The Purposes of Corporuses
The Purposes of Corpora

How to Dispose of the Body
or
The Corpus-Maker's (Di-)Lemma

by
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A base of misty tulle
Beyond the bank of trees?
Go plant a modal hedge
Lest your annealing freeze.

But as for language processing, mechanical or muscular,
There's nothing can improve upon a data-base corporuscular!

In London or in Lund,
From Birmingham to Brown,
No adjective escapes,
They never lose a noun.

But you cannot make a dictionary, notional or rational,
Without a Bank of Collocates and Converse International!

A Hidden Markoff Process
Lurks beneath your text,
To guard the crossing gates
From this word to the next.

But you run (or take) the risk that your results are merely tentative
Unless you base your corpus on a sample representative!
Don't try a demonstration,  
    Just register your name.  
If not "I saw, I conquered"  
You can always say "ICAME".

- Where Efí, the Sacred River, runs (with conference facilities)  
  Through caverns that are measureless as global probabilities!

    Beware the Svar(t)vik Boxes  
    With their electronic brains –  
    They'll have you tagged and parsed  
    In referential chains.

- But if you feel constrained to have your grammar realisticall,
  Your particles based properly, your lexis authentical,  
Don't rely on introspection, on the magic and the mystical,  
Don't hope to find a software pack of strategies heuristical,  
Just build yourself a corpus (or some corpora) statistical!

Index of personal names

Aarts, E. 434, 448
Abercrombie, D. 62, 106
Aijmer, K. 12
Aitken, A.J. 214
Allen, S. 151, 158
Aleshawi, H. 442
Altenberg, B. 12, 115-116, 355-357, 401
Andersson, E. 311
Anttila, A. 399
Apresjan, Y. 43
Atkins, B.T. 39, 59
Atwell, E.S. 432, 434

Baddeley, A.D. 84
Bahl, L.R. 121
Bailey, N. 18
Bailey, R.W. 214
Bar-Hillel, Y. 258
Bartlett, F. 84
Bartning, I. 168
Bateson, G. 269
Bayes, T.R. 449
Benbow, T. 464
Berenz, N. 132, 134, 142
Bernstein, B. 288, 291
Biber, D. 120, 166, 185, 203, 208, 214-215, 221, 240-246, 253-255, 357, 394, 457, 467
Bilger, M. 168
Blanche-Buttewite, C. 168
Bloom, L. 142
Bongers, H. 336, 339, 366
Brady, M. 463
Briscoe, E.J. 440-444

Brodda, B. 449
Brodin, D. 168
Brown, C. 215
Brown, G. 147
Brown, P.F. 107, 119
Brown, R. 142, 363-364
Bruce, G. 145-146
Bunker, B.C. 71
Burchfield, R. 21
Burnard, L.D. 168, 464
Burt, M.K. 364
Butler, C. 463

Cannon, T. 464
Carroll, J.B. 340, 407, 460
Carterette, E.C. 359, 369
Carvell, H.T. 460
Cassidy, F. 25
Cawdrey, R. 18
Celce-Murcia, M. 361, 363, 366
Chafe, W. 82, 85, 89, 98-102, 132, 142, 215, 248, 458, 465
Chang-Rodriguez, E. 151-152
Chomsky, N. 107-111, 120-121, 123, 426-427
Chrystall, J.A. 422
Church, K.W. 107
Clark, C. 463
Clear, J.H. 382, 464
Cltoran, C. 260, 278, 294
Coates, J. 350-351
Cocke, J. 107, 119
Cohen, J.L. 295
Coleman, A. 336
Cook, V. 107