A Corpus-based Approach to Content and Language Integrated Learning

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Aims

- to increase the effectiveness of teaching and learning in CLIL

- to suggest a corpus-based approach to CLIL as an alternative methodology

- to establish a better balance between content and language acquisition

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Preliminaries

- increasing number of international study programs

- research evidence in CLIL

- commonalities of CLIL contexts in European countries

- EU policies

Our focus

- CLIL at academic level

- English as working language

- Participants: non-native speakers of English

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Resources for non-native specialists in ESP

- on-line bilingual/ monolingual dictionaries – prevailing
- www
- terminological data bases
- glossaries

Corpus

- "a body of texts put together in a principled way and prepared for computer processing"

    (Johansson 1998)

- "A corpus is a collection of pieces of language text in electronic form, selected according to external criteria to represent, as far as possible, a language or language variety." (Sinclair 2005)

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Corpus Type for CLIL

a. multilingual – core subcorpus: English

b. comparable: similar subcorpora in several languages

c. written language

d. LSP (specialized) – coursebooks, reference material scientific work

e. monitor corpus

Corpus Features for CLIL

Reliability

- representativeness
- authenticity: original work
- authorship: native speakers; specialists
- size
- timeliness (synchronic)

- accessibility
- user-friendliness

Online BLC KWIC Concordancer Search Result
Search String: contain "contract"
Search Corpus: 01. Business Letter Corpus (BLC2000)
No. of Hit(s): 492

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1  ntified open issues not addressed in the standard contract

2   [BLC2:31:01338] # Subject: Service level of your contract

3         [BLC2:31:01466] # Subject: Terms of new contract

4   [BLC2:09:01714] This was the third delivery on contract #2005; the contract has a remaining balance of 8,

5  [BLC2:10:02713] This is the third delivery on our contract #4899994. which now has a remaining balance to be

6  tion of a 5% cash discount on our seasonal mowing contract (April through November).

7               [BLC2:31:01643] According to the contract (Section 4. Clause 6) you will be assessed a pena

8               [BLC2:31:01687] According to the contract (Section 4. Clause 6) you will be assessed a pena

9  firmation that we accept your changes to PP&E/PEI contract 34.899. with one exception.

10   [BLC2:31:01520] We need to enter a clause in the contract about the return of unsold merchandise.

11  of free exposure that's available to you as a 12x contract advertiser!

12  ay already know, we have succeeded in winning the contract after a series of strenuous negotiations with the

13  BLC2:31:00574] I'm glad we were able to renew our contract again. too.

14  ] This letter will confirm certain details of our contract agreement.

15  t we paid you the final balance of the additional contract amount of £17,000 by *****Bank check No. 270693

16  C2:34:02459] Our payments made for the additional contract amount were as follows:

17      [BLC2:10:03809] Securing higher initial contract amounts

18               [BLC2:10:03537] The contract amounts have been left blank to allow for negotia

19  Our credit terms are 50 percent upon execution of contract and 50 percent upon delivery.

20  d mailed a letter of intent as preliminary to the contract and am in the process of drafting a full contract
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Advantages of corpora in CLIL

Contextualization + the use of concordancers
- multiple meaning of terms
- comprehension of (E)SP
- collocation retrieval
- clarification of false friends
- terminology acquisition

- information on language structures

- a specialized corpus narrows down the search results to the relevant field

Dictionary search (business)

verb + "contract"

Bilingual Ro-E on-line dictionary:

contextual use: "a încheia un contract"

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	Au încheiat căsătoria în data de treisprezece martie.		
seal *vtr*	(assure, confirm)	(*figurat*) a încheia (afacerea) *vb.tranz*	
	The extra knives sealed the deal.		
	Făcea presiuni să încheie odată afacerea.		
arrange *vtr*	(reach agreement or understanding)	a încheia *vb.tranz.*	
		a ajunge la *vb.intranz.*	
	The two sides arranged a deal.		
	Cele două părți au încheiat un contract.		
	Cele două părți au ajuns la o înțelegere.		
contract *vi*	(make an agreement)	a încheia un contract, a încheia o	
	(*a încheia un acord*)	convenție *loc.vb.*	
	He contracted with the company to provide services.		
	A încheiat cu compania un contract (*or*: o convenție) de prestări servicii.		
button *vtr*	(shirt, etc.)	a încheia nasturii *expr.*	
		a se închide la nasturi *loc.vb.*	
conclude *vtr, vi*	(meeting)	(*despre ședințe, întâlniri*) a încheia, a termina *vb.tranz.*	
		a se încheia, a se termina *vb.reflex.*	
conclude *vtr, vi*	(last words)	(*despre discursuri*) a încheia *vb.tranz.*	
		a trage concluzia *loc.vb.*	
dismiss *vtr*	(law: case)	(*speță juridică*) a închide *vb.tranz.*	
		a încheia *vb.tranz.*	
ink *vtr*	(deal, contract: sign)	a încheia *vb.tranz.*	
	(*despre contracte*)		
		a semna *vb.tranz.*	

Bilingual dictionary definitions to *a încheia* *(un contract)*:
to end, to close, to finish, to fix, etc.

Corpus-based KWIC: to conclude

to sign a contract

to execute

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Collocation retrieval in BLC – KWIC
deal

1. Verb + noun collocate

      to close/ strike a deal

2. Adjective + noun collocate

      a great deal

      a good deal

3.Verb + preposition collocate

      to deal + with

          + in

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Specialized terminology comprehension and acquisition

brick and mortar

Corpus in contrast to dictionary

adj.+ noun collocates: brick and mortar   businesses
                                                              sales
                                                              stores
                                                              commerce
                                                              retailers
                                                              competitors

pl. noun: bricks and mortar

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Disadvantages of dictionaries in contrast to corpora
(prevailing resource)

- shortage of specialized dictionaries
- problematic choice of definitions
- deficient contexts: - source
                                        - authorship
- examples   - often irrelevant
                        - not always authentic
                        - cover the meaning partially
                        - no complete overview of use and usage

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Benefits of corpus-driven activities in CLIL
for trainers

- Preparation of lectures and in-class presentations

- Translation of material already written in native language

- Conceiving of exercises for specialized language practice based on authentic specialized material

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Benefits of corpus-driven activities in CLIL

for trainees

- access to reliable scientific language
- development of reading and writing skills
- acquisition of content knowledge and English
- contact with specific language beyond search item
- autonomous learning
- learning other languages

Further development of corpus and corpus-driven activities

- translation of English KW into corpus languages
- KW search in the other sub-corpora for similar info:
              - in native language
              - in other languages

- monitor corpus

- additional sub-corpora (other languages and fields)

Interdisciplinary openness

The use of quality corpora for various purposes

- Lexicography: - dictionary-making
  - LSP glossary creation
- Translation Studies: resource for translator trainees and practitioners
- Language studies research
- Computational Linguistics
- Information Technology: software for key-word extraction, frequency lists, etc.

Conclusions

1. corpus-driven activities can improve teaching and learning in CLIL as alternative methodology

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2. enhanced balance between the acquisition of content knowledge and language skills

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3. increased overall effectiveness of CLIL

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all of which serve the ultimate goals of CLIL:

4. fostering the international dimension of CLIL

5. enabling CLIL participants to move freely in European educational and professional environments