

Compare the America and British's Official Attitude towards Covid-19 in 2022 from the Semantic Prosody Approach

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Abstract: Entering the third year of being kidnapped by the pandemic and being forced to face all the variants of Covid-19, the whole world has suffered great loss psychologically and physically. By collecting the official data from American CDC and British government Coronavirus Act 2020, this paper tried to sketch the information which could be extracted from the use of [Covid-19] lexis through the analysis of semantic prosody based on Corpus Linguistic. After analyzing the most used collocates with Covid-19 in the official documents, this paper explicates the Covid-19 focus of America and Britain government in the year 2022, which is community prevention, getting vaccinated, trying to teach the public to live with Covid, and issuing every policy confronting with the Covid problems. The study shows that America CDC are still trying to prevent the worst situation of the pandemic while the British government has chosen to peacefully accept the worst situation.

1. Introduction

The outbreak of the Covid-19 (named by the World Health Organization as Covid-19) has changed people's living way for almost 3 years. As of press time, the cumulative number of confirmed cases of the global Covid-19 has exceeded 612 million. In the third year wiping by Covid-19, many governments have removed all the travel restrictions for foreign passages. However, is the pandemic over? How can the ordinary people get a whole and clear picture of the real situation.

Facing this question, this study aims to uncover the America and British's official attitude through the analysis of semantic prosody, an approach of Corpus Linguistic.

2. Literature Review

Corpus linguistic methodology is a linguistic analytical method that uses data from language materials collected in a resource called corpus or corpora, corpus would always be introduced as a large naturally occurring language data which is necessary and sufficient for language study and research. [1]Semantic prosody was firstly mentioned by Sinclair in 1987 when he was doing some

research on the verb phrase “ set in”, he found that “many uses of words and phrases show a tendency to occur in a certain semantic environment” [2]. For example, he noticed that the word “happen” would easily be collocated with the miserable items such as accident. Five years later, Louw firstly give the definition of Semantic prosody:the habitual collocates of a lexical item is established through the semantic consistency of its subjects.[3] Louw further conceptualized it to”a form of meaning which is established through the proximity of a consistent series of collocates”[4].In 2002, Wei elucidated that some node words always habitually attract a certain class with the same or similar Collocation words with similar semantic characteristics, their semantics infect and penetrate each other, in a semantic atmosphere. And such kind of semantic atmosphere is called semantic prosody. [5]

3. Research Questions

This paper intends to answer the following questions:

- ① What are the most frequently used allocates with the word Covid-19 in Britain and America?
- ② After the constant evolvement of the virus and the unprecedented infected number of human kind, what’s the main focus of the British and American Covid-19 prevention in the year 2022 from the approach of Semantic Prosody?
- ③ Based on the underlying linguistic information, what could the ordinary people learn and cope with the situation in 2022?

4. Research Methods

This section must be in one column. This research has built parallel corpora respectively extracted from American Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Refereed as CDC below) and British Government Official website .It consist of six machine-readable Text Documents related to Covid-19 downloaded from these two official website. One is the Covid-19 guidance from CDC website from January 2022 to December 2022. The reason to choose CDC’s documents is that CDC works independently from the government and could provide some real and useful information. CDC would update the guidance through the evolvement of the virus and give different suggestions. Based on the targeted people, the guidance was divided into 9 categories: Employers, Business Owners & Healthcare Professionals; Community Leaders; Health Departments; Educators & School Administrators; Federal, State &Local Government; Individuals & Consumers; Tribal Agencies; Parents & Caregivers; Global Health. Considering of our searching scope, the Global Health part was not taken into account. All these documents are collected as a corpus to be accessed. The other is a two-monthly report from the Department of Health and Social Care of UK. The Coronavirus Act 2020 gives the government powers to take the right action to respond effectively to the progress of the Coronavirus pandemic, for example by making it easier for people to receive their Statutory Sick Pay. These powers are temporary and designed to be switched on when necessary, and off when no longer needed. The act requires ministers to report every 2 months on which powers are currently active.

All the downloaded files are saved as plain text to be processed by *antconc*^[6] (free down loaded software for word registration). The key word “Covid-19” was searched and analyzed (since all the texts are pure plain and explanatory, so no other substitute word was analyzed). After the analyzation of antconc, word lists, concordance lines (sentences and paragraphs), left and right collocations and word frequencies are obtained, which is crucial in corpus linguistic.

For this comparison study, we used mainly the collocations and frequencies to indicate the difference attitude of British government and American medical authorities. The use of lexis

underlying the sentences would also be extracted to check the full meaning and semantic prosody hidden behind.

5. Research Results and Discussion

After using the antconc, all the most frequently used collocates in CDC Covid-19 guidelines and Coronavirus Act 2020 are aligned in the table 1. This passage mainly focuses on the collocates of the text with the keyword “Covid”. Some grammatical words such as “is, with, from” are eliminated from the result as they were mainly used as no exact meaning.

Table 1: The Result of the processed data

NO.	Coronavirus Act 2020			American CDC		
	Collocate	Freq (Scaled)	Likelihood	Collocate	Freq (Scaled)	Likelihood
1	living	55	119.778	community	2800	255.325
2	related	235	118.094	level	1620	125.137
3	response	355	99.019	vaccines	570	101.126
4	suspected	105	80.678	vaccination	2310	89.212
5	absences	90	61.341	getting	710	87.08
6	jury	315	44.434	prevention	2050	82.785
7	inquests	420	37.445	causes	200	45.48
8	diagnosed	20	26.479	date	570	38.7
9	lengths	20	26.479	funding	160	26.782
10	facing	25	24.542	exposed	420	26.479

Based on the Semantic prosody analysis results, three pieces of text information on the frequency of collocates with Covid-19 have been concluded. The three pieces of text information are: The most likely allocates with Covid of Coronavirus Act 2020 and America CDC’s guidelines: Living and Community; Britain’s focus is to live peacefully with Covid while America is to get vaccinated and highlight the community.

5.1. The Most Likely Allocates with Covid of Coronavirus Act 2020 And American Cdc’S Guidelines: Living and Community.

The most used allocates in Coronavirus Act 2020 is living (likelyhood:119.778, frequency:55, seen Table 1), most happened in the phrase: Living with Covid; while in American CDC’s guidelines, the most used word is community in American CDC’s guidelines, which could be found in the following sentences:

Living with Covid seems to be the main stream in Britain, at least in the British Government view that acceptance of Covid should be the top priority. The words *Living* and *Community* are contained in the sentences as below:

(1) *As part of the Covid-19 Response: Living with Covid-19 plan2, published on 21 February 2022, the Government set out its plan to do so.*

(2) *Continuing homeless services during community spread of Covid-19 is critical.*

(3) *CDC is in the process of reviewing these recommendations to determine how to align current precautions with the CDC’s new Covid-19 Community Levels recommendations.*

(4) *Continuing homeless services during community spread of Covid-19 is critical.*

Community has always been the easiest place to be infected if there is a positive case around. Therefore, it’s easy to understand why CDC repeated the word again and again to rise alert. It could also be speculated that the focuses of CDC in 2022 of the prevention and control of the pandemic in

2022 in the social unit of the community.

5.2. Covid Focus of American Cdc and Britain Government in 2022

The main focus of American CDC's guidelines in 2022 is the prevention of Covid-19 and getting vaccinated on more people; while the main focus of Coronavirus Act 2020 is suggesting the public to be ready for living with Covid-19. As it is shown in the Table 1 that four words: vaccines (101.126), vaccination (89.212), getting (82.785), mostly collocates with vaccinated), prevention (82.785) are among the top 6 most frequently used ones in America. And for Britain, living with Covid (119.778) would be the word that most often emerged. American CDC's guidelines are much more positive while British is more passive and inactive about the coping with Covid-19. Vaccination was not even the top-10 collocates in Coronavirus Act 2020. The sentences below could prove the supposition.

(5) *If a resident preparing for release is not up to date on their Covid-19 vaccines, offer vaccination again.*

(6) *Under the Emergency Use Authorizations for Covid-19 vaccines, appropriate medical treatment for severe allergic reactions must be immediately available at any site administering the vaccine in the event that an acute anaphylactic reaction occurs following administration of a Covid-19 vaccine.*

(7) *These interim considerations provide recommendations on assessment and potential management of anaphylaxis following Covid-19 vaccination. Detailed information on CDC recommendations for vaccination, including contraindications and precautions to vaccination, can be found in the Clinical Considerations for Use of Covid-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States.*

(8) *The addition and layering of Covid-19-specific prevention strategies should be tied to the Covid-19 Community Levels and community or setting-specific context, such as availability of resources, health status of students, and age of population served.*

With the Covid-19 raging into its third year, it can also be seen that the strategy of the British and American governments to deal with Covid-19 has changed from "herd immunity" in early 2020 and "Covid-19 is just a common cold" to accepting the spread and high infection of Covid-19 among the population, improving the government's response ability, strengthening the vaccination rate of Covid-19 vaccine, and coping with various problems caused by Covid-19 sequel. For example, the jury question mentioned in Coronavirus Act 2020(jury), dealing with the problem of sick leave of positive employees (absence). These top used words could be located in the sentences as follow to check its semantic prosody.

(9) *Section 11 also provides reassurance to patients that they will have a route of redress should they suffer harm while receiving care related to Covid-19 and to clinicians, so they do not need to worry about indemnity arrangements.*

(10) *Modification and disapplication notices have been issued to carefully manage the sector's response to Covid-19.*

(11) *The powers under section 30 of the Act allow most inquests where Covid-19 is suspected as the cause of death to take place without a jury.*

(12) *This power allows for the suspension of the waiting days' rule for absences related to Covid-19.*

5.3. Getting Vaccinated and Live with Covid-19

Through the analysis of these two documents, this paper finds that, after 2022, the ways of Britain and the United States to deal with the epidemic situation have become more mature than

those in the early days of the epidemic, and the response measures and plans involved are also more mature. Only on this basis can we gradually realize free life and production. But interestingly, neither the United Kingdom nor the United States mentioned the problem of Covid-19's sequelae

In the face of the epidemic, the United States is more inclined to take measures through vaccination and launch various funding to help under privileged people overcome the problems brought about by the Covid-19, while the United Kingdom is in a state of lying down and accepting, and more often faces the social trauma of the Covid-19 by enacting laws.

However, no matter what kind of policy and response measures, for the general public, the best way of defense and prevention is still to vaccinate Covid-19 vaccine to resist the negative impact of Covid-19. At present, most of the confirmed cases of Covid-19 in China are asymptomatic infections, which also shows the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccine against viruses. Active response is always more effective than avoiding problems.

(13) Key Operational Considerations for Jurisdictions Planning to Operate Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics Funding Resources.

The other top used words are in the following phrases and sentences: *county-level transmission; local Covid-19 Community Levels, Vaccination is the leading prevention measure to keep clients, outreach staff, and volunteers from getting sick with Covid-19.* Since most of them have the same meaning as the collocates we have discussed above. No further analysis would be given here.

6. Conclusions

We hope you find the information in this template useful in the preparation of your submission. At present, human's understanding of Covid-19 and its variants is still limited. In 2022, the coping policies of Covid-19 in America and Britain and its health department's suggestions on Covid-19 prevention and control will have a certain impact on the world. Through the semantic prosody of the linguistic corpus, the suggestions, decrees and policies conducted by the UK Coronavirus Act 2020 and the America CDC was analyzed. It can be seen that in the face of Covid-19, the UK has basically chosen to coexist with the virus, mainly focused on dealing with the negative impact of Covid-19 through the issuance of various decrees. For the United States, community based pandemic prevention and control seems to be its top caring, and universal vaccine coverage is also the focus of the response to the pandemic. This paper hopes to help people better understand the impact of Covid-19 2022 on the world through research and analysis. The interpretation method and cognitive style of the connotation of Covid-19 also contribute to our understanding of the most horrifying virus in the 21 century. The differential and precise semantic prosody provides empirical evidence which can help us effectively respond to the virus that has affected us for 3 years.

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