**WORKING VERSION**

**Teaching ESP to nurses using corpora**

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**Abstract:** *Advanced Technology allows looking of words in their real environment i.e. in large-computerized data-basis of English language. This paper gives an overview of what exactly the British National Corpus(BNC)is, looking at its structures and drawing examples. This corpus is the collection of over 100 million words of contemporary written and spoken texts. I’ll investigate how this corpus can improve the process of teaching Medical English to graduate nurses, medical technicians, speech and language therapists, radiographers, and psychotherapists in order to ensure that ELT materials reflect the real English language of today and how teachers can benefit from corpora to better understand more about the way the language behaves and what language the medical students need to learn. The results of how this corpus is incorporated in teaching ESP are presented in this paper.*

**Keywords:** ESP, corpus linguistic, nursing education.

**What is the corpus and the corpus linguistics?**

The word ,,corpus’’, derived from the Latin word meaning ,,body’’, may be used to refer to any text in written or spoken form. A corpus can be defined as a systematic collection of naturally occurring texts(of both written und spoken language) ‘Systematic’ means that the structure and contents of the corpus follow certain extra linguistic principles(principles on the base of which the texts included were chosen);the information on the exact composition of the corpus is available to the researcher. Corpus linguistics is the study of language as expressed in samples (corpora) of,, real word’’ text. It is a method od carrying out linguistics analysis. As it can be used for the investigation of many kinds of linguistic questions it has become one of the most wide-spread methods of linguistic investigation in recent years. Usually, the analysis is performed with the help of the computer, with specialized software and takes into account the frequency the phenomena investigated.

**What corpora are there?**

There are many different kinds of corpora. They can contain written or spoken (transcribed) language, modern or old texts, texts from one language or several languages. The texts can be whole books, newspapers, journals, speeches, etc. or consist of extracts of varyng length. The kind of texts included and the combination of different texts vary between different corpora and corpus types. There are different types of corpora, which can be used for different kind of analysis (cf Kennedy, 1998). Some examples of corpus types are:-general/reference corpora (vs.speciliazed) e.g. BNC=British National Corpus, or Bank of English/;-historical corpora (vs. corpora of present-day language)-Helsinki Corpus, ARCHER/;-regional corpora (containing more than one variety-)Wellington Corpus of Written New Zealand English/;/ learner corpora (vs.have speaker corpora) -/International Corpus of Learner English/; -multilingual corpora; spoken (vs-written vs. mixed corpora )-London-Lund Corpus of spoken English/.Two large general corpora of English are generally accessible via the World Wide Web at the Skopje Faculty of Medicine:1The Collins Wordbanks Online English corpus: http://titania.cobuild.collins.co.uk/form.html.2.The British National Corpus: <http://sara.natcorp.ox.ac/lookup.html>. The British National corpus-(BNC) contains 100 million words of contemporary British English, of which 90 millions are written and 10 million spoken texts(of variety of different text types). For simple search the corpus is accessible at <http://sara.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/lookup.html>.

**Meaning of the words ‘nurse and nursing’:**

Nursing has been called the oldest of arts and the youngest of professions (Donahue,1996).The history of nursing is synonymous with the history of woman. The connotations of the word ‘nurse’ has changed over the course of history. The words nurse and nursing have many meanings. The word nurse itself is derived from the latin *nutrire* ,,to nourish’’. The word nurse has its roots in tne latin noun nutrix, which means,,nursing mother’’, often referring to a nurse(a woman who breast fed the babies of others). The French term nourrice also to a women who suckled a child. The original meaning of the English word was the name and the term first used in English in the 13th century and its spelling underwent many terms , norrice, nurice or nourice to the present*, nurse.* Other dimensions were added to its meaning throughout the evolution of the word- ‘’a woman who cares for and tends to young ,,children’’. By the 16th century the meanings of the noun included ‘’a person, but usually a woman who waits upon or tends to the sick’’.Two more coimponents were added during the 19 th century’’ training of those who tend to the sick and carrying out of such duties under direction of a physician. ’’Women because of material instinct were considered ,,born nurses’’.

The parential instinct, however, is present in both sexes of all races. It is thought that women present a greater degree of this due to their traditional role in the family. Yet the spirit of nursing has no sexual boundaries. Human being of both sexes have a natural tendency to respond to helplessness or a threat to life from disease or injury(Donahue 1996).The role of nurse expanded to care of the sick infirm, aged, handicapped as welt as health promotion. In ancient periods woman cared for her own family. As the evolution of nursing continued she took care of members in her own tribe. With the development of early civilizations nursing began to be performed outside the home. Nursing continues to grow and evolve. Nursing is the based on society’s needs and therefore exists only because of society’s need for such a service. It is difficult for nursing to rise above society’s expectations, limitations, respurses, and culture of the current age.

**‘Nurse and nursing’ taken from the BNC**

The following sentences taken from BNC support the change of the meaning of the words ‘nurse/nursing’, (as a noun or as a verb), and present a variety of senses and connotations , which can be added, removed , or altered over time .I was not interested in the total number of occurrences of a world in the corpus, but in its meaning. Here are some examples.

* **nurse [[1]](#footnote-1)** (noun,countable)/someone whose job is to look after people who are ill or injured, usually in a hospital:B3C199:*A qualified nurse is available to treat injuries and general illnesses and to advice on health matters.*
* **Registered nurse also RN,** meaning :Someone who has been trained and is officially allowed to work as a nurse:CDK33*1 Now she is in her second year and is expected to become a Registered General Nurse*
* **Head nurse**: someone who is responsible for the major activities of the ward:**FRY840:**

*She has agreed to stop her writing for a while, and become Head Nurse of my hospital.*

* **Charge nurse-**a nurse who is responsible for the work done in one part of a hospital CHT 367:*The staff nurse, in the absence of the ward sister or charge nurse shall:…’’*
* **District nurse(**British English)-a nurse who visits people in their own homes:

ACB749 Once,*I was round his house when the district nurse came to give him his iron injection.*

* **dental nurse(countable)someone whose job is to help a dentist:**GW01419 *Jessica had been a dental nurse before the had married and now she was a dental nurse again ,for an average of six hours a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.*

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)