



THE POTENTIAL OF CORPUS-BASED TEACHING TECHNOLOGIES IN ENHANCING FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

Author: Pulatova Durдона Ravshanovna ¹

Affiliation: DSc researcher at Tashkent State Pedagogical University ¹

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the application of corpus-based teaching technologies in foreign language instruction. By leveraging advanced software and web-based tools such as AntConc, Sketch Engine, Voyant Tools, and SKELL, language teachers and learners can enhance professional communicative competence through authentic, data-driven language analysis. The study discusses the functions and advantages of widely used corpus tools, their relevance in language education, and their potential in developing linguistic and pedagogical skills among pre-service teachers.

Keywords: Corpus, corpus-based teaching, professional competence, communicative competence, language education technologies.

INTRODUCTION

In modern foreign language education, the need to teach learners real, contextual, and functional language is increasingly important. Traditional methods are gradually being complemented, or even replaced, by data-driven learning approaches. One such approach is **corpus-based teaching**, which uses authentic language data from digital corpora to provide learners with examples of how language is naturally used in various contexts.

A **corpus** is a large, organized collection of real language texts (written or spoken) that can be analyzed using specific tools to observe linguistic patterns. Corpus-based technologies allow educators to identify frequently used words, phrases, grammatical structures, and collocations. These insights are particularly valuable in helping students build **professional communicative competence**—the ability to use language effectively and appropriately in occupational and academic settings.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a descriptive-analytical approach to examine the functions, features, and pedagogical applications of key corpus-based tools. The tools explored includes:

Tool	Definition	Example Use
AntConc	A free desktop tool for analyzing corpus data (concordance, collocation, etc.)	Finding most frequent adjective-noun combinations in student essays.
Sketch Engine	A comprehensive corpus platform offering statistical and linguistic analysis.	Building a domain-specific corpus and analyzing technical terms.
SKELL	A simplified tool for learning, offering real sentence examples and collocations.	Discovering how 'develop' is used in context with similar verbs.
LeXTutor	A web-based suite for vocabulary profiling and word frequency analysis.	Evaluating text difficulty for English language learners.
Voyant Tools	A web tool for interactive text visualization including word clouds and concordance.	Visualizing common words in political speeches.
VersaText	A linguistic tool providing concordance, lexical profiling, and word frequency analysis.	Profiling vocabulary used in environmental science texts.
Leipzig Corpora	An academic corpus collection offering multilingual corpora with rich metadata.	Comparing usage of 'energy' in English and German news articles.

AntConc: A downloadable tool for Windows/Mac/Linux that allows users to analyze text data. It provides concordance lines, keyword dispersion analysis, n-gram identification, and collocation search. It supports both preloaded and user-imported corpora.

LeXTutor: A web-based platform that analyzes lexical information and identifies frequently used words. It also displays word frequency levels, prefix/suffix analysis, and overall text complexity.

VersaText: Offers three primary features—word clouds, concordance lines, and lexical profiling. It automatically identifies parts of speech and lemmas, enhancing grammatical and lexical analysis.

Sketch Engine: A powerful corpus analysis platform that can analyze hundreds of preloaded corpora or custom user-generated ones.

It provides statistical and graphical data such as:

LogDice: Measures collocation strength

Log-likelihood: Determines statistical significance of word combinations

MII3: Detects rare or domain-specific collocations

T-score: Identifies frequent and strong collocations

SKELL: A simplified version of Sketch Engine, designed for educational use. It provides authentic sentence examples, collocations, and semantically similar words for any given keyword.

Voyant Tools: A web-based text analysis suite that visualizes word frequency, word clouds, summaries, and collocation patterns all in one dashboard.

Leipzig Corpora Collection: Hosted by Leipzig University, it contains corpora in hundreds of languages and provides word networks, co-text examples, and semantic context exploration.

RESULTS

Analysis of these tools shows that they provide accessible, user-friendly interfaces that cater to both students and educators. These platforms enable the following:

Contextualized vocabulary learning

Real-time grammar pattern identification

Data-supported material design for ESP (English for Specific Purposes)

Development of analytical thinking and independent learning skills

Their application in teacher education programs helps pre-service teachers develop **professional competence** (subject knowledge + teaching skills) and **professional communicative competence**, particularly in academic writing, oral presentations, and classroom interaction.

DISCUSSION

Corpus technologies bridge the gap between theoretical linguistics and practical teaching. Tools like AntConc and Sketch Engine provide learners with exposure to authentic language use, allowing them to discover patterns and usage independently. This promotes autonomous learning and fosters a deeper understanding of language beyond textbook examples.

Moreover, professional communicative competence—which includes fluency, pragmatic awareness, and genre-specific communication—is better cultivated when learners engage with real language data. For instance, future teachers can analyze classroom discourse, academic articles, and lesson transcripts to build domain-specific vocabulary and register awareness.

The study also highlights that corpus-based approaches support reflective teaching. Teachers can analyze their own classroom language, adapt instruction based on corpus findings, and engage in continuous linguistic development.

CONCLUSION

The integration of corpus-based teaching technologies in language education significantly enhances both professional competence and communicative skills. The tools discussed provide practical, research-informed support for both students and educators, particularly in teacher training contexts. Future directions include embedding these tools into national curricula and offering training modules to maximize their pedagogical benefits.

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