(٤)

كلية التربية

المادة: لغويات تطبيقية

الفرقة: الثالثة

القسم: لغة انجليزية

أستاذ المقرر: د/ نسرين عبد الباسط العناني

المحاضرة الرابعة

Corpus Linguistics

What is Corpus Linguistics?

❑ Corpus linguistics has enjoyed much greater popularity, both as a means to explore actual patterns of language use and as a tool for developing materials for classroom language instruction. A corpus is any body of text, that is, any collection of recorded instances of spoken or written language. [corpora or corpuses, singular corpus]

❑ A corpus consists of a databank of natural texts, compiled from writing and/or a transcription of recorded speech. Corpus linguistics uses large collections of both spoken and written natural texts that are stored on computers.

❑ The main focus of corpus linguistics is to discover patterns of authentic language use through analysis of actual usage. One of the major contributions of corpus linguistics is in the area of exploring patterns of language use.

❑ Corpus linguistics provides an extremely powerful tool for the analysis of natural language and can provide tremendous insights as to how language use varies in different situations, such as spoken versus written or formal interactions versus casual conversation.

❑ Corpus linguistics' only concern is the usage patterns of the empirical data and what that reveals to us about language behavior.

❑ There are typically four features that are seen as characteristic of corpus-based analyses of language:

▪ It is empirical, analyzing the actual patterns of use in natural texts.

▪ It utilizes a large and principled collection of natural texts, known as a 'corpus', as the basis for analysis.

▪ It makes extensive use of computers for analysis, using both automatic and interactive techniques.

- It depends on both quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques.
- A corpus refers to a large principled collection of natural texts. The use of natural texts means that language has been collected from naturally occurring sources rather than from surveys or questionnaires. In the case of spoken language, this means first recording and then transcribing the speech.
- The text collection process for building a corpus needs to be principled, so as to ensure representativeness and balance. The linguistic features or research questions being investigated will shape the collection of texts used in creating the corpus.
- Because corpus linguistics uses large collections of naturally occurring language, the use of computers for analysis is imperative. Computers are tireless tools that can store large amounts of information and allow us to look at that information in various configurations.

❑ The final characteristic of corpus-based methods is that this approach involves both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis.

❑ Although computers make possible a wide range of sophisticated statistical techniques and accomplish tedious, mechanical tasks rapidly and accurately, human analysts are still needed to decide what information is worth searching for, to extract that information from the corpus and to interpret the findings.

❑ Thus, the greatest contribution of corpus linguistics lies in its potential to bring together aspects of quantitative and qualitative techniques. The quantitative analyses provide an accurate view of more macro-level characteristics, whereas the qualitative analyses provide the complementary micro-level perspective.

How Can Corpora Inform Language Teaching?

❑ The impact of corpus linguistic studies on classroom language teaching practices is already taking shape. The availability of corpus findings, along with the increased availability of tools for exploring corpora is a considerable benefit to the language classroom.

❑ Corpus-based studies of particular language features and comprehensive works such as The Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English will also serve language teachers well by providing a basis for deciding which language features and structures are important and also how various features and structures are used.

❑ For the first time, teachers and material writers can have a basis for selecting the material that is being presented and for the claims that are being made about linguistic features.

- ❑ Rather than basing pedagogical decisions on intuitions and / or sequences that have appeared in textbooks over the years, these decisions can now be grounded on actual patterns of language use in various situations [such as spoken or written, formal or casual situations].
- ❑ There are several works that encourage teachers to explore the use of corpora in the language classroom.
- ❑ Exploring Spoken Language by Carter and McCarthy was the first widely available textbook to combine the use of corpus material with language instruction.
- ❑ The challenge now is how best to translate frequency information and knowledge about patterns of language use into into classroom materials.

Assignment (1):

Put [T] in front of true sentences and [F] in front of false ones:

1. One of the major contributions of corpus Linguistics is in the area of exploring patterns of language use. […………]
2. The use of natural texts means that language has been collected from surveys or questionnaires rather than from naturally occurring sources. [………..]
3. The challenge now is how best to translate frequency information and knowledge about patterns of language use into classroom materials. […………]

Assignment (2):

1.   How can corpora inform language teaching?
2.   What is corpus linguistics?

Assignment (3):

Give terms for the following definitions:

1. It refers to a large principled collection of natural texts. [……………………………………………]

With My Best Wishes