ADVERB-ADJECTIVE COLLOCATIONS IN NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE JOURNALISTIC WRITING: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Behzad Anwar, Bisma Butt, Ghulam Ali

Abstract

This study analyses the adverb-adjective collocations in the journalistic writing of British and Pakistani English. This research is rooted in Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL). The central focus of the analysis is the linguistic characterization of journalistic writing by reflecting the domain- specificity of texts. This study is linguistically realized in terms of lexis, grammar, specialized terminology, and collocations. The corpora for this study consist of the columns of British and Pakistani English newspapers. However, the focus of this research is to highlight the contrast of these two corpora in terms of identification, classification, and analysis of collocations for adverb-adjective combinations. The results indicate the contrast between two corpora in terms of highly frequent adverbs-adjective collocations.

Keywords: Collocations, Adverb-Adjective Combinations, Pakistani English, Journalistic Writing, British English; Systemic Functional Linguistics.

1. Introduction

It is generally considered that non-native speakers produce variant forms while using a language other than their own. The quest for the exact word or composite of words, particularly in the verbally expressed utilization of the language, makes the speakers occasionally stumbling over some nominal groups, or a series of adjectives or adverb-adjective combinations which may not be common in the native language (Piqué et. al., 1998). If this is as yet hard to create in an unprepared speech, so is the case with the writing. Written language no doubt lasts longer than spoken, and that is why, more exactness is required in its structure. We frequently read expressions that cause the non-native to ask himself/herself a couple of viable questions as far as pragmatics adequacy, yet in addition the syntactical accuracy.

In this study adverb-adjective combinations from the collocational perspective have been explored in the written English texts. Pakistani English newspaper corpus (PENC) and British newspaper corpus (BNC) have been used as a data for this research in order to consider how to "correlate language and sociocultural variables" (Basham & Kwachka 1989, p.129). The major focus is to analyse the use of these combinations in various sorts of texts as indicated by their specialism; in other words, how a few adverbs collocate are preferable with certain adjectives than with others, and the reason is found correctly on the strength of a given content. The findings of the study can be used to teach the adverb-adjective collocations to the Pakistani learners of English.

In English, normally the modifying adverb is a scaling device called an intensifier, in the case of modifying an adjective, as 'It is *extremely good for you*' (Quirk et al., 1985), or an adverb; for this situation, the adverb must be an intensifier, as in the sentence 'He spoke *extremely quickly*'. In this paper, adverbs modifying adjectives have been taken into consideration. As pointed out by Johansson (1993), there is no straightforward method to recognize the adverb-adjective combination modifying a noun (the corpus has to be syntactically parsed for that purpose) e.g. 'An *absolutely true* story' from combination where the adverb works as an adverbial at the clause level i.e. 'This story is *probably true*'.

In general English texts, the intensifier used is the adverb *very*, and from a practical perspective, its use offers a little difficulty to non-native speakers. Moreover, it is not exactly how to use an adverb, or an adjective, yet in addition how to appropriately differentiate them. Also, the grammarians have effectively

found that there are no "fixed boundaries" between adjectives and adverbs, which adds difficulty in their use (Jespersen, 1949). Most discussions of adverb-adjective combinations have especially managed with their intensifying characteristics (Bäcklund, 1973) and little on other semantic features (Quirk et al., 1985; Sinclair et al., 1990).

The organization of this paper is as follows: Section 2 comprises of analysis of corpus-based collocations, focal underpinnings of theoretical perspective and Systemic Functional Linguistics. Section 3 presents the targeted corpora of the study describing the phenomena of compilation, processing and the use of tools whereas Section 4 discusses the results and discussion. Finally, the last Section 5 covers the conclusion of this research work.

2. Corpus-Based Collocation Profiling

The methodological and theoretical foundations of this paper are SFL and Corpus Linguistics (CL) (McEnery & Wilson, 2001). Variant consideration of SFL surrounds the situational context and variation of a language in terms of function, therefore, it provides an analytical framework for linguistic features of this variation comprising of grammatical and lexical analyses. The text under study is a comparison of collocation of adverb-adjective in British and Pakistani newspaper corpora in terms of linguistic characterization. SFL describes these features including mode of discourse, parameters of field and tenor (Quirk et al., 1985). Further, the parameter of field characterizes texts in terms of their domain-specificity, being described in terms of lexis, specialized terminology, collocations, etc. whereas interaction (e.g. expert –to-expert) between participants are characterized by tenor. However, the mode parameter realizes the process of communication reflecting medium and channel. For the present research, indirect channel (non-face-to face) and medium (written-to-be-read) are used, and texts under study are considered uniform in terms of parameters of tenor and mode. Text-based register variation is, therefore, expected in terms of field of discourse, reflecting linguistic variation in terms of domain-specific terminology, e.g., adverb and collocations. Moreover, the linguistic structures mood and modality also reflect the parameter of field (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). In SFL both modality and mood can be described with reference to the different macro-functions that a language can have. The macro-functions distinguished by Halliday (1970) are interpersonal, textual, and representational functions.

Modality does not have the representational function to represent or refer to phenomena in the real world but it derives from the interpersonal macro-function.

LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION: DISCOURSE-SEMANTICS
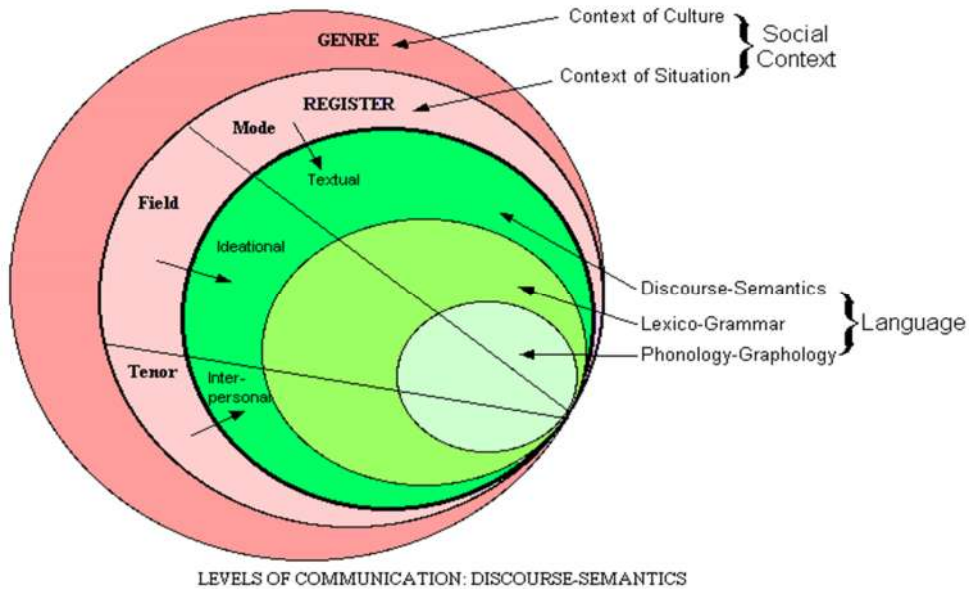
The interpersonal macro-function is concerned with the establishment of social relations and participation of the speakers in the speech event in all kinds of personal interaction. The system of MOOD (capitalized in SFL) describes the choices underlying the exchange of information in the clause and the establishment of the social roles of the speaker and the hearer (see Figure 1). MOOD has to do with the principles behind the choice of the indicative and the imperative and between a declarative and interrogative clause. Thus this study reports on identification, classification and analysis of adverb-adjective collocational expressions in these areas.

3. Methodology & Data Collection

A corpus based linguistic analysis of language is inherent to SFL, as for SFL real texts are "fundamental to the enterprise of theorizing language" (Halliday & Matthiessen 2014, p. 51). It is interesting to note that both SFL and CL describe the language differently as SFL is quite complicated theory in

terms of language description whereas CL is a methodology which can be adopted for any theoretical framework (Thompson & Hunston, 2006). However, both have some common aspects such as concerning with naturally occurring language, dealing language as text and more specifically considering the context of texts. Keeping in view these perspectives, CL was chosen as methodology for the present research.

Two corpora (PENC for Pakistani English newspaper and BNC for British newspaper) have been used in this study for a comparison. The first question that should be answered is: why newspaper is used as authentic source for representing language used in a particular time? Bell (1991) presents a few explanations for answering this question, for example, media utilization impacts and represents to individuals' utilization of and frames of mind towards language in a speech community (Bell & Garrett, 1998). Newspapers, in other words, address their pursuers in their own language. On the off chance if they do not present in this way, they would be probably not going to demonstrate monetarily practical and would not long endure. Newspapers can, however, be expected to provide a robust representation of the language in use at a given time.

The news genre can be sub-divided into following three broad categories proposed by Macalister (2001):

- News
- Opinion i.e. editorials, letters to the editor, columns and reviews
- Service information i.e. lists, sports results, TV programs, share prices, weather forecasts, and so on.

News can be further sub divided into four categories:

- feature articles
- hard news- local/national/international
- headlines
- special topic news e.g. sports, business, information technology

For this present study, two different newspaper corpora for the same time period (1st June 2016 - 31st July 2016) and the same news genre (column writing) are used. Total number of words for PENC is 506660 whereas for BNC, total number of words is 448358. PENC includes the News and Dawn while BNC comprises of the

Guardian and I News. The following table illustrates the text sources used in the compilation of the corpus for this study.

Table 1: Text sources of the corpus

Corpus	Newspapers	Domain	Year	Total no. of Words
British newspaper corpus (BNC)	i. The Guardian ii. I News	Column writing	1 June 2016 to 31 July 2016	448358
Pakistani English newspaper corpus (PENC)	i. The News ii. Dawn	Column writing	1 June 2016 to 31 July 2016	506660

4. Results and Discussion

For the extraction of adverb-adjective collocation in the targeted corpora, the CQL query is used in Sketch Engine tool. The following table shows CQL queries and their outcomes:

Table 2: Collocational Patterns and their frequency (per million words)

S. No	CQL queries	Frequency (per million) in PENC	Frequency (per million) in BNC
1	[tag= "RB"][tag="JJR"]	370.02	568.01
2	[tag= "RB"][tag="JJ"]	4231.51	5557.53
3	[tag= "RB"][tag="JJS"]	22.8	27.23
4	[tag="RBR"][tag="JJR"]	empty results	empty results
5	[tag="RBR"][tag="JJ"]	727.76	910.37
6	[tag="RBR"][tag="JJS"]	empty results	empty results
7	[tag="RBS"][tag="JJR"]	empty results	empty results
8	[tag="RBS"][tag="JJ"]	638.32	632.2
9	[tag="RBS"][tag="JJS"]	empty results	empty results

Table 2 shows that simple adverb (RB) (however, usually, naturally) collocates with all types of adjectives e.g. JJ, JJR, JJS (normal, comparative and superlative) and their frequencies for PENC and BNC are shown in table whereas comparative adverb (RBR) only collocate with normal adjective (JJ) and other collocations queries remain empty (S.no. 4 & 6). Likewise, superlative adverb (RBS) also collocate with normal adjective and other queries remain empty e.g. serial no. 7&9. Further, all empty collocational results are same for PENC and BNC. Moreover, three collocational patterns are more frequent in BNC as compared to PENC (see S.no. 1, 2 & 5) whereas one collocational pattern with serial no. 8 is more frequent in PENC as compared to BNC. On the very surface level, the difference between PENC and BNC in terms of adverb-adjective collocation is obvious. Table 3 shows the normalized frequency lists and those frequent adverbs are taken from both corpora which show frequency above 100. Therefore, only following collocational patterns will be processed further: [tag= "RB"] [tag="JJ"], [tag= "RBR"][tag="JJ"], [tag= "RBS"][tag="JJ"], [tag= "RB"][tag="JJR"] and [tag= "RB"][tag="JJS"]

Table 3: Most frequent Adverbs in PENC and BNC and their Collocational Patterns

S. No.	Adverbs in BNC	Frequency (per million)	Collocational Patterns	Adverbs in PENC	Frequency (per million)	Collocational Patterns
1	so	898.8	[tag= "RB"] [tag="JJ"] [tag= "RBR"] [tag="JJ"]	most	1417.12	[tag= "RBR"] [tag="JJ"] [tag= "RBS"] [tag="JJ"]
2	more	773.9	[tag= "RBR"] [tag="JJ"]	more	1381.5	[tag= "RBR"] [tag="JJ"]
3	most	698.1	[tag= "RBR"] [tag="JJ"]	very	529.83	[tag= "RB"] [tag="JJ"]

			[tag= "RBS”] [tag="JJ"]			[tag= "RB”] [tag="JJS"] [tag= "RBR”] [tag="JJ"]
4			[tag= "RB”] [tag="JJR"] [tag= "RB”] [tag="JJ"] [tag= "RB”] [tag="JJS"] [tag= "RBR”] [tag="JJ"]			[tag= "RB”] [tag="JJ"] [tag= "RBR”] [tag="JJ"]
	not	553.12		so	1045.7	

Table 3 shows the contrast between two corpora in terms of highly frequent adverbs. The frequency in PENC of using adverbs is much higher as compared to BNC i.e. for PENC, the highest frequency is 1417.12 whereas for BNC, it is 898.8. It is clear from the table that BNC is using 'so' as most frequent adverb whereas 'most' is used more frequently in PENC. Further, a similar case is also observed wherein 'more' is used as 2nd highest frequent adverb in both corpora but still frequency for PENC is much higher as compared to BNC. Another contrasting observation is noted that 'very' is 3rd frequent adverb in PENC and 'not' in BNC whereas these adverbs are not frequent in alternative corpora.

Moreover, following Quirk et al. (1985) and other authors, Johansson (1993) classifies the adverb- adjective combinations as [1] degree and extent, [2] emphasis, [3] manner, [4] time, [5] space, [6] viewpoint and respect, [7] evaluation of truth, [8] basic and typical qualities, [9] value judgment, and [10] quality and state. A portion of these will be exposed when we investigate our corpora. Following this classification, we analyzed the exceedingly frequent adverb-adjective combination having frequency per million over 100 in our two corpora. A first way to deal with

the utilization of adverb-adjective combination produced the following numerical data from both corpora (Table 4).

Table 4: Johansson's Classification of Adverbs and Frequency of Research Results

Symbol: less than 100 (frequency per million) = *

Corpus	degree and	emphasis	manner	time	Space	viewpoint and respect	evaluation of	basic qualities	value	judgement quality and
PENC	3849.5	522.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
BNC	2369.12	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	553.12	*

Corpora show the distinct varieties of adverbs but the selected frequency (per million) shows that these adverbs fall only under three categories (see table 4). Degree and extent category comprised of 3849.5 in PENC whereas for BNC the frequency is 2369.12. On the other hand, BNC shows value and judgement category for *not* (553.12) whereas PENC shows emphasis category for *very* (522.5). The collocational patterns of these categorical adverbs for both corpora are shown in table 5.

Table 5: Collocational Patterns of Adverb-Adjective

Corpus	S. No	Adverb	Collocation with	Frequency (per thousand)	Corpus	S. No	Adverb	Collocation with	Frequency (per thousand)
BNC	1	So	Many	1,106.10	PENC	1	most	Important	1067.4
			Much	752.2				Recent	393.2
								Powerful	280
			Bad	243.3				Likely	252.8
								Critical	224.7

						Likely	470.5
						Important	323.5
2	**More**	Likely	1040.4	**2**	**more**	Powerful	294.1
						Difficult	205.8
						Interested	205.8
		Important	798.7			Few	552.9
		Powerful	447.2			Different	4141.7
		Recent	351.4			Important	4141.7
3	**Most**	Successful	351.4	**3**	**very**	little	4141.7
		Famous	255.5			Least	322.5
		Likely	255.5			Difficult	276.4
		Significant	255.5			Low	276.4
						Much	230.4
		Enough	443.5			Many	2229.2
		Good	282.2			Much	891.7
		Much	282.2			Deep	254.7
4	**Not**			**4**	**so**	Long	254.7
		More	201.6			Offensive	254.7
						Powerful	254.7

Table 5 shows the contrasting collocational patterns for BNC and PENC and only those patterns are chosen which show more than 200 frequencies per thousand. Adverb 'so' in BNC collocates with three adjectives (many, much and bad) whereas in PENC this adverb is 4th highest frequent adverb and collocates with six frequent adjectives (many, much, deep, long, offensive and powerful). Moreover, the frequencies for collocation in PENC are doubled as compared to BNC. Likewise, 'most' is the third highest frequent adverb in BNC and collocates with different adjectives as compared to PENC where this adverb is first frequent adverb. Further, the most contrasting observed feature is 'more' (second frequent adverb in both corpora) which collocates with 'likely' in BNC whereas in PENC, it collocates with five distinct adjectives. Therefore, Table 5 on the whole shows how differently these adverb-adjective combinations are used in PENC and BNC. SFL is used for analysis and grammatical description because this approach is best in describing the relation between structure of English and situational variables in a particular context i.e. newspaper in which the language is functioning. Table 5 is analyzed in terms of different levels of language keeping in view the systemic functional grammar.

Morpheme, word, group, clause and sentence are primary units perceived by SFL, and these units are characterized from largest to smallest in a rank scale. Moreover, within these units, system of choices are accessible, and individuals are drawn together and allocated to a particular class e.g. nouns, adverbs, adjectives, verbs, verbal, adjectival, nominal etc. are considered as classes of word. Here we are concerned distinctly with adverb-adjective collocational patterns appeared in Table 5.

The most significant unit for a functional grammar analysis is clause. Analyzing the clause structure includes distinguishing the functional parts of the clause from each of the three alternate points of view: ideational, interpersonal and textual. In each meta-function, an analysis of a clause gives an alternate sort of structure formed from an alternate arrangement of components. In the ideational meta-function, a clause is analyzed into the functional parts: Process, Participants and Circumstances. The participant component can be additionally depicted as far as different participant roles, for example, Actor, Agents, Goal, Carrier or Sayer. The process divides into three basic process types: Material, Relational & Projecting.

Further, the relational procedure is additionally ordered into intensive, attributive, identifying, circumstantial, and possessive. Halliday's Attitudinal Epithets for

emotive terms whether target or abstract, constructive or negative at the position of adjectives and adverbs in relational capacity demonstrate the speaker's attitudinal methodology towards an element or occasion when stimulating a specific picture and effect in a narrative discourse and context such as more, most, very, so and not.

By analyzing the corpora, it has been noticed that theme progression marks the events which actually happen in a particular time. Different purposes are achieved through this progression which may involve the unfolding of events, describing the point of crisis or signaling the point of normality. Moreover, they bring into play interpersonal themes via degree adverbs indicating the writers' evaluation of events of complication. Further, they utilized these marked circumstances (adverb-adjective collocational patterns) as topical themes to set the story in a time and place. Different adverbs of degree and judgement and evaluation are used in both corpora showing how differently interpersonal themes are projected in native and non-native newspaper corpora. According to Ruskan and Soliene (2017), these adverbs fall under the category of non-perception adverbs. For example, so (degree adverb/circumstance) is the most frequent adverb in BNC whereas it is 4th frequent adverb in PENC. Moreover in both corpora, its collocational patterns are different with different frequencies projecting different themes' progression e.g. for BNC and PENC, it collocates with (many and much – frequency adjectives) whereas in PENC some other collocational patterns (deep, long, offensive and powerful-descriptive adjectives) are also very frequent. However, both the corpora show the circumstantial role of relational process is degree modifying actions and states attested in socio-physical world. But, the argumentative force of non-perception adverbs in PENC is higher as compared to BNC as results show that all non-perception adverbs in BNC except *most* only collocate with frequency/indefinite adjectives whereas in PENC all non-perception based adverbs not only collocate with frequency adjectives but also with descriptive and manner adjectives. Therefore, it can be suggested that the collocational patterns of PENC express more epistemic certainty and show writers' high degree commitment to the stated proposition as compared to BNC. Moreover, PENC shows writers' epistemic commitment to the truth-value of proposition most frequently in terms of *most likely, most* as compared to BNC and these results are similar to the study of Ruskan and Soliene (2017) grounded with SFL

5. Conclusion

This study accounts for corpus-based analysis of adverb-adjective collocations in Pakistani and British English newspapers. Overall frequencies of adverbials show that non-perception based adverbials are more dominant in both corpora which highlight the importance of non-perception in the targeted corpora. The non-perception based adverbials in BNC except most only collocate with frequency/indefinite adjectives whereas in PENC all non-perception based adverbs not only collocate with frequency adjectives but also with descriptive and manner adjectives. However, both the corpora show the circumstantial role of relational process having degree modifying actions and states attested in socio-physical world. But, PENC shows more epistemic certainty as compared to BNC, and this epistemic certainty is associated with truth value of proposition which is much higher in PENC. The non-perception based epistemic adverbials do not show evidential extensions to a great extent in both corpora. They are used as markers of high probability reinforcing the speaker's/writer's position which is higher in PENC as compared to BNC.

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