

- **The corpus and the language teacher**

Ideal ally

When you ask a native speaker a language question, you get an answer of some sort. But imagine asking a thousand native speakers. This is what happens when you ask a corpus. Thousands of selected texts are searched instantly for uses of words and phrases of all sorts. And given the emphasis that current language education places on vocabulary, especially collocation and phrases, the corpus is an ideal ally.

Web access

Most corpora are easily accessible through the internet. This means that you log in to the website and enter your query. You then have to deal with the results. Fortunately, there are plenty of tools that help us process the great volumes of data that typically result.

Discovering language

For language teachers, whether native speaker, non-native speaker or anywhere along the continuum, checking the likelihood of language that students submit in writing tasks is extremely valuable. And this is just one of many applications of corpora. The data often shows us that even though some word combinations and structures are possible, there are alternatives which are much preferred. It is these more standard uses of the language that we want our students to employ in their normal language output.

Lively interaction

Of course, students themselves can interact with the language they find in corpora. For teachers and students interested in discovery learning and learner independence, consulting corpora is a great adventure.

- **Six training sessions**

As an adjunct event to the bi-annual Teaching and Language Corpora professional conference, a series of training sessions for language teaching practitioners is being offered. Each session will be run by language education professionals who use corpora in their work.

Hands-on training

From the participant's point of view, no previous experience with corpora is required. In the hands-on sessions, teachers and teacher trainers will be introduced to a variety of tools as well as to the application of corpora to language teaching. They offer ways into various aspects of corpus use by introducing essential concepts through the use of tools that are mainly free and available to all for use in class and out. Teachers will experience a great many practical activities related to the language element of language teaching. These are designed for working teachers to make life easier both for themselves and their learners. Furthermore, the activities are consistent with many modern language teaching practices.

Laboratory

Each session will take place in a lab and last approximately 2.5 hrs, spread across the 3 days of the conference.

Professional lectures

In addition to these six sessions, teachers are invited to the five keynote talks given by leading professionals in the world of teaching and language corpora.