

# Corpus-Based Cross-Sectional Analysis of Academic Papers in Medicine: Investigating Collocation Patterns of Sub-Technical Terms

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## **Abstract**

This poster presentation is part of an ongoing research project (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan), which aims to investigate the characteristics of written academic discourse by means of a corpus-based quantitative analysis. The corpus data used for investigation is comprised of scientific papers of more than 10 million words in the fields of medicine and nursing taken from over thirty kinds of international journals electronically published on the web, covering the period of 2001–2006. The data was accumulated and categorized according to the following specialized subfields: clinical surgery, bio-medicine, public health and nursing, and analyzed with reference to the Academic Word List developed by Coxhead (2000). The session will present data on the frequency of academic verbs, discourse markers, and verb collocation patterns found in the various article sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusion. In particular, the discussion will focus on a cross-sectional analysis of the subfields. Initial analysis shows that there is an extensive presence of certain common groups of sub-technical verbs, while the collocation patterns fall into several categories which are representative of the characteristics of the linguistic features found in each specialized subfield.

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