Lexical relations

• The lexicon consists of certain units which are related to each other in several ways
• Not all relations are semantic in nature (e.g. sense relation: synonymy)
• Syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations can be found on all levels
  → paradigmatic: lexical choice
  → syntagmatic: different slots in a sentence

Syntagmatic vs. Paradigmatic

He can go tomorrow
She may come soon
I will ask next
You could sleep now

Syntagmatic relation - Collocation

“The choice of one word conditions the choice of the next, and of the next again. The item and the environment are ultimately not separable, or certainly not separable by present techniques.”


- Co-occurrence or syntagmatic combination of lexical items, independently of word class and syntactic structure

Collocation

• Mutual expectancy of words
• Research aim: to identify patterns of unusually high occurrence
• Ability of one word to predict the likelihood (greater than chance) of another word occurring
• Predictable across sentence boundaries

‘node’ = word of interest
‘collocate’ = word that co-occurs with the node

Collocation

• Syntagmatic incompatibility of lexemes → collocation restriction
• Collocational range: pattern of combinability of words
  e.g.: addle nice
• Grammatical collocation
The extend of collocation

- Corpus convention: four words to either side of the node
- Beyond this span → vast number of words that are not connected to the node compared to the few that are
  → Span determines what can be identified as collocates, not true typical distance between node and collocate

Collocation and directionality

- Relationship between node and collocate = asymmetrical
- Mutual expectancy of two words can be stronger/ weaker depending on collocational range and direction of expectancy
  e.g.: rancid → butter = stronger
  butter → rancid = weaker

Collocation and the mental lexicon

- Language users rely on collocations
- Necessary to function in language
- Difficulties for language learners
- Two kinds of co-occurrence:
  - Mental world of words
  - Co-occurrence in actual text (frequency)

Collocation and the mental lexicon

- Most common word association responses
  pepper, sugar, water, taste, sea,
  bitter, shaker, food, ocean, lake
- Top 49 collocates
  the, and, of, a, in, to, with, pepper, is, water, for,
  it, on, or, as, that, from, was, 1,1, he, you, be,
  are, by, into, ground, sugar, at, which, his,
  freshly, pinch, black, sea, have, not, this, add,
  taste, they, her, 2, but, lake, tps, then, them, all...

Collocation

- Conclusions as to which words keep company with the aid of computerized corpora
  → Greater than chance frequency → listed in dictionaries, taught in EFL
  → Lexical relations have practical influences, e.g. on dictionary making

Paradigmatic relations

- Polysemy and Homonymy

- students presentation