

## Lexical Collocations Used in the Selected Editorials of *The Daily Herald*

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### Abstract

This paper investigates the lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials from “*The Daily Herald*”. The objectives of the paper are to explore the lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials, to categorize them into seven types based on the theory of Benson et al. (2010) and to find out which types of lexical collocations are the most frequently used and which types are the least frequently used. Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English (2019) is used to analyse the data. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this research. The research shows that L3 (adjective + noun) is the most frequently used type and L6 (adverb + adjective) is the least frequently used type in “*The Daily Herald*”. It can be concluded that the writers use a number of lexical collocations in order to make their writing more effective and the use of lexical collocations can help the readers comprehend the editorials easily.

**Key Words:** collocations, lexical collocations, editorials

### Introduction

In the society, the people need to communicate with each other. At that time, language plays the vital role. Language is the organization of words or signs that people apply to convey the opinions and emotions to each other. The roles of language involve communication, the expression of identity, imaginative expression, and emotional release. Many linguists defined the language in different ways. Henry Sweet, an English phonetician and language scholar, stated “language is the expression of ideas by means of speech-sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences, this combination answering to that of ideas into thoughts.” There are many languages around the world. All of them, English is the international language and have been widely used in the world. Therefore, everyone needs to know about English language very well. Although English is not an official language in the most of the countries, it is currently taught as a second language around the world. Not only mastering the four skills, second language and foreign language learners have also to understand well about the language aspect and elements. Spoken and written are very important in the English language. As a result, most of the learners still face many difficulties in mastering English. Some problems are difficult to be overcome. However, one element to improve English skills is learning which words go with words also called collocations. In written texts, the meaning of a collocation is a sequence of words or terms that coexist more often than would be expected by chance. In spoken, collocation is a sub-type of phraseme. There are two types of collocation: grammatical collocations and lexical collocations. A grammatical

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collocation is a phrase that consists of a significant word (noun, adjective, verb) and a preposition or grammatical structure such as an infinitive or clause. In contrast, lexical collocations do not have a dominant word; they have structure such as the following: verb + noun, adjective + noun, noun + verb, noun + noun, adverb + adjective and adverb+ verb. According to the internet source, lexical collocations, basically, are combination of two or more words that made up of an entire unit of meaning which particular discourse communities repeatedly applied in spoken and written communication. To use a language, words are cooperated with other words to form phrases and words are put together into grammatical patterns to form clauses and sentences. Generally, the cooperation of words has been called collocation and its result has been called phraseology. Basically, the combination of words in grammatical patterns has been called colligation or complementation or construction or collocation. (Benson et al. 2010). Collocation is used in specific fields, like in science, business, entertainment, politics and technology even in the newspapers of the editorial sections. Editorials are meant to influence the public opinion, promote the critical thinking, and sometimes cause the people to take action on an issue and it may be supposed to reflect the opinion of the periodical. According to the theory of Benson et al. (2010), there are two kinds of collocations, even though this research paper only focuses on lexical collocations in the selected editorials of “*The Daily Herald*”. It is assumed that analyzing the lexical collocations used in the editorials can express the significance of the lexical collocations and the use of the lexical collocations can help the readers not only the lexical collocation usages but also to improve the writing and speaking skills by reading the editorials.

### **Aim and Objectives**

The aim of this paper is to investigate the lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials from “*The Daily Herald*”. The objectives of the paper are to explore the lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials, to categorize them into seven types based on the theory of Benson et al.(2010) and to find out which types of lexical collocations are the mostly used and which types are the least commonly used.

### **Literature Review**

This paper explores the lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials from “*The Daily Herald*”. In this research, the theory of Benson et al. (2010) is applied. To analyse the data, Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English (2019) is used.

### **A brief history of the “*The Daily Herald*”**

“*The Daily Herald*” is a daily newspaper and it located in Arlington Heights, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. The newspaper is delivered in the northern, northwestern and western suburbs of Chicago. It is the signature of *The Daily Herald* Media Group, and through the leading subsidiary of Paddock Publications. The paper founded in 1871 and was independently owned and passed by four generations of the Paddock family. The owner(s) of the newspaper are Paddock Publications

(Daily Herald Media Group). The publisher is Douglas K. Ray. There is an only editor, his name is John Lampinen. They all are native speakers. It is the third-largest newspaper in Illinois. The motto is, "Big Picture, Local Focus" as this newspaper consists of both international, national news and news around this country. In 2018, the Paddock family sold its stake in the paper to its employees through a profit-sharing plan.

*The Daily Herald* slogan is "To fear God, tell the truth, and make money."

### Theoretical Background

In classifying the lexical collocations, the following coding system is used.

**L1 = verb + noun (creation or activation verb)**

**L2 = verb + noun (eradication or nullification verb)**

**L3 = adjective + noun**

**L4 = noun + verb**

**L5 = noun of noun**

**L6 = adverb + adjective**

**L7 = verb + adverb**

Based on these patterns, lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials are tabulated.

#### L1

L1 collocation includes a verb (usually transitive) and a noun/pronoun (or prepositional phrase). Most L1 collocation contains a verb denoting creation and/or activation and a noun/pronoun. This type of lexical collocations is called CA collocations. The examples of collocations creation verbs are come to an agreement, make an impression, compose music, set a record, reach a verdict, inflict a wound. The examples of collocations that convey the concept of activation verbs are set an alarm, fly a kite, launch a missile, punch a time clock, spin a top, wind a watch.

In some cases, the same noun collocates with the creation verbs and with other activation verbs: establish a principle (= creation) — apply a principle (= activation); draw up a will (= creation) — execute a will (= activation).

Some verbs can have the meanings of creation and activation at the same time: call an alert, display bravery, hatch a conspiracy, impose an embargo, produce friction, inflict an injustice, offer opposition, pose a question, lay a smoke screen, put out a tracer, commit treason, issue a warning.

#### L2

L2 collocation comprises a verb (eradication and/or nullification) and a noun. Most L2 collocation contains a verb denoting eradication and nullification verbs and a noun. This type of eradication and nullification verbs and noun lexical combinations are called EN collocations. The

examples of EN collocations are: reject an appeal, lift a blockade, break a code, reverse a decision, dispel fear, squander a fortune, demolish (raze, tear down) a house, repeal a law, revoke a license, annul a marriage, suspend martial law, scrub (cancel) a mission, withdraw an offer, countermand an order, renege on a promise, crush (put down) resistance, break up a set (of china), rescind a tax, ease tension, quench one's thirst, denounce (abrogate) a treaty, exterminate vermin, override a veto, etc.

### **L3**

L3 collocation involves an adjective and a noun. One common pair of examples is strong tea (not \*mighty tea) and weak tea (not \*feeble tea). In many instances, more than one adjective (or more than one form of the same adjective) can collocate with the same noun: warm, warmest (not \*hot); kind, kindest; best (not \*good) regards. Other examples of L3 collocations are: reckless abandon, a chronic alcoholic, a pitched battle, a formidable challenge, a crushing defeat, a rough estimate, an implacable foe, a sweeping generalization, etc.

### **L4**

L4 collocation comprises a noun and verb; the verb labels an action characteristic of the person or thing designated by the noun: adjectives modify, alarms go off (ring, sound), bees buzz (sting, swarm), blizzards rage, blood circulates (clots, congeals, flows, runs), bombs explode (go off), etc.

### **L5**

L5 collocation points out the unit that is related with a noun. The structure of an L5 collocation is often noun<sub>1</sub> of noun<sub>2</sub>. Such collocations may show:

- a. the larger unit to which a single member belongs: a colony (swarm) of bees, a herd of buffalo, a pack of dogs, a bouquet of flowers, a pride of lions, a school of whales, etc.
- b. the specific, concrete, small unit of something larger, more general: a bit (piece, word) of advice, an article of clothing, an act of violence, etc.

### **L6**

L6 collocation comprises an adverb and an adjective. Some samples of L6 collocations are: deeply absorbed, strictly accurate, closely (intimately) acquainted, hopelessly addicted, sound asleep, keenly (very much) aware, etc.

### **L7**

L7 collocation involves of a verb and an adverb. Some samples of L7 collocations are: affect deeply, amuse thoroughly, anchor firmly, apologize humbly, appreciate sincerely, argue heatedly, etc.

## **Research Methodology**

This section consists of materials and methods, data collection, data analysis and data interpretation. The present research investigates the lexical collocations used in the five selected

editorials from *“The Daily Herald”*. The topics of the five selected editorials are “Our message to teens: be safe while driving this summer”, “May the Class of 2020 forever be kind”, “Hopeful signs in the war against pandemic”, “Despite health crisis, many local leaders focusing on long-term vision for suburbs” and “The sad loss of landmark suburban businesses”. In the editorial-1, there are 20 sentences. In the editorial-2, there are 37 sentences. In the editorial-3, there are 29 sentences. In the editorials-4 and 5, there are 21 and 28 sentences. According to the theory of Benson et al. (2010), there are two kinds of collocations, even though this research paper analyses only lexical collocation. First of all, the five selected editorials are studied by investigating sentence by sentence to find out the lexical collocations employed in the editorials. After that, the lexical collocations found in the five selected editorials are categorized into seven types according to the theory of Benson et al. (2010). To check the data, Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English (2019) is applied. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this research.

### Findings and Discussion

The present study attempts to investigate the use of different types of lexical collocations in the five selected editorials from *“The Daily Herald”*. Lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials are identified and classified into seven types based on the theory of Benson et al. (2010). To check the data, Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English (2019) is used.

**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage of Lexical Collocations found in the five selected editorials from *The Daily Herald***

Type	<i>The Daily Herald</i>	
	Frequency	Percentage
verb+ noun	24	24.74%
verb+ noun	6	6.19%
adjective+ noun	62	63.92%
noun+ verb	2	2.06%
noun of noun	2	2.06%
adverb+adjective	-	-
verb+ adverb	1	1.03%
Total	97	100%

L3 is the most frequent type and the percentage of this type is 63.92%. L1 is the second most frequent type and the percentage of this type is 24.74%. There is a big percentage gap between the most frequent type L3 and the second most frequent type L1. L6 is not found.

According to the theory of Benson et al. (2010), there are seven types of lexical collocation which are designated by L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, L6 and L7. Sample lexical collocations found in the five selected editorials are interpreted as follows:

1. "It has **disrupted** preparations and **plans** for **post-high school**, and it doused the pomp and circumstance of graduation". (Ed.1 S.3)

In this sentence, there are two lexical collocations. The eradication verb "disrupted" collocates the noun "preparations". (L2)

The adjective "post-high" is the collocator and the noun "school" is the base. (L3)

2. "For decades, they've **cut hair**, been lunchtime hangouts for **high school** kids, the go-to places for an inexpensive family meal". (Ed.5 S.2)

There are two lexical collocations in this sentence. The nullification verb "cut" is combined with the noun "hair". (L2)

The adjective "high" collocates the noun "school". (L3)

3. "Morrissey **accepted** an **offer** in March to **sell** the **property** to the village." (Ed.5 S.13)

There are two collocations in this sentence. The activation verb "accepted" is combined with the noun "offer". (L1)

The eradication verb "sell" collocates the noun "property". (L2)

4. "If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, **ulterior motives**". (Ed.2 S.26)

In this sentence, the adjective "ulterior" collocates the noun "motives". (L3)

5. "**Good question**". (Ed.4 S.11)

In this sentence, the adjective "good" collocates the noun "question". (L3)

6. "That **fate** has been **shared** by some other suburban favorites as the virus and stay-at-home orders have decimated sales this spring". (Ed.5 S.16)

In this sentence, the noun "fate" is combined with the verb "share". (L4)

7. "Our message to teens is simple: **heed** the **warnings** and be safe." (Ed.1 S.20)

The activation verb "heed" is combined with the noun "warnings". (L1)

8. "But I **have** a **feeling** as we get closer, there will be some." (Ed.5 S.10)

The eradication verb "have" collocates the noun "feeling". (L2)

9. "**A handful of entrepreneurs** are opening new restaurants." (Ed.5 S.24)

In (Editorial 5 Sentence 24), the collocation of noun of noun "a handful of entrepreneurs" is found. A noun handful (small unit) is associated with the noun entrepreneurs. (L5)

10. "Schaumburg has **undertaken** a detailed "pandemic recovery" **initiative** to **help businesses operate** safely and **profitably** as reopening expands and to encourage **public confidence** in patronizing them. (Ed.4 S.18)

The activation verb "undertaken" is combined with the noun "initiative". (L1)

The activation verb "help" collocates the noun "businesses". (L1)

The adverb “profitably” is the collocator and the verb “operate” is the base. (L7)

The adjective “public” is the collocator and the noun “confidence” is the base. (L3)

### Conclusion

This paper aims to study the lexical collocations used in the five selected editorials from *The Daily Herald*. According to the theory of Benson et al. (2010), there are seven types of lexical collocations. In order to classify the lexical collocations in each sentence in the five selected editorials, the theory of Benson et al. (2010) is used. To check these data, Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English (2019) is used.

In this research, 97 lexical collocations are used in “*The Daily Herald*”. In the five selected editorials from *The Daily Herald*, L3 (adjective + noun) is the most common type and its percentage is 63.92%. L1 (verb (creation or activation) + noun) is the second most frequent type and its percentage is 24.74%. L2 (verb (eradication or nullification) + noun) is the third most frequent type and the percentage is 6.19%. L4 (noun + verb) and L5 (noun of noun) are used 2 times and the percentage are 2.06%. L7 is 1.03% and used only 1 time. L6 (adverb + adjective) is not found.

In these editorials, by using a large number of L3 (adjective + noun) collocations, the writers can easily motivate and inform the readers about the COVID-19. In addition, the readers can see in their mind eyes and comprehend the editorials easily. According to the theory of Benson et al. (2010), L3 collocation (adjective+ noun) consists of an adjective and a noun. Sometimes nouns are used as adjectives. L3 adjective + noun collocation is the most frequent type in “*The Daily Herald*”. It may be because of the nature of the editorials as the editors share the knowledge and opinion motivating the readers and arousing them to take action. The use of adjective + noun lexical collocation can captivate the readers' attention. It can support the readers to get more information easily. If the writers do not use a large number of L3, the readers cannot understand the use of lexical collocations in the editorials and they are not attractive to read for the readers. Therefore, it is possible that adjective + noun lexical collocation is noticeably found in the selected editorials as the common concrete nouns and the common modifying adjectives are mainly used for the sake of conveying vivid messages to the readers. L6 adverb + adjective is not found in the five selected editorials from *The Daily Herald*.

It can also be seen that noun phrases and verb phrases are equally used in the newspaper. To use a language, words are combined with other words to form phrases and words are combined into grammatical patterns to form clauses and sentences. The knowledge of lexical collocation plays an important role because it can provide a good understanding of an editorial. It can be said that the knowledge of lexical collocation can help the readers to improve their speaking and writing skills.

Learning lexical collocation is one of the best ways to memorize new words. It is hoped that this research will also help the readers to know the usage of lexical collocations and how the words are combined in a particular way. It may be interesting to find out the collocations in the specific fields like economy, health, social, science, technology, surveys and Buddhist stories. The result is hoped to be effective for the learners to avoid the errors in the production of the word combination.

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