

Corpus Linguistics in 2017: a personal view

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This paper offers a personal reflection on the development of Corpus Linguistics over the last couple of decades. This time period has seen a massive increase in the amount of research in this field, while at the same time reflecting three persistent preoccupations: the primacy of comparison; the primacy of lexis; and an ongoing questioning of the relationship between theory and methodology.

I shall suggest that the major changes and developments in the field can be summarised in terms of five 'turns': the quantitative; the cognitive; the modality; the specialisation; and the paradigmatic. The paper will discuss each of these in turn and will offer some speculations about the future.