

Text Analysis and Data Driven Learning in the Classroom

A Colloquium presented at TESOL '93, Atlanta

Saturday, April 17, 1993

Panelists:

Vance Stevens, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
Geoff Jordan, ESADE Idiomas, Barcelona
Simon Murison-Bowie, Oxford University Press, UK
Martha Pennington, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong
Tim Johns, University of Birmingham

"What is slowly becoming clear is that the most valuable contribution a computer can make to language learning is in supplying, on demand and in an organised fashion, masses and masses of authentic language. Authentic language, by definition, is anything not created by a teacher for the purpose of demonstrating language at work ... The most powerful of these tools is a concordancer."

- **John Higgins**. 1991. Fuel for learning: The neglected element of textbooks and CALL. *CAELL Journal* 2, 2:3-7.

"With concordance software and a corpus of natural English, language learners can short-cut the process of acquiring competence in the target language, because the computer is able to help students organize huge amounts of language data so that patterns are more easily discerned."

- **Vance Stevens**. 1992/3. Concordances as enhancements to language competence. *TESOL Matters* 2, 6:11.

The concordancer (simple to use, requiring no authoring, and having an exceptionally wide range of applications) "will perhaps be the pre-eminent software tool in this next stage in the development of computer assisted language learning ...

What the concordancer does is make the invisible visible."

- **Chris Tribble**. 1990. Concordancing and an EAP writing programme. *CAELL Journal* 1, 2:10-15.