

TASK 1: Titles

Below is a selection of references from an article on Singapore English (Wong 2004). Which of the titles do you think are too long? Why? And which are too short? Why?

Do you notice any other features in the structure and wording of these linguistics titles?

1. Be' al, Christine, 1992. **Did you have a good week-end? Or why there is no such thing as a simple question in cross-cultural encounters.**
2. Bell, Roger T., Ser, Larry Peng Quee, 1983. **'To-day la?' 'Tomorrow lah!'; the LA particle in Singapore English.**
3. Besemeres, Mary, Wierzbicka, Anna, 2003. **Pragmatics and cognition: the meaning of the particle 'lah' in Singapore English.**
4. Bloomfield, Leonard, 1935. **Language.**
5. Brown, Adam, 1999. **Singapore English in a Nutshell: An Alphabetical Description of Its Features.**
6. Foley, Joseph, 2001. **Is English a first or second language in Singapore?**
7. Gupta, Anthea Fraser, 1992. **The pragmatic particles of Singapore colloquial English.**
8. Gupta, Anthea Fraser, 1994. **The Step-Tongue: Children's English in Singapore.**
9. Ho, Chee Lick, 2001. **The cultural grounding of Singapore English.**
10. Ho, Mian-Lian, Platt, John T., 1993. **Dynamics of a Contact Continuum: Singaporean English.**
11. Kachru, Braj B., 1983. **Understanding non-native English texts.**
12. Kwan-Terry, Anna, 1978. **The meaning and the source of the "la" and the "what" particles in Singapore English.**
13. Kwan-Terry, Anna, 1992. **Towards a dictionary of Singapore English—issues relating to making entries for particles in Singapore English.**
14. Lee, Su Kim, 1998. **Manglish.**
15. Li, Charles N., Thompson, Sandra A., 1987. **Chinese: Dialect variations and language reform.**
16. Lim, Choon Yeoh, Wee, Lionel, 2001. **Reduplication in colloquial Singapore English.**
17. Loke, Kit-Ken, Low, Mei-Yin Johna, 1988. **A proposed descriptive framework for the pragmatic meanings of the particle la in colloquial Singaporean English.**
18. Lyons, John, 1995. **Linguistic Semantics: An Introduction..**
19. Mahbubani, Kishore, 2002. **Can Asians Think?**
20. Martin, Robert M., 1987. **The Meaning of Language.**
21. Newnham, Richard, 1987. **About Chinese.**
22. Noss, R.B. (Ed.), 1983. **Varieties of English in Southeast Asia.**
23. Ooi, Vincent (Ed.), 2001. **Evolving Identities: The English Language in Singapore and Malaysia.**
24. Pakir, Anne (Ed.), 1992. **Words in a Cultural Context.**
25. Platt, John, 1987. **Communicative functions of particles in Singapore English.**
26. Platt, John, Ho, Mian Lian, 1989. **Discourse particles in Singaporean English: substratum influences and universals.**
27. Richards, Jack C., Tay, Mary W. J., 1977. **The la particle in Singapore English.**

TASK 2: Identifying the parts of an abstract

Read the following abstracts and tick the features you can identify:

	Abstract 1	Abstract 2	Abstract 3	Abstract 4
A general statement	☐	☐	☐	☐
A thesis statement	☐	☐	☐	☐
Essential background information	☐	☐	☐	☐
The aims of the research	☐	☐	☐	☐
Identification of specific topic or subject area	☐	☐	☐	☐
A definition	☐	☐	☐	☐
Indications of the organisation of the text	☐	☐	☐	☐
Results of the research	☐	☐	☐	☐
Implications of the research	☐	☐	☐	☐
Application of the research in the real world	☐	☐	☐	☐

Abstract 1

Robert Boyle and the early Royal Society: a reciprocal exchange in the making of Baconian science

MICHAEL HUNTER <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=BJH>

This paper documents an important development in Robert Boyle's natural-philosophical method – his use from the 1660s onwards of 'heads' and 'inquiries' as a means of organizing his data, setting himself an agenda when studying a subject and soliciting information from others. Boyle acknowledged that he derived this approach from Francis Bacon, but he had not previously used it in his work, and the reason why it came to the fore when it did is not apparent from his printed and manuscript corpus. It is necessary to look beyond Boyle to his milieu for the cause, in this case to the influence on him of the Royal Society. Whereas the Royal Society in its early years is often seen as putting into practice a programme pioneered by Boyle, this crucial methodological change on his part seems rather to have been stimulated by the society's early concern for systematic data-collecting. In this connection, it is here shown that a key text, Boyle's influential 'General Heads for a Natural History of a Country, Great or small', published in Philosophical Transactions in 1666, represents more of a shared initiative between him and the society than has hitherto been appreciated.

Abstract 2

Assessment of Rabbit Spleen Size Using Ultrasonography

Y. Takeda, H. Asaoka, M. Ueno, F. Jimma, M. Hidaka, H. Shibusawa, K. Kaneda, A. R. Saniabadi, K. Hiraishi & N. Kashiwagi
Journal of Medical Veterinary Science: <http://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/jvms/-char/en>

Assessment of spleen size using the ultrasonography has become a standard practice in human. However, the assessment is not established method in experimental animals. To establish the index to assess the spleen size using ultrasonography, we measured the cross-section image of rabbit spleen during endotoxin shock. The image of the cross-section was appeared as triangle, and the height of the triangular image was defined as the spleen index. This spleen index showed strong correlation with the spleen weight. In conclusion, this method is suitable for observation of changes in rabbit spleen size and may reduce the number of rabbit in the longitudinal studies.

KEY WORDS: endotoxin shock, rabbit spleen, ultrasonography

Abstract 3

Friendship quality, body dissatisfaction, dieting and disordered eating in adolescent girls

Authors: Schutz, Helen K.; Paxton, Susan J.

British Journal of Clinical Psychology, 46(1) March 2007, pp. 67-83

Objectives. This study examined relationships between adolescent girls' body dissatisfaction and disordered eating, quality of same-sex peer relationships and beliefs about thinness in interpersonal relationships, before and after controlling for depression.

Design. Correlations between body image, eating and friendship variables were examined before and after controlling for depressive symptoms. Top and bottom quartiles on symptom variables were identified and analyses of variance, with and without depressive symptoms entered as a covariate, were used to compare scores between groups on friendship variables.

Methods. Grade 10 girls (N=324) completed self-report questionnaires.

Results. Consistent relationships were observed between body dissatisfaction and disordered eating, and negative friendship qualities (friend alienation, friend conflict), but not positive friendship qualities (friend communication, friend trust and peer acceptance). The strength of relationships with negative friendship qualities was reduced when depressive symptoms were taken into account. High and low symptom groups differed on perceived friend concern with weight and advantages of thinness in interpersonal relationships before and after controlling for depressive symptoms.

Conclusions. Results suggest the importance of addressing negative aspects of peer relationships, social anxieties and beliefs about the importance of thinness in the peer environment as well as depressive symptoms, in interventions for body dissatisfaction and eating problems.

Abstract 4

Bayesian analysis of human movement curves

A. K. S. Alshabani, I. L. Dryden, C. D. Litton and J. Richardson

Applied Statistics : <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/rssc/56/4>

We consider the Bayesian analysis of human movement data, where the subjects perform various reaching tasks. A set of markers is placed on each subject and a system of cameras records the three-dimensional Cartesian co-ordinates of the markers during the reaching movement. It is of interest to describe the mean and variability of the curves that are traced by the markers during one reaching movement, and to identify any differences due to covariates. We propose a methodology based on a hierarchical Bayesian model for the curves. An important part of the method is to obtain identifiable features of the movement so that different curves can be compared after temporal warping. We consider four landmarks and a set of equally spaced pseudolandmarks are located in between. We demonstrate that the algorithm works well in locating the landmarks, and shape analysis techniques are used to describe the posterior distribution of the mean curve. A feature of this type of data is that some parts of the movement data may be missing—the Bayesian methodology is easily adapted to cope with this situation.

TASK 3: write an abstract for an oral presentation

Think back to your tesi di laurea. Imagine that you have been asked to present it in English at a graduate students' conference. This task will help you write the 150-word abstract to accompany your talk.

1. Give your talk a working title; it can be the title of your thesis or something less specific.
2. Identify 3-5 keywords which define the main content of your talk:
3. Summarise the topic of your talk (thesis) **in one sentence** (8-15 words). This will be the first sentence (topic sentence) of your abstract:
4. Write one or two short sentences (total word length = 25) to answer each of these questions:
 - (i) Where does your topic fit within the subject as a whole, especially recent developments?
 - (ii) What did you study, research or analyse?
 - (iii) How did you carry out the study?
 - (iv) What did you find out?
 - (v) Why is it interesting?
5. Now re-write the sentences into a single paragraph. You will have to reduce the word length to stay under 150 words in total. Do this by...
 - (i) using pronouns to refer back to noun phrases or clauses
 - (ii) using abbreviations to re-state terminology
 - (iii) using information-rich language with 'dense' noun phrases and one-word verbs and adverbs.

Compare these three versions of the same sentence :

original text (22 words): Sampling of fluids in deep boreholes is challenging because of the necessity of minimizing external contamination and maintaining sample integrity during recovery.

condensed version (13 words): Deep-borehole fluid sampling necessitates minimizing external contamination and maintaining sample integrity during recovery.

expanded version (37 words): *The sampling of fluids in deep boreholes poses challenges to researchers for two principal reasons: the necessity of keeping external contamination to a minimum, and the crucial matter of maintaining the integrity of the sample during recovery.*

Real-time quadrupole mass spectrometer analysis of gas in borehole fluid samples acquired using the U-tube sampling methodology
Freifeld, B. M. & Trautz, R. C. **Geofluids**, Vol. 6, No. 3, August 2006 , pp. 217-224(8)
6. When you have completed your abstract, revise the title of your talk.
7. Check that you keywords you used at the beginning are still (all) relevant.

MODEL – Title, keyword, short abstract and long abstract

Decomposition and delexicalisation in learners' collocational (mis)behaviour

Corpus Linguistics 2007, Birmingham, 27-30 July 2007.

Keywords:

collocation, composition, delexicalisation, learner corpora, phraseology

50-word summary (for conference programme)

[1] **This paper** discusses **the cognitive and linguistic aspects of collocation and how these relate to learner collocation errors**. [2] Conventional collocations are (at least partially) delexicalised in native language use, but are **compositional** for most **learners**. [3] Decomposition can **distort** perceptions of markedness, and favour recourse to expressions **calqued** from the **L1**.

300 word abstract (for acceptance of presentation at conference)

This paper presents an ongoing study into **the cognitive and linguistic aspects of lexical collocation, and how these relate to collocation errors** in a corpus of learner English compiled by the author. *Although there is a growing body of research based on such data, very little attention is generally paid to the cognitive aspects which underlie lexical and collocational acquisition.*

For native speakers, meaning by collocation involves some degree of delexicalisation. Delexicalisation colludes in masking the arbitrariness of many collocations by detracting the speaker's attention from the fully salient meanings of the collocates: highly original expresses the extent of originality not its height. Learners, however, are more inclined to favour literal, compositional meaning, both in comprehension and production. When phraseological chunks are broken down into their component parts, there is a serious risk of their meaning being distorted, typically through over-literal interpretation.

*L2 collocations that do not correspond to L1 patterns are frequently avoided in learner writing, with **calqued L1 collocatons** taking their place. These show up as collocation errors because, being unconventional, they are read compositionally, and hence as semantically anomalous.*

This presentation discusses the pedagogical importance of comparing collocational patternings in L1 and L2, the need to account more satisfactorily for phraseological meanings in the vocabulary acquisition process. It argues the case in favour of developing more effective approaches to the teaching and learning of conventionalised, delexical language, in which collocational motivation is revisited from the non-native speaker's point of view.

Key:

Bold text is identical to shorter abstract.

Underlined text indicates paraphrase of shorter abstract.

Small text indicates additional details

Italic text indicates argumentation not present in shorter abstract

Full paper (5000 words) available:

http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/publications/CL2007/paper/170_Paper.pdf