

Semantics Homework – Intro to Linguistics Sem II 2020-2021

Step 1 – Synonymy: Group work

Think of two lexemes that are semantically so similar that you do know why they are different, why you would use one and not the other.

This was done – you chose *prison* vs. *jail*

Step 2 – Hypothesis: Group work

Come up with 3 hypotheses as to how they differ in meaning.

This was done – You chose REGSITER, REFERENT, and SEVERITY

Hypothesis 1

Register: Formal vs. Informal

Hypothesis 2

Referent: Institution vs. Building

The group said that we should contrast cell vs. building but I fear this will not work since I don't think either prison or jail are often used to refer to a cell. However, the difference between the institution – prison in an abstract sense versus the physical place where people are held, may be interesting.

Hypothesis 3

Severity: More Serious vs. Less Serious

Step 3 – Data: Individual work - See video for help, on website

- Choose a corpus (<https://www.english-corpora.org/>)
- Generate a KWIC for the first lexeme then cut and paste the results into Google Sheets
- Repeat for second lexeme in new sheet
- Clean the data and add Labels for the 3 hypotheses

You can use this Google sheet as a template:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MCjXzjcjwwnTApN9YKt6Xy5h5IZodeRubWeSXfSxcvo/edit?usp=sharing>

Step 4 – Analysis: Individual work - See video for help, on website

Read 10 examples of the first lexeme and annotate the examples with respect to the hypotheses

Repeat for the second lexeme

Download the Google sheet document and save it (in case something goes wrong)

Step 5 – Results: Individual work - See video for help, on website

Copy and paste the results of your analyses of the two lexemes into a single Google sheet.

You can use this Google sheet as a template:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MCjXzjcjwwnTApN9YKt6Xy5h5IZodeRubWeSXfSxcvo/edit?usp=sharing>

Create a table that includes the two lexemes and one hypothesis

Using the table, create histogram based on percentages to see if you have evidence to support your hypothesis

Step 6 – Submission

Save and download your Google sheet to an excel file

Name you excel sheet with your student number

Send an email with the excel sheet attached to studentwork.glynnp8@gmail.com

If you send your work to another email address, it will not be marked

If you send your work without your student number as the file name, it will not be marked