

Use of corpus for detecting frequent collocations in academic papers

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This study examined collocational patterns used by native speakers of Japanese when writing an academic paper. For this purpose, we constructed a corpus collecting abstracts of graduation theses written by 714 Japanese university students majoring in fashion sociology and dwelling environment, with 176,091 letters in total. An analysis using WATERS (Wide-ranging Automatic Text Extraction & Recognition System) identified 33,087 collocational patterns. Among these, we focused on 2,480 combinations of a noun marked by WO and a verb of Japanese origin (WAGO). Our analysis revealed that basic verbs of Japanese origin frequently co-occur with an abstract noun. For instance, "motsu" (to have) is often used with "gimon" (question/doubt) and "kanshin" (interest), and "miru" (to see) frequently appears with "katei" (process) and "souiten" (difference). Learning these collocations should be helpful for the learners of Japanese who want to write an academic paper.

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