available in a
		[51] [52] (Table 3) . Individuals respond to		community [53] , which are in turn
4	nih.gov	the range of healthy as well as	unhealthy	determined by global trade (Figure 3 ;
		-initiatives that work to promote healthy		alcohol consumption and tobacco use.
		eating and physical activity as well as		<s> While healthy eating and physical</s>
5	nih.gov	address other risk factors such as	unhealthy	activity were traditionally considered
		of these initiatives range from encouraging		foods in schools or working towards a built
		employers to initiate healthy workplace		environment that encourages physical
6	nih.gov	programs to banning the sale of	unhealthy	activity. <s> These initiatives were</s>
		association between lifestyle and personal		dietary practices, smoking, obesity, vitamin
		risk factors that are prevalent in the UAE		D deficiency, and parental consanguinity)
7	nih.gov	(namely physical inactivity ,	unhealthy	and the development of
		TBIs. <s>This can be concerning as it</s>		
		has been shown that media messages that		behaviours [30] . Furthermore, a shift in
		create confusion in the population can lead		focus on equipment as a protective device to
8	nih.gov	to	unhealthy	a potential cause of more
		[46] . Jordan et al. (2008) propose that the		foods and beverages that children now
		media has contributed to the childhood		demand and regularly consume [47] . This
9	nih.gov	obesity pandemic by advertising the	unhealthy	suggests that media reports of an issue
		in public health context. <s> A study in</s>		lifestyle habits and poor fruits and vegetable

Figure 2. Concordance of 'unhealthy' Corpus 'Covid-19'

4.3 The Parts of Speech of the Collocations

The most frequently used collocation in both 'healthy' and 'unhealthy node words is the part of speech *noun*. When collocations are on the left or on the right side of the node words, *noun* can easily be found. This may happen because of some reasons. The first reason is because the part of speech of the node words is adjective. When the node words are on the right side, *noun* can be the most probably appeared part of speech on the left side of the node words. It is due to the fact that *noun* is described using *adjective*. For instance, the individuals are healthy. The word *individuals* is a noun and it can only be described using an adjective. Another collocation of *noun* also takes part on the right side of the node words. For example, the phrase 'healthy people' represents that the existence of *adjective* is to modify *noun*. Therefore, *noun* becomes gets so much attention to associate with the node words 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' since it can appear on both sides, left and right, as well as has close relation with *adjective*.

Another part of speech that is frequently related with *adjective* is *adverb*. *Adverb* most probably occurs before *adjective* because *adverb* modifies *adjectives*. For example, the phrase 'clinically unhealthy area' that can be narrowed down into 'clinically unhealthy' and

'unhealthy area'. The word *clinically* as an adverb comes before *adjective* 'unhealthy' in order to emphasize the meaning of 'unhealthy'. The *adverb* becomes the modifier which is beneficial to explain how the head (*adjective*) is.

4.4 The Semantic Prosody and Semantic Preference of Node Word 'healthy'

The node word 'healthy' is related to some collocations which can be classified into three major categories - human, animal, and disease. The semantic preferences can be classified based on the collocations found in the data. The category of human can have some collocations, such as *volunteers, adults, subjects, individuals, adult, children, young, people.* Animal is also on the consideration of classification with its collocations, such as *dogs, cats, calves, animals.* The third most likely category is disease which includes *controls, volunteers, donors, clinically, diseased, diarrheic.* The rest of the collocations are not put into any group, such as *apparently, otherwise, compared.*

The first category of 'healthy' node word is human. This category has become the interest of many authors of the journal articles because the research in health sciences may use the patients in order to make the work better. It is usually in the form of *case report* on which the patient who is human used as the main object of the research in order to find the evidence. This semantic preference does not refer to positive or negative connotation. This is a neutral semantic prosody. Furthermore, the second category has the high number of occurrence. The category of animal which includes some words frequently appeared as the collocations. This happens because the authors most frequently uses animal model as the attempt to do research in type of original research article of the journal. This semantic prosody also refers to neutral meaning.

Unlike the other two previous categories, the last category is out of the notion of 'health'. The term *disease* is usually related to the opposite of 'healthy'. However, the existence of *disease* category may probably be the measurement of how being healthy means. Being healthy refers to the mental and physical condition that is not in any kind of disease. *Disease* can be classified as the negative semantic prosody found in this collocation.

4.5 The Semantic Prosody and Semantic Preference of Node Word 'unhealthy'

Unlike the categories in the previous node word, the node word 'unhealhy' seems to be closely related to several words which are negative in meaning. The collocations which have negative meaning are *inactivity, unhealthy, alcohol, unsafe*. Those three semantic prosodies of collocations are in line with the formation of the node word itself. The node word 'unhealthy' is a derivational morpheme. The three collocations are also derivational morphemes. The node word 'unhealthy' comes from the word healthy which is added the affix *un*- as part of morphological productivity. Morphological productivity is the creation of new complex words based on the word formation of a given language (Plag, 1999). The three collocations also begins with affixes.

The affixes *in-* and *-un* are employed to make the words become negative (Carter & McCarthy, 2006). Hence, the words started with the affixes *in-* and *-un* turn the words into negative or the opposite of the base words. The word *inactivity* itself comes from the word inactive which is in www.collinsdictionary.com is defined as someone or something that is inactive who is not doing anything or is not working. As the opposite of the word *activity*, the collocation *inactivity* has certainly defined as negative word. In addition, this is associated with the node word which is also negative in meaning.

Another collocation is actually the same as the node word – *unhealthy*. In www.collinsdictionary.com, it is mentioned that something that is unhealthy is likely to cause illness or poor health. The cause of illness or the poor condition of health represents that *unhealthy* is really negative in meaning. Moreover, another collocation begins with the prefix –*un* that also causes the opposite meaning. www.collinsdictionary.com provides some definitions of *unsafe* and all of them refer to negative meaning *dangerous*. This is the opposite of *safe* which may represent somebody who is in danger or being harmed.

5. Conclusion

This present study finds that there are some frequently used collocations in the node words 'healthy' and 'unhealthy'. The 20 collocations with high number of MI score was taken in order to know the use of each collocation in accordance with the node words. The results of the 'healthy' node word indicate that three major semantic preferences are associated with it. They are human, animal, disease. On the contrary, the categories of 'unhealthy' node word are diverse. Thus, the classification is based on the meaning of the collocations. It eventually finds that the collocations with negative meaning occur more frequently than those with positive meaning. Thus, the semantic prosody of 'unhealthy' is likely to be negative while it is likely to be positive in the node word 'healthy'. It is due to the fact that they use the prefixes –in and –un which create the opposite meaning of the original words.

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