

## THE ACQUISITION OF NEW WORDS IN ENGLISH BY SLOVAK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (CORPUS-DRIVEN APPROACH)

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**Abstract:** The present annotation deals with the acquisition on new words that have appeared in the English language in recent decades. The words are being presented in the context of study programmes within which future teachers are prepared. The real utilization of the linguistic material is studied in the monolingual synchronic annotated textual corpora English Web 2021 (enTenTen21) applying the text analysis software Sketch Engine.

**Key words:** corpus, corpus linguistics, word-formation process, new words

In recent decades, the tools of corpus linguistics are becoming an important component of the teaching of foreign languages since they provide both the teachers and learners with several benefits [1, p.73]. First and foremost, they introduce an authentic language to the classroom [2, p.14]. As Dzuriková says: Pupils' language preparation is an entry and necessary requirement for their further education in the school system also for the reason that pupils are exposed to the need to master a specific vocabulary that is decisive for the school environment even at a very low level of language proficiency [3, p. 12]. Intercultural aspects are of high importance, too. The prospective teachers realize that communication is manifested differently across cultures; corpus linguistics allows learners to observe what lexical units are typically applied in given cultural contexts; it is important to prior analyse crosslinguistic differences as well as understand cultural norms that can affect students responses to texts, tasks, etc. [4, p.74].

To verify the importance of incorporating the above-mentioned interdisciplinary principles into the teaching of linguistic disciplines in the university surroundings, we suggest a set of exercises based on corpus evidence. The motivation for creating such exercises is to inspire future teachers, and subsequently their students to work with corpora, and therefore, to develop communication and social competences emphasizing not only pure linguistic, but also cross-cultural issues. The following areas are suitable for: corpus-driven exercises application:

aspects of grammar; general vocabulary; ESP vocabulary; idiomatic expressions; semantic relations [5, p. 87]; new lexical units. In the university environment, it is possible to work with these types of corpus-driven exercises: accuracy-focused activities; revision activities; choosing the correct word; gap filling/completing the concordances mixed letters; matching words from the corpus with their definitions; guessing meaning of words; classifications of words.

The statistical data prove that new lexical units in the contemporary English language reflect the extralinguistic reality in the areas of: the environment; entertainment; health; work; travelling; sports and games; science and technologies; the Internet and social media; emotions, communication, and family; gender politics; fashion and clothes; food and drink; money and business. The examples below illustrate the utilization of new lexemes as reflected in the corpus:

*Carrying out analysis, assessments and systematic observation of the role of oceans as a **carbon sink**.* (un.org)

*The episode was written as a **bottle episode** to save money as the series had run up large over time costs.* (wikibin.org)

*No matter how old you are, you'll always know the latest trends and won't be ashamed of being a devoted **stan**.* (purewow.com)

Whether you're taking a quick study break, or **binge-watching** movies all weekend, there are tons of shows available for you to watch! (uwo.ca)

The best way to prevent **maskne** is by starting with proper mask hygiene. (nurx.com)

Though **screen time** is usually something parents try to limit, it might be the only way that you can get some time to work or cook dinner etc. (aig.ie)

Whether it's a weekend **staycation** or a tropical destination, Lisa's tips will have you covered. (dff.ie)

He became a **digital nomad**, traveling between Europe, Australia and the United States, setting up secure data systems for corporations, and banks. (hnn.us)

**Dark Web** is an encrypted network of websites and communities that exists outside of mainstream (bgr.in)

This article assumes that the victim of what she calls **gaslighting** are in a voluntary relationship with a partner. (eqi.org)

Years earlier, they had one night of passionate connection before he **ghosted** her (ktep.org)

"..., we found no differences in life satisfaction and limited differences in personality traits between **child-free** individuals and parents, not-yet-parents, or childless individuals," Zachary Neal said. (phys.org)

I was thinking, what's the opposite of **FOMO** that we see on main street? It's probably the "Joy of Being In"—**JOBI**. I checked with a lot of people, (pps.org)

More and more people agree that posting pictures of kids is not safe and may lead parents to the so-called **sharent** trap. (moms.com)

we wish Newcastle fans and their team well, but we remain deeply concerned about how our football clubs are being used for **sportswashing**. (amnesty.org.uk)

The exercise demonstrates one of the possible ways how to apply linguistic material available in linguistic corpora for didactic purposes.

Choose one of the new words which are stated below and fill in the gaps. Discuss their cultural and social connotations.

plastic footprint froyo child-free covidiot freeegans

1. These New Yorkers have money to buy food, but they think it's a good thing to dumpster dive for food that goes unsold and uneaten. They are called ----- and they save food from waste. (rt.com)

2. Grab this device to concoct your own ----- and ice cream from the comfort of your kitchen. (purewow.com)

3. ----- today are those who harass their neighbours for doing their job as doctors. (dailyo.in)

4. I have been trying different shampoo and conditioner bars for over a year as I am trying to lessen my ----- . (well.ca)

5. "..., we found no differences in life satisfaction and limited differences in personality traits between ----- individuals and parents, not-yet-parents, or childless individuals," Zachary Neal said. (phys.org)

There appear to be certain limitations of the preparation of corpus-based exercises: the number of words we could handle here is limited; our aim is to investigate a manageable amount of linguistic information that might be presented in the form of exercises. Moreover, we were forced to filter manually out the lexical forms that are not part of the searched expression paradigm.

## References

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