

Workshop Exploring an Aviation English Corpus: Equipping Professionals with Pedagogic and Lexicographic Skills

Malila Prado (BNU-HKBU United International College)

A partnership with Dr Daniela Terenzi (IFSP) and Stella Tagnin (USP)

We will use CorTec for these activities. You can find it at <https://cortec.ffch.usp.br/>.

The studies of Bocorny (2008) and Sarmiento (2008) investigated noun phrases and modal verbs in aircraft manuals. According to the researchers, those elements are highly frequent in manuals.

Do you believe the same trend happens in aviation reports? There are two ways we can follow:

- **Frequency counters** (wordlist)
- **N-gram generator** (clusters)

Frequency list: A list of all the items of a given type in a corpus (e.g. all words, all nouns, all four-word sequences) together with a count of how often each occurs (CASS Briefings)

1. Run both searches on CorTec. Analyze the top 20 occurrences. Which gives you more clues to answer the question above? Why do you think so?
2. Run the same searches in Portuguese. Analyze the top 20 words. What are the equivalent words/expressions that you can find?

O'Keefe et al. (2007) propose that we prioritize the top words or clusters of a corpus when teaching English. They say that the more frequent the word/cluster is, the more likely it is for the student to encounter them in real life.

Concordance: A display of every instance of a specified word or other search term in a corpus, together with a given amount of preceding and following context for each result or 'hit' (CASS Briefings)

3. Take a second look into the top words / clusters. Group them according to functions/grammar/vocabulary (choose one within your group)

You may use concordances to do this. For example:

1	ions The airplane's maintenance records indicated t
2	perated a certified maintenance repair station, inc
3	ct Office principal maintenance inspector performed
4	f Sunjet Aviation's maintenance functions during th
5	to avoid hypoxia.32 MAINTENANCE The accident airpla
6	accident airplane's maintenance records, Sunjet Avi
7	n and Oxygen System Maintenance History The acciden
8	accident airplane's maintenance records revealed th
9	low altitudes. The maintenance clearing action not
10	nd on May 21, 1999, maintenance personnel complied

4. Based on the findings that your group found more interesting, think of an activity you can design for a specific group of students. Be ready to report to us who the students are, what they need to know, what tasks they would need to perform with language, and what your activity is like.

If you can't access CorTec, here are the most frequent items of the wordlist / N-gram list for you.

1	the	34150
2	of	10902
3	and	9609
4	to	8625
5	a	6440
6	in	5703
7	that	5098
8	was	3984
9	for	3865
10	this	3764
11	on	3505
12	ad	3032
13	at	2989
14	flight	2832
15	s	2589
16	faa	2585
17	is	2574
18	with	2486
19	airplane	2421
20	by	2355
21	or	2091
22	as	1976
23	not	1944
24	an	1869
25	accident	1746
26	information	1734
27	cid	1728
28	from	1666
29	were	1660
30	about	1386
31	no	1356
32	safety	1306
33	be	1114
34	it	1048
35	he	1017
36	which	948
37	aircraft	902
38	pilot	891
39	have	888
40	time	881
41	first	878
42	service	861
43	feet	861
44	had	858
45	control	839
46	are	839
47	aviation	819
48	during	816

1	the first officer	445
2	the accident airplane	379
3	of this ad	369
4	of the accident	348
5	the airplane was	290
6	the flight crew	282
7	the safety board	254
8	according to the	237
9	the faa is	235
10	the airplane s	232
11	of the airplane	222
12	in accordance with	211
13	the accident flight	207
14	the time of	193
15	at the time	192
16	is issuing this	184
17	airplane cid s	182
18	the federal register	181
19	indicated that the	177
20	at the faa	175
21	that the airplane	173
22	the unsafe condition	171
23	incorporated by reference	158
24	time of the	157
25	this ad to	150
26	relief first officer	149
27	this final rule	149
28	stated that the	143
29	you may view	142
30	in this ad	142
31	incorporation by reference	141
32	issuing this ad	140
33	this material at	139
34	the relief first	137
35	by searching for	130
36	the airplane cid	125
37	was prompted by	124
38	stated that he	122
39	this ad is	121
40	identified in this	117
41	the director of	116
42	the accident the	115
43	the effective date	113
44	national transportation safety	112
45	the faa estimates	112
46	material at the	111
47	ad to address	111
48	with this ad	110

