



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Philosophische Fakultät und  
Fachbereich Theologie



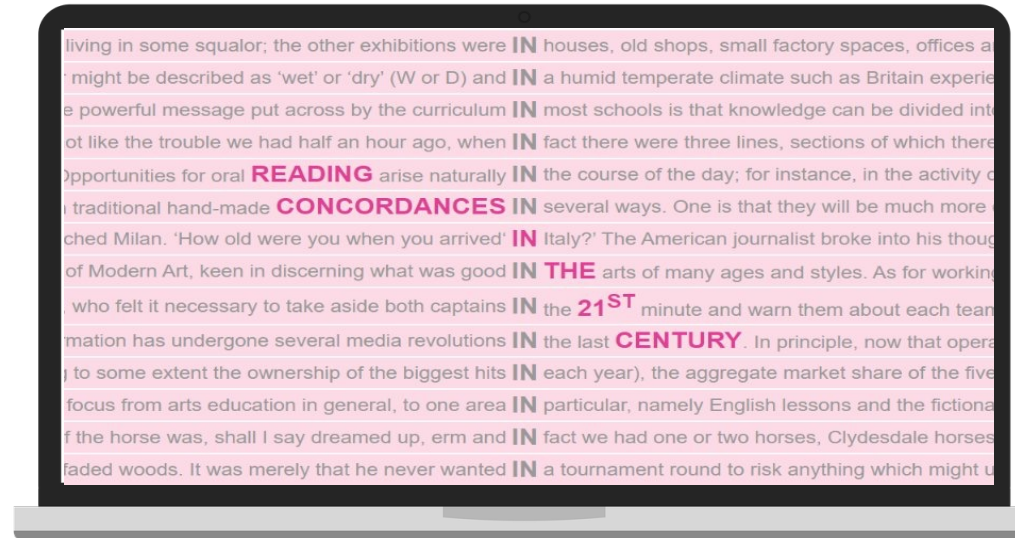
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1

# Reading Concordances:

a training course in key corpus linguistics methodology

## EESSLI 2025 | 4 – 8 Aug 2025

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**Reading Concordances in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (RC21) project team**  
Nathan Dykes • **Stephanie Evert** • **Michaela Mahlberg** • Alexander Piperski

# What we're going to look at

- What is a concordance?
- When do you use them?
- How can we make sense of concordances?

AGE ( 10 ) AIR

—Nay, forsooth, my friends,  
They that must weigh out my afflictions,  
They that my trust must grow to, live not here.  
*King Henry VIII. A. 3, S. 1.*

A G E.

— The sixth age shifts  
Into the lean and slipper'd pantaloons;  
With spectacles on nose, and pouch on side;  
And his big manly voice,  
Turning again towards childish treble, pipes  
And whistles in his sound.

*As you like it, A. 2, S. 7.*

A I R.

— When he speaks,  
The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,  
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,  
To steal his sweet and honey'd sentences.  
*Henry V. A. 1, S. 1.*

— Thou art

As glorious to this night, being o'er my head,  
As is a winged messenger of heaven  
Unto the white, up-turned wond'ring eyes

<sup>1</sup> ——— weigh out my afflictions.] This phrase is obscure. To weigh out, is, in modern language, to deliver by weight; but this sense cannot be here admitted. To weigh is likewise to deliberate upon, to consider with due attention. This may perhaps be meant. Or the phrase, to weigh out, may signify to counterbalance, to counteract with equal force. JOHNSON.

To weigh out, is the same as to outweigh. STEEVENS.  
I understand the passage thus: The Queen would insinuate that she is the child of affliction, as we would say; and that such she must be content to remain. She at the same time hints, however, that her friends, who in such a case would weigh out, or appropriate her afflictions, and who would consequently make them as easy and light as possible, were absent; and that she has nothing to hope for from the Cardinals, who would rather endeavour to heap misfortunes on her head.

A. B.  
Of

A I R ( 11 ) A I R

Of mortals, that fall back to gaze on him,  
When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds,  
And sails upon the bosom of the air.  
*Romeo, A. 2, S. 2.*

Look, as I blow this feather from my face,  
And as the air blows it to me again,  
Obeying with my wind when I do blow,  
And yielding to another when it blows,  
Commanded always by the greater gulf;  
Such is the lightness of you common men.

*Henry VI. P. 3, A. 3, S. 1.*

— You leaden messengers,  
That ride upon the violent speed of fire,  
Fly with false aim; move the still-piercing air,  
That sings with piercing.

*All's well that ends well, A. 3, S. 2.*

All those which were his fellows but of late,  
Follow his strides, his lobbies fill with tendance,  
Rain sacrificial whisperings in his ear,  
Make sacred even his stirrup, and through him  
Drink the free air.  
*Timon, A. 1, S. 1.*

<sup>1</sup> ——— move the still-piercing air,  
That sings with piercing.]

The words are here oddly shuffled into nonsense. We should read,

“—— pierce the still-moving air,  
“This sings with piercing.”

i. e. pierce the air, which is in perpetual motion, and suffers no injury by piercing. WARBURTON.

Perhaps we might better read, “The still-piercing air,” i. e. the air that clothes immediately. STEEVENS.

“Still-piercing air” is very harsh. The old copy reads, “Still peering air.”—Peering, I think, may have been printed in mistake for *steering*, and the words which immediately follow (“that sings with piercing”) somewhat strengthen my conjecture. “Pierce,” says Helena, “the air, that regards not your attack—that *steers*, that mocks, that laughs, in short, at your power, but do not touch Bertram.” A. B.

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Of

# Roberto Busa

November 28, 1913 – August 9,  
2011,  
an Italian Jesuit priest



CORPUS THOMISTICUM  
**INDEX THOMISTICUS**  
by Roberto Busa SJ and associates  
web edition by Eduardo Bernot and Enrique Alarcón  
English version

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**FOUND 829 CASES IN 514 PLACES**

1-10 ▾ 

**CASE 1. PLACE 1. Super Sent., pr.** [...]⁻⁴⁷ Inductio autem in gloriam notatur in hoc quod sequitur: *et inebriabo partus mei fructum*. Partus ipsius Christi sunt fideles Ecclesiae, quos suo labore quasi **mater** parturivit: de quo partu Isa. ult. 9: *numquid ego, qui alios parere facio, ipse non pariam? Dicit dominus*. [...]⁻⁵

**CASE 2. PLACE 2. Super Sent., lib. 1 d. 7 q. 1 a. 1 arg. 3.** Praeterea, omnis potentia vel est activa vel passiva. Sed in patre non est potentia passiva ad generandum filium, quia secundum eam magis diceretur **mater** quam pater. Nec est etiam in eo potentia activa; quia, secundum philosophum, potentia activa est principium transmutationis in aliud, secundum quod est aliud: unde potentia activa exigit materiam in quam agat. [...]⁻²

**CASE 3. PLACE 3. Super Sent., lib. 1 d. 13 q. 1 a. 4 expos.** Absit autem ut inter Deum patrem et Deum filium tale aliquid suspicemur. Sic enim processio spiritus sancti materialis videretur; quia pater se habet ad generationem ut principium activum, **mater** autem ut materiale, quia materiam ministrat. *Nescio*, scilicet per artem acquisitam: *non valeo*, per naturalem virtutem vel industriam: *non sufficio*, per defectum usus vel exercitii. [...]⁻²

**CASE 4. PLACE 4. Super Sent., lib. 1 d. 42 q. 2 a. 2 arg. 8.** Praeterea, sicut caecitas est contraria dispositio visioni, ita virginitas conceptui. Sed Deus fecit ut

# Josephine Miles

June 11, 1911 – May 12, 1985  
She was an American poet and literary critic; the first woman tenured in the English Department at the University of Berkeley.

Concordance of the poetical works of John Dryden.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29769097>



# John McHardy Sinclair

(14 June 1933 – 13  
March 2007)  
professor of Modern  
English Language at  
the University of  
Birmingham from 1965  
to 2000.



# A concordance ...

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Into the lens, but equally do not be **afraid** of photographing against the lig  
because health professionals were **afraid** to cross lines marking religious  
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# A concordance illustrates **patterns** of a word

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**afraid** /əfreɪd/

1 If you are **afraid** of someone or **afraid** to do something, you are frightened because you think that something very unpleasant is going to happen to you. □ *She did not seem at all afraid... I was afraid of the other boys... I'm still afraid to sleep in my own bedroom.*



ADJ-GRADED:  
v-link ADJ,  
oft ADJ of n,  
ADJ to-inf  
= frightened

2 If you are **afraid** for someone else, you are worried that something horrible is going to happen to them. □ *She's afraid for her family in Somalia.*

ADJ-GRADED:  
v-link ADJ,  
usu ADJ for n

3 If you are **afraid** that something unpleasant will happen, you are worried that it may happen and you want to avoid it. □ *I was afraid that nobody would believe me... The Government is afraid of losing the election...*

ADJ-GRADED:  
v-link ADJ,  
ADJ that,  
ADJ of -ing,  
ADJ to-inf

4 If you want to apologize to someone or to disagree with them in a polite way, you can say **I'm afraid**. [SPOKEN] □ *We don't have anything like that, I'm afraid... I'm afraid I can't help you... 'Bad news?'—'I'm afraid so.'*

PHRASE:  
PHR with cl,  
PHR that  
politeness

# A concordance ...

- Lists all the occurrences of a search term (the **node**) in a corpus
- Usually displayed as **kwic** = keyword in context
- Link between “distant reading” and “close reading” in DH

# Theoretical background

## Pattern Grammar

“a **pattern** is a phraseology frequently associated with (a sense of) a word, particularly in terms of the prepositions, groups, and clauses that follow the word.”

(Hunston & Francis 2000)

# Patterns of *afraid*

## v-link ADJ of

I was afraid of the other boys.

## v-link ADJ for

She's afraid for her family in Somalia.

### **afraid** /əfreɪd/

❶ If you are **afraid** of someone or **afraid** to do something, you are frightened because you think that something very unpleasant is going to happen to you. □ *She did not seem at all afraid... I was afraid of the other boys... I'm still afraid to sleep in my own bedroom.*

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PHRASE:  
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# The lexical item (Sinclair 2004, a republication, chapter 2 and 8)

- Core
  - Collocation
  - Colligation
  - Semantic preference
  - Semantic prosody
- 
- Famous examples: *naked eye*, *true feelings*, *budge*

<	agents too small to see with	the naked eye	, and so they much preferred the	-
<	Binaries that can be seen with	the naked eye	(very few of these) or through	>
<	our galaxy that you can see with	the naked eye	Now to expand our horizons: The	-
<	is like viewing the moon with	the naked eye	. You see a disk with some	>
<	of thing you could look at with	the naked eye	<↳ <CQ1> Would you like to	>
<	it is not really visible to	the naked eye	. <↳ About five years ago, a	>
<	cannot always be perceived by	the naked eye	and said, <CQ1> As I've gotten	>
<	even though nothing is visible to	the naked eye	. We should trust our patients	>
<	the opening is not visible to	the naked eye	. Typically, the closed	>
<	photoaging changes are visible to	the naked eye	.<↳ And even more disturbing	>
<	little rooftop house. Viewed with	the naked eye	, she was nothing more than a	>
<	is <FCH> visible <FCH> with	the naked eye	.<↳ While stroke path can be	>
<	outlets. These could be seen with	the naked eye	from a helicopter, and the water	-
<	human ovum is barely visible to	the naked eye	. The corpus luteum forms in the	-
<	small. it can easily be seen by	the naked eye	.<↳ The time of ovulation in	>
<	is large enough to be seen by	the naked eye	. The ovary still contains the	>
<	the surveyor's map. Invisible to	the naked eye	beneath a shroud of poison ivy,	-
<	to iris border. Invisible to	the naked eye	, the young borers work their	>
<	plants that you can see with	the naked eye	just as much as those for which	>
<	is almost invisible to	the naked eye	. For. as his newly curvaceous	>
<	by many besides those visible to	the naked eye	\ People from varied stations	>
<	which Parsons could not see with	the naked eye	&#321;with Parsons' only	>
<	a strip of water so wide	the naked eye	can barely see the far shore #	>
<	passage among them, visible to	the naked eye	. Time to settle down for a	>
<	muted one could look at it with	the naked eye	. The air smelled of summer's	>
<	like a wiggling speck of dust to	the naked eye	, like nothing more than dining	>
<	from the deck of his ship with	the naked eye	, these are very faint aren't	>
<	becomes immediately apparent to	the naked eye	. The opening of each envelope is	-
<	is the first supernova seen with	the naked eye	for nearly 400 years # The last	-
<	was the first to be seen with	the naked eye	for 400 years and is relatively	-
<	was the first to be seen with	the naked eye	for 400 years and is relatively	-
<	and sewage clearly visible to	the naked eye	. And the sewage is not only bad	-
<	to earth to be visible with	the naked eye	. That was almost four years	>
<	bright comet which was visible to	the naked eye	and passed extremely close to	>
<	than the faintest star visible to	the naked eye	on a dark night. The fourth	>
<	bright comet which was visible to	the naked eye	and passed extremely close to	>

to really let rip with their true feelings, only time will tell of being able to hide her true feelings. In public life they are going through and their true feelings. And anyway Don, you of our inability to mask our true feelings was unearthed by John leaves little doubt as to his true feelings. And as for Li Xiaohong, calm and composed, masking her true feelings. So her demeanour with accounts, has now conveyed his true feelings. We await the outcome as a cloak to disguise their true feelings. Deborah Bruce's poems we have watched her. No doubt her true feelings were emerging from what he may prefer to let his true feelings out in print. Today that - even if those were his true feelings. Instead he did something moist-eyed, and makes known her true feelings, what does Parker do to get a hint of Do Thi's true feelings but Caine and Frazer of being able to hide her true feelings. In public life they have to invade Iraq. Whatever his true feelings about the war, they are perhaps an indicator of his true feelings. FROM REED ORGAN TO Chapman's words revealed his true feelings towards his child's is meaningless.' Whatever his true feelings on the high- versus Kent last week let slip her true feelings about royal life when she marries him, but her true feelings are even displayed in the evidence of "Old Europe's" true feelings towards Britain when they speak the truth or reveal your true feelings because that's NOT the way to run. If he was disguising his true feelings he did it masterfully people being able to express their true feelings of rawness and to people in Chilean cities to express their true feelings about this fateful

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collocation

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collocation

colligation

semantic  
preference

semantic  
prosody

Will it always work?

coffee



1 ada McDonald's customer 'finds dead mouse in **coffee**' A McDonald's customer was not 'loving '  
2 alth & Families > Health News International **Coffee** Day: The health benefits of drinking  
3 TV Video Dating Offers Jobs Life & style **Coffee** Heavy coffee consumption increases death  
4 Here are the professions that drink the most **coffee** Journalists and police officers like to  
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6 d Drink News Is this really the world's best **coffee**? Taylors have launched what it claims is  
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8 tality Home» Health» Health News Two cups of **coffee** a day can harm fertility A study has  
9 Company Vitality Home» Health Five cups of **coffee** a day protect against tinnitus, study  
10 ve Bulletproof diet: protect your body with **coffee** and fats Lucy Fry tries out a new high  
12 sers rejoice: a French ruling means cheaper **coffee** capsules will soon be on the shelves.  
13 News Starbucks Chestnut Praline Latte: **Coffee** chain launches first new holiday drink  
14 lf Home» Men» Active» Men's Health Too much **coffee** damages fertility for men A chocolate  
15 travel all sections close Drugs Drinking **coffee** doesn't make you more alert,  
16 network Previous | Next | Index Zimbabwe's **coffee** farmers struggle amid global boom and  
17 ner zone What could help make the future of **coffee** farmers more sustainable? Fairtrade  
18 change adaptation takes root in Peruvian **coffee** farms With the support of Lidl and  
19 t of nerve Should you swap the milk in your **coffee** for a knob of butter? The 'fat white' is  
20 ink» Food and Drink Advice Five of the best **coffee** gadgets If you've taken the bold leap to  
21 e» News» Science» Space 'ISSpresso' space **coffee** machine to be delivered to International  
22 IndyBest > House & Garden 11 best capsule **coffee** machines Become a connoisseur with our  
23 hael Gove IndyBest > House & Garden 10 best **coffee** machines From velvety lattes to espresso  
24 D Offers Jobs Comment is free Why drinking **coffee** makes women full of beans Women who  
25 News NHS staff banned from drinking tea or **coffee** on the job because it looks like they're

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3 TV Video Dating Offers Jobs Life & style **Coffee** Heavy coffee consumption increases death

4 Here are the professions that drink the most **coffee** Journalists and police officers like to

5 d Drink Video How to make the perfect cup of **coffee** 'Master of Coffee' at Costa Coffee,

6 d Drink News Is this really the world's best **coffee**? Taylors have launched what it claims is

7 chael Gove News > Science Can't live without **coffee**? Your genes are to blame - new study

8 tality Home» Health» Health News Two cups of **coffee** a day can harm fertility A study has

9 Company Vitality Home» Health Five cups of **coffee** a day protect against tinnitus, study

10 ve Bulletproof diet: protect your body with **coffee** and fats Lucy Fry tries out a new high

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# Local textual functions (Mahlberg 2005)

- Local: a set of items / a set of texts
- Textual: more than lexico-grammatical patterning



## The word *fresh* in text-initial sentences of hard news reports (Mahlberg & O'Donnell 2008)

	<b>TISC</b> 6% of corpus	<b>PISC</b> 24% of corpus	<b>NISC</b> 37.1% of corpus
occs.	923	1074	1302
per million words	295.6	85.8	67.3

Home News section of *Guardian* (1998-2004; approx 52 million words)

# Collocates of *fresh* (R1)

## TISC

EVIDENCE	55
CONTROVERSY	41
ROW	41
EMBARRASSMENT	27
BLOW	25
ALLEGATIONS	20
PRESSURE	20
ATTEMPT	19
ROUND	17
CRISIS	16
START	16
AIR	15
ATTACK	13
DOUBTS	12
APPEAL	10

## NISC

START	82
AIR	57
FROM	41
EVIDENCE	33
WATER	30
AND	27
FRUIT	25
ELECTIONS	11
IN	11
RESOLUTION	11
FACED	10
MEAT	10
VEGETABLES	10
BLOOD	9
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# Local textual functions of *fresh*

(Mahlberg & O'Donnell 2008)

- *Ken Livingstone has provoked a fresh row with the motoring lobby ...*
- *The RUC was plunged into fresh controversy last night when ...*
- *Reform of the Lords will erupt into fresh controversy today when a minority ...*
- *THE BBC was facing fresh embarrassment last night when one of its most senior news presenters attacked managers for undermining television news coverage.*

FACE/SPARK	<i>fresh</i>	NOUN	ABOUT	TIME	AFTER
<i>be embroiled in</i>	<i>fresh</i>	<i>controversy</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>yesterday</i>	<i>when</i>
<i>be at the centre of</i>		<i>row</i>	<i>about</i>	<i>last night</i>	<i>as</i>
<i>be dealt</i>		<i>embarrassment</i>	<i>to</i>	<i>today</i>	
<i>ignite</i>		<i>blow</i>			
<i>heap on</i>					
<i>erupt</i>					



# How far can we go with the 'reading'?

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2002/nov/27/redbox/print>

## 'I thought the mike was switched off...'

[Matthew Tempest](#), political correspondent

[theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com), Wednesday 27 November 2002 13.58 GMT

# True feelings in text

## 7. Dr Richard Simpson

Few may have heard of the junior Labour minister at Holyrood with responsibility for the fire service, if he had not told dinner party guests his true feelings of the striking firefighters. He said of them: "These people aren't socialists, they're protectionists, they're fascists - the kind of people who supported Mussolini. We must not give in to these bastards." Despite insisting he was merely repeating other people's views on the dispute, Dr Simpson fell on his sword yesterday.

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## 1. President Bush

One of the highlights of the 2000 presidential campaign came when the then governor of Texas, George Bush, turned to his vice-presidential running mate Dick Cheney at a rally in Chicago, pointed out a reporter in the pack, presumed the microphone was switched off, and murmured: "There's Adam Clymer, a major league asshole from the New York Times."

"Oh yeah, he is, big time," Mr Cheney replied.

# Cohesion (Mahlberg 2006)

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2002/nov/27/redbox/print>

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"Oh yeah, he is, big time," Mr Cheney replied.

# Theoretical foundations

- Lexicogrammatical level:
  - Lexical item
  - Patterns (as in Pattern Grammar)
- Textual level
  - Local textual functions
  - Lexical Priming (Hoey 2005)



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- Mahlberg, M. (2006). Lexical cohesion: Corpus linguistic theory and its application in English language teaching. *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, 363–383. <https://doi.org/10.1075/ijcl.11.3.08mah>
- And here the link to an online tool that visualises collocational (red), colligational (green) and structural (blue) relations between words in a few examples. Choose a text at the top, then click your way through (cf. Stephanie's post on Discord)

<https://corpora.linguistik.uni-erlangen.de/experiments/LexicalPriming/>