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ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ПАРАМЕТРЫ КОНЦЕПТОВ *LIST* И *CATALOG*: ВАРИАНТ ОБРАБОТКИ ЯЗЫКА ДЛЯ КОМПЬЮТЕРНЫХ СИСТЕМ

Андрей Валерьевич Носов

старший преподаватель кафедры иностранных языков и связей с общественностью
Пермский национальный исследовательский политехнический университет

614013, г. Пермь, ул. Поздеева, 13, корп. Г. andrey.nosoff@gmail.com

В статье рассматриваются два близких по значению понятия, отражающие мировоззрение человека. Целью работы является определение наиболее подходящего концепта для его дальнейшего применения в качестве упорядочивающей или перечислительной единицы в семантических исследованиях. Эти единицы существуют независимо от наблюдателя и могут проявляться в системе различий и противопоставлений. С учетом нашего предположения, выделяем *LIST* и *CATALOG* как близкие по значению слова с целью выявления факторов, определяющих выбор того или иного концепта, исходя из объективных семантических критериев. С этой целью проводится предварительная разработка схемы логистического регрессионного анализа. В центре внимания оказывается выявление содержания и динамики понятий *LIST* и *CATALOG* с позиций (1) четырех стилевых регистров языка (академического, разговорного, литературного, газетного), (2) семантического признака притяжательного значения, (3) семантического признака единственного/множественного числа, (4) постмодификаций, (5) премодификаций и (6) конструкций родительного падежа.

Ключевые слова: компьютерная лингвистика; логистическая регрессия; сравнительный анализ; семантика; близкие по значению понятия.

1. Introduction

Nowadays complexity in application of near-synonymous words motivates researchers in the field of lexical semantics to focus their attention on this phenomenon. We basically concentrate on varying degrees of loose synonymy with the aim to differentiate the concepts *LIST* and *CATALOG*. Here we refer to Miller & Charles (1991) who identify not only a significant conjunction in meaning between two notions, but also some contextual representation. This idea is supported by Leitner [Leitner 1993] in his work on the meaning of the words in the "real English" and developed by Hunston adopting corpus-based analyses of words within this problem. [Hunston 2002] Later Gries and others exemplified corpora based on naturally-occurring language samples [Gries 2006: 4, Geeraerts 2006, Gibbs 2007].

Today the widespread use of computers and the development of corpus semantics create a strong foundation in the study of near-synonymous words. Following the corpora Church, Ward, Gale, Hanks, Hindle and Moon [Church, Ward, Gale, Hanks, Hindle and Moon 1994] study the synonyms *ASK FOR*, *REQUEST* and *DEMAND*. Levshina, Speelman and

Geeraerts [Levshina, Speelman and Geeraerts 2014] investigate the difference between the Dutch causative verbs *DOEN* and *LATEN*, Gilquin [Gilquin 2003] analyzes verbs *GET* and *HAVE*, Gries [Gries 2001] compares English adjectives ending in *-ic* or *-ical*. Glynn [Glynn 2007] quantifies the similarity between *HASSLE*, *BOTHER* and *ANNOY*. Supakorn Phoocharoensil [Phoocharoensil 2010] examines *ASK*, *BEG*, *PLEAD*, *REQUEST*, and *APPEAL*, concentrating on their lexical, syntactic, and stylistic information. K. Hoffmann [Hoffmann 2002] analyzes the six synonymously used adjectives *NICE*, *KIND*, *LOVELY*, *FRIENDLY*, *GORGEOUS* and *PLEASANT*. Gries and Otani [Gries and Otani 2010] test the near-synonyms *BIG*, *GREAT* and *LARGE* in a corpus study.

All of them apply the behavioral approach to gain round insights in the analysis of semantic differences of near-synonymous words. In this work I will also follow them to a certain extent.

2. Background information

The starting point of my analysis is to distinguish criteria for allocation of synonyms. In modern linguistic we can differentiate synonyms by:

1. Collocation analysis;
2. Definition of context register (style);
3. Grammatical pattern differentiation;
4. Dialect usage;
5. Referential analysis (connotations).

From this point of view a look at English dictionary definitions detects rather a few similarities in meaning between LIST, CATALOG, REGISTER, SCHEDULE, NOMENCLATURE, ROLL and INVENTORY. In fact, in certain cases the definitions of these lexical items seem to be circular. Considering these notions within a computational approach reduces the collection to two samples. Hence the most accurately allocated opposition is LIST and CATALOG. If we consider the definitions of LIST taken from several dictionaries (New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (1993), Collins English Dictionary (1994), Collins Thesaurus of the English Language (2002), Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009), Random House Webster's College Dictionary (1996), Ozhegov S. I. and Shvedova N. Yu Defining Dictionary of Russian Language (1992) and others) it becomes evident that REGISTER, SCHEDULE, NOMENCLATURE, INVENTORY, ROLL almost infallibly occur as one of the variations of LIST; at the same time CATALOG also has a strong resemblance to LIST, that U. Eco in his work "Infinity of Lists" [Eco 2009] often substitutes one for another. Thus I put a task to find out the main lines of these two concepts.

Firstly I give their definitions below:

LIST¹

1. A series of names or other items written or printed together in a meaningful grouping or sequence so as to constitute a record;
2. Computing a linearly ordered data structure;
3. A database containing an ordered array of items (names or topics);
4. Item, point;
5. An alphabetical index of names and topics along with page numbers where they are discussed.

CATALOG²

1. A list or itemized display, as of titles, course offerings, or articles for exhibition or sale, usually including descriptive information or illustrations, a publication, such as a book or pamphlet, containing such a list or display;
2. An enumeration;
3. A card of the contents of a library or a group of libraries, arranged according to any of various systems;
4. Any record;
5. A written work or composition that has been published (printed on pages bound together);
6. A complete list of things; usually arranged systematically;

7. A series, as of names or words, printed or written down.

By comparison of these dictionary definitions:

1. We note that the words LIST and CATALOG in modern English are poly-semantic (in the analysis I take into consideration only nucleus dictionary definitions which allow me to define their values in modern English; I don't consider obsolete definitions or others used for special purposes).

2. We appreciate the componential structure containing rather similar integrated and differential components. The Presence of integrated components in the structure of concepts under consideration is reflected by five groups of semantic elements:

1. *Series, set, sequence, grouping, array;*
2. *Things, names, numbers, items, members, words, topics, files, point;*
3. *Data structure, database, record;*
4. *Written, printed, imagined, ordered, contributed and stored;*
5. *Computing, containing, listing.*

At first glimpse the differential components in the structure of definitions reflected by verbal or non-verbal symbolic representations are the same. Eventually, it isn't difficult to find out some utterances where these concepts can replace each other:

(1) *Rather than lump genomics and genetically modified organisms (GMO) into the upcoming chapter where I elaborated the **list** of technologies that will transform agriculture, I chose to address them here because a topic so controversial and misunderstood warrants extra time to sort through.*

(2) *I have read every historical work that I have been able to lay my hands on, from a **catalog** of dry facts and dryer dates to Green's impartial, picturesque "History of the English People"; from Freeman's "History of Europe" to Emerton's "Middle Age"³.*

Elaborating the similarities in the usage of these words and in their context dependencies we seek to show a number of distinctions at the semantic level. At this stage we put forward **the first hypothesis**. In spite of the fact that CATALOG has more dictionary definitions (i.e. more concrete meaning) its scope is much narrower than the LIST one.

(3) *«... un caso de enumeración caótica, donde aparentemente no hay ningún nexo entre los varios elementos de la lista. No obstante, merece la pena desempolvar una distinción entre enumeración conjuntiva y enumeración disyuntiva. Una enumeración conjuntiva reúne también cosas distintas que aportan al conjunto una coherencia, ya que es el sujeto mismo el que las ve o están consideradas en un idéntico contexto; por el contrario, la enumeración disyuntiva expresa una fragmentación, una especie de esquizofrenia del sujeto que concibe una secuencia de impresiones*

disparatadas sin conseguir atribuirles utilidad ninguna» [Eco 2009: 2]⁴. This judgment underlines free and open character of the category LIST.

In the sentence below the semantics of LIST includes the meaning of CATALOG and transforms it into one of its features. Hence the sum of tokens LIST should be greater than the CATALOG one in the same corpus.

(4) *El catálogo de un museo representa un ejemplo de lista práctica, que se refiere a objetos existentes en un lugar determinado, y como tal está necesariamente acabada* (Translated by the author from Spanish: “The catalog of a museum represents an example of practical list, which refers to existing objects in certain place, and as such it is closed”) [Eco 2009: 20].

The second hypothesis. We reveal CATALOG in special contexts of *fiction*, *news* and *spoken* register too, but it has respectively low frequency. Hence I suppose the application of CATALOG is appropriate in more *academic* context whereas LIST is introduced in more universal way and is equally represented in all four registers. I will try to extract it from the data and theory focusing on (a) the distribution of LIST and CATALOG across four language registers mentioned above.

The third hypothesis considers the academic register as equally appropriate for both LIST and CATALOG.

(5) *For a list of Fourier's publications see the Catalog of Scientific Papers of the Royal Society of London.*

One more criterion we use of in order to distinguish LIST and CATALOG are grammatical patterns. Fairly often near-synonymous words don't have the similar grammatical patterns. Probably it is the most frequently corpus-linguistically studied area. In my research I come across four semantic features (possessive meaning, pre-modification, post-modification and genitive meaning)

The semantic feature of (b) **possessive meaning** that I analyze arises in this case from narrowing semantics and uniform effects of the notions LIST and CATALOG. R. Barker says that quantification property, termed possessive existential import, is intimately related to the notion of narrowing [Barker 1995], i.e. narrowing has implications for compositional analysis of any meaning. I apply these semantics to the issue of definiteness extent of LIST and CATALOG. Here I suppose LIST tends more than CATALOG to expanding semantics and not to narrowing (**the fourth hypothesis**).

One linguistic tool that reflects the semantic development level of the words is the analysis of the structural devices used to modify noun phrases. In English, modifiers stand before the head noun – (c) **pre-modifiers** – or after the head noun – post-

modifiers. Most pre-modifiers in English are phrasal. We allocate three main structural variants of pre-modifiers: nouns (*donor list*), participial adjectives (*detecting list*) and attributive adjectives (*short list*). The Difference in the level of interaction between pre-modifiers and head nouns LIST and CATALOG suggests their order of semantic covering and introspective degree. We assume LIST as more pre-modified than CATALOG (**the fifth hypothesis**).

In contrast, (d) **post-modifiers** indicate concept functionality degree i.e. show which concept has a larger functional area. We define two groups of post-modifiers:

1. clausal
 - finite relative clauses (*catalog indexes that represented this topic*)
 - non-finite participial clauses (*a. list tracking the polls; b. a new catalog held in position*)
 - to-clauses (*list to modify*)
2. phrasal
 - prepositional phrases ('Fashion', new catalog)
 - appositive noun phrases (list of requirements)

Pre-modifiers and post-modifiers are more common for informational written registers (fiction, newspaper or academic) than for others [Varantola 1984; Halliday 1987]. Generally, they are about equally common [Biber 2002: 578]. In this work, I admit that LIST being more general concept than CATALOG needs to be specified by operations, caused by it. I allow the hypothesis about LIST as more post-modified than the CATALOG in all the registers to extract from the data and theory (**the sixth hypothesis**).

In the present study we also introduce (e) **the genitive meaning predictor** (of-genitives and 's-genitives). I introduce some restrictions at this stage. Firstly, of-genitives and 's-genitives are considered as two roughly equivalent ways of saying the same thing [Labov 1972]. Secondly, “have sentences cannot account for the wide range of semantic readings available in many's genitive constructions”. [Shumaker 1975: 71] Hence we exclude this point from the analysis. Thirdly, we restrict our attention to genitive occurrences with non-pronominal possessors/possessums.

From this point of view the genitive meaning complements tenors of concepts in the ambiguous realizations, as well as their measuring and explanatory features based on the principle of similarity.

Our aim is to test two assumptions: (1) both variants LIST and CATALOG being self-determinate are not frequently represented within genitive constructions (**the seventh hypothesis**) and (2) LIST in

genitive constructions favors less written registers (newspaper, fiction or academic) (*the eighth hypothesis*).

3. The method

To model the joint impact of the features presented above on choice between LIST and CATALOG, I draw on logistic regression analysis. Multiple logistic regression performed in R quantifies the effect of individual explanatory factors on a binary dependent variable, such as the effect of repeatable characteristics.

The mechanism of multiple logistic regression also allows to measure the relationship between the categorical dependent variable and one or more independent variables by estimating probabilities using a logistic function, which is the cumulative logistic distribution. Thus, it considers the calculation of the most suitable option in the quantitative way. By means of regression I seek to predict a probability of application of a concept LIST as a computational unit and to build a strong base to avoid inaccuracies in the usage of terminology at further researches on semantics of ordering and enumerative units. The Performance of this task is conducted by comparing the predictors of concepts LIST and CATALOG.

3.1. The response variable

After having retrieved 1600 samples from the COCA, we annotated them for the variables below.

The response variable is encoded automatically with two values, CATALOG and LIST, with LIST as a success category.

3.2. The predictor register

Earlier we made the assumption that the CATALOG is used mainly in the strict professional and academic environment and is drawn towards a specification of the field of subjects covered by its semantics whereas the LIST has more common semantics and is respectively more open for a wide application.

In our work we considered distributions of these words across four registers of the language (academic, spoken, fiction, newspaper) on the data of the COCA.

Further we calculated a percentage ratio of the distributed cases in Excel according to 4 registers to the sum of all cases for the purpose of creation of more independent picture.

Then we allocated for the analysis 1600 occurrences in general and distributed 400 items in each register. On the basis of Table 1 containing a percentage ratio of words LIST and CATALOG we allocated their quantitative ratio.

Figure 1

Frequency plot of CATALOG and LIST

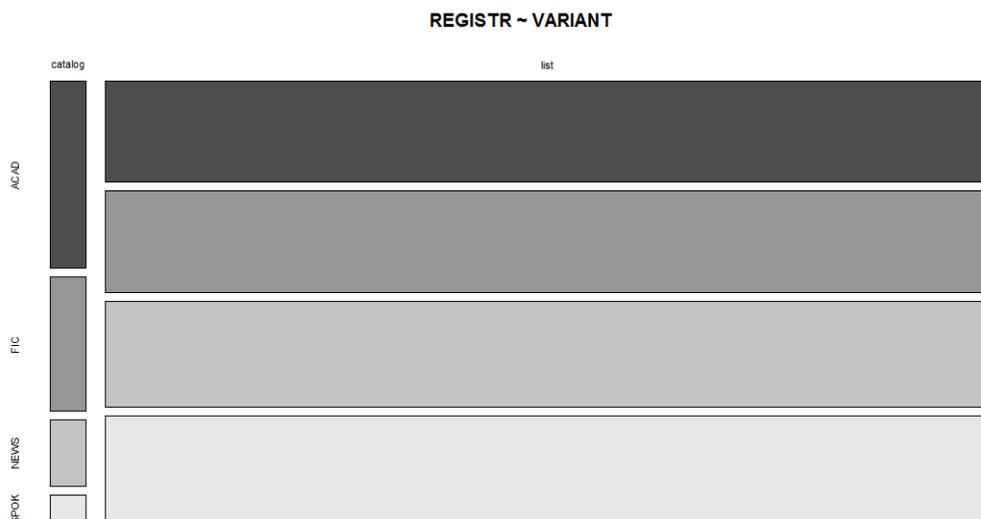


Table 1

The number of instances of CATALOG and LIST in the four sections of COCA (Corpus of contemporary American English) and their percentage within a particular register

	Academic	Spoken	Fiction	Newspaper
CATALOG	893 7%	117 1%	362 5%	423 2%
LIST	11926 93%	11181 99%	6628 95%	17812 98%
Total	12819	11298	6990	18235

Table 2

The number of instances analyzed in the case study

	Academic	Spoken	Fiction	Newspaper
CATALOG	28	4	20	10
LIST	372	396	380	390
Total	400	400	400	400

Based on the data of *Table 1* I draw a conclusion that the frequency rate of the word LIST considerably exceeds one of CATALOG. This fact corroborates our hypothesis about the scope of the word CATALOG in non-technical registers which is much narrower than the LIST one (2).

The additional conclusion for further research on semantics of CATALOG and LIST is about rather low realization regarding other registers of both words in the fiction register that means these concepts are not often represented in the non-formal context.

Table 2 shows that we observe CATALOG mainly in specialized, professional and academic contexts whereas LIST is inherent for both formal and spoken contextual environment. In spite of the fact that the percent of LIST samples at spoken register is rather high (**11 181** occurrences), the newspaper register (**17 812** occurrences) still remains the most appropriate for the word LIST. Hence the hypothesis that LIST is inherent for contextual environment of a spoken language partly came true.

The purpose of the predictor register is to show whether non-technical registers favor LIST in any layout, that is when REGISTER, SCHEDULE, NOMENCLATURE, ROLL, INVENTORY are left out of the picture.

3.3. The predictor QUANTIFIED POSSESSIVE MEANING

The semantic feature of possessive meaning that we analyze in our case study is based firstly on narrowing and uniformity effects within the utterances with the notions LIST and CATALOG. Barker points out that quantification property, termed possessive existential import, is intimately related to the notion of narrowing [Barker 1995], i.e. narrowing has implications for compositional analysis of the meaning. We apply the proposed semantics to the issue of definiteness extent of LIST and CATALOG. Even though both words can be used to illustrate the narrowing effect, LIST seems to exhibit more versatility.

Considering LIST and CATALOG we notice that they are not only automatically narrowed by possessives, but become a kind of non-symmetric quantified units. Thus particular quantified possessors present LIST and CATALOG as the phenomenon of quantification. Examples include:

(4) Not every of his *list* is as good as that one.

(5) Our *list* – a scrolling queue of names that lined his left forearm – was always changing.

(6) Most of my *catalogs* are better than in previous years.

Additionally we notice that presupposition is the pragmatic mechanism that enforces narrowing [Beaver 2001]. It might be suggested that this mechanism inserts a presupposition of one part of a sentence's meaning in another. Thus we can quantify narrowing by limiting to range only pre-possessors.

Hence:

1. Possessives are capable of narrowing the domain of quantification;

2. Possessive's narrowing ability is related to the common feature of the possessor quantification;

3. Narrowing can be accomplished by a quantification of the cases of pre-possession.

The presence of quantified possessive meaning is simply encoded as "yes" and the absence as "no". In the dataset of **1600** observations, there are **281** cases of *poss. meaning = yes* and **1319** cases of *poss. meaning = no*

3.4. The predictor PLURAL MODIFICATION

The probability of the use of LIST and CATALOG in plural form with a possessive pronoun increases in the presence of a negative estimated component in the semantics of the closest context.

(13) *Desire to be on these lists might unintentionally be contributing to not just the growth in AP test-taking revealed.*

(14) *Visualizing context and his knowledge of images in the earlier literature isn't evident in his catalogs.*

The main condition of using LIST in the form of plural is the contextual specification of noun meaning which can be carried out in two ways: as sampling in CATALOG case and unitarization of a lexical meaning of a noun in the LIST case.

(15) *News and World Reports to determine lists of "Best High Schools" of strongly integrates AP and International Baccalaureate.*

(16) *The 2005 workshop FRBR in 21st Century Catalogs (FRBR Workshop) is the first known venue.*

We observe the similar division in the combination with numerals and other quantitative determinants, and also in contexts with the indirect instruc-

tion on plurality of the considered concepts of LIST and CATALOG.

(17) *There were 21982 patients in the USA on waiting several lists for various organs but only 4248 cadaveric organ donors.*

(18) *Curators and educators as well take the information provided by these five catalogs as factual.*

In these cases they gain ability to transfer quantitative feature. It is possible to call this process quantification of LIST and CATALOG and in this regard to distinguish two ways of quantification: discrete and unitary.

There are 6 cases of plural modification and 1594 cases in singular form.

3.5. The predictor PRE-MODIFICATION

«Pre-modifiers are condensed structures. They use fewer words than post-modifiers to convey roughly the same information. Most adjectival and participial pre-modifiers can be rephrased as a longer, post-modifying relative clause...» [Pearson 2002]

LIST being less formal concept is more drawn towards pre-modification. There are certain types of contexts in which lists are rather consistently and regularly used in PRE.MOD utterances.

There are four major structural types of pre-modification in English:

- general adjective: (19) *official list*, (20) *new catalog*;
- -ed participial modifier: (21) *restricted list*, (22) *established catalog*;
- -ing participial modifier: (23) *waiting list*, (24) *publishing catalog*;
- noun: (25) *staff list*, (26) *sales catalog*

In addition, determiners, genitives, and numerals precede the head and modifiers, and help to specify the reference of noun phrases.

There are 868 cases of *pre.mod = yes* and 732 cases of *pre.mod = no*.

3.6. The predictor POST-MODIFICATION

We allocate the predictor **POST.MOD** which stands for post-modification. In this respect there are three values of post-modifiers: (1) prepositional phrases, (2) finite relative clauses, (3) ed-clauses and appositive noun phrases. These values are rather common for written language [Biber 1999]. All instances of phrases that consist of a preposition followed by another word, phrase or clause functioning as a prepositional complement are defined as prepositional phrases.

(27) *Data for our catalog*;

(28) *The list of guests*;

Finite relative clauses have three types: which/who-clauses, that-clauses and non-finite clauses.

(29) *I have a fantastic catalog which nobody has seen before*;

(30) *The librarian showed the catalog that contained all the milestones of the time*;

(31) *It was a list to revive the ancient traditional dish*;

Finally *ed*-clauses and appositive noun phrases seek to add new features to the noun and make the utterance more interesting.

(32) *Catalog presented in the Chapters below*;

(33) *Synonyms, list of frequencies*.

They are used in order to make a sentence more evident, to reflect a more particular component of the noun or to rename a noun beside it.

The presence of **POST.MOD** indicates the high level of internal componential structure of words, as well as the capacity of words to interact with other words and phrases, acting as a measure of something or explanatory tool based on the principle of similarity.

The purpose of the variable **POST.MOD** is to test, firstly, that both variants are post-modified, secondly, that LIST favors a more frequent post-modification.

There are 890 cases of *post.mod = yes*, 710 cases of *post.mod = no*.

3.7. The predictor GENITIVE MEANING

We split up genitive and possessive meanings due to the fact that the first has functions besides the possessive ones, such as:

(1) Indication of the whole/part relations: (34) *three pages of the list*, (35) *cover of the catalog*;

(2) Allocation of qualitative features: (36) *A strict mind of catalog*, (37) *We discuss an exceptional value of lists*;

(3) Designation of the subject of action: (38) *A compilation of lists*, (39) *In view of the growing popularity among young generation was planned a reissue of this catalog*;

(4) Reference to the object of action: (40) *A catalog's ordering*, (41) *A list's enumeration*;

(5) Quality, condition or action holder denotation: (42) *Relevance of the catalog*, (43) *Length of the list*;

(6) Explanation of a word to which it refers: (44) *A set of the list*, (45) *A text of the catalog*;

(7) Introduction of quantitative restrictions: (46) *In the modern world occur a lot of lists*, (47) *Most of the catalogs are built on the alphabetical principle*.

Another argument in favor of genitive meaning allocation apart from the possessive one is submitted by John Lyons [Lyons 1968: 394-395] and Charles Fillmore [Fillmore 1968: 49-50]. They consider that a derivation cannot account for the wide range of semantic readings available in many 's genitive constructions.

'S-genitives and of-genitives are considered as two roughly equivalent ways of saying the same

thing. [Labov 1972] Therefore we include of-genitive and s-genitive constructions in the analysis within the meanings outlined above. There are 371 cases of *genitive meaning = yes* and 1229 cases of *genitive meaning = no* in the corpus.

4. Concluding remarks

Elaboration of the preparatory stage of the analysis in the logistic regression acts an important role in producing quality results. Set parameters determine the course of the study case. All advanced hypotheses delimit the scope and do for verification models.

Explanatory notes

¹ URL: www.thefreedictionary.com.

² Ibid.

³ The examples are taken from the site: Davies M. The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA): 425 million words, 1990, URL: www.americancorpus.org.

⁴ a case of chaotic enumeration, where apparently there is no connection between different elements of the list. Nevertheless, it is worth dusting a distinction off between conjunctive enumeration and disjunctive one. A conjunctive enumeration assembles also different things that makes the set to be coherent, since the subject itself consider them in an identical context; on the contrary, the disjunctive enumeration expresses a fragmentation, a species of schizophrenia of the subject that conceives a sequence of ludicrous impressions without any utility feature.

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LINGUISTIC PARAMETERS OF THE CONCEPTS *LIST* AND *CATALOG*: LANGUAGE PROCESSING VERSION FOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Andrey V. Nosov

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Foreign Languages and Public Relations
Perm National Research Polytechnic University

In this case study we present two near-synonymous concepts which reflect the human outlook. The aim of this work is to define the most appropriate one for its usage in the further investigations on semantics of ordering and enumerative units. Being unconscious and objective, these units exist irrespectively of the observer and can be defined by distinctions and oppositions. From this point of view we get *LIST* and *CATALOG* as near-synonymous words seeking to identify the factors that determine the choice of a concept by objective and semantic criteria. For this purpose we elaborate an outline of multiple logistic regression analysis. The focus of investigation is on the identification of the contents and dynamics of the concepts verbalized by *LIST* and *CATALOG* across (1) four registers of the language (academic, spoken, fiction, newspaper), (2) semantic feature of possessive meaning, (3) plural modification, (4) post-modification, (5) pre-modification and (6) genitive meaning.

Key words: computational linguistics; logistic regression; comparative analysis; semantics; near-synonymous concepts.