DISTINGUISHING THE INDISTINGUISHABLE OF THE WORDS *INJURED, WOUNDED,* AND *HURT*: A CORPUS INVESTIGATION

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Abstract

Most people, especially EFL students, claimed that English has rich vocabularies. Each vocabulary has many synonyms that could be found in thesaurus. But the problem is, those synonymous words can hardly be differentiated when applied in daily communication. It is because each of the English word has its own context and rule when it is used in a sentence or an utterance. However, in reality, this rule is often ignored by people. It is because they rely more on their intuition. Yet, it needs more than intuition to know the difference and how to use the words properly. The words 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt' were chosen as the object of this study, since those words are synonymous and distinguishable. A quick survey had been done by the researcher to know how EFL students and people in general used these three words. It turned out that they used those three words by ignoring the rule and depending on their intuition instead. The aim of this research is to help people to know the difference among those three words. By retrieving data from COCA and finding the collocation of those words, it is hoped that the reader will realize that these synonymous words are not as synonymous as they thought.

Keywords: injured, wounded, hurt, intuition, COCA, collocation

INTRODUCTION

This study will thoroughly explore the terms '*injured*', '*wounded*', and '*hurt*', and find out their usage, and differences in the way they are used. The decision to discuss and analyze those terms came from personal experience as an EFL student, since the majority of EFL students at Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha believe that '*injured*', '*wounded*', and '*hurt*' are synonymous. It is proved when they were asked to give their opinion about those terms, their responses were all the same, that those terms are synonymous. It is because in their previous school, they were taught that those words are similar and are presented to them as perfectly synonymous. That is why most of the students decided to depend on their intuition when it came to apply those similar or synonymous words in their writing and conversation. Devitt (2010) agrees that the speaker's intuition can be considered as a good evidence when it comes to distinguish similar words. There are two types of intuition that

play an important role in linguistics, they are *'primary intuitions'* and *'secondary intuitions'* (Wasow & Arnold, 2005). The primary intuition is an introspective judgments of linguistics expressions toward its meaning, while the secondary intuition is about why a certain expression has the meaning it has. However, people's intuition are not the same to each other and it cannot be used as a base or foundation to measure the validity of certain terms. Therefore, Hai Ly and Jung (2015) suggest to require a corpus investigation to get more reasonable answer instead of depending on intuition.

A research by Chung (2011) examined the similarities and differences of 'create' and 'produce' based on the types of their products denoted by their objects. The data is obtained from two corpora namely the Brown Corpus and the Frown Corpus (from ICAME). Before the data was analyzed using corpus, Chung identified those words through substitution or distinguishing the sense by using dictionary.

However, dictionary provides insufficient quantitative information such as the distributional information and frequencies of linguistic patterns. Then, she concluded that only a corpus will provide distributional of the needed information. After analyzing using corpus, she found that the words 'create' and 'produce' have two similarities: a) both of the word mostly appeared as bare infinitive ad in the *–ed* forms; b) both of the words share overlapping sense namely 'bring into existence/cause to happen, occur' and 'create and manufacture a man-made product'. Moreover, 'create' is usually followed by objects where the properties are not fixed and possessed higher possibility of applying creativity in the creation. While 'produce' is usually followed by objects that are produced in great number (usually manufactured by factories) with less threshold for creativity.

Hai Ly and Jung (2015) studied to find the similarities and differences of 'cute', 'pretty', and 'beautiful'. Their research was based on corpora and Bank of English (BoE). The results of their research show that 'pretty' and 'beautiful' are believed to have similarities and may be the most synonymous pair of the three words analyzed. However, after those words were analyzed using corpora and BoE, those words are far from being synonymous and do not have the same usage in all context. From the result, Hai Ly and Jung suggest to require a corpora investigation to get more reasonable answer and certainties of speaker regarding language use.

Castello (2014) studied the terms 'strong' and 'powerful' to compare their usage and distribution to identify patterns, similarities and differences. He used corpora and polysemous words to analyze the words. The result shows that the words are clearly synonymous in some way, but there are a number of distinct differences in particular. While Stockdale (2007) did a corpus investigation using Bank of English to distinguish the words 'lots' and 'plenty'. The evidences she found are that 'lots' and 'plenty' are highly synonymous, and those words share many common collocates.

Based on the previous studies, all of the researchers suggest to use corpus investigation in determining synonymous words in order to know the pattern and the differencies between the synonymous words. Therefore, this study conducts a corpus study and various linguistics techniques in order to investigate the frequency and the differences in the usage of the terms *injured, wounded,* and *hurt*.

The objectives of this study is to know how and when to use the words 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt' based on their collocation under Corpus investigation. After doing the research and getting the result, it is hoped that the result will be beneficial for English learners to have better comprehension about the correct usage of the words 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt' which are often mistaken and misapplied. Therefore, they know how and when to use the appropriate words among those three words to express their states and feelings.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Corpus

Corpus linguistics is a methodology of linguistic analysis that views 'naturally-occurring' language as a credible source for the investigation and classification of linguistic structures (Castello, 2014). Interpreting observed language in order to reach the statements on patterns in word meaning or syntactic composition is the concerned of Corpus linguistics. Corpus data is systematic in which the structure and contents will be governed by a number of sampling principles, such as the subject and variety of language. Hai Ly (2015) states that intuition is a poor guide of language usage with respect to collocation, frequency, prosody and phraseology and explains that "although a native speaker has experience of very much more language than is contained in even the largest corpus, much of that experience remains hidden from introspection". A corpus can provide specific examples of language usage but native speakers will create evidence that is invalid because they are not able to distinguish among various kinds of language patterning such as psychological associations and semantic groupings.

Frequency

The important aspect of language in corpus study is the frequency of words and phrases (Hai-Ly & Jung, 2015). Frequency information is valuable because it indicates what the typical usage of a word is. For example, it can indicate the most frequent sense (meaning) or phraseology of an individual word or phrase. Words that are frequent generally have more senses. For words that are less frequent, Partington (1998) as cited by Hay-Ly & Jung (2015) suggests that they have restricted use to special environments. Frequency information can also be used to find similarities and differences between synonyms.

Collocation

There are four types of relations between lexical units that can contribute to the meaning of a text. One of those four types is collocation. According to Stubbs, collocation is the propensity of a word or phrase (node) to co-occur repeatedly with other words (collocates) within a specific span (Hai-Ly & Jung, 2015). The significance of collocational information is the semantic relations it can show between the node and its collocates. By looking at a collocational list, it is possible to observe the range of associations of the node and also the semantic relations among its collocates.

METHOD

In this research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the frequency and the collocation of the words 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt' using Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Descriptive analysis means to describe the procedures and the basic features of the data in a study. The data is qualitative since this research is about investigating those three words. Descriptive qualitative method is used in this research because the researcher will describe the findings obtained from the investigation in both tables and descriptions. Moreover, this research requires collecting, analyzing, and investigating the data instead of calculating the data.

Object of the Study

The objects of this research are the collocations of the three synonymous words, namely 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt'. It is very important to know the difference meaning, pattern, and collocation among those synonymous words, so those words can be applied correctly in verbal and written. Since those words are often misused, it is best to reveal their meaning and the correct usage and application of those words.

Source of Data

The source of the data in this research is from utterance of 20 students of ELE Undiksha, statuses in social media, and in some news of expressing their bad or unhealthy condition due to something happened to them. Moreover, the data isi also gained from Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) by BYU Corpora. COCA is used in order to find out the frequency, collocation, of the words 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt'. People tend to tell others about what they feel when they had broken heart or when they had accident with those words directly and indirectly (through social media). In some mass media, the writers usually report the condition of the victims using those three words.

The Data

The data collected is the result of quick survey of ELE students' utterances, statuses on social media, and in news. The data will be presented in both tables and description. The data obtained will be compared to the data provided in COCA and determine the correct usage or application according to the collocation of the words. Then, the result will be revealed whether the data from quick survey are already applied appropriately or not.

Data Collecting Method

Study document is used as the method of collecting data, which means that the data is collected from news, magazines, previous studies, transcript, etc. First, the researcher finds the words expression which have similarity or are synonymous. Then, the researcher reads previous studies related to

synonymous words in order to define what should be found and done.

Technique of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data that have been collected, the researcher follows several steps as follows.

    a. Find Frequency by Quick Survey.

Quick survey is done based on the background problem faced by the researcher. First, the researcher asks 20 ELE students randomly about their opinion towards the words 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt'. Then they are asked to express their state and condition using those three words. Moreover, the researcher also did quick survey on the usage of those three words on statuses on social media and news. The result will be gathered then analyzed.

    b. Find Frequency by using Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

Beside doing quick survey, the researcher also uses COCA to find out the frequency of those three words in order to know which word is the most frequent appear or used by people. The result will be gathered then analyzed.

    c. Data Analysis

After the frequencies from both method (quick survey and COCA) are gained, the data will be compared in order to point out the most frequent word to use among those three words. Furthermore, to know the difference and when to use each words, corpus investigation on the words' collocation is done. The steps of how the researcher analyzed the data are presented below.

1). Gathering all the data gained from quick survey and COCA

2). Analyzing the sentences by comparing the data gained from quick survey and COCA

3). Underlining or pointing out the words which followed and follow the words 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt' in the sentences.

4). Doing corpus investigation on the words' collocation to find out the correct collocation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Findings
Frequency by Quick Survey

Quick survey from ELE students' utterance, statuses on social media, and in news has been done by the researcher to find out the frequency of the word 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt', is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Frequencies of Injured, Wounded, and Hurt from Quick Survey

Word	Frequency
injured	26
wounded	11
hurt	43

Table 1 shows that people tend to use the word 'hurt' more frequent rather than the other words. The word 'wounded' is least used by people in their daily life. Moreover, the use of those words in written and spoken, the frequency of those words is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The Comparison in Written and Spoken Form

Word	Frequency in Written Form	Frequency in Spoken Form
Injured	21	5
Wounded	9	2
Hurt	20	23

Table 2 shows that the word 'hurt' is mostly occurred in spoken rather than in written, although the gap of both written and spoken is not many. While, the gap between the use of the words 'injured' and 'wounded' is big. Apparently, people tend to use those two words more in their writing especially in writing report of something (news, magazines, etc). However, the word choice they chose might not appropriate with the context. Therefore, we compare it to Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and the collocation in order to know how and when to use the words correctly.

Frequency by COCA

The frequencies of the three words, namely 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt' were examined by using Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Frequencies of Injured, Wounded, and Hurt by COCA

Word	Frequency per million
injured	13.6
wounded	12.1
hurt	40.2

From Table 3, we can conclude that among the three words in the entire COCA, the word 'hurt' has the most frequency, while the word 'wounded' has the least frequency. It can be said that the word 'hurt' has a wider range of use in daily life communication than 'injured' and 'wounded'. Being the last frequent, the word 'wounded' might has the narrowest use among the three words.

Table 4. Frequency Comparison Between Written and Spoken Corpora

Word	Average frequency in written sub corpora (frequency per million)	Average frequency in spoken sub corpora (frequency per million)
injured	9.3	3.7
wounded	8.9	3.2
hurt	19.7	20.4

When those three words being compared according to sub corpus format (written and spoken), it can be concluded that the word 'injured' and 'wounded' are usually found in written text (news, magazine, article, etc). While, the word hurt almost share the same frequent in spoken and written form, which means people tend to use the word 'hurt' in both speaking and writing very often.

In summary, those three words are commonly used, but the word 'hurt' is used the most by people in both written and spoken form since it has the tendency to frequently appear in both sub corpora.

Collocation

According to Oxford dictionary, the meaning of the three words are as follows.

a. injured:

> harmed, damaged, impaired
>
> offended

b. wounded:

> an injury caused by cut, blow or other impact on the skin
>
> an injury to a person's feelings or reputation

c. hurt:

> physically and emotionally injured
>
> offended by another person's behavior

Based on those definition by Oxford dictionary, the three words are almost similar (synonymous) or hardly can be distinguished. However, in applying those words in spoken or written form, we need to know the context and pattern of those words. That is why we need to know the collocate of those words before using those words.

1). Collocation of the word **'injured'.**

Verbs:

> fake- "…have been **faking injured** after fall from his bike."
>
> Get- "…be thanking God that she did not **get injured** or killed…"

Adverb:

> slighty- "…a **slightly injured** arm…"
>
> Seriously- "…several people were **seriously injured** when the bomb exploded…"

2). Collocation of the word **'wounded'.**

Body

Adverb:

> fatally- "…was **fatally wounded** in a car crash."

Preposition:

> in "…that a reporter was **wounded in** the leg."

Phrases: "the walking wounded" which means people who have been wounded, but not so badly that they cannot walk.

Feeling

Adverb:

deeply- "…was **deeply wounded** by his remark…"

3). Collocation of the word **"hurt".**

Body

Verbs:

> get, be-"… should stop that or you'll **be hurt**."

Adverb:

> badly- "…know that she **badly hurt** her ankle."

Feeling

Verbs:

> look, seem, sound- "…because you **look hurt**, is everything ok?"

Adverbs:

> deeply, bitterly, extremely, terribly- "…her critics **extremely hurt** me…"

Preposition:

> -by "…seemed **hurt by** his remark."

Discussion

From the quick survey that has been done by the researcher which was obtained from social media statuses and orally, the word hurt is being used the most among those three words. They usually use the word 'hurt' to express both their feeling emotionally and their state of physicall injury. They usually use the word 'hurt' in speaking more than writing. While, in speaking, they tend to use the word 'injured' more frequently. They usually use the word 'injured' to express only their state of body which is injured physically. The word 'wounded' is the most seldom to be found in oral and written expression in social media statuses. However, people mostly use the word 'wounded' in writing rather than in speaking. They usually use the word to express their feeling emotionally and also physically. The researcher's quick survey is in line with what the researcher obtained from COCA. The data from COCA show that the word 'hurt' is mostly used by people around the world. And it is also used or found mostly in speaking rather than in writing. After the word 'hurt', the word 'injured' is mostly used in writing rather than in speaking. The word 'wounded' is less used by people in writing and speaking. Those three words are used to express their body state

physically, yet only the words 'wounded' and 'hurt' which are used to express both physically and emotionally.

In order to know the usage of those three words, the researcher use COCA to find the collocation of each word. It is found that the word' injured' can be followed by verbs and also adverbs. While the word 'wounded' can be followed by adverbs, preposition, and also exists in phrase to express state of being physically. To state the feeling emotionally, the word 'wounded' can be followed by adverbs only. Moreover, the word 'hurt' also followed by verbs and adverbs to state the body condition physically, while it is followed by verbs, adverbs, and preposition to state the feeling emotionally.

As what have been found in the finding, after analyzing the data, the researcher found out that the words "injured", "wounded", and "hurt" are not quite similar in everyday usage. Especially, the words "wounded" and "hurt" which share the same verbs and adverbs in its usage. Moreover, those two words are usually used to express injury on body and also feeling or emotion. Meanwhile, the word "injured" is used only to express cut or injury that is visible on body. But it is hardly to be found that the usage of the word 'injured' is used to express feeling.

CONCLUSION

From the finding and discussion, it can be concluded that the three words namely 'injured', 'wounded', and 'hurt' are similar but not synonymous. It is similar because those words are usually used by people to express their state of being physically injured (visible injury). Yet those words are not synonymous since the function in its usage are different. The word 'injured' is mostly used to state the visible injury in body and it is usually found in writing more than speaking (based on the data from COCA). On the other hand, the word 'wounded' is usually used to state both physical injury and express the emotional feeling. This word is the most seldom used among the three words being analyzed. People tend to use the word in writing more frequently. Furthermore, the word 'hurt' is the most used word to express

feeling and state of body physically among those three words. And this word is mostly spoken rather than written by people. Therefore, this research found that those three words are not synonymous in daily usage.

The researcher then compare the result obtained from corpus to the result of quick survey that had been done. According to the collocation of each of those three words, the survey shows that most people, especially EFL of Undiksha students misused or misapplied those three words.

Therefore, by doing this research, it is hoped that the reader of this research will have better understanding of how to use those three words properly. It is also important for students who learn English to know and understand the differences among those three words. So, they can apply and use the words wisely and in appropriate way.

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