



TAKE-HOME EXAM
2014/AUTUMN
2 pages

ENG2153 – English Corpus Linguistics

3 days

1 – 4 December 2014

Your paper must be submitted in the folder “Eksamensinnlevering” (to be found in the Fronter “fellesrom”) **by 14.00 (2 p.m.)** on the submission day. The folder will automatically close at this hour. If you have technical problems, you must contact the exam coordinator immediately.

The first page of your paper must contain:

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

Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text. In the header you write your candidate number, course code and semester. All pages must be numbered.

When submitting your paper, you must confirm that you are familiar with the University’s rules regarding proper citing of sources. Make sure that you have enough time to read through the declaration.

Answer ALL questions.

Question 1 counts 20%, Question 2 30%, and Question 3 50% of your final mark.

Proper reference must be given to any source that has been used. Your answer should be around 10 standard pages.

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

- 1 Discuss briefly TWO of the following with reference to relevant literature on the subject. Illustrate with examples from the BNC.
 - a) Collocation
 - b) Probes
 - c) Pattern and meaning
 - d) Part-of-speech tagging

- 2 Search for **for *'s sake** in the OIE Corpus (make sure you include a space between **for** and **'** and between **'** and **sake**). This pattern can be said to perform at least two different functions. Use examples from the corpus to identify and illustrate these.

Search for the related pattern **for the sake of**. In what ways is this pattern different from, or similar to, the **for *'s sake** pattern, both in terms of form and meaning?

- 3 Perform a corpus study, using *BNCweb*, answering questions (a)-(d) below. Your discussion should be written as a piece of text and should include examples.
- a) Search the corpus to verify the statement that **NEED** can function as a noun, a lexical verb and a marginal modal. Give one corpus example of each of the three uses, and explain in each case why you have classified it as belonging to the relevant category.
 - b) Search for {need} and use the THIN function in the dropdown menu to the right and produce a random sample of 100. Classify the 100 concordances according to the three functions (noun, lexical verb, marginal modal), and discuss their distribution according to frequency.
 - c) Focus on the instances where **NEED** has been used as a lexical verb (among the random sample of 100). What complementation patterns do you find, and do they contribute to different patterns of meaning?
 - d) Finally, search for {need/N}. How do the overall frequencies match your findings/classification of *need* as noun in (b) (on the basis of the 100 concordance lines)?

The grades will be published within 3 weeks in StudentWeb.

For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the exam coordinator, Kristin Berstad (k.m.berstad@ilos.uio.no) within one week after the exam results have been published. Remember to include your candidate number. The examiner will decide whether to give a written or oral explanation.