UNIVERSITETET I OSLO

Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

**TAKE-HOME EXAM
2016/AUTUMN
2 pages**

ENG2153 – English Corpus Linguistics

3 days   **5–8 December 2016**

Your paper must be submitted in the folder "Eksamensinnlevering" (to be found in the Fronter "fellesrom") **by 11 a.m.** on the submission day. The folder will automatically close at this hour. Your paper must contain the following information:

- Candidate number (4 digits, which you find at StudentWeb), NOT your name
- Course code and course name
- Semester and year

Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text. All pages must be numbered.

Before submitting your paper, you must be sure that you are familiar with the University's rules regarding proper citing of sources.

Answer ALL questions.
Question 1 counts 20%, Question 2 20%, and Question 3 60% of your final mark.
Proper reference must be given to any source that has been used. Your answer should be around 10 standard pages. Pass marks are required on all three questions.

The British National Corpus (BNC*Web* cqp edition) and the Oslo Interactive English (OIE) Corpus are available through Fronter.

Question 1 (20%)
Discuss briefly TWO of the following points with reference to relevant literature on the subject. Illustrate with examples from the BNC or the OIE Corpus.

1. Concordance
2. Semantic prosody
3. Language variation and corpora
4. Applied linguistics and corpora

Question 2 (20%)
Define the concept of "corpus annotation", then discuss its advantages and/or disadvantages, drawing on insights from the syllabus texts as well as your own experience. Illustrate with examples from the BNC.

Question 3 (60%)
Perform a corpus study, using BNC*web* to answer questions (a)-(d) below. Your discussion should be written as a coherent text and should include examples from the corpus.

Many adjectives followed by *to* in English take either "a noun phrase complementation […] or verbal complementation. The verbal complement can be either infinitival […] or *to + ing*." (Lindquist 2009: 137). Examples (1)-(3) illustrate the three types of complementation, respectively.

1) … he has never been <u>accustomed to wealth</u> … (BNC CB2 1462) (**noun** (**phrase**))
2) Most people are <u>accustomed to follow</u> linguistic rules more or less slavishly … (BNC CGF 1148) (**infinitive**)
3) Pagans were <u>accustomed to using</u> temples as safe-deposits for their treasures. (BNC ADC 274) (***to + ing***)

a) Search for the three different types of complementation in BNC*Web*, using the following search strings:

   _AJ0 to _NN?
   _AJ0 to _V?I
   _AJ0 to _V?G

   Give an overview of the number of hits returned in each case: which pattern is the most/least frequent one?

b) Use the "Frequency list" function to establish which adjectives, nouns and verbs are most frequently used in each of the patterns. Give an overview of your findings and discuss them briefly with regard to (collocational/grammatical) characteristics of the individual patterns.

c) Focus on the two verbal complementation patterns, taking the frequency list of the *to + ing* pattern as your starting point. Identify some adjectives that have also been used with infinitival complementation, and give examples of their use in both patterns.

d) In cases where there is an overlap of adjectives, which verbal complement is the most prominent one? Finally, discuss to what extent the patterns express the same meaning. (NB! There may be instances of ambiguous/erroneous tagging.)