Contents

List of figures		ix	
Lis	List of tables To readers List of abbreviations 1 Corpus linguistics 1.1 Introducing corpus linguistics		
To	reader	rs	xvi
Lis	List of abbreviations		xviii
1	Corpus linguistics		1
	1.1	Introducing corpus linguistics	1
	1.2	The professor's shoeboxes	23
	1.3	The tape-recorder and the computer	3
	1.4	What can we get out of corpora?	5
	1.5	Criticism from armchair linguists	8
	1.6	Types of corpora	10
	1.7	Very large and quite small corpora	22
	1.8	Summary	22
	Study questions		23
	Corpus exercises		23
	Further reading		23
2	Counting, calculating and annotating		25
	2.1	Qualitative and quantitative method	25
	2.2	Frequency	26
	2.3	Comparing frequencies	37
	2.4	Distribution in the corpus	40
	2.5	Using percentages and normalising	41
	2.6	Representativity	43
	2.7	Corpus annotation	44
	2.8	Summary	50
	Stud	50	
	Corpus exercises		50
	Furt	51	

CONTENTS

3	Looking for lexis		
-	3.1	The role of the lexicon in language	52
	3.2	How lexicographers use corpora	52
	3.3	The meaning of words	53
	3.4	Semantic preference, semantic prosody	
		and evaluation	58
	3.5	How words change in frequency over time	60
	3.6	How words spread between varieties of English	63
	3.7	How authors use words	66
	3.8	Summary	69
	Study	y questions	70
	Corpus exercises		70
		ner reading	71
4	Checking collocations		
	4.1	Two types of collocations	72
	4.2	Collocations in a window	74
	4.3	Adjacent collocations	79
	4.4	Summary	88
	Study	y questions	88
	Corpus exercises		89
	Further reading		89
5	Findi	ing phrases	90
	5.1	Phraseology	90
	5.2	Idioms	92
	5.3	Recurrent phrases	96
	5.4	A literary application: Dickens's recurrent long phrases	107
	5.5	Summary	108
	Study	y questions	109
	Corpus exercises		109
	Furth	ner reading	109
6	Metaphor and metonymy		
	6.1	Introduction	111
	6.2	Using corpora in the study of metaphor	119
	6.3	Using corpora in the study of metonymy	129
	6.4	Summary	134
	Study	y questions	135
	Corpus exercises		135
	Further reading		135

vi

		CONTENTS	vii
7	Grammar		137
	7.1	Introduction	137
	7.2	Who and whom	137
	7.3	Get-passives	140
	7.4	Adjective complementation	143
	7.5	Prepositional gerund or directly linked gerund	145
	7.6	Using a parsed corpus: passives revisited	153
	7.7	Summary	154
		y questions	154
	~	ous exercises	155
	Furt	her reading	155
8	Male and female		156
	8.1	Introduction	156
	8.2	Referring to men and women	157
	8.3	The way men and women use language	165
	8.4	Summary	171
	Study questions		172
	Corpus exercises		172
	Further reading		172
9	Language change		174
	9.1	Introduction	174
	9.2	What is likely happening with <i>likely</i>	176
	9.3	Grammaticalisation: The history of <i>beside(s)</i>	180
	9.4	The OED as corpus: Starting to say <i>start to</i> and	100
	05	start V-ing	188
	9.5	Sociolinguistic explanations of language change:	191
	9.6	The rise of third person singular -s	191
		Summary	193
		y questions	193
	-	us exercises her reading	194
10	Corpus linguistics in cyberspace		195
10	-	Introduction	195
	10.1	The web as corpus	196
	10.2	Using commercial search engines for	170
	10.5	linguistic research	199
	10.4	Regional variation: Agreement with collective nouns	201
	10.5	Grammar: Adjective comparison	203
	10.6	Dialect and non-standard language	206

CONTENTS

۲

10.7 Web genres and compiling corpora from the web	208	
10.8 Summary	216	
Study questions	217	
Corpus exercises		
Further reading	217	
References	219	
Index		

viii