

A Corpus-Based Comparison of the English Tests of Two Major College Entrance Examinations in Taiwan

Maosheng Hung^{1*} Yi-Hsien Chin²

^{1*}Assistant Professor, Department of Applied English, Ming Chuan University

²Graduate Student, Department of Applied English, Ming Chuan University

Abstract

This study was a corpus-based comparison of the English tests of two major college entrance examinations in Taiwan (i.e., the General Scholastic Ability Test and the Advanced Subjects Test) in terms of their frequency words and word forms of the frequency words. Two corpora based on the English sections of the GSAT and the AST (from 2002 to 2011) were built for analysis. The results obtained via a program called AntConc demonstrated the following similarities. First, the top six most frequently occurring words in both exams were the same: *the*, *to*, *of*, *in*, *and*, and *is*. Second, plural nouns appeared more often than their counterparts (i.e., the singular form of the nouns). Third, *what* was more frequently used in interrogative sentences whereas *when*, *who*, *how*, and *where* were more often utilized in declarative sentences. Regarding the distribution of the word forms of the content words derived from the most frequently occurring 200 words in both tests, the grammatical category of verb had the most occurrences, followed by the category of noun, adverb, and adjective.

Keywords: GSAT, AST, corpus, frequent words, word forms

*Corresponding author : Department of Applied English, Ming Chuan University, 5 De-Ming Rd., Gwei-Shan Township, Taoyuan 333, Taiwan, ROC
Tel: +886-3-3507001
E-mail:allergy86@yahoo.com.tw

以語料庫之觀念來比較台灣兩大大學入學考試之 英文科試題

洪茂盛^{1*} 金怡嫻²

^{1*}銘傳大學應用英語系助理教授

²銘傳大學應用英語系碩士

摘 要

本研究旨在透過語料庫之概念及相關電腦軟體(AntConc)從所出現之高頻率單字與這些單字之字形(詞類)之方面來比較台灣兩大大學入學考試(即大學學科能力測驗與大學指定科目考試)之英文科試題。研究資料來源為西元 2002 年到西元 2011 年間所實施之大學學測及指考之英文科試卷。研究結果顯示這兩大入學考試之英文科測試的用字有許多相似處。例如：其最常出現的字彙前六名皆為 the, to, of, in, and 及 is。複數名詞比其對應之單數名詞更常出現在測試中。5W1H 中的 what 比較常被使用在疑問句中，而其他像 when, who, how 及 where 則較常出現在陳述句中。至於最常發生的前 200 個字彙中之實字(content words)詞類分佈比例方面，兩大考試都顯示以動詞出現的次數最多，其次依序為名詞、副詞及形容詞。

關鍵詞：大學學科能力測驗、大學指定科目考試、語料庫、頻率字、詞類

*聯繫作者：銘傳大學應用英語學系。桃園縣龜山鄉德明路 5 號。

Tel: +886-3-3507001

E-mail: allergy86@yahoo.com.tw

