

An example of corpus-informed materials development

“Campus Talk” – advanced oral communication textbook for international students

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Overview

- Rationale
- Textbook features
- Why corpus-informed
- Corpus-informed materials



Rationale

- Current IEP/ESL Service courses needs
- Scarcity of listening/speaking teaching materials that
 - address transactional & interactional language training at this level (Kasper 1997; Carter 1998; Aijmer 1996; Gardner 2001; McCarthy 2002, 2003, 2005; O’Keeffe et al. 2007; Aijmer 2009; Field 2009; Walsh 2010, p. 333).
 - are research- and corpus-informed (Ranalli 2003, McCarten 2010, p. 413).

Textbook features

- **Level:**
 - Advanced
- **Audience:**
 - International graduate students
 - Teaching assistants
 - International undergraduate students
 - Upper-level ESL students
 - Exchange students
 - Visiting scholars
 - Other academics
- **Approach:**
 - Interactional approach - discourse-functional & conversation-analytic orientation

Why corpus-informed

- Verification and corroboration of teacher intuitions (Gavioli and Aston 2001; Tognini Bonelli 2001; Sinclair 2004; O’Keeffe et al. 2007; Cheng 2010; Reppen 2010; Bennett 2010)
- Understanding of discourse (Cheng and Warren 1999; 2003; Hoey 2005; McCarthy 2005; Biber 2010; McCarten 2010)
- Validation of lexico-grammatical syllabus choices (Johns 1991; Biber and Reppen 2002; Ranalli 2003; Brown 2005; O’Keeffe et al. 2007; Willis and Willis 2007; Aijmer 2009; Hunston 2002, 2009)

Corpus-informed materials

- **Student's Book**
 - Corpus-informed tasks and activities:
 - Approach:
 - Awareness-raising
 - Learning by discovery
 - Types:
 - Learner-centered
 - Discourse-oriented
 - Experiential-expository
 - Two-way closed tasks

Corpus-informed materials

- Corpus Box
- Concordance-based activities (pedagogically treated)
- Corpus queries
 - Example – Common intensifiers and evaluation phrases in spoken English
- **Teacher's Manual**
 - Activity-based corpus information for teachers
- **Web-based supporting materials:**
 - Classware (for teachers)
 - Textbook pedagogical corpus
 - Arcade (for students)

Thank you!