

Discourse-oriented corpus studies as critical lexicography

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Corpus linguistic approaches have been employed in both lexicography and critical discourse studies. However, the foci of these two areas seem to be treated as being unrelated. This paper will argue that discourse-oriented corpus studies (DOCS) can be usefully regarded as critical corpus-based lexicography, in that their foci and practices overlap to a large extent. The overwhelming proportion of the information that dictionaries provide relate to a lexeme's senses, connotations, and sense relations, with reference to the lexicogrammatical patterns of the lexeme. Similarly, a core analytical technique in DOCS is the corpus-based examination of the lexicogrammatical patterning of lexemes referring to particular *social actors* (van Leeuwen, 1996), that is, participants in social practices (e.g. persons, groups, institutions, companies, countries, religions, ideologies). DOCS examine the attributes of particular social actors, as well as the goals, states, and processes that are associated with them in discourse. In this light, the core aim of DOCS can be seen to be the creation of dictionary entries on particular social actors, as emerging from the context-informed critical interpretation of the lexicogrammatical patterns of related lexemes in a corpus. It must be noted that *critical* is used here in the sense of adopting a questioning, evidence-based approach (e.g. Peters et al., 2006), while also focusing on "the relationship between language and social phenomena" (Chilton, 2012: 1), rather than adhering to particular sociopolitical or critical theories (see Fjørtoft, 2013). The paper is motivated by early DOCS that incorporated a lexicographical approach (Krishnamurthy, 1996; Gabrielatos & Baker, 2008).

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