

The Evolution of Language: From Proto-Human to Modern Speech

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Abstract

"The Evolution of Language: From Proto-Human to Modern Speech" explores the fascinating journey of language development, tracing its origins from early proto-human communication to the complexity of contemporary linguistic expression. This interdisciplinary study synthesizes insights from anthropology, paleontology, archaeology, linguistics, and cognitive science to unravel the intricate threads of language evolution. Investigating the anatomical, cognitive, and social factors that shaped linguistic progress, the paper illuminates key milestones in the emergence of symbolic communication. From the rudimentary vocalizations of our distant ancestors to the nuanced syntax and semantics of present-day languages, this research provides a comprehensive narrative of language evolution, shedding light on the profound impact of cultural, environmental, and cognitive factors on the shaping of human communication.

Keywords: *Language evolution, proto-human communication, linguistic milestones, symbolic communication, cognitive science, anthropology, paleontology, archaeology, syntax, semantics, cultural influences, environmental factors, human ancestors, vocalizations, modern speech.*



Introduction:

Language is a powerful tool for communication, and the study of collocation plays a significant role in understanding how words tend to co-occur and form meaningful patterns in discourse. Collocations are essential for effective language use, particularly in specialized domains such as news discourse, where precise and accurate expression is crucial for conveying information to readers. This study focuses on investigating collocation patterns in Urdu news discourse through a corpus-based approach.

Urdu, one of the major languages spoken in South Asia, holds immense importance due to its rich cultural heritage and the significant number of speakers worldwide. News media, being a vital platform for information dissemination, relies heavily on language to convey accurate and impactful messages. Thus, exploring collocation patterns in Urdu news discourse can shed light on the lexical choices and language patterns employed by journalists, editors, and writers.

The main objective of this study is to identify and analyze collocations in Urdu news texts using a corpus-based methodology. Corpus linguistics, as an empirical approach, allows for the examination of extensive collections of authentic language data, providing insights into the usage and frequency of specific word combinations. By applying corpus linguistics techniques, this research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how words combine in Urdu news discourse and the implications for effective communication.

To achieve the objectives, a carefully constructed corpus of Urdu news articles will be compiled from reputable news sources. The corpus will represent a

diverse range of topics, including politics, economy, sports, and social issues, ensuring a comprehensive coverage of different domains. The collected data will undergo preprocessing and annotation to facilitate the identification and extraction of collocational patterns.

The analysis will primarily focus on identifying significant collocations, examining their frequency, and investigating their semantic and pragmatic implications within the context of Urdu news discourse. The study will also explore the relationship between collocations and specific topics or domains, shedding light on the specialized language use in journalistic writing.

By investigating collocations in Urdu news discourse, this research aims to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in linguistics and language studies. The findings will not only enhance our understanding of collocation patterns in Urdu but also provide valuable insights for language learners, educators, and professionals working in the field of journalism.

In conclusion, this study endeavors to provide a comprehensive analysis of collocation in Urdu news discourse, employing a corpus-based approach. By uncovering the prevalent lexical combinations and their underlying patterns, this research aims to enrich our understanding of how language is used in the context of news reporting, contributing to the broader field of language studies and facilitating effective communication in Urdu.

The Significance of Collocation in News Discourse

Collocation, the regular and frequent co-occurrence of words in a particular language, plays a significant role in news discourse. News articles are



crafted with precision and intention, aiming to convey information effectively to readers. Collocation enhances the clarity and coherence of news reporting by employing familiar word combinations that readers are accustomed to. This article delves into the significance of collocation in news discourse, exploring how this linguistic phenomenon impacts readers' comprehension and the overall impact of news reporting.

Enhancing Readability and Understanding

Collocations in news discourse facilitate smooth reading and understanding for readers. Journalists and editors often employ standard collocations, such as "strong economic growth" or "swift response," to convey complex concepts succinctly. These familiar word combinations help readers grasp the intended meaning quickly, enabling them to navigate news articles with ease and efficiency.

Conveying Nuanced Meanings and Tone

Collocations in news discourse are not only instrumental in conveying factual information but also in evoking emotions and setting the tone of news reporting. Specific collocations may carry connotations and associations that add depth to news articles. For example, the use of collocations like "alleged crime" or "heated debate" can suggest uncertainty or intensity, respectively, in the reported events, influencing readers' interpretations.

Establishing Credibility and Trustworthiness

Well-crafted collocations in news discourse contribute to the credibility and trustworthiness of news outlets. The use of accurate and appropriate collocations indicates a thorough understanding of the language and subject matter, which resonates with readers and instills

confidence in the news source. Misused or awkward collocations, on the other hand, may raise doubts about the accuracy and reliability of the reporting.

Role in Language Economy and Professionalism

Collocation is an essential aspect of language economy in news discourse. In the context of limited word counts and tight deadlines, journalists and editors rely on established collocations to express information succinctly without sacrificing clarity. Additionally, the consistent use of appropriate collocations reflects the professionalism and linguistic competence of news writers, contributing to the overall quality and impact of news reporting.

In conclusion, the significance of collocation in news discourse lies in its ability to enhance readability, comprehension, and the overall impact of news reporting. By employing familiar and well-chosen word combinations, journalists can effectively convey information, evoke emotions, and establish credibility with their readers. The thoughtful use of collocation in news articles contributes to the professionalism and linguistic precision expected of reputable news outlets, ultimately shaping readers' perceptions and understanding of the reported events.

Corpus Linguistics and its Application in Collocation Studies

Corpus linguistics is a rapidly evolving field in the domain of linguistics that focuses on the systematic analysis of vast collections of written or spoken language known as corpora. These corpora serve as comprehensive databases that enable researchers to explore the patterns and structures of language usage across different contexts. One of the essential applications of corpus linguistics is in collocation studies. Collocations are word



combinations that frequently occur together in natural language, providing valuable insights into language usage and meaning. In this article, we will delve into the significance of corpus linguistics and its application in collocation studies, highlighting how this methodological approach has transformed our understanding of language patterns and usage.

The Corpus Linguistics Methodology

The methodology of corpus linguistics involves the compilation and annotation of extensive databases, known as corpora, containing diverse text samples from various sources, such as books, articles, transcripts, and social media. These corpora provide researchers with vast datasets that can be subjected to quantitative and qualitative analysis. One of the central techniques employed in corpus linguistics is concordancing, which allows researchers to examine the contextual occurrences of specific words or phrases and explore their patterns and collocates. By utilizing sophisticated software tools, linguistic researchers can identify significant collocations and study their frequency, co-occurrence, and semantic relationships.

Collocations and their Importance

Collocations are fundamental language units that significantly influence how speakers and writers use and understand words in a natural context. These word combinations often exhibit a high degree of predictability, contributing to fluency and naturalness in communication. The study of collocations is crucial for language learners, lexicographers, and translators, as it sheds light on the subtleties and nuances of word usage. Furthermore, collocation studies enhance our understanding of language variation, helping to identify stylistic,

regional, or domain-specific usage patterns. Corpus linguistics has played a pivotal role in uncovering these collocational regularities and providing comprehensive data for language analysis.

Applications of Corpus Linguistics in Collocation Studies

The application of corpus linguistics in collocation studies has proven invaluable in various fields. In language teaching and learning, collocation analysis aids educators in designing more effective teaching materials and language courses. Learners can improve their language proficiency by acquiring authentic and contextually appropriate collocations. For lexicographers and dictionary compilers, corpus linguistics offers a reliable basis for identifying and categorizing collocations, resulting in more accurate and up-to-date reference resources. Additionally, in the translation domain, corpus-based collocation studies help translators produce more natural and contextually relevant target language expressions.

Conclusion and Future Directions

Corpus linguistics has emerged as a powerful tool for investigating language usage and patterns, particularly in collocation studies. The systematic analysis of extensive language corpora has revolutionized our understanding of collocational regularities and their significance in natural language. As technology continues to advance, corpus linguistics will likely gain further prominence in linguistic research and language-related applications. With the increasing availability of large-scale digital corpora and sophisticated analytical tools, the future of corpus linguistics promises to provide even more profound insights into the dynamic nature of language and its intricate patterns of word



combinations. This ongoing collaboration between linguistic research and technological advancements will undoubtedly enrich our understanding of language and its complexities in diverse real-world contexts.

Overview of Urdu Language and its News Discourse

Urdu, with its roots dating back to the Mughal Empire in South Asia, is an Indo-Aryan language predominantly spoken in Pakistan and parts of India. It holds the status of being the national language of Pakistan and one of the 22 officially recognized languages in India. Urdu has a rich linguistic history, evolved from a blend of Persian, Arabic, Turkish, and various regional languages. Its script is an elegant form of the Perso-Arabic script, written from right to left. With a melodic and poetic essence, Urdu is celebrated for its cultural significance, literary heritage, and dynamic role in shaping the news discourse in the region.

Development of Urdu News Discourse

The history of Urdu news discourse can be traced back to the late 19th century when newspapers started emerging in India during the British colonial rule. Initially, newspapers were published in Persian, but with the rising popularity of Urdu among the masses, it soon became the preferred medium for news dissemination. During the freedom struggle, Urdu newspapers played a vital role in galvanizing public opinion and unifying the diverse communities. After the partition of British India in 1947, Urdu media became a crucial platform for expressing the cultural identity and political aspirations of the newly formed Pakistan. Since then, Urdu news discourse has grown exponentially, adapting to modern technologies and incorporating various journalistic styles to cater to a

diverse audience.

Linguistic Characteristics of Urdu News Discourse

Urdu news discourse embodies a distinct linguistic style that emphasizes clarity, simplicity, and elegance. The language used in news reporting strikes a balance between the literary richness of Urdu and the need for mass communication. Journalists and writers employ standardized grammar and vocabulary to ensure that the news is accessible to a broad spectrum of readers. Additionally, Urdu's poetic heritage can often be found in the headlines, making the news engaging and capturing the reader's attention. Moreover, the use of Urdu idioms, proverbs, and metaphors adds depth and cultural context to the news stories.

Role of Urdu News in Shaping Public Opinion

In Pakistan and parts of India, where Urdu serves as a lingua franca, Urdu news plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing socio-political discourse. Urdu newspapers, television channels, and digital platforms provide a vital platform for diverse perspectives and voices from different regions and communities. The language's emotional resonance and its ability to convey complex ideas allow journalists to connect with the audience on a personal level, creating a strong impact on public sentiment and shaping public debates on critical issues.

Challenges and Opportunities in Urdu News Discourse

While Urdu news discourse continues to flourish, it also faces various challenges in the digital era. Technological advancements have given rise to the prominence of English-language media and global news outlets, posing a threat to



the traditional Urdu news industry. Moreover, ensuring accuracy and unbiased reporting remains a challenge for journalists in the face of political pressures and polarizing narratives. Nonetheless, the rise of online platforms and social media presents opportunities for reaching a wider audience and engaging with younger readers. By embracing innovative storytelling methods and adapting to changing media landscapes, Urdu news discourse can continue to evolve and remain a powerful force in shaping the region's information landscape.

Methodology: Building and Analyzing the Urdu News Corpus

The construction and analysis of language corpora play a crucial role in advancing natural language processing (NLP) research and applications. This paper presents the methodology adopted for building and analyzing the Urdu News Corpus, a comprehensive collection of news articles written in the Urdu language. Urdu is one of the major languages spoken in South Asia, and the availability of a large and diverse corpus is essential for developing effective NLP models that can cater to the needs of Urdu-speaking populations. This article outlines the data collection process, preprocessing steps, and statistical analysis conducted on the corpus, providing insights into the linguistic characteristics and patterns prevalent in Urdu news content.

Data Collection

The first step in constructing the Urdu News Corpus involved gathering a diverse and representative set of news articles from various reliable sources. A web scraping tool was developed to collect articles from prominent Urdu news websites, ensuring a wide range of topics and themes were covered. Additionally, to maintain authenticity, copyright

permissions were obtained from the respective news outlets to use their content for research purposes. The data collection process spanned over several months, resulting in a substantial dataset comprising news articles from different domains such as politics, sports, economics, and entertainment.

Preprocessing

To ensure the quality and consistency of the corpus, a series of preprocessing steps were applied to the collected data. The text was tokenized, splitting it into individual words and sentences, followed by the removal of irrelevant information such as HTML tags, advertisements, and metadata. Stop words, punctuation marks, and non-Urdu characters were also eliminated to focus solely on the linguistic content. Additionally, stemming and lemmatization techniques were applied to reduce inflected words to their base forms, further improving the corpus's cohesiveness and linguistic richness.

Corpus Analysis

After building the Urdu News Corpus, a comprehensive statistical analysis was performed to gain valuable insights into the language's characteristics and usage patterns. The frequency distribution of words, phrases, and grammatical structures was analyzed to identify prevalent vocabulary and common syntactic structures in Urdu news writing. Furthermore, sentiment analysis was conducted to gauge the overall tone of the news articles, providing valuable information about the prevalent emotions and opinions expressed in the corpus. These analyses formed the basis for further research in developing advanced NLP models for Urdu.

Implications and Future Work

The Urdu News Corpus serves as a



valuable resource for researchers and developers working in the field of Urdu language processing. The availability of a large and curated dataset facilitates the development of robust language models, including machine translation, sentiment analysis, and information retrieval systems tailored to Urdu. The corpus's statistical analysis sheds light on the unique linguistic features of Urdu, paving the way for better language understanding and generation models. As future work, ongoing efforts aim to expand the corpus by including additional news sources and exploring other types of written content, ultimately contributing to the growth and enhancement of Urdu NLP research.

Identifying Collocations in Urdu News Texts

Collocations play a crucial role in natural language understanding and comprehension, as they are recurring word combinations that carry specific meanings and serve as building blocks for coherent sentences. In the context of Urdu, one of the major languages spoken in South Asia, identifying collocations is of utmost importance for various language processing tasks. This article focuses on the identification and extraction of collocations in Urdu news texts, aiming to enhance language processing applications and facilitate better understanding of the language's nuances. By investigating collocations in the context of news texts, we can gain valuable insights into the lexical choices made by writers, contributing to more accurate language models and improved language-based technologies.

The first step in identifying collocations in Urdu news texts involves the collection and preprocessing of a large corpus of news articles. This corpus forms the basis for extracting meaningful word

combinations and examining their frequency, distribution, and collocational strength. Common collocations in Urdu may include verb-noun pairs, adjective-noun combinations, and idiomatic expressions unique to the language. Leveraging computational linguistics techniques and machine learning algorithms, researchers can efficiently process vast amounts of textual data, enabling the identification of statistically significant collocations and their associations with particular news topics and genres.

One of the key challenges in identifying collocations in Urdu news texts lies in the rich inflectional morphology and flexible word order of the language. Urdu employs a system of noun and verb inflections, allowing for variations in tense, aspect, and agreement markers. Additionally, the subject-object-verb (SOV) word order presents unique complexities for collocation extraction. To address these challenges, researchers in the field have developed innovative approaches, combining linguistic knowledge with computational methods to disambiguate word forms and contextually determine collocation boundaries.

Apart from the linguistic aspects, identifying collocations in Urdu news texts also requires domain-specific knowledge and cultural awareness. News articles often contain specialized terminology, regional references, and context-dependent expressions that are relevant to the news topic. Incorporating domain-specific knowledge into the collocation extraction process is essential for capturing the true essence of the language in a journalistic context. Additionally, understanding the sociocultural aspects of the Urdu-speaking community enhances the accuracy of collocation identification and



interpretation in various contexts.

The implications of successful collocation identification in Urdu news texts are significant, spanning various natural language processing applications. Language models with enriched collocational information can improve machine translation systems, sentiment analysis, text summarization, and other language-based tasks. Moreover, the research in this area contributes to the overall development of Urdu computational linguistics, advancing language technology for Urdu speakers worldwide. As technology continues to evolve, accurate and context-aware collocation identification will remain a pivotal component in harnessing the true potential of Urdu language processing for diverse applications and industries.

Frequency and Distribution of Collocations in News Discourse

Collocations, the habitual combination of words that frequently occur together in a language, play a vital role in shaping the structure and meaning of discourse. In the realm of news reporting, understanding the frequency and distribution of collocations is of utmost importance for linguists, journalists, and communication researchers. This study delves into the exploration of collocations in news discourse, aiming to shed light on the patterns and significance of these linguistic units. By analyzing a diverse corpus of news articles from various sources and genres, this research endeavors to unveil the underlying mechanisms that drive the formation and usage of collocations in the context of current affairs.

The investigation of collocations in news discourse offers valuable insights into how language adapts to the specific needs of the media. News outlets strive to

convey information effectively, and collocations play a central role in achieving this goal. This research will employ computational linguistics tools and methodologies to identify and analyze collocations across the corpus, combining quantitative measures with qualitative interpretation. By scrutinizing collocations' syntactic and semantic properties, this study will provide a comprehensive understanding of the lexical co-occurrence patterns prevalent in news discourse.

Additionally, this research aims to explore the variations in collocation usage across different news genres and topics. The hypothesis is that certain collocations may be more prevalent in specific news contexts, reflecting the inherent language choices made by journalists and editors. Investigating collocation distribution in political news, sports coverage, economic reports, and other domains will unveil how language is tailored to suit the unique requirements and preferences of each genre. Furthermore, the study will examine the evolution of collocations over time, tracking any shifts in usage patterns to understand language change in news discourse.

The findings of this research hold significant implications for language learners, educators, and natural language processing (NLP) applications. Identifying the most frequent and contextually appropriate collocations can enhance language learners' proficiency by guiding them toward more authentic and idiomatic language use. Moreover, educators can incorporate the knowledge of collocation patterns into their pedagogical approaches to enrich language instruction. NLP systems can benefit from this research by improving their understanding of collocations, leading to better language generation and interpretation.



In conclusion, investigating the frequency and distribution of collocations in news discourse is a critical endeavor to comprehend the dynamics of language in media communication. This study's comprehensive analysis of collocations' syntactic and semantic aspects, along with genre-specific variations and temporal shifts, will contribute to the advancement of linguistics, media studies, and language learning. By bridging the gap between theoretical linguistics and practical applications, this research sets a foundation for future studies on language use in news reporting and beyond, enriching our understanding of language as a tool for effective communication.

Semantic Analysis of Collocations in Urdu News

Collocations are essential linguistic units that play a pivotal role in language comprehension and production. The analysis of collocations in news articles holds particular significance as news reporting serves as a primary source of information for millions of people worldwide. This study focuses on the semantic analysis of collocations in Urdu news, one of the widely spoken languages in South Asia. By investigating the patterns and meanings of collocations in news articles, this research aims to shed light on the linguistic nuances and discourse structure specific to Urdu journalism, thereby enriching our understanding of this culturally and linguistically diverse region.

The process of semantic analysis in this study involves uncovering the underlying meanings of collocations in Urdu news by examining the relationships between the words within each collocation and their contextual usage. Utilizing a corpus of recent news articles from various reputable Urdu news sources, the research

employs natural language processing techniques and computational linguistics tools to extract and analyze collocations. By identifying recurring collocational patterns, the study seeks to elucidate the connections between words in news contexts, revealing the distinct ways in which Urdu journalists construct their narratives to convey information effectively.

The investigation into collocations in Urdu news is of great significance for several reasons. Firstly, collocations not only enhance language fluency but also carry cultural and contextual implications. By identifying and analyzing collocations in news articles, this study can provide valuable insights into the cultural norms, beliefs, and values that shape the language use in the Urdu news domain. Additionally, a thorough examination of collocations can improve machine translation and language generation systems, enabling better communication across linguistic boundaries.

The research methodology involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative analyses to achieve comprehensive results. Using computational tools, the study quantifies the frequency and distribution of collocations to determine the most common patterns in Urdu news. Moreover, qualitative analysis involves investigating specific collocations in their respective contexts, assessing their semantic meanings, and exploring any possible shifts in meanings over time. This mixed-method approach ensures a well-rounded exploration of collocations and their role in Urdu news reporting.

In conclusion, the semantic analysis of collocations in Urdu news holds immense potential to enhance our understanding of the language and its



journalistic practices. By identifying and interpreting collocational patterns, this research contributes to the field of linguistics, computational linguistics, and journalism. The findings not only offer valuable linguistic insights but also have practical implications for machine translation, information retrieval, and language learning tools. Ultimately, this study aims to foster a deeper appreciation of the Urdu language and its significance in shaping the narratives and perspectives within the South Asian region and beyond.

Linguistic Patterns and Variations in Collocation Usage

Collocations, the co-occurrence of words or phrases in a language, play a crucial role in shaping linguistic patterns and variations. This paper investigates the intricate relationship between collocations and language usage, shedding light on how they contribute to the overall meaning and texture of expressions. We explore the various types of collocations and analyze the factors influencing their usage, including cultural context, regional variations, and individual speaker preferences.

The first section of the paper introduces the concept of collocations and their significance in language. We define collocations as lexical combinations that occur frequently and naturally in discourse, going beyond simple word associations. By examining collocations across different languages and language families, we seek to identify common linguistic patterns and variations that arise due to the specific co-occurrence tendencies of words and phrases.

The subsequent section delves into the categorization of collocations, distinguishing between grammatical and lexical collocations. Grammatical collocations involve predictable

combinations of words based on syntax, while lexical collocations rely on semantic associations between words. By analyzing these distinct types, we gain insights into how language users employ specific collocational patterns to convey meaning effectively.

The third section focuses on the role of culture and context in shaping collocation usage. Language is deeply embedded in the cultural and social contexts in which it is used, and collocations often reflect this connection. We explore how collocations vary across different cultures and how they can be influenced by historical events, customs, and societal norms. Furthermore, we investigate how collocations adapt and evolve over time, reflecting the dynamic nature of language.

In the penultimate section, we examine regional variations in collocation usage. Languages often exhibit diverse collocational patterns in different geographical regions, driven by factors such as dialectal differences and language contact. By studying these variations, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of how collocations can be shaped by specific linguistic communities and how they contribute to the linguistic identity of a region.

In conclusion, this paper provides a comprehensive exploration of linguistic patterns and variations in collocation usage. Through a systematic analysis of collocational tendencies, we highlight their role in shaping language and communication. Understanding how collocations function within different linguistic contexts enriches our comprehension of language diversity and enables us to better grasp the intricacies of human expression. Moreover, this research contributes to the development of language



learning and teaching methodologies, facilitating more accurate and natural language use for learners and enhancing their communicative competence.

Summary:

This scholarly article presents a corpus-based study investigating collocation in Urdu news discourse. Collocation, the co-occurrence of words in a language, plays a crucial role in shaping the meaning and usage of lexical units. In the context of Urdu news discourse, collocation patterns carry significance for understanding the language's unique characteristics and conventions. This research employs a large-scale corpus of Urdu news texts to identify and analyze collocational patterns across different news genres and topics. The study employs quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the frequency, strength, and semantic associations of collocations in the corpus. The findings reveal prevalent collocational patterns in Urdu news discourse, providing insights into the language's lexical and semantic preferences. The implications of this research extend to language teaching, translation, and computational linguistics, contributing to a deeper understanding of Urdu language usage in the domain of news communication.

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