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RESEARCH PAPER

Stance-Modal and Semi-Modal Verbs: A Corpus-Based Study

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the role of linguistic components in the chosen corpus in respect of written and spoken English. The main objective was to investigate the effectiveness in addressing and corpus-based examination of modal, semi-modal verbs, and stance adverbs. This is a way to better understand the proper use of modals. To conduct this study computational techniques and design were used. Using the quantitative approach, the data were quantified in various ways, including statistical analysis. Only ten English-language and linguistics publications were considered for inclusion in this study. AntConc 3.2.4. software was used to deal with the corpus. The study concludes the corpus analysis is a quick and helpful method for gaining significant linguistic insights. The frequency of modals varies from each other depending upon the writer's use. The study suggests that one way to better understand the proper use of words is to scan corpora for explicit contexts and consult important books and dictionaries.

| **KEYWORDS** | Concordance Use, Corpus-Based Approach, Frequency-Analysis, Semi-Modals, Stance Adverbs, Verbs |

Introduction

In today's contemporary world, science and technology significantly influence almost every aspect of human existence. In the contemporary world that we currently live in, it has a significant amount of influence. The significance and advantages of today's technology, as well as how it enables individuals to address the challenges of the present day better, are both astonishing and essential. It does not restrict its approach to a particular region of the contemporary world. Instead, people are adapting their everyday lives to include more and more contemporary technology since that is what the present requires. In the same vein, it is essential to acknowledge how contemporary technology has altered the way language is used and simplified matters for students and instructors. The purpose of this article is to discuss language acquisition and instruction in general and the investigation of the English language via the use of corpora in particular. A computer is an essential tool for accessing various linguistic resources since it is an integral component of current technology. This paper discusses language education and instruction in general, as well as the corpus-based study of the English language. The study of language, as seen from the perspective of computers, is the focus of the subfield of corpus linguistics. Additionally, this digital software or application, such as AntConc, assists users in locating various items, including Frequency variation, Collocation, Concordance, Lemma, and Token type. This research uses the software/tool known as AntConc to investigate the frequency with which certain textual parts are used, the frequency with which they change, and the significance that these aspects play within the text.

Literature Review

The technique is "the method in which the importance of a provision is qualified to reflect the speaker's judgment of the likelihood that the sentence's instruction is right," as defined by Quirk et al. (1985). As so, it sheds light on the speaker's overall sentiments toward the content of what he says (Palmer, 1986). He argues that the syntactic, lexical, and prosodic components work together to indicate how something is carried out. One of the features of the English language that is considered the most confusing is methodology. The fact that modular verbs expose covering meanings is the crucial explanation for why they may have a wide range of meanings. In Seidel (2004), Palmer is said to have said, "There may be no component of English sentence formation that is both more important and more troublesome than the sequence of models." Seidel (2004) cites Palmer's statement.

In everyday use, the word "method" is associated with several other words and phrases, including "commitment," "need," "probability," "permission," and "ask for" (Collins, 2009). Will is defined in eight ways in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD), while should is defined in fourteen different ways, and can is defined in eleven different ways. Eccentricity et al. (1985) divided modals into three distinct groups based on how they compared to other modals and how broadly they included those modals. The following is a list of the courses.

1) Permission, ability, possibility: can, might, could, may

2) Necessity, obligation: should, must

3) Prediction, volition: shall, would, will

For the most part, Deon tic modals speak to commitment, undertaking, needs, wants, summons, etc. It just demonstrates show time and alludes to the performative capacity. They are fundamentally arranged modals and involve *much authorization, must of commitment, and might of the undertaking*. Unlike Deon tic modals, epistemic modals contain must-consistent intuition or assurance, may of plausibility, and will of substantial probability. Dynamic modals allude to action, activity, change, movement, and so on and comprise most of the commitment, a jar of capacity, and a container of general plausibility. Will of volition is named unbiased modular (Abdul-Fattah, 2011). Modular verbs pass on various implications. Tsui-hsing (2002) depicts that concerning the epistemic implications, Will, Would, and Shall play out the capacity of the forecast. While the modals Can, Could, May, and Might play out the capacity of probability. To the extent deontic implications are concerned, Will, Would, and Should play out the capacity of volition though Can, Could, May, and Might play out the capacity of deontic authorization.

Mukundan and Khojasteh (2011) investigated the utilization of modular verbs in the Malaysian-endorsed course books and contrasted that and the utilization of modular verbs in the British national corpus. The study tries to discover the reply to the accompanying inquiry: Is the type of modular verbs educated from classrooms 1-3 in recommended Malaysian reading material like the utilization of modular verbs in British English corpus? What is more, the second question is to which degree the modular verb state structure is indistinguishable from being used to that verb expression structure utilized by the local British English speaker. The recommended Malaysian reading material corpus comprises 153,889 words from classes 1-3 gathered for this exploration. This corpus is contrasted with British National Corpus to discover the recurrence contrasts in using modular verbs. The word rundown and recurrence of various modular

verbs are obtained using the programming Word Smith 4. After that, these modular verbs' concordance lines are obtained using similar programming. The consequences of the exploration demonstrate that there are certain irregularities, in regards to the utilization of modular verbs, between recommended reading material and genuine utilization of dialect.

Nkemleke (2005) researches the utilization of must and ought in Cameroon English. Modular verbs indicate outstanding semantic and expressive multifaceted nature in their utilization. Aside from these complexities, modular verbs likewise demonstrate provincial also, enlist varieties (Coats, 1983). The present research aims to investigate such varieties in the utilization of should and ought to in Cameroon English and contrast the aftereffects of the exploration and the British English databases. The information utilized as a part of the exploration is a one million words corpus of Cameroon English. To make the corpus agent, the writings chosen to incorporate the corpus are taken from various types: fiction, true-to-life, religion, daily papers, and so forth. Coates (1983) examines the semantic modals taken as a data source for the present research. The consequences of the study demonstrate that must and ought to in Cameroon English show central expressive and semantic eccentricities. There are distinctive implications related to need and commitment in utilizing Must and Should. The study's consequences uncovered that most circumstances must and ought to pass on root implications in Cameroon English. There is a reasonable refinement in American English concerning the utilization of Must and Should. In American English, it should and ought to be a typical English communication component. In Cameroon English, these are used as a part of formal writing. Similarly, the modularly consonant expression must is a much of time happening highlight of Cameroon formal English. At the same time, the American English dialect is a prominent element of communication in English.

The Many studies have investigated the use of modality and stance in language (e.g. Adams & Quintana-Toledo, 2013; Biber, 2004; Bista, 2009; Butler, 1990; Chang, 2010, 2012; Chang & Schleppegrell, 2011, 2016; He & Wang, 2012; Holmes, 1988; Hunston & Thompson, 2000; Hyland, 1996; Kuppers, 2012; Maks & Vossen, 2010; Mirahayuni, 2002; Nartey & Yankson, 2014; Ngula, 2017; Panocova, 2008; Pho, 2013; Shayegh, 2012; Shayegh & Nabifar, 2012; Taavitsainen, 2001; Wang & Jiang, 2018). For example, Taavitsainen (2001) studied the use of modality or mood in medical writing, while Biber (2004) investigated stance in a multi-register corpus and found that stance marking varies across different registers. Butler (1990) and Hyland (1996) focused on modality in scientific writing, while Holmes (1988) studied modality in English for Specific Purposes and English for Academic Purposes textbooks. Chang (2010, 2012), Chang and Schleppegrell (2011, 2016), He and Wang (2012), Mirahayuni (2002) and Panocova (2008) looked at modality in non-native speakers' academic writing, while Hunston and Thompson (2000) focused on stance in discourse. Bista (2009), Maks and Vossen (2010), Shayegh (2012), and Shayegh and Nabifar (2012) explored stance in political discourse, and Kupper (2012) recorded stance in business communication letters. Nartey and Yankson (2014) studied modals and modality in political manifestos, while Adams and Quintana-Toledo (2013), Ngula (2017), and Pho (2013) looked at modality in research articles, and Wang and Jiang (2018) reported on stance in scientific research writings.

Bao (2004) looks at the utilization of MUST in Singapore English. The information utilized as a part of the study is a subcorpus of spontaneous discussion in Singaporean English and the British segment of the universal corpus of English (ICE). The aftereffects of the study demonstrate the deontic sense. There is a decrease in the epistemic feeling of MUST. This decrease in utilization is because of the Chinese dialect's impact on

Singaporean English. This is because the Singaporean dialect is seriously in contact with the Chinese dialect, and there is less utilization of epistemic MUST in the Chinese dialect.

Material and Methods

This is a corpus-based study. Research strategies such as both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in this study. To get the findings, computational techniques and design were used. This is because the study is mainly dependent on a corpus. Using the quantitative approach, the data were quantified in various ways, including statistical analysis. The researcher used this method to analyze the data to ascertain the outcomes of the frequency ratio and the statistical calculation of the selected lexicons, which were utilized in a range of research papers. On the other hand, the researcher used the qualitative method to conduct the data's contextual, explanatory, and comparative analysis. The research focused on the ratio and percentage of a lexicon's usage in various situations and a broad range of numbers. Only ten English-language and linguistics publications were considered for inclusion in this study. During the research that was performed, the AntConc Tool served in the capacity of a helpful instrument. Some instructions and features of the instrument, including concordance, frequency, and statistical phases, were used to acquire the following data analysis.

Results and Discussion

Lingua (2002) marked the commencement of AntConc's public availability. At the time, it was a simple KWIC (Key Word in Context) concordance program designed for more than 700 students enrolled in the Osaka University Graduate School of Engineering's scientific and technical writing course (Laurence Anthony IEEE: 2005). AntConc is a beneficial tool not only for students and teachers but also for researchers and other professionals in the education and research industries due to its comprehensive feature set. Using the software and instrument known as AntConc 3.2.4, the primary purpose of this research is to determine the frequency, frequency variation, and discourse functions of four languages (Stance Modal and semi-modal verbs). Some analysis-related suggestions are: (will, would be based on, and type). Using AntConc, the researcher is progressing toward discovering the results of examining the mentioned terms. Keeping the project's objective in mind, this is being accomplished. The words were considered one by one in sequential order, and the produced data was given with an assessment of the context of the linguistic pieces. In addition, the previous study is shown as snapshots and a table graph to give optimum support for the research.

(Will) - The first linguistic item from the Stance Modal Verbs

This section of the paper deals with the Modal verb **"will"** by using the AntConc software/tool approach to show us the various functions and features of the selected linguistic item. The word **(will)** occurs in the Stance Modal or semi-modal verb category. It implicates various meanings and discourse functions depending upon the contextual and functional use of the selected item. At first glance, the word (will) reveals the meanings of prediction/volition, referring to desire, wish, willingness, consent, and futurity. It all depends upon contextual use; *tomorrow morning, I will wake up in this first-class hotel suite,* which indicates the future in time. It can be used as a noun as well. It might convey different meanings and discourse functions, for example **(at will):** *in her **will**, she asked that her money be donated to the mosque,* referring here to the agent's disposition, and occupies the quality of a noun. Similarly, in this AntConc-Based approach, the researcher's aim shifts from general to the pre-requisite particular linguistic item to determine its frequency and discourse functions at various places and contexts. In contextual analysis, the discourse functions of the selected linguistic items

were identified, and the particular sentences in which they are used to offer different discourse functions in the text files.
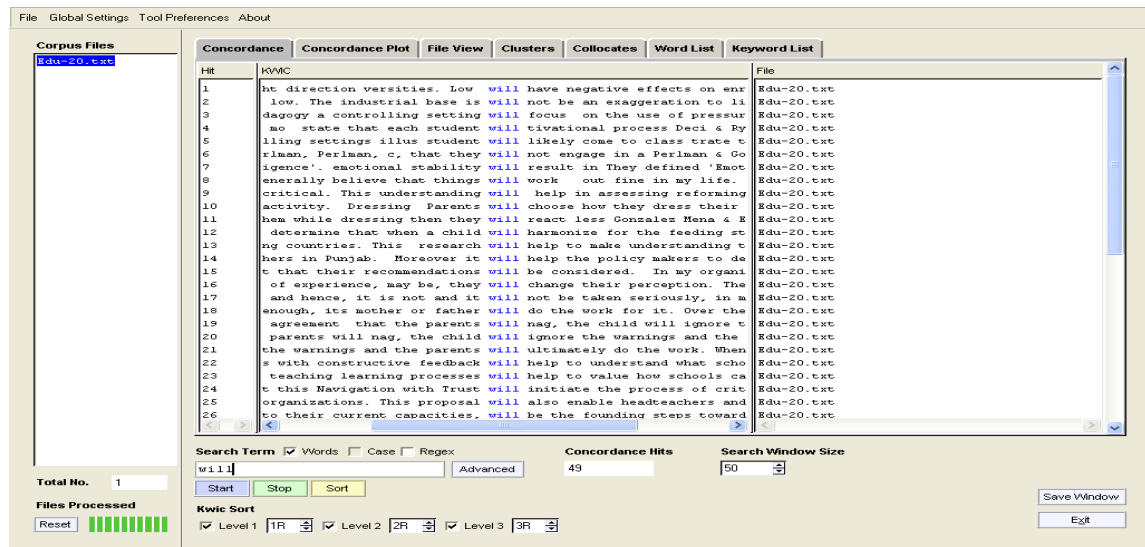

Figure-I: Frequency, Variation, Prediction and Volition of "Will"

In the prescribed article given for the analysis in this paper, the frequency of the Modal Verb **(will)** is 49 times. In the following table graph, the relevant ratio of the usage of the **(will)** has been mentioned with different features of the AntConc. The frequency is 49, Variation 21, Prediction 18, and Volition 8.

Table-I
Frequency, Variation, Prediction and Volition of "Will"

Word	Frequency	Variation	Prediction	Volition
Will	49	21	18	08

They are moving towards the discourse functions of the selected item in the text, specifically in this paper's snapshot. Discourse functions refer to the contextual use and meaning of the text in context. Thus, the researcher focuses on highlighting those areas where the selected linguistic item **(will)** performs different discourse functions. The concerned Stance Modal or semi-modal verb **(will)** in the sample graph from the text file has been used in different contexts; in some sentences, the (preferred word) denotes futurity. While in other places, it refers to prediction and volition in the context. Examples from the text will help us understand the meanings of the context in which **(will)** has been used. In the first line of the sample text in the snapshot from the main text file, the modal verb **(will)** is used as a prediction. It refers to the future, and the concerned word has occupied the state of the future perfect tense. Thus, it indicates to future, initially used in the sentence as **(love will have adverse effects on),** shown clearly as a prediction in the future.

Similarly, in line no: 16 in the sample, the item word refers to choice, desire, and intention. Originally quoted, the sentence **(of experience, maybe, they will change their perception)** provides a space for choice and change. Thus, the concerned linguistic item performs a different discourse function in the context. Mostly, the modal verb **(will)** poses the contextual meaning for the future, and thus, it is used in different grammatical categories of tenses for producing various meanings. In this way, AntConc software/tool provides the learners, researchers, and teachers with real and multiple examples of data and also helps the experienced users get the required results with the click of a finger.

(Might) - as a Stance Modal or Semi-Modal Verb

In this section, the author sheds light on the occurrence, variation in frequency illustrated through tables and graphs, and the discourse roles played by the linguistic item "might" in the selected text file. Using a sample from the assigned text file, analyzed through AntConc software, the author provides numerous examples to support the findings of the study. This allows the reader to gain a better understanding of the research conducted.
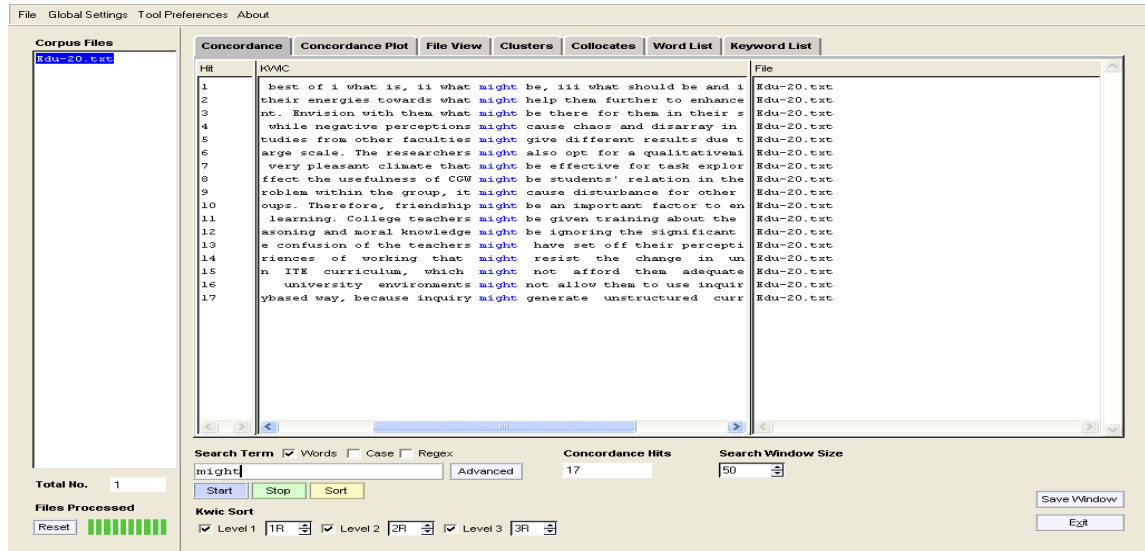

Figure-II: Frequency, Variation, Possibility, Permission and Ability of "Might"

The word **(might)** as a Stance Modal and Semi-Modal Verb grammatically, functionally, and contextually provides different meanings, depending upon the usage in the text. It refers to **(Possibility, Permission, and Ability),** while the discourse functions of the Modal-Verb **(might)** depend upon the contextual analysis of the word. The frequency of the modal verb **(might)** shown in the given text file is 17, while the variation in frequency is 11 times. Furthermore, the various functions and roles of the concerned word in the paper, like Possibility, Permission, and Ability, should be presented in the table graph. By this, the attention is switched to the discourse functions of **(might)** in the analysis of this paper. The shift in sequence will primarily focus on the contextual meanings of the use of the **(might)** in the selected text file. The modal verb **(might)** promotes the concept of possibility in the first line of the sample snapshot text, originally quoted as; **(best of what is,** *what might be***, what should be)** indicates possibility than certainty or ability. On the other side, the use of **might** in lines 6 and 14 refers to some extent to the agent's ability. Originally quoted from the text file line no 6 and 14; **(The researcher** *might* **also opt for a qualitative), (experiences of working that** *might* **resist the change)** are examples that perform different discourse functions in the selected text file. That is to say, the concerned modal verb (**might)** refers to the contextual definition in the sentence. Besides the above analysis, the following table graph will show us the quantitative data of the frequency variation and the role of possibility, permission, and ability in the sample text.

Table 2
Frequency, Variation, Possibility and Ability of "Might"

Word	Frequency	Variation	Possibility	Ability
Might	17	12	15	02

Thus, it is quite vivid with a profound result that the usefulness of the computational approach to linguistics for researchers in data collection and analysis cannot be negated. On the other hand, the ease and benefits that corpus linguistics offers learners and researchers cannot be ignored**.** The following sample snapshot from the text files gives us the results of the **Stance adverb** from the categories of the given linguistic items. It refers to **the style,** and the word that qualifies style in the text files is **"according to."** The snapshot sample analysis will tell us about the frequency ratio and variation in frequency. Then the focus will shift to the discourse functions of the selected word from the categories.

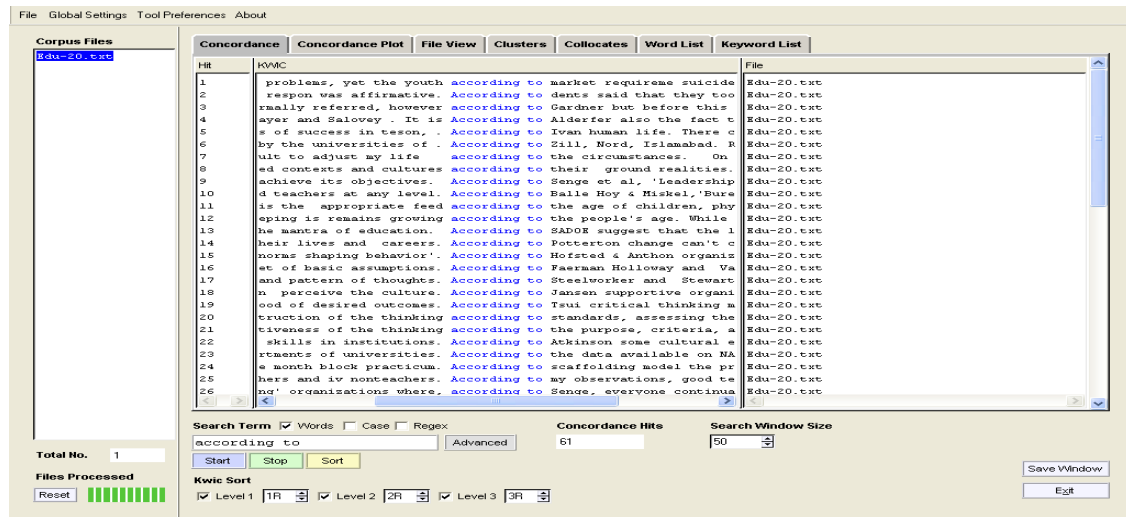## According to (Stance Adverb)

Figure-III: Intention, Style, Quality and Confidence of Numbers

In the above sample from the text files, the frequency of the selected linguistic item is **26** times, while the variation in frequency is **24** times. Hence the discourse functions differ from each other in the sample text snapshot. For example, in the first sentence, **"according to"** is used in the middle, followed by the noun **(market)**. This indicates the market level and demand in the sentence. Similarly, in the second sentence, the **stance adverb (according to)** was used at the beginning of the sentence, followed by the subject, referring to the intention and style of the subject. Similarly, line number **20 (according to)** has been used in the middle of the sentence after the action verb **thinking,** followed by the **noun (standard)** refers to a level of quality, idea, and judgments of the user. The following table graph gives us the results of frequency and variations in frequency as shown in the sample snapshot from the text files.

Table 3
Intention, Style, Quality and Confidence of Number "26"

Number	Intention	Style	Quality	Confidence
26	10	08	04	04

In the above pie chart, the total frequency of the selected linguistic item **(according to),** which occurs in the category of stance adverbs, the total **frequency** is **26** times in the sample snapshot. Similarly, the sky blue color has been represented by the ratio **of 10**, which refers to the **user's intention**. In discourse function, the selected linguistic item occurs at different places showing the multiple stances and positions of the writer. This part of using the selected linguistic item has been represented by ten percent. This particular stance adverb is mainly used to show the writer's intention, which denotes the quality of the selected linguistic item in the text files.

Moreover, this ratio in the graph assumes that the selected word has been used less frequently to show the quality of the sentences in the sample snapshot. Apart from this, confidence and style have a frequency ratio of **(8 & 4)**, indicating that at this point, the stance adverb is loaded by the writer's style in the selected text files. In the following sample snapshot, another stance adverb has been taken for frequency analysis and discourse functions in the selected text. It is another essential linguistic item that refers to the writer's style in the text files.
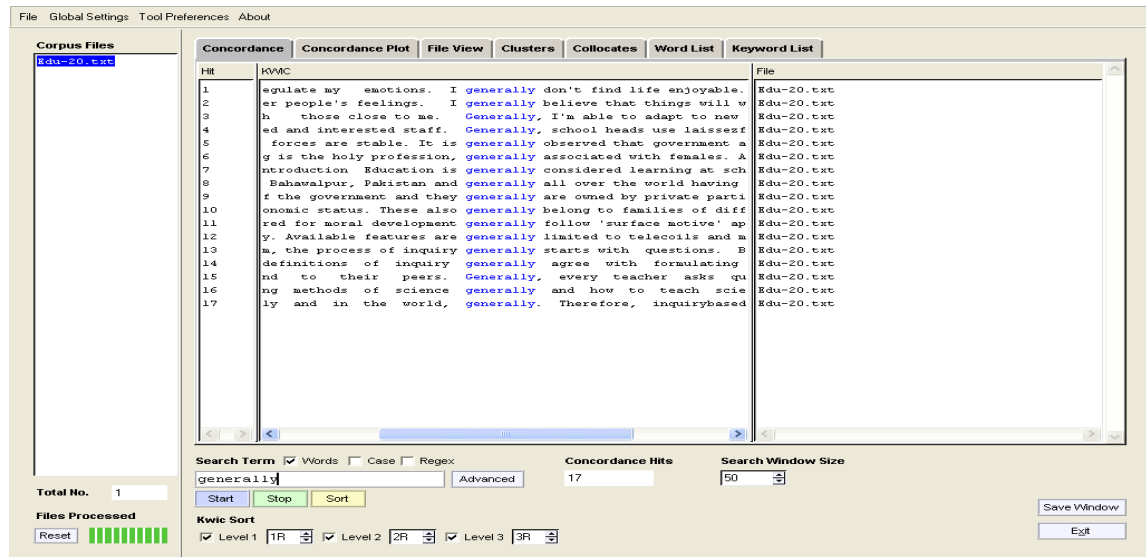
Generally, (Stance Adverb)

Figure-IV: Frequency of "Generally"

The frequency of the selected linguistic item **(generally)** is **17** times in the sample snapshot, while the variation in frequency is also the same. However, the discourse functions vary from each other in the sample data. For example, in the first line, subject **(I)** has been followed by the stance adverb **generally**, which qualifies here the idea and intention of the writer in the text. While in the third line, the sentence begins with **(Generally),** which refers to the style. Similarly, in line **15,** again, the selected adverb shows the writer's style by generalizing the statement in the sentence.

A corpus-based approach to studies in data analysis has been proven valuable and easy compared to other methods. Corpus linguistics is an emerging discipline in Pakistan, and thus, studies conducted on corpus analysis might help researchers and users find the resultant data. The findings of this study are how different **(Stance-modal, Semi-stance modal verbs,** and **Stance adverbs)** vary in discourse functions. Their frequency also varies from each other depending upon the writer's use. Moreover, with the help of corpus analysis through the AntCont software/tool, the analysis and findings of the data have been obtained with substantial results. Thus, corpus-based studies are hitherto encouraged in the researcher's viewpoint for data analysis in research in the field of corpus linguistics.

Conclusion

The findings of this research indicate that the chosen linguistic components from the modal, semi-modals, and stance adverbs operated differently in each of the analyzed text files. The frequencies and changes in frequencies of the various linguistic components were not comparable to one another in the chosen text files. AntConc is a program or tool that, throughout the whole process of data analysis based on the corpus

method, has functioned exceptionally well in assisting the researcher in simply locating the findings relevant to their inquiry. The researcher has been presented with various samples of data that may be analyzed from various angles, such as concordance, frequency, and fluctuations in frequency. Since it is abundantly evident from the preceding discussion that every stage of the research project has been completed with the necessary amount of care and that the AntConc tool has been of great assistance to the researcher in the process of carrying out this project, it has been underlined how important it is to implement corpus-based research as a solution to difficulties like those discussed before in the debate.

Recommendations

The study strongly recommends that the researchers and students interested in corpus linguistics or job seekers in the field of linguistics should continue their work in this area of research. A researcher may get significant findings in a concise amount of time by using this straightforward and helpful method. The findings may differ in other areas so it is a need to conduct this research by using different kind of corpus/ text. The study also recommends that the modals should be used in the spoken and written language and they should be taught to the students at every level to improve their spoken and written skills.

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