Recontextualization of the Words "Distance" and "Distancing" During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

COVID-19 is a plague that has become a pandemic for the world. Necessary, many researchers who conduct research to understand about COVID-19, both medical and other scientific disciplines such as language science. The purpose of this study is to find out whether there is a contextualization of the words DISTANCE and DISTANCING with SOCIAL kolokat. For this reason, the mixed method is used to obtain coherent results. The results of this study indicate that the T-score of DISTANCING 16.1 and DISTANCE -14. This shows that the word SOCIAL is more commonly used with the word DISTANCING in corpora. The second finding is a re-contextualization of the word DISTANCING in the negative direction.

Introduction

This study aims to show the differences in function and/or meaning of a text or word in a context that cannot be seen clearly when using only one linguistic discipline. To that end, this study uses a linguistic corpus and critical discourse studies to show the subtle differences between collocations and the meanings of texts. Corpus linguistics is described as the study of language based on the 'real language' of everyday life[1]. Of course this understanding is not enough to know the purpose of the linguistic corpus. A linguistic corpus is a large data collection in the form of text (or part of a text) that is stored online and can be accessed with the aim of knowing linguistic rules if needed in a linguistic research. With the existence of various types of corpus that exist today, it makes it easier for language researchers to uncover various kinds of linguistic significance that previously could not be seen from a theoretical perspective of linguistics. Therefore, corpus linguistics can be considered as a methodology that has a wide range of applications in language studies

[1] McEnery, T., & Wilson, A. Corpus Linguistics. (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 2001)

because it can be used in various areas and existing theories of language[2]. This can be achieved because the linguistic corpus can focus on researching a specific keyword or collocation. The keyword itself is a lexical component which indicates that a word appears more often than other words in a text [3]. These keywords can be extracted using a variety of software such as the Sketch Engine which has the ability to search for these keywords in a context.

The meaning of a word cannot be separated from the situation (context) of the use of that word. The use of a word in a context of circumstances can produce a discourse that is different from what the literal meaning of the word is. Often the meaning of a word or phrase can change depending on how and under what circumstances it is said. This cannot be separated from the existence of social and cultural relations to the meaning of a word or phrase. So, our understanding of language is not only about understanding the meaning of each word, but also understanding the form of word combinations and cultural understanding of these words. Changes in the meaning of a word in a context cannot be separated from collocation. Collocation is a repeated relationship between at least two lexical items in a direct syntactic arrangement[4]. Of course, knowing the meaning in a collocation requires not only an understanding of the words that make up the collocation and the culture in which the collocation is used, but requires a scientific point of view such as semantics. In addition, time also plays an important role in understanding the meaning contained because a word or collocation can change meaning depending on the time and context at that time. Therefore, recontextualization of the meaning of a collocation is the main topic of this study.

Recontextualization is a process of extracting words, signs or meanings from their original context and re-using them in different contexts. Due to its use in different contexts, there are changes in the definition and meaning of the word[5]. Previously, there was research on the recontextualization of a word by Salama (2011) which focused on ideology in collocation and recontextualization in Wahhabism after the 9/11 incident. This research seeks to find out changes in ideology and the meaning of the words WAHHABI, WAHHAB'S, and SAUDI. The results of this study indicate that collocation can be a micro

[2] McEnery, T., Xiao, R., & Tono, Y. Corpus-based Language Studies: An Advanced Resource Book. (New York: Routledge. 2006)
[3] Stubbs, M. Words and Phrases: Corpus Studies of Lexical Semantics. (Oxford: Blackwell.2001)
[4] Bartsch, S. Structural and Functional Properties of Collocations in English: A Corpus Study of Lexical and Pragmatic Constraints on Lexical Co-occurrence. (Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag. 2004)
[5] Connolly, J. H. Recontextualisation, Resemiotisation and Their Analysis in Terms of An FDG-Based Framework. Pragmatics, 24(2), 2015 377-397

part of the formation of an ideology in text and non-text which can result in ideological recontextualization in social practice.

This study aims to determine the recontextualization of the word DISTANCE in the COVID-19 corpus. This is done to find out whether there is a change in the meaning of the word DISTANCE in certain collocations. By using the word DISTANCE in a certain context and having different collocations during this pandemic, the researcher aims to find out the recontextualization of this word and its collocations.

Method

This study is a synergy study between corpus linguistics and word recontextualization. Corpus linguistics is used as a tool to obtain and collect sample data to be used as data analysis. Furthermore, the data that has been obtained will be analyzed using the recontextualization method by Linell[6]. To obtain relevant research results, this research uses mixed methods involving quantitative methods as well as qualitative methods. Creswell explains that mixed methods is an approach used to provide a more comprehensive understanding[7].

This study uses the Sketch Engine as the main tool to process the corpus and uses the COVID-19 corpus as the main corpus in this study. Sketch Engine is a corpus processing tool that has the ability to analyze text along with collocations to find out the use of keywords in a context. While the COVID-19 corpus is an open access corpus which is part of the COVID-19 Open Research Dataset (CORD-19). This corpus contains medical texts from various scientific articles that aim to help researchers research the novel coronavirus. Sketch Engine is used to find the frequency of the words DISTANCE and DISTANCE along with the collocations that these words have. The data taken is data that appears in the period 2019 from July to December and 2020 from January to May. After obtaining a sample of data from that time span, the data will be analyzed using the recontextualization method proposed by Linell.

To obtain comprehensive data results, the data samples that have been obtained will be calculated for the observed frequency and expected frequency values before the data are compared. Afterwards, the data that has been obtained will be studied using

[6] Linell, P. Discourse Across Boundaries: On Recontectualizations and The Blending of Voices in Professional Discourse. TEXT and Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Discourse. 1998
[7] Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. (New York: SAGE Publications.2017)

recontextualization theory. Based on the previous explanation, there are several stages carried out in this study which are as follows:

a. Collect DISTANCE and DISTANCING data,

b. Calculating the T-score of DISTANCE and DISTANCING, followed by comparing the value of α (p-value),

c. Associate the results obtained with the theory of recontextualization

Findings and Discussion

The keywords in this study are the words DISTANCE and DISTANCING using the collocations -5 and +5. In the 2019 data, the number of observed frequencies is 489 from DISTANCE and 15 from DISTANCE. In this data, 0 co-occurrences were found for the words SOCIAL with DISTANCE and 14 co-occurrences for the words DISTANCING. Furthermore, data for 2020 shows an observed frequency of 1588 from DISTANCE and 1267 from DISTANCE. There were 98 co-occurrences for the words SOCIAL and DISTANCE. As for DISTANCING, there were 1112 co-occurrences for the word SOCIAL.

Table1. Observed Frequency 2019

	Distance (2019)	Distancing (2019)	Total
Social	0	14	14
Non-Social	489	1	490
Total	489	15	504

Table2. Observed Frequency 2020

	Distance (2020)	Distancing (2020)	Total
Social	98	1112	1210
Non-Social	1490	155	1645
Total	1588	1267	2855

Furthermore, to strengthen the data from the observed frequency, the expected frequency is needed in this study (Brezina, 2018). Then the expected frequency can be obtained through the following formula:

$$\text{Expected frequency of collocation} = \frac{\text{Node frequency} \times \text{collocate frequency}}{\text{no. of token in text of corpus}}$$

Table3. Expected Frequency 2019

Expected Frequency	Dependent Variable		Total
	Value 1	Value2	R1

Independent Variable	Value 1	13.5	0.4	
	Value 2	475.4	14.5	R2
Total				

Table4. Expected Frequency 2020

Expected Frequency		Dependent Variable		Total
		Value 1	Value2	
Independent Variable	Value 1	673	536.9	R1
	Value 2	914.9	730	R2
Total				

After getting the observed frequency and expected frequency, to find out the keywords that have the most colloquialism with the word SOCIAL, the T-score value is needed to find out. The T-score can be determined using the following formula:

$$t = \frac{O11 - E11}{\sqrt{O11}}$$

Table5. T-score & MI

	Distance (2019)	Distancing (2019)	Distance (2020)	Distancing (2020)
T-score	-	3.5	-14.4	16.1
MI	-	-9.3	-15.6	-7.8

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that the word SOCIAL is a colloquial that is more often met with the keyword DISTANCE than the keyword DISTANCE. In the 2019 data, the word SOCIAL is not found in collocation with the word DISTANCE. This makes the T-score and MI of the word SOCIAL with DISTANCE null due to no data. On

the other hand, the T-score of SOCIAL with DISTANCING is 3.5. In 2020 data, the T-score and MI of DISTANCING are higher than DISTANCE with values of 16.1 and -14.4 and -7.8 and -15.6 respectively. Based on these data, it can be concluded that both in 2019 and 2020 the word SOCIAL is more often associated with the word DISTANCING than the word DISTANCE. The difference in frequency between the two is quite high when looking at the T-score and MI values.

DISTANCE representation

As shown in table 6 below, the word DISTANCE does not have co-occurrence with the word SOCIAL in 2019. The word DISTANCE has more co-occurrence with words other than SOCIAL such as pairwise, long, genetic, phylogentic, and travel. These words have a neutral context for the word DISTANCE.

Table6. Collocates of DISTANCE in 2019

	Collocate	Cooccurrences	T-score	MI
DISTANCE (total freq. 489)	pairwise	22	4.69	16.5
	long	41	6.4	14.98
	genetic	51	7.14	14.55
	phylogenetic	27	5.2	14.81
	travel	21	4.58	14.88

Concordance in Figure 1 shows that the word DISTANCE more often has collocations with words that are neutral and do not carry a particular ideology. If these words are accompanied by the word DISTANCE, they do not indicate a significant change in context in their use in sentences. The collocation for the word DISTANCE is more neutral than positive or negative.

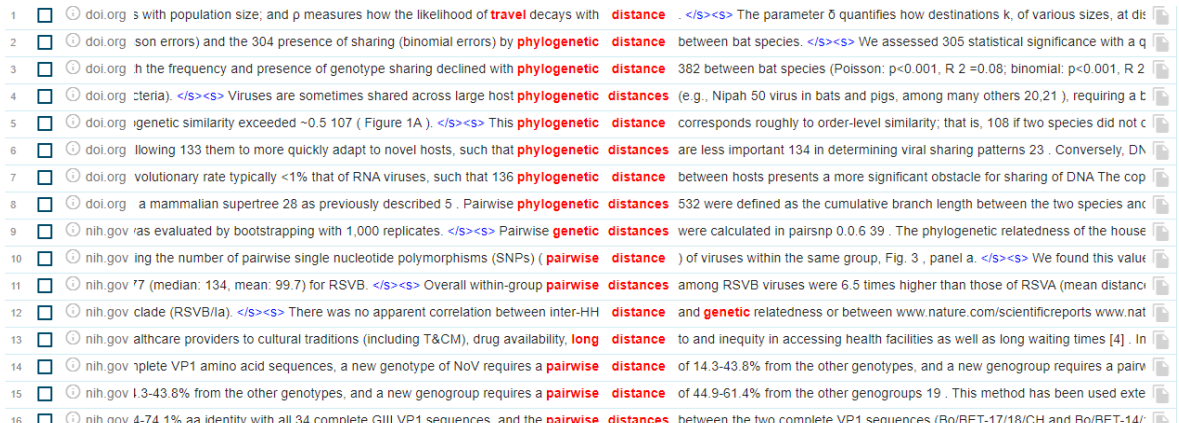

Figure1. Concordance of DISTANCE in 2019

Based on the example in Figure 1, the word DISTANCE is often the article for another word as words indicating distance would be appropriate. As in the context in line 1, where the word DISTANCE is colloquial with the word TRAVEL. The word DISTANCE shows that distance will affect something to decay when on a journey. This sentence has no positive or negative meaning. The collocation that occurs provides a neutral context to the reader because there are no circumstances or negative effects from the words that are juxtaposed with each other.

Meanwhile, the collocations found in pairs with the word DISTANCE in the 2020 data show that the synonyms related to the word DISTANCE have a neutral context. The collocation that occurs with the word DISTANCE shows that the word is often used in neutral sentence contexts. So as not to give a negative or positive impression to the reader. This can be seen from the table which shows the colloquialisms for the word DISTANCE below:

Table7. Collocates of DISTANCE in 2020

	Collocate	Cooccurrences	T-score	MI
DISTANCE (total freq. 1588)	interpersonal	64	8	16.87
	pairwise	39	6.24	14.94
	social	93	9.64	12.28
	attitude	24	4.9	14
	weighted	22	4.69	14.46

In order to find out the use of collocations in table 7, it is necessary to know the concordance of the kolokat with the word DISTANCE. Based on figure 2, it can be concluded that colloquialisms that are side by side with the word DISTANCE have neutral sentence contexts. The colloquialism does not show any change in contextual meaning in its use with the word DISTANCE.

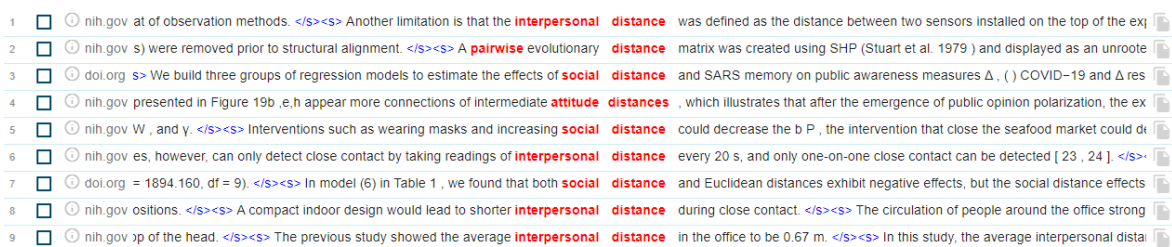

Figure2. Concordance of DISTANCE in 2020

In Figure 2, it can be seen that the use of colloquialisms found with the word DISTANCE shows that the word does not change the contextual meaning of the word DISTANCE itself. This also shows that the word DISTANCE, when carried with the colloquial in table 7, has a neutral connotation. However, there are several uses in contexts that have positive meanings as in line 12. In that context "pairwise distance" has a positive context because the concordance indicates that there is a pairwise distance to determine a virus.

DISTANCING representation

To find out the contextual function of the DISTANCING keyword, it is necessary to have colloquialisms that appear together with the keyword. Based on table 8 which is below, it can be concluded that the word DISTANCING is more often met or appears simultaneously with the SOCIAL cholokat than with other kolokats.

Table8. Collocates of DISTANCING in 2019

	Collocate	Cooccurrences	T-score	MI
	closing	4	2	21.84

DISTANCING (total freq. 19)	social	14	3.74	18.71
	measures	9	3	17.26
	evaluate	3	1.75	16.23

Based on the table above, it can be concluded that in the 2019 data with 19 appearances, the word DISTANCE appears together with the word SOCIAL. This shows that the word DISTANCING is most often associated with the word SOCIAL compared to other colloquial words. To find out the meaning and contextual use of the collocations DISTANCING and SOCIAL, the contextual use can be seen in Figure 3 below:

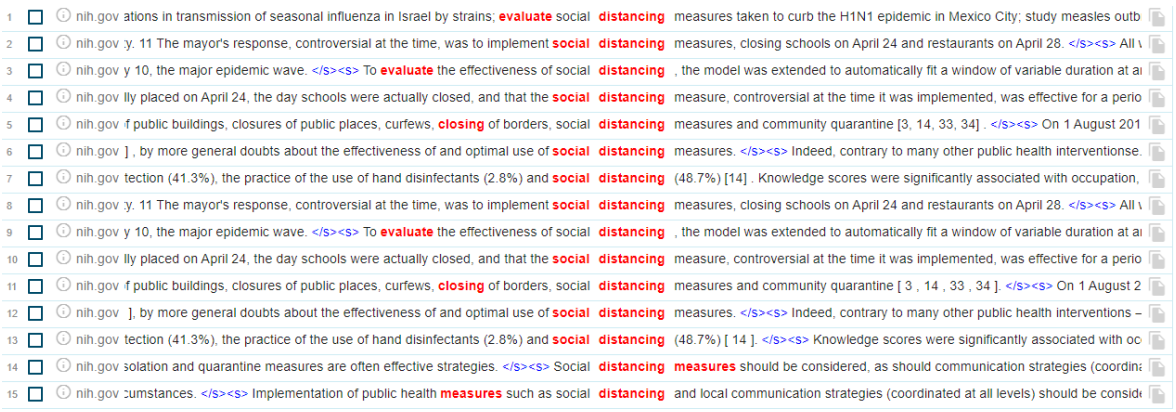

Figure3. Concordance of DISTANCE in 2019

The word DISTANCING has the most association with the word SOCIAL. This shows that the keyword often appears together with the word SOCIAL. The context that the collocation of these two words has is a positive context because it has the meaning of suggesting social distancing for the common good. The purpose of the SOCIAL DISTANCING collocation is to urge the public to keep their distance within social groups, both in carrying out activities outside the home and other activities that involve gathering large numbers of people to break the chain of spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data for 2020 for the keyword DISTANCING itself shows that there has been a significant increase in the use of the word DISTANCING with the word SOCIAL. The data can be seen in table 9 below:

Table9. Collocates of DISTANCING in 2020

	Collocate	Cooccurrences	T-score	MI
DISTANCING (total freq. 1267)	social	1112	33.35	16.06
	measures	294	17.15	13.84
	interventions	109	10.44	13.95
	physical	48	6.93	13.65

Based on the table above, the word DISTANCING has a high association with the word social. Based on these data, the word DISTANCING met with the word SOCIAL in 1112 out of 1267 occurrences in the COVID-19 corpus. This shows that the word DISTANCING is often paired with the word SOCIAL in its use in a sentence context.

Figure4. Concordance of DISTANCE in 2020

In its use in sentences, the collocation of the words between SOCIAL and DISTANCING creates a negative context in 2020. This is because the context of this sentence has a change in meaning because it shows a recommendation to adopt an attitude of self-awareness about oneself and the environment which, if not adhered to, will lead to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, the collocation of the word SOCIAL DISTANCING in 2020 has a negative context.

DISCUSSION

There are 2 important points in this study; 1) the word DISTANCE, both in the 2019 and 2020 data, has fewer co-occurrences for the word SOCIAL compared to DISTANCING. This shows that the word SOCIAL has less contextual significance to the word DISTANCE but has contextual significance to the word DISTANCE. 2) There is a recontextualization of the word DISTANCING when it is juxtaposed with the word SOCIAL.

Linell (1998), describes that there are three different levels of recontextualization. The first level is intratextual recontextualization; recontextualization that occurs in the same text, discourse or conversation. The second level is intertextual recontextualization; recontextualization that occurs between elements of words, signs or meanings. The last recontextualization is interdiscursive recontextualization; recontextualization that occurs in different types of discourse, more abstract and less specific. The recontextualization that occurs in this study is the third type of recontextualization because recontextualization occurs between discourses and is less specific but still has changes.

Conclussions

From the findings above, there are two main findings in this study. The first finding is that the word DISTANCE is rarely associated with the word SOCIAL. The collocation that occurred between the two only occurred in 2020 and did not occur in 2019. As for the word DISTANCING, the word is highly associated with the colloquial SOCIAL and also has a high co-occurrence. The second finding is that the collocation between the words SOCIAL and DISTANCING produces a recontextualization of the word DISTANCING.

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