

Comparing useful words in second language adult learners' writings with BNC wordlist: A prototype approach

Abstract

This research focusses on the preliminary investigation of vocabulary knowledge on teachers undergoing the Teacher Graduate Programme (PPG) in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). By conducting this research it is possible to determine whether these teachers are familiar with the same set of words listed in BNC therefore have sufficient vocabulary knowledge which they most probably impart to their students. Forty-four adult students were asked to write an English essay based on the topic given by the teacher. Soft copies of their essays were compiled and converted to .txt files which were then transferred and analyzed using the Simple Concordance Program 4.0.9 List of words in BNC (refer rank frequency order cited in ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/bncfreq/flists.html, Oct. 23, 2014) and list of words based on frequency gathered from the essays of the PPG students were then compared. It is found that the adult students' competence in using words that are common in BNC wordlist.