Autonomous collocation error correction with a data-driven approach

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Learner Corpus Research Conference Bergen, September 27-29, 2013

Introduction: Collocations

What is a collocation?

phraseological unit W₁W₂

 W_1 = base selected according to its meaning

 W_2 = collocate whose selection is determined by the base

???

pouring rain, dense fog, fierce wind dense rain, fierce fog, pouring wind

Collocation learning and corpora

- a) learner corpus \rightarrow collocations are problematic
- b) native corpus -> collocation learning/teaching resource



Introduction: Corpora and error correction

Writing aids and NLP:

- learner writings can be checked against corpora

Benefits for L2/FL learning:

- DDL=data-driven learning
- authentic L2 input
- encourages inductive and autonomous learning

Introduction: The study

Context:

Development of an active collocation learning environment including a writing aid tool for learners of Spanish

Preliminaries:

Learner corpus derived typology of collocation errors (Alonso Ramos et al. 2010)

Aim:

Can learners autonomously correct collocation errors with the help of concordance lines? To what extent?

Outline

1. The study

- 2.1. Collocation error types
- 2.2. Research questions
- 2.3. Methodology

2. Results

- 3.1. General findings
- 3.2. Correction of specific error types
- 3.3. Evaluation of concordance lines as feedback
- 3.4. Enhancing concordance line feedback

3. Conclusions and future work

1. The study

1.1. Collocation error types

- Typology of collocation errors based on CEDEL2 (Lozano 2009)

1) Lexical collocation errors, e.g.:

Incorrect collocate: *capturar la atención instead of e.g. captar la

atención 'catch sb's attention

Synthesis: *misinterpretaciones instead of e.g. malas

interpretaciones 'wrong interpretations'

2) Grammatical collocation errors, e.g.:

Governed preposition: *montar una bicicleta instead of montar

en una bicicleta 'ride a bike'

Number: *dimos bienvenidas lit. 'we gave

welcomes' instad of dimos la bienvenida

'we gave a welcome'

1.2. Research questions

- 1) Can learners autonomously correct collocation errors with the help of concordance lines?
- 2) The correction of what error types poses more difficulty for the students when presented with the concordance lines?
- 3) What problems can learners have when dealing with concordance feedback?
- 4) How can concordance line feedback be improved in order to better assist students in the revision of collocation errors?

1.3. Methodology

Questionnaire

- 20 sentences from CEDEL2 (Lozano 2009) containing a collocation error
- Concordance lines: a) full sentences from esTenTen (Kilgarriff et al. 2004); b) Google Books n-grams

Tasks

- 1) propose a correction without any aid
- 2) propose a correction with the help of concordance lines

Participants

18 Spanish as a second language students working or studying in Spain at the time of the test

1.3. Methodology

 La hija está tratando de <u>capturar la atención</u> de su madre, pero es muy difícil porque la madre siempre trabaja.

La ingesta de líquidos es a lo que habitualmente prestamos menos atención.

Los niños sienten celos y los expresan a través de necesidades a las que los padres deben prestar atención.

Esta siempre ha sido la enfermedad que más me ha asombrado y que me ha <u>llamado</u> la <u>atención</u> de una forma especial.

Aquí os vamos a describir algunas opciones que nos han *llamado* la atención por sus cualidades.

Connelly atrae la atención y no deja que decaiga en ningún momento.

El otro día estaba comprándome libros en la librería y este me atrajo la atención .

Desarrollar una cierta habilidad para el coqueteo te puede ayudar a aprender a <u>captar</u> la <u>atención</u> e interés de las personas que te agradan.

Los niños suelen portarse mal para captar la atención de los padres.

Sample questionnaire item with full-sentence concordances

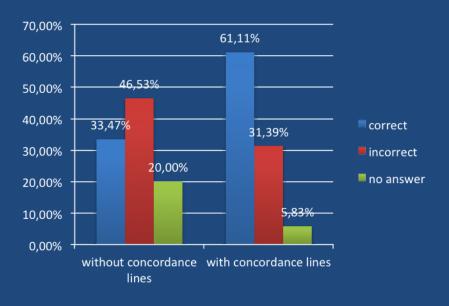
 La hija está tratando de <u>capturar la atención</u> de su madre, pero es muy difícil porque la madre siempre trabaja.

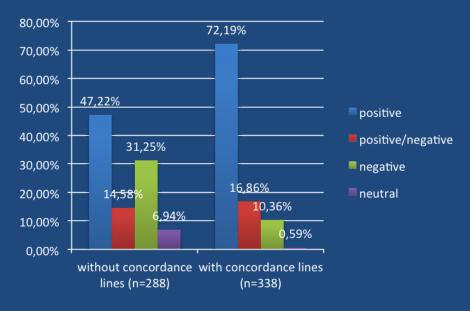
capten la atención de captar la atención y la para captar la atención de concentrado la atención de los concentra la atención de de concentrar la atención de capten la atención de los concitan la atención de los concitaban la atención de los captan la atención de los captan la atención de los

2. Results

2.1. General findings

- with concordance lines higher number of correct suggestions, while the number of incorrect suggestions, as well as questionnaire items left blank was lower
- more positive and postitive/negative changes and less negative and neutral or irrelevant changes with concordance lines



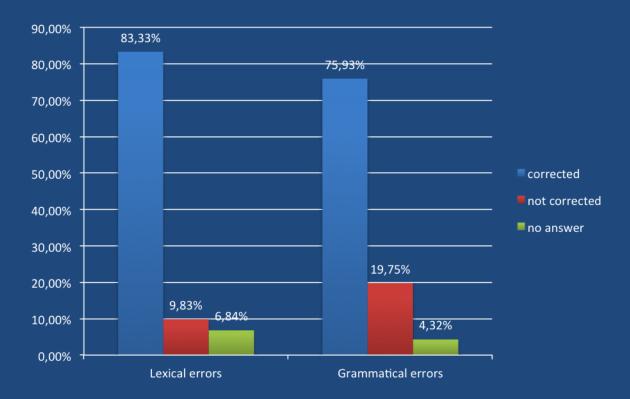


Total number of correct and incorrect suggestions, no answers provided or repeated answers (n=360)

Number of positive, positive/negative, negative and neutral changes

2.2. Correction of specific error types

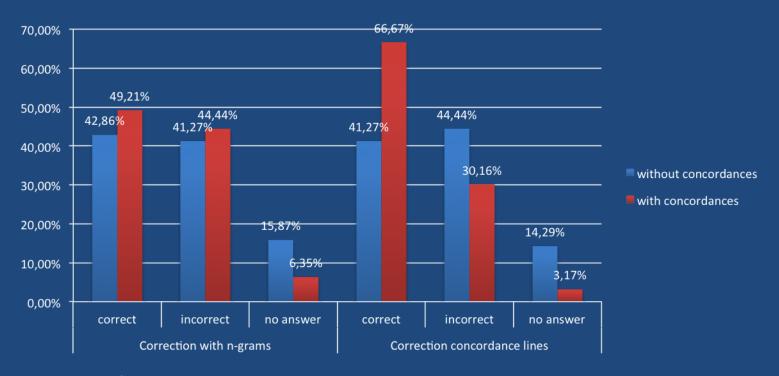
- Participants were more successful in correcting lexical collocation errors than grammatical errors
- More difficulty in noticing grammatical features



Participants' success in correcting different collocation error types with the help of concordance lines

2.3. Problems with concordance lines as feedback: comparing full-sentence and n-gram concordances

- full-sentence concordance lines are more effective: higher number of correct and lower number of incorrect answers



Number of correct, incorrect suggestions, no answers provided or repeated answers according to concordance type

1) New errors in participants' answers

a) non-concordance induced errors

Erroneous segment in original learner sentence	Erroneous correction suggestion	Expected correction
nos despedimos, y *gracias, y caminamos hacia el puerto	nos despedimos, y * <u>gracias a</u> <u>Dios</u> caminamos hacia el puerto	nos despedimos, y <u>les dimos</u> <u>gracias</u> , y caminamos hacia el puerto
lit. 'we said goodbye, <u>thanks</u> , and we started to walk towards the port'	'we said goodbye, and <u>thank</u> <u>God</u> we started to walk towards the port'	'we said goodbye, and <u>thanked</u> <u>them</u> , and started to walk towards the port'

1) New errors in participants' answers

- a) non-concordance induced errors
- b) meaning-related concordance-induced errors: probably due to lack of sufficient context

Erroneous segment in original learner sentence	Erroneous correction suggestion	Expected correction
Mi futuro no* <u>tiene limitades</u> .	Mi futuro no* <u>tiene limitaciones</u> .	Mi futuro no <u>tiene límites</u> .
'My future has no <u>limits</u> .'	lit. 'My future <u>has no limitations</u> .'	lit. 'My future <u>has no limits</u> .'

1) New errors in participants' answers

- a) non-concordance induced errors
- b) meaning-related concordance-induced errors: probably due to lack of sufficient context
- c) concordance-induced errors involving the inappropriate application of a pattern observed in the concordances

Erroneous segment in original learner sentence	Erroneous correction suggestion	Expected correction
* <u>La película se trata de</u> una mujer soltera, su hija y sus amigas	* <u>La película, que se trata de</u> una mujer solera, su hija y sus amigas	<u>La película trata de</u> una mujer solera, su hija y sus amigas
' <u>The film is about</u> a single woman, her daughter and her friends'	'The film, which is about a single woman, her daughter and her friends'	' <u>The film is about</u> a single woman, her daughter and her friends'

1) Negative changes in participants' answers

- a) non-concordance induced errors
- b) meaning-related concordance-induced errors: probably due to lack of sufficient context
- concordance-induced errors involving the inappropriate application of a pattern observed in the concordances

2) Incomplete correction of learner sentences

Erroneous segment in original learner sentence	Erroneous correction suggestion	Expected correction
y entonces * <u>encendió el fuego</u> <u>que quemó la casa</u> y los mató.	y entonces *prendió el fuego que quemó la casa	y entonces <u>prendió fuego a la</u> <u>casa</u>
lit. ' and then she lit the fire that burnt the house'	lit. ' and then <u>she set the fire that</u> <u>burnt the house</u>	lit. ' and then <u>she set fire to the</u> <u>house</u> '

3.4. Enhancing concordance line feedback

- grammatical errors are less salient in concordance lines
 - group concordance lines in order to emphasize patterns (similar to Wu et al. 2010)
- implicit nature of concordance feedback
 - Pro: promotes inductive learning
 - Con: participants do not always manage to identify the errors
 - should there be an explicit indication of errors?
 - multiple-step feedback: 1) only concordances, 2) additional aid
- concordance-induced errors due to lack of context
 - allow users to check wider context and more corpus examples if needed
- students might need information not provided by concordance lines
 - integration with dictionary (meaning related errors)
 - incorporate information on verb conjugation

3. Conclusions and future work

3. Conclusions

1) Can learners autonomously correct collocation errors with the help of concordance lines?

Yes, our study shows that concordance lines do have a favorable effect on learners' autonomous error correction

2) The correction of what error types poses more difficulty for the students when presented with the concordance lines? Grammatical collocation errors are less salient than lexical collocation errors.

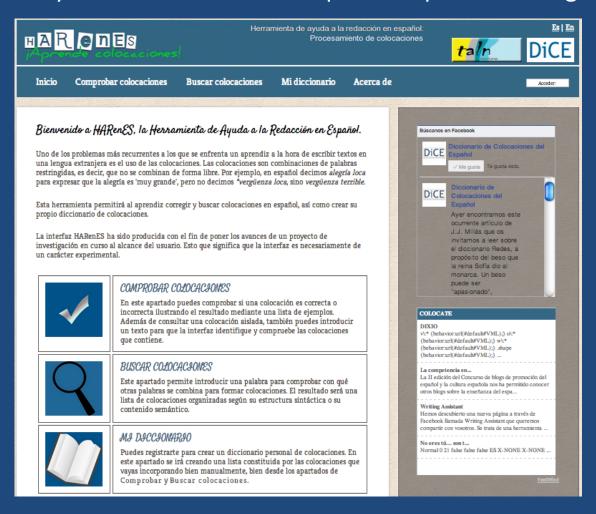
3. Conclusions

- 3) What problems can learners have when dealing with concordance feedback?
- -lack of context: identify/distinguish meanings
- -identification/noticing of error
- 4) How can concordance line feedback be improved in order to better assist students in the revision of collocation errors?
 - emphasize grammatical patterns in the presentation of concordances
 - allow more context
 - more explicit indication of error (optional)
 - integration with other language learning resources

3. Future work

HAREnEs prototype interface

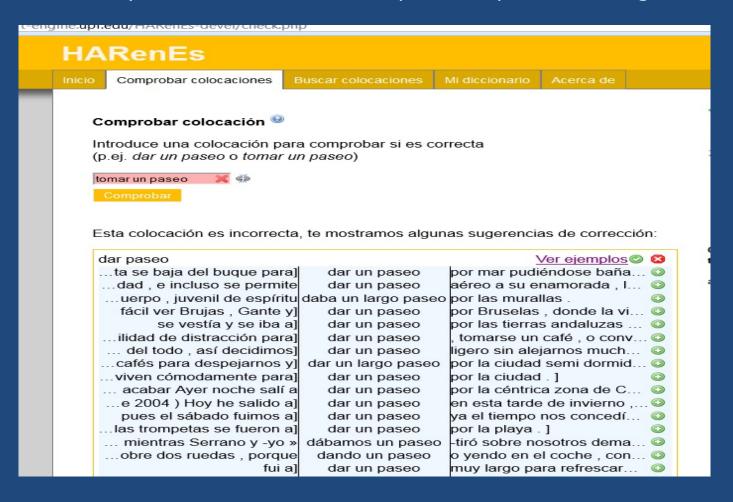
Herramienta de ayuda a la redacción en español = Spanish writing aid tool



3. Future work

HAREnEs prototype interface

Herramienta de ayuda a la redacción en español = Spanish writing aid tool



Thank you for your attention!

This research has been supported by Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad (FFI2011-30219-C02-01), and the FPU grant (AP2010-4334).