

i Information

University of Oslo

Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages

Spring 2022

ENG2153 – Analysing Real English

Disclosure of exam assignment: May 30 at 11:00

Submission deadline: June 2 at 11:00

Practical information about the examination

You will be answering the examination in a word processor (Word), and then upload your answers to Inspira as a PDF before the examination time is up.

NB: you should calculate at least 2-3 minutes to convert your answers from a Word document to a PDF-document, and to upload the PDF-document to Inspira.

The uploaded document will be automatically submitted when the time is up.

Please follow the link for more information regarding [converting to pdf](#).

After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

If you have technical problems, you must contact the exam coordinator immediately: studentinfo@ilos.uio.no

Requirements

Your paper must contain the following information:

- candidate number, NOT your name, your candidate number is available in Studentweb;
- 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. The pages must be numbered.

Your answer should be around 10 standard pages (a standard page consists of 2,300 characters). Pass marks are required on all three questions.

Sources and referencing

It is important that you familiarize yourself with [the rules for sources and referencing](#).

Using other people's material without declaring it properly may be considered as cheating or attempted cheating. The consequences of cheating or attempted cheating may be severe for you as a student, please follow the link for more [information](#).

1 Exam

Answer ALL THREE 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, XML edition) and the Oslo Interactive English (OIE) Corpus are available through Canvas.

Question 1 (20%)

Define and discuss briefly TWO of the following points with reference to relevant literature on the subject. Illustrate with examples from the BNC and/or the OIE Corpus.

1. Simile (and how to study simile on the basis of corpora)
2. Concordance lines (and why they are useful in language research)
3. The idiom principle
4. The importance of corpus design for linguistic studies

Question 2 (20%)

Discuss the pros and cons of using corpora in applied linguistics, illustrating your points with reference to at least two disciplines that are considered “applied” and with relevant examples from the BNC or the OIE Corpus.

Question 3 (60%)

Perform a corpus study, using the BNC (XML edition at Lancaster) to write a paper addressing the questions in (a)-(c) below. Your discussion should be written as a coherent text and should include examples from the corpus.

“In English, *likely* can either be an adjective meaning ‘probable’ [...] or an adverb meaning ‘probably’” (Lindquist & Levin 2018: 176).

- a. Against the backdrop of the above quote, investigate the use of *likely* in the BNC. Use the search string <likely> and investigate a random sample of 50 concordance lines. On the basis of these concordance lines, determine the proportion of adjective vs. adverb use of *likely*, and give an example of each use. Remember to scrutinise each concordance line carefully, in order to identify potential tagging mistakes and to disambiguate instances with a dual tag (e.g. <likely_AJ0-AV0>). Following your manual analysis, give an overview of your findings in a table, where you indicate frequency of use according to word class.
- b. Focus on *likely* as an adjective, searching for <likely_AJ0>. In a random sample of 30 concordance lines, analyse the context of the adjective *likely* to outline its typical uses, focusing on syntactic function (e.g. attributive vs. predicative function, complements, patterns in which it occurs, etc.).

- c. Then, perform a similar search for the near-synonym *probable* (<**probable_AJ0**>). On the basis of a random sample of 30 concordance lines, carry out the same kind of analysis as in (b) and compare your findings for *likely* and *probable*, discussing to what extent the two adjectives are used in similar contexts. Based on your findings, to what extent would you consider the adjectives *likely* and *probable* to be true synonyms?



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Maximum marks: 0