Contents

	List of figures	xi
	List of tables	xiii
	Acknowledgements	xv
1	Introduction	1
	Aims 1	
	What is a corpus? 2	
	Defining a corpus 2	
	Types of corpus 3	
	What can we do with a corpus? 4	
	Questions corpora can answer – quantitative analysis 4	
	Qualitative corpus analysis 6	
	Corpora and ELT 7	
	Corpora and ELT: In need of relationship counselling? 7	•
	What do corpora have to offer ELT? 8	
2	Building a corpus	14
	Why build your own corpus? 14	
	Building a corpus: A basic guide 14	
	Analysing corpus data 17	
	Word frequency counts 17	
	Concordancing 18	
	Collocations 19	
3	Corpora and lexis	22
	Introduction 22	
	Describing the lexicon 24	
	Terminology 24	
	Applying our terminology 29	

The importance of lexis – corpus perspectives 34 Lexis and fluency 34 Layers of meaning 36 Corpora and frequency 41 Implications for the vocabulary syllabus 53 Conclusion 54

4 Corpus research and grammar

Introduction 57 Grammar and frequency 58 Frequency findings from corpus research 58 Corpus research into frequency: Pedagogic implications 60 Corpus perspectives on grammatical description 62 Corpus perspectives on reported speech 62 Conditionals, corpora and pedagogy 64 Not such a simple word though 68 Grammar and lexis: Connections 71 The lexis and grammar connection 71 The grammar and lexis connection 74 The grammar/lexis and lexis/grammar connection: Implications for pedagogy 75 Conclusion 77

5 Spoken corpus research

Introduction 81 Examples of spoken corpora 82 Spoken corpus research and lexis 84 Spoken word frequency 84 Frequency of collocations and lexical chunks 88 Spoken corpus research and grammar 91 Spoken discourse 96 Discourse sequences 99 Spoken corpus research and pragmatics 101 Syllabus, materials and methodology 103 Syllabus selection criteria 103 Syllabus and sequence 108 Spoken language and methodology 110 Spoken language and materials 113 Conclusion 115 81

57

6	Corpora and the classroom		
	Introduction 119		
	Learner corpora 119		
	What is a learner corpus? 119		
	Design criteria for a learner corpus 120		
	Learner corpus research: Theory and practice 125		
	Applications of learner corpus research 127		
	Teaching-oriented corpora 128		
	The need for teaching-oriented corpora 128		
	Examples of teaching-oriented corpora 129		
	Improvising corpora for the classroom 131		
	Data-Driven Learning (DDL) 133		
	What is data-driven learning? 133		
	What is the rationale for DDL? 135		
	Reservations about DDL 138		
	DDL in perspective 139		
	Final word on DDL 141		
7	Corpora and ESP		
	Introduction 146		
	Types of EAP corpus 147		
	Examples of EAP corpora 148		
	English for Academic Purposes corpus research 151		
	English for Academic Purposes corpora and lexis 151		
	English for Academic Purposes corpora and genre analysis 159		
	Engineering corpora 161		
	Corpora of Business English 166		
	Learner corpora and ESP 171		
	Corpus findings and the ESP syllabus 172		
	English for Specific Purposes corpora and DDL 174		
	From corpus to materials 178		
	Conclusion 180		
8	Corpora in perspective		
	Introduction 183		

Introduction 183 Limitations of corpora 183 Corpora, the native speaker and English as a Lingua Franca 184 Native speakers in perspective 184 English as a Lingua Franca research 185 Classroom options for models of English 189 183

9 Conclusion

Appendices

Appendix 1: Commentaries 198 Appendix 2: Corpora and corpus resources 202

Index

204

196

198