

An Analysis of Collocations Used In British News Youtube Channels



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ABSTRACT: Collocation is not easy for English learners as English has a complicated collocation system, making English learners confused in choosing the correct collocation. The aim of this study is to find the sub-classes, the most dominant type of collocation, and describe their meanings. The method used is qualitative research and applied Benson et al.'s theory (2010) which focused on the types of collocation. The data source is British news YouTube channels: BBC, Sky News, and The Sun. The result of the study shows that the most dominant type of collocation used is lexical collocation with the percentage is 59% while the grammatical one is 41%. For grammatical collocations, there are four out of eight sub-classes: G1 (noun + preposition), G4 (preposition + noun), G5 (adjective + preposition), and G8 (verb + preposition). Meanwhile, the lexical collocations are classified as six out of seven sub-classes: L1 (verb + noun), L2 (adjective + noun), L3 (noun + noun), L4 (noun + verb), L6 (verb + adjective), and L7 (verb + adverb). This study also described the meaning of each collocation. The way to get the meaning is by understanding the context. The meanings of the collocations used are mostly literal. This study can be a teaching reference by highlighting common word combinations and usage patterns.

KEYWORDS: Collocation, lexical collocation, grammatical collocation, British news, YouTube channels

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is essential in almost every facet of human existence. People communicate ideas and messages using language, either in writing or verbally. People need language to communicate with each other. It is a crucial tool for connecting people globally, enabling the sharing of information across different aspects of life.

English, being an international language, plays a crucial role in enabling communication worldwide. Wierzbicka (2006) said that English is the most widely spoken language worldwide, with a large and ever-growing number of speakers. Even though several countries do not officially recognize English, it is still the most widely taught second language in the world (Yulfi et al., 2019). Thus, mastering English is important to communicate globally.

Mastering English language skills is directly related to acquiring vocabulary as it is a fundamental aspect of learning a language (Lei & Reynolds, 2022). Developing vocabulary is needed for English learners as it enables them to comprehend intricate text, articulate ideas clearly, and participate effectively in both written and spoken conversations. Furthermore, Lukas et al. (2020) stated that acquiring vocabulary supports the enhancement of additional language competencies such as listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, several issues are encountered in learning vocabulary, one of them is incorrect word usage or combinations.

Incorrect word combinations refer to English learners using words together in an unnatural manner. Words are unable to freely and easily combined as words typically have certain combinations known as collocations. The use of collocations will be incorrect if the words freely combine. For instance, there is a common collocation such as make a mistake. Non-native speakers tended to use do a mistake while English native speakers use make a mistake. They replaced the verb make with do. Thus, it is essential for learning collocations.

Mastering collocation will make them able to communicate in English more fluently as they will have the ability to convey words combinations naturally. Bahns and Eldaw (1993) stated that mastering collocations aids EFL learners in achieving a language proficiency comparable to that of native speakers. Moreover, McCarthy and O'Dell (2005) stated that utilizing collocations to convey thoughts or information can improve clarity or detail in communication. However, learning collocations is not easy for English learners as English has an extensive and intricate collocational system, with numerous words having multiple meanings. They might experience confusion to choose the appropriate word combinations.

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As the data source of analysis, British news YouTube channels are the news channels in which the videos are used to be identified from the scope of collocation. Several factors contribute to the selection of British news YouTube channels as the data source. First, the availability of a substantial amount of British news YouTube channels makes it a convenient and accessible source. Second, news covers a wide range of topics, and using British news YouTube channels as a data source ensure exposure to a variety of topics that can contribute to a more complete collocation analysis. In addition, cultural and contextual factors can impact collocation (Mocan & Toma, 2010). British and American English might differ in terms of vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation. By analyzing collocations in British news, it is possible to demonstrate the distinct language and idiomatic expressions that are specific to British English, facilitating in comprehending language usage within the unique cultural and social context of United Kingdom.

The investigations on collocations have been conducted by many. The first study was done by Yulfi et al. (2019) entitled An Analysis of English Lexical Collocation Found in English Newspaper. The researchers' aim is to identify the lexical collocation present in English Newspaper, The Jakarta Post. The researchers used descriptive qualitative method. The result shows that there are 44 lexical collocations found in the newspaper and the meanings of the collocations are one had connotative meaning while 43 had denotative. The most dominant found is adjective + noun while the fewest one is noun + verb. The second is a study from Rachmi et al. (2023) entitled An Analysis of Lexical Collocation in King Charles' Speech. The use of collocations can be quite different with deeper meanings and contexts behind them. Therefore, this study is to analyze the lexical collocations present in King Charles' speeches. The study used descriptive qualitative method. The research results point out that 15 lexical collocations were produced by King Charles III in his speech. In this study, the researchers did not indicate the most frequently found sub-class. Another study was conducted by Tayibnapi (2021) entitled An Analysis of Lexical Collocations Used in Some Articles on Seventeen.com Website. The purpose of this study is to find the meaning of lexical collocations used in some articles on the website. The study used descriptive qualitative research. The result shows that there are 79 lexical collocations and are classified as six out of seven sub-classes. The data shows that the most used sub-class of lexical collocation is adjective + noun while the least used is noun + verb. The last source is a study done by Laoli et al. (2021) entitled Analysis on The Collocation Types Found in Novel Percy Jackson and The Olympians "The Battle of Labyrinth". The objective of this study involves examining the types of collocation present in the novel. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this research. The result of this study reveals that there are 19 lexical collocation and one grammatical collocation. The most dominant sub-class is verb + adverb.

The objectives of this study are:

1. to find the most dominant type of collocation in British news YouTube channels.
2. to identify the sub-classes of grammatical and lexical collocation used in British news YouTube channels.
3. to describe the meaning of collocations found in British news YouTube channels.

This study is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. What is the most dominant type of collocation used in British news YouTube channels?
2. What sub-classes of grammatical and lexical collocation are used in British news YouTube channels?
3. What is the meaning of each collocation found in British news YouTube channels?

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Benson et al. (2010) defined collocation as the term used to the common and predictable pairing of words in a language. They emphasized that predictable patterns arise when certain words occur together more frequently than would normally suppose by coincidence. Expanding vocabulary is an essential aspect of learning a language, and collocation is being acknowledged as a crucial element of language proficiency (Vasiljevic, 2014). Understanding words that naturally occur together is an important element in acquiring vocabulary. Collocations are a tool used by English native speakers in order to make their speech sound more natural.

According to Benson et al. (2010), collocation is divided into two types: grammatical collocation and lexical collocation. Grammatical collocation is a word pair between a particle such as grammatical structure (clause or infinitive) or preposition and content words such as noun, adjective, and verb. The likelihood of this combination is highly to occur together. These collocations can be idiomatic and are often regarded as a component of the language's grammar. Grammatical collocation can be divided into eight sub-classes shown in the table below.

Table I. Sub-classes of Grammatical Collocation

Sub-classes	Patterns	Examples
G1	noun + preposition	an agreement with, a need for
G2	noun + to infinitive	a night to remember, a movie to watch

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G3	noun + that clause	an agreement that it will run well, a book that she has read
G4	preposition + noun	out of work, on television
G5	adjective + preposition	abandoned by, angry at
G6	adjective + to infinitive	ready to go, necessary to work
G7	adjective + that clause	afraid that he will fail the examination, good that I came home before the night.
G8	verb + preposition	walk into, depend on

The second type is lexical collocation. Lexical collocation is a combination of content words consists of adjective, verb, adverb, and noun. The manner in which words are combined in a language to form meaningful units is referred to this collocation. These word combinations often have idiomatic meanings that make them difficult to understand by looking at each word separately. The table below shows the seven sub-classes of lexical collocation.

Table II. Sub-classes of Lexical Collocation

Sub-classes	Patterns	Examples
L1	verb + noun	take a bath, do damage
L2	adjective + noun	heavy rain, fast car
L3	noun + noun	traffic accident, human resources
L4	noun + verb	doctor-diagnose, baby-cry
L5	adjective + adjective	completely satisfied, richly decorated
L6	verb + adjective	keep silent, go blind
L7	verb + adverb	whisper softly, drive carefully

Besides finding collocations, this study also describes the meaning of each collocation. The meaning of a collocation can be influenced by the surrounding words, the overall sentence structure, and the overall context of communication. Also, a word often contains more than one meaning. Therefore, understanding the context of a text is important to find the meaning of a collocation.

According to Jabar and Mansor (2021), understanding the meaning of a word can be accomplished by utilizing contextual clues present in a text. Contextual clues involve methods for understanding the meaning of a word by examining words or phrases in the text (Hartmann & Blass, 2007). These clues can be words or sentences that precede or follow the target expression, as well as the overall context of the passage. English learners can identify the intended meaning of the collocation by looking at the contextual clues provided. Thus, examining the entire context of a text is preferable when interpreting the meanings.

Several collocations cannot be translated separately as they will have different meanings. For example, in a sentence, "He says that Biden should step down, but then we have Max Boot come in with the second punch". The collocation of step down cannot be translated word by word and have to look at the context of the sentence. The translation of step is langkah while down is turun/bawah. On the other hand, the meaning of step down is mundur in the context of Presiden Biden should resign from his position as President of the United States.

III. METHOD

The method used is qualitative research with text analysis as the technique of qualitative method. This method was applied to analyze the collocations found in British news YouTube channels. The subject under investigation in this project was limited to the three British news YouTube channels: BBC News, Sky News, and The Sun. The total video used is nine videos. The news focused on hard news and was also the latest news with a duration of about 3 to 6 minutes. Several steps are done to conduct this study, including collecting data, selecting data, and analyzing data. To collect data, text analysis is done for conducting this study. Then, the selected data are grammatical collocations and lexical collocation. The way to get them is by identifying the words that are presumed as collocation and classifying them into grammatical and lexical collocations. Lastly, the meaning of each collocation found is described in this study.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

In analyzing the data, this study used the theory from Benson et al. (2010). Collocation is divided into two types: grammatical collocation and lexical collocation. Grammatical collocation can be classified into eight sub-classes. Meanwhile, lexical collocation can be classified into seven sub-classes. The collocation findings observed in the British news YouTube channels are explained in the table below.

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Table III. The Results of the Analysis

Type of Collocation	Sub-class	Amount	Percentage
Grammatical	G1 (noun + prep)	29	11%
	G4 (prep + noun)	39	15%
	G5 (adj + prep)	2	1%
	G8 (verb + prep)	35	14%
Sub total		105	41%
Lexical	L1 (verb + noun)	27	11%
	L2 (adj + noun)	83	32%
	L3 (noun + noun)	30	12%
	L4 (noun + verb)	3	1%
	L6 (ver + adj)	6	2%
	L7 (verb + adv)	3	1%
Sub total		152	59%
Total		257	100%

Table 3 shows the collocation results obtained in British news YouTube channels. There are four out of eight sub-classes of grammatical collocations, and the total of grammatical collocations found is 105 collocations. Meanwhile, there are six out of seven sub-classes of lexical collocations, and the total of lexical collocations found is 152 collocations.

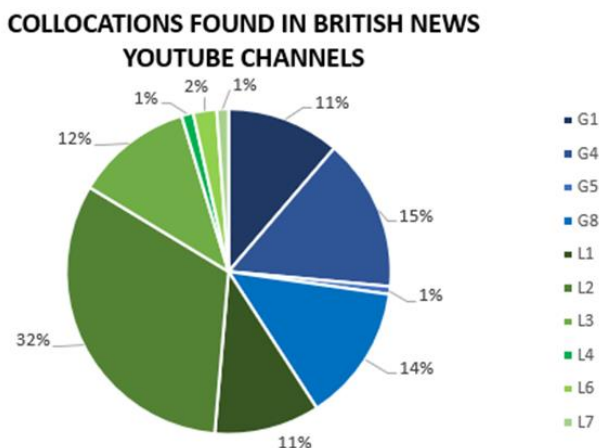


Figure I. The Results of the Collocations Found

Figure 1 shows the amounts of sub-classes of each type of collocation that are found in British news YouTube channels. Blue indicates grammatical collocation while green indicates lexical collocation. It shows that lexical collocation is the most found in the news with the total percentage is 59%. It is presented that L2 is the most used while L4 and L7 are the least used sub-classes of lexical collocation. For grammatical collocation, it is presented that G4 is the most used and G5 is the least used sub-class.

From the results of this analysis, it can be seen that this research has different findings with the previous work conducted by Laoli et al. (2021) entitled Analysis on The Collocation Types Found in Novel Percy Jackson and The Olympians “The Battle of Labyrinth”. In the study, L7 (verb + adverb) is the most dominant sub-class of lexical collocation. Meanwhile, the most dominant sub-class in this work is L2 (adjective + noun).

DISCUSSION

This part is an explanation of the collocations found in the news. The type of collocations and sub-class with its pattern used are explained. It is linked to the theory used, which is the theory of Benson et al. (2010). This part also discusses the meaning of each collocation found in British news YouTube channels. The explanations below are some of the data used as samples.

A. Grammatical Collocation

1. G1 (noun + preposition)

a) increase in

The noun increase is conventionally followed with specific preposition in. Benson et al. (2010) identified this form of combination as a common pattern where a particular noun is commonly combined with a particular preposition to convey a certain meaning.

Sentence:

“It coincides with a near-record increase in CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere.”

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In the given sentence, “increase in” refers to a rise or growth in something, specifically referring to an increase in the atmospheric concentration of CO₂.

b) plan for

The word plan is a noun collocated with a preposition for. This combination is predictable as it is commonly used in daily speech.

Sentence:

“The European Union's ambassador to the US told the BBC a little more about the plans for the maritime corridor.”

“plans for” refers to strategies pertaining to a certain activity or action. Thus, it suggests that the European Union's ambassador to the US gave more details regarding the strategies being used in connection with the operation of the maritime corridor.

2. G4 (preposition + noun)

a) on record

The preposition on is combined with the noun record. This collocation is regarded as a fixed expression as it has a precise and recognizable meaning in English.

Sentence:

“February was the warmest February on record, and we can take a look at the numbers.”

The meaning of “on record” is has been documented or recorded. Therefore, in the sentence above, “on record” implies that February has been determined to be the warmest February ever measured in the context of historical climate data or records.

b) above average

The preposition above is combined with the noun average. The noun average in this context has a limited range of prepositions it collocates with to produce meaningful expression.

Sentence:

“Temperatures across the continent this February were almost 3° above average.”

In the given sentence, “above average” is to describe a number or score that is higher than that is considered to be normal or common. Thus, it suggests that the temperatures recorded in February around the continent were higher than usual or normal.

3. G5 (adjective + preposition)

a) favourable to

The adjective word favourable is collocated with the preposition to. To is the preposition that connects the adjective favourable with the noun or noun phrase that follows it.

Sentence:

“He said this decision was unjustifiably less favourable to him.”

“favourable to” to indicates a circumstance or decision that supports or is advantageous to a particular person. Therefore, the collocation in the context implies that the decision he made did not turn out to be as beneficial as it could have been.

b) impossible for

The adjective word impossible is collocated with the preposition for. This combination is common and predictable in English, where impossible is always followed by for.

Sentence:

“It means the cost of the weekly shop is much higher than it would otherwise have been, but it also makes it impossible for businesses to grow sustainably, so the primary objective is to bring down inflation.”

In sentence above, “impossible for” indicates that something is not achievable under certain circumstances or conditions. Therefore, it implies that businesses are finding it challenging to grow in a sustainable way under the current circumstances.

4. G8 (verb + preposition)

a) look at

The word look is a verb combined with the preposition at. The combination look at is comparatively fixed as changing the preposition frequently changes the meaning.

Sentence:

“Let's look at climate change now and another unwelcome record.”

In the given sentence, “look at” is a collocation that means to direct one's attention towards something. Thus, in this context, it suggests examining or directing people's attention to the topic of climate change in detail.

b) decide on

The word decide is a verb combined with the preposition on. Decide on is a fixed combination as decide consistently pairs with on.

Sentence:

“Unlike the king, Prince William, and other senior royals, he wouldn't get automatic security that his would be decided on a case-by-case basis that he would have this bespoke arrangement.”

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In this context, “decide on” means determined or settled upon. The sentence suggests that while the king, Prince William, and other senior royals receive automatic security, Harry would not have the same privilege. Instead, the decision regarding his security would be made on a case-by-case basis.

B. Lexical Collocation

1. L1 (verb + noun)

a) take a look

The verb take is collocated with the noun look. It is uncommon to replace the verb take with another verb without changing the meaning or making the collocation sound unnatural.

Sentence:

“February was the warmest February on record, and we can take a look at the numbers.”

In the sentence above, “take a look” means to examine or review something. Thus, it implies that we can examine the information or figures that show how warm February was in relation to previous records. This collocation is frequently used to imply reviewing details, information, or data.

b) make decision

The word make is a verb collocated with the noun decision. According to Benson et al. (2010), they stated that most L1 consists of a verb denoting creation or activation and a noun. Make decision is classified as a verb denoting activation, as it involves initiating or taking action on a choice.

Sentence:

“When it came to his security, he said that Rovic which is this very secretive committee that makes these decisions, had failed to follow its own written policy.”

“make decision” is a collocation that means the process of making decisions or options. Thus, it suggests that decisions about security and other important subjects are made by the clandestine committee, Rovic. This collocation highlights how the committee decides what to do or how to proceed circumstances.

2. L2 (adjective + noun)

a) everyday life

The adjective word everyday is combined with the noun life. This habitual combination reflects the natural usage patterns in the language, as described by Benson et al.

Sentence:

“Why aren't we just using temperatures that everyone uses in everyday life?”

The collocation “everyday life” means regular daily experiences and routines that most people endure. Thus, “temperatures that everyone uses in everyday life” refers to the standard measurements of temperature that people come across and utilize in their regular activities.

b) long run

The adjective long is combined with the noun run. Long run is a relatively fixed combination because substituting long with other words, such as extended run, would change the meaning and sound unnatural.

Sentence:

“The US has grown faster, and I do believe that in the long run, lower-taxed economies tend to grow faster, which is why I started to bring down taxes in the Autumn Statement.”

In this context, “long run” means an extended period of time. Thus, it refers to a very long time in the future.

3. L3 (noun + noun)

a) member state

Member is a noun collocated with another noun state. This combination is highly predictable within context relating to international organizations. This predictability is one of the hallmarks of lexical collocations.

Sentence:

“Cyprus, for a long time, have been a part on the way to the region, so hopefully this could really help because five of the EU member states is on a board.”

In this context, “member state” means countries that belong to a specific group or organization. This collocation indicates these EU nations' participation in a body or organization that makes decisions together.

b) fishing boat

The word fishing is a noun collocated with another noun that is boat. The noun fishing in this collocation cannot be easily replaced by other nouns without changing the meaning entirely, such as cargo boat refers to different types of boats with different purposes.

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Sentence:

“If the illegal foreign fishing boats in our sea will not stop, our youth will have to defend their sea because they are losing their livelihoods.”

“fishing boat” means a vessel used for catching fish in the sea. Therefore, the expression "illegal foreign fishing boats" denotes the presence of fishing vessels from other nations that are engaged in illegal maritime activities.

4. L4 (noun + verb)

a) war continue

The noun war is collocated with the verb continue. War continue might not be as common as other collocations, but it still a recognizable pattern in English, especially in journalistic or historical contexts.

Sentence:

“If that doesn't happen, the war will continue if it happens, and there are significant obstacles to allowing it to happen.”

In a sentence above, “war continue” means the continuous state of war or armed warfare that endures over time. Thus, it denotes that conflicts or war will endure or continue without cease.

b) inflation rise

The noun inflation is collocated with the verb rise. Benson et al. noted that certain verbs have a specific range of nouns they typically collocate with. In this case, rise has a limited range of nouns in economic contexts, and inflation is one of the nouns within this range.

Sentence:

“We've had a Ukraine war that has meant that inflation rose to more than 11%, so the primary challenge, since I became Chancellor, the most important thing that I can do to relieve pressure on families is to bring down that inflation rate.”

In a sentence above, “inflation rise” is a collocation that means an ongoing increase in the average cost of goods and services over time. Thus, the words "inflation rose to more than 11%" implies a notable increase in inflation, with the rate above 11%.

5. L6 (verb + adjective)

a) make sure

Make is a verb combined with the adjective sure. The combination of make and sure occurs frequently in English and is a typical example of a collocation as it is a commonly used. The two words are often used together to express a particular idea that is understood by native speakers.

Sentence:

“Hopefully, the first try to get aid already happened over the weekend, but it takes some time to make sure that it's not only once in a time.”

“make sure” is a collocation that means to make certain or confirming that something is carried out appropriately, precisely, or as intended. Therefore, "to make sure" in this context refers to the act of making sure that the provision of aid is a continual or continuing effort rather than a one-time event.

b) feel safe

Feel is a verb collocated with the adjective that is safe. The structure of feel safe is fixed and follows the verb + adjective pattern, making it a predictable phrase in English usage.

Sentence:

“Harry had said this uncertainty over a case-by-case basis meant he wouldn't feel safe bringing his family to the UK, but today we've had the judgment.”

In this context, “feel safe” means a sense of security or assurance. Thus, "he wouldn't feel safe bringing his family to the UK" implies that Harry expressed worries about his family's safety or security in the UK given the unpredictability of some situations.

6. L7 (verb + adverb)

a) think carefully

Think is a verb combined with the adverb carefully that modifies the verb. Benson et al. stated that collocations are influenced by word order and the types of words that can occur together. In think carefully, it follows the typical English grammar pattern for verb + adverb collocations, where adverbs often come after the verb they modify.

Sentence:

“I think opposition parties need to think very carefully about whether this is something they actually do to support the government in the best interest of all the citizens of this country rather than snipe on a party-political basis.”

“think carefully” is a collocation that means the necessity of giving anything thorough consideration before forming a decision. Therefore, it suggests that the opposition parties should carefully consider their choices and actions to make sure they support the government in a way that benefits all citizens.

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CONCLUSIONS

Learning collocations is an essential element of expanding vocabulary. Mastering collocation will make English learners fluent in speaking English as they will have the ability to convey word combinations naturally. Their written language proficiency will also be natural, accurate, and even native-like. Collocation is divided into two types: grammatical and lexical. This study analyzed both types of collocation. Analyzing the use of collocations is helpful for English learners to improve their vocabulary and make their English more fluent.

Of the nine news that were analyzed, there are 105 grammatical collocations and 152 lexical collocations. Thus, the total of collocations used in the news is 257 collocations. Some of them are used more than once. There are four out of eight sub-classes of grammatical collocations used in the news, they are G1 (noun + preposition), G4 (preposition + noun), G5 (adjective + preposition), and G8 (verb + preposition). The amount of G1 is 29 collocations, G4 is 39 collocations, G5 is 2 collocations, and G8 is 35 collocations. Meanwhile, there are six out of seven sub-classes of lexical collocations used in the news, they are L1 (verb + noun), L2 (adjective + noun), L3 (noun + noun), L4 (noun + verb), L6 (verb + adjective), and L7 (verb + adverb). The amount of L1 is 27 collocations, L2 is 83 collocations, L3 is 30 collocations, L4 is 3 collocations, L6 is 6 collocations, and L7 is 3 collocations. The meaning of each collocation found is also being described. The meaning is described by looking at the context of the news.

In conclusion, the most dominant type of collocation used in the news on BBC, Sky News, and The Sun channels is lexical collocation with the percentage 59% while the grammatical is 41%. The meaning of all the collocations that are written is also described. From all the collocations found in the news, the meanings of the collocations are mostly literal. Literal meaning in collocation is more prevalent in news as it ensures clear, precise, and easily understood communication. Hopefully, by describing the meaning, the readers can understand better about collocations.

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