

A Corpora-Based Analysis of Rely on and Depend on

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Abstract

The ultimate goal of this paper is to provide a comparative analysis of *rely on* and *depend on* in the Corpus of Contemporary American English and the British National Corpus. The COCA clearly shows that the expression *rely on government* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *rely on people*, and *rely on data*. The COCA further indicates that the expression *depend on slate* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *depend on government*, and *depend on people*. The BNC shows, on the other hand, that the expression *rely on others* is the most preferred by the British, followed by *rely on people*, and *rely on friends*. The BNC further indicates that *depend on factors* and *depend on others* are the most preferred by the British, followed by *depend on age*, and *depend on food*. Finally, in the COCA, the nouns *government*, *luck*, *welfare*, *people*, *information*, *state*, *fossil*, *water*, *family*, *oil*, *food*, and *things* are linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*, but many nouns are not still linked to both of them. On the other hand, in the BNC, only the nouns *state*, *chance*, *government*, and *others* are linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*, but many nouns are not still linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*. It can thus be inferred from this that *rely on* is slightly different from *depend on* in its use.

Keywords: Corpus, COCA, BNC, Type, Token, Rely on, Depend on

1. Introduction

“Corpora are large machine-readable compilations of authentic texts. They can be general or specialized, depending on what kinds of texts are included in the corpus” (Cotos 2017: 249). The goal of this paper is to provide a comparative analysis of the two types *rely on* and *depend on* in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and the British National Corpus (BNC). As a tool to achieve this goal, we adopt the COCA and BNC and analyze the frequency of *rely on* and *depend on*. As pointed out by Murphy (2019), *rely on* and *depend on* are synonymously used. However, this paper argues that *rely on* and *depend on* are synonymously used, but they are slightly different from each other in their use and preference. To begin with, we aim to consider the genre frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. We observe the eight genres of the COCA and provide a comparative analysis of *rely on* and *depend on*. Similarly, we aim to examine the seven genres of the BNC and provide a comparative analysis of *rely on* and *depend on*. Additionally, we compare the results from the COCA and those from the BNC. We also examine the frequency of the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. More specifically, we examine the frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* along with nouns in the top twenty five. Finally, we attempt to visualize the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. By visualizing the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on*, we can compare them. The organization of this paper is as follows. In section 2.1, we argue that *rely on* is preferred over

depend on by Americans. We further argue that *rely on* and *depend on* are the most widely used in the academic genre. Most importantly, *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern in the academic and spoken genres and the newspaper, TV/movie, and fiction genres, whereas they show a different pattern in the web, magazine, and blog genres of the COCA. In section 2.2, we maintain that the type *depend on* is preferred over the type *rely on* by the British. We also maintain that *rely on* and *depend on* show a different pattern in the three genres of the COCA, whereas they show a different one in the two genres of the BNC. This in turn implies that *rely on* and *depend on* are synonymously used, but they are slightly different from each other in their use. In section 3, we examine the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. In this section, we also visualize the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the top twenty five. We contend that the expression *rely on government* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *rely on people*, *rely on data*, *rely on information*, *rely on family*, *rely on food*, *rely on technology*, *rely on state*, *rely on volunteers*, and *rely on luck*, in that order. We also contend, on the other hand, that the expression *depend on state* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *depend on government*, *depend on people*, *depend on oil*, *depend on factors*, *depend on water*, *depend on circumstances*, *depend on nature*, *depend on welfare*, *depend on family*, and *depend on information*, in that order. In the COCA, the nouns *government*, *luck*, *welfare*, *people*, *information*, *state*, *fossil*, *water*, *family*, *oil*, *food*, and *things* are linked to both *depend on* and *rely on*, but many nouns are not still linked to both of them. This in turn suggests that *depend on* is slightly different from *rely on* in its use. In section 4, we argue that the collocation *rely on others* is the most preferred by the British, followed by *rely on people*, *rely on friends* (*rely on income*, *rely on intuition*), and *rely on advice*, in descending order. We further argue that *depend on factors* and *depend on others* are the most preferred by the British, followed by *depend on age*, and *depend on food* (*depend on property*, *depend on state*, *depend on time*), in descending order. Finally, in the COCA, the nouns *government*, *luck*, *welfare*, *people*, *information*, *state*, *fossil*, *water*, *family*, *oil*, *food*, and *things* are linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*, but many nouns are not still linked to both of them. On the other hand, in the BNC, the nouns *state*, *chance*, *government*, and *others* have a collocation relationship with both *rely on* and *depend on*. That is, only four nouns are linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*. From all of this, it can be inferred that the use of *rely on* is slightly different from the use of *depend on* in both America and the UK.

2. The Genre Analysis of *Rely on* and *Depend on* in the COCA and BNC

2.1. The Genre Frequency of *Rely on* and *Depend on* in the COCA

In what follows, we aim to consider the eight genres of the types *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. We attempt to provide a comparative analysis of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. Table 1 indicates the genre frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA.

Table 1. Genre Frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA

Genre	All	BLOG	WEB	TV/M	SPOK	FIC	MAG	NEWS	ACAD
Rely on	18,460	3,172	2,981	837	1,598	611	3,229	2,391	3,641
Depend on	14,640	2,205	2,596	775	1,346	655	2,220	1,673	3,170

An important question is “Which type is preferred by Americans?” Table 1 clearly shows that the overall frequency of *rely on* is 18,460 tokens, whereas that of *depend on* is 14,640 tokens. This in turn indicates that the type *rely on* is preferred over the type *depend on* by Americans. Thus, it seems reasonable to hypothesize that Americans prefer using *rely on* to using *depend on*. In a word, the types *rely on* and *depend on* are slightly different from each other in their preference.

An immediate question is “In which genre is *rely on* the most frequently used?” Table 1 clearly shows that the type *rely on* is the most widely used in the academic genre (3,641 tokens). Likewise, the type *depend on* is the most commonly used in the academic genre. This indicates that both *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern with respect to their ranking in the academic genre. It should be noted, however, that the type *rely on* is favored over the type *depend on* in the academic genre of the COCA. More specifically, the frequency of *rely on* in the academic genre is 3,641 tokens, whereas that of *depend on* is 3,170 tokens. Thus, it seems reasonable to assume that the type *rely on* is preferable to the type *depend on* in the academic genre.

It is interesting to point out that the type *rely on* is the second most preferred expression in the magazine genre. On the other hand, the type *depend on* is the second most preferred expression in the web genre. This in turn implies that *rely on* and *depend on* are slightly different from each other in their use. It is interesting to note that *rely on* is the fourth most preferred expression in the web genre, whereas *depend on* is the third most preferred type in the magazine genre. From all of this, it is clear that *rely on* and *depend on* are synonymously used, but they are somewhat different from each other in their use.

It is worth pointing out that the type *rely on* is the third most preferred expression in the blog genre. There is only a difference of 469 tokens between *rely on* in the academic genre and *rely on* in the blog genre. As observed earlier, in the

academic genre, *rely on* has the highest frequency (3,641 tokens) and the highest proportion (19%). From this it can be inferred that American bloggers are keen on using *rely on*. It is worth noting that the type *depend on* is the third most preferred expression in the magazine genre. This suggests that despite the same ranking, *rely on* and *depend on* belong to different genres. From this, it is clear that *rely on* and *depend on* are somewhat different from each other in their use.

It is worthwhile noting that the type *rely on* is the fourth most preferred expression in the web genre. On the other hand, the type *depend on* is the fourth most preferred one in the blog genre. Again, despite the same ranking, the types *rely on* and *depend on* belong to different genres. Interestingly, the types *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern in the fiction genre of the COCA. That is to say, *rely on* and *depend on* have the lowest frequency (611 tokens for *rely on* and 655 tokens for *depend on*) and the lowest proportion (3% for *rely on* and 4 % for *depend on*) in the fiction genre. We take this as indicating that *depend on* is preferred over *rely on* by American writers.

Most importantly, *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern in the academic and spoken genres and the newspaper, TV/movie, and fiction genres, whereas they show a different pattern in the web, magazine, and blog genres of the COCA. This in turn implies that the type *rely on* shares almost the same pattern with the type *depend on*, but they are somewhat different from each other in their use. The following graphs show the percentage of the genre frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA.

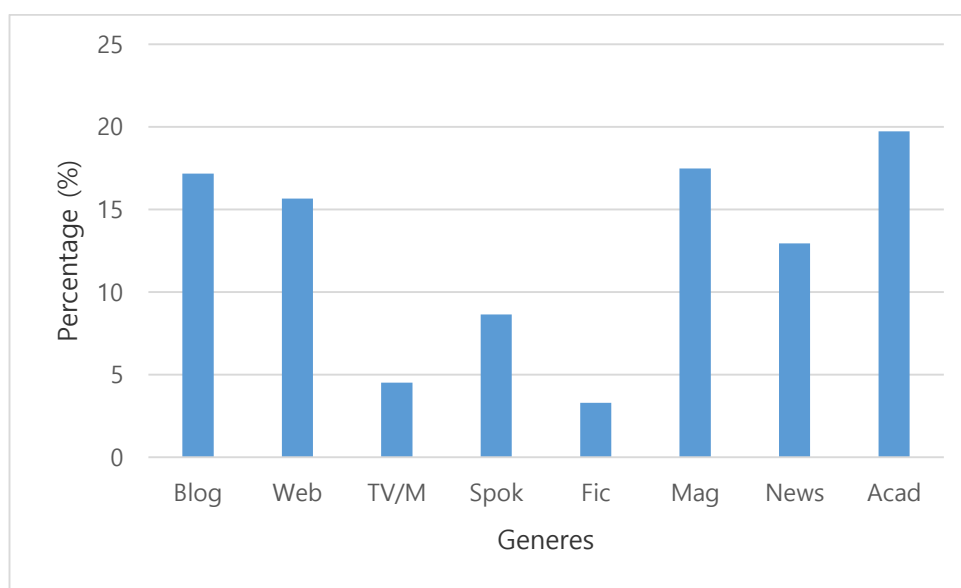


Figure 1. Percentage of the genre frequency of *rely on* in the COCA

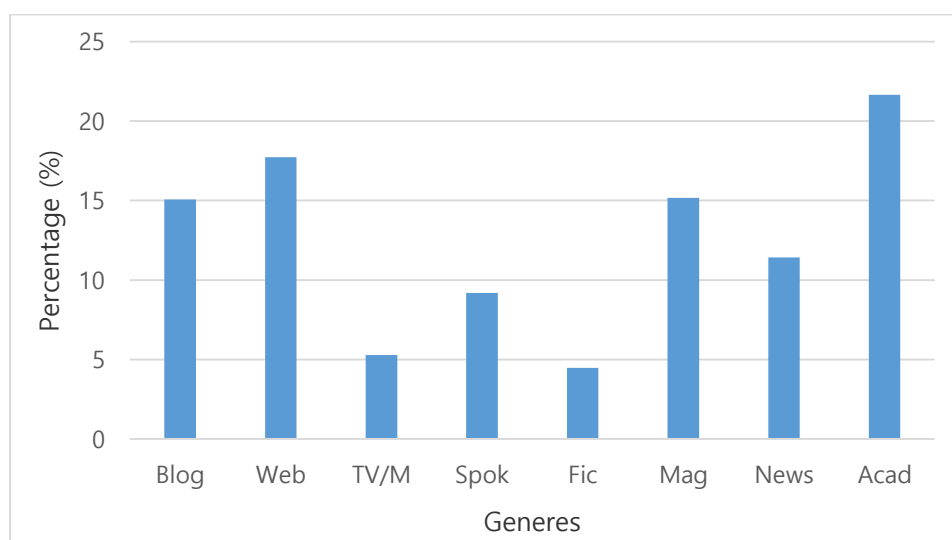


Figure 2. Percentage of the genre frequency of *depend on* in the COCA

2.2. The Genre Frequency of *Rely on* and *Depend on* in the BNC

In the following, we aim to examine the genre frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* in the BNC. In this section, we provide a comparative analysis of *rely on* and *depend on* and compare the results from the BNC and those from the COCA. Table 2 indicates the genre frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* in the BNC:

Table 2. Genre Frequency of *rely on* and *depend on* in the BNC

Genre	ALL	SPOK	FIC	MAG	NEWS	NON-ACAD	ACAD	MISC
Rely on	1,886	108	135	146	181	326	532	458
Depend on	2,163	113	81	114	137	436	728	554

An important question is “Which type is preferred by the British?” The overall frequency of *rely on* is 1,886 tokens, whereas that of *depend on* is 2,163 tokens. From this it can be inferred that the type *depend on* is preferred over the type *rely on* by the British. Thus, it seems reasonable to hypothesize that the British prefer using *depend on* to using *rely on*. As observed earlier, *rely on* is preferable to *depend on* in America. This in turn suggests that Americans and the British show a different pattern with respect to the use of *rely on* and *depend on* (national variation).

An immediate question is “In which genre is *rely on* the most frequently used by the British?” Table 2 clearly indicates that *rely on* is the most widely used in the academic genre. Likewise, *depend on* is the most commonly used in the academic genre. This indicates that *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern with respect to their ranking in the academic genre. Most importantly, as alluded to in Table 1 and Table 2, there is no national variation between America and the UK. More specifically, *rely on* and *depend on* are the most frequently used by Americans and the British in the academic genre. It must be noted, however, that the type *rely on* is preferred over the type *depend on* by Americans in the academic genre, whereas the type *depend on* is preferred over the type *rely on* by the British. In this respect, there is a national variation between America and the UK in the academic genre.

It is worth pointing out that the type *rely on* is the second most preferred expression in the misc genre. It is interesting to point out, on the other hand, that the type *depend on* is the second most preferred one in the misc genre. This in turn implies that the type *rely on* has the same property as the type *depend on* with regard to their ranking in the misc genre of the BNC. It should be noted, however, that the type *depend on* is favored over the type *rely on* in the UK. More specifically, the frequency of *rely on* is 458 tokens, whereas that of *depend on* is 554 tokens. Yet, we do not consider why the two types are the second most preferred expressions in the misc genre since it is the mixture of all genres.

It is significant to note that both *rely on* and *depend on* are the third most preferred expressions in the non-academic genre. Again, both *rely on* and *depend on* show the same property with regard to their ranking in the non-academic genre. This in turn implies that *rely on* shares the same property with *depend on*. It should be pointed out, however, that *depend on* is preferred over *rely on* by the British in the non-academic genre.

It is important to note that *rely on* ranks sixth in the fiction genre, whereas *depend on* ranks sixth in the spoken genre. Most importantly, despite the same ranking, *rely on* and *depend on* show a different pattern. That is, they belong to different genres. More interestingly, when it comes to the spoken genre, the British prefer using *depend on* to using *rely on* in daily conversation. Simply put, *depend on* is favored over *rely on* in the spoken genre of the BNC.

Finally, it is significant to note that *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern in the academic, non-academic, and misc genres and the newspaper and magazine genres, whereas they show a different property in the fiction genre and the spoken genre. To sum up, in the COCA, *rely on* and *depend on* show a different pattern in three genres, whereas in the BNC, they show a different one in two genres. This may imply that *rely on* and *depend on* are synonymously used, but they are somewhat different from each other in their use. Figure 3 and Figure 4 indicate the percentage of the use of *rely on* and *depend on* in the seven genres of the BNC:

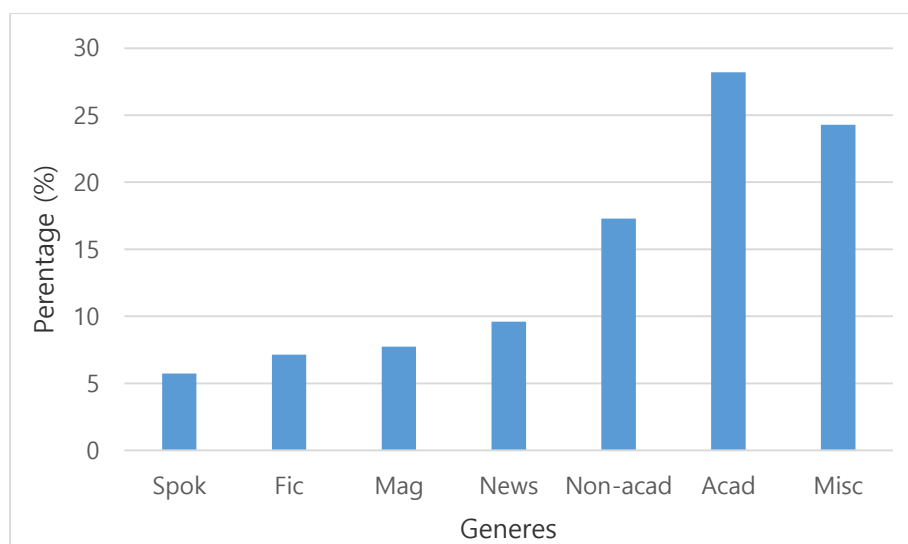


Figure 3. Percentage of the frequency of rely on in seven genres

With respect to the use of *rely on* in the BNC, it is interesting to note that the academic genre is the most frequently used, followed by the misc genre, the non-academic genre, the newspaper genre, the magazine genre, the fiction genre, and the spoken genre, in descending order.

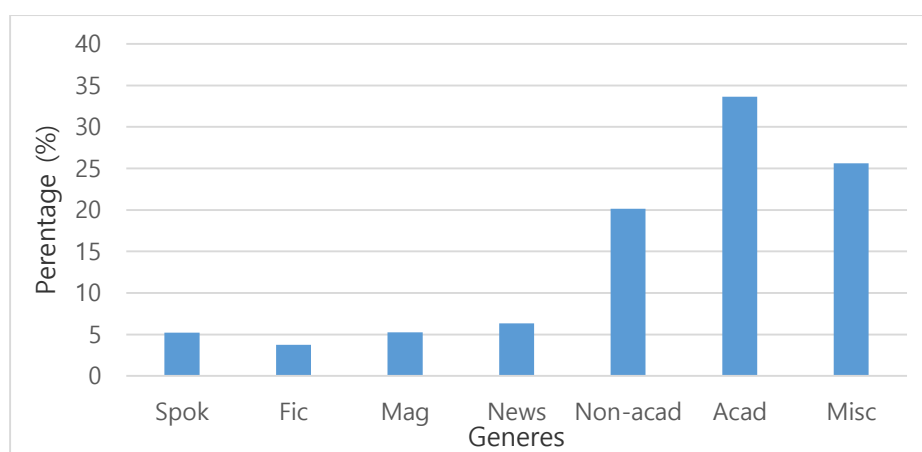


Figure 4. Percentage of the frequency of depend on in seven genres

When it comes to the use of *depend on* in the BNC, the academic genre is the most widely used, followed by the misc genre, the non-academic genre, the newspaper genre, the magazine genre, the spoken genre, and the fiction genre, in that order.

3. A Collocation Analysis of Rely on and Depend on in the COCA

In the following, we aim to consider the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. In this section, we also visualize the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the top twenty five. Table 3 indicates the frequency of the collocation of *rely on* in the COCA:

Table 3. Frequency of the collocation of rely on in the COCA

Number	Collocation of rely on	Frequency
1	Rely on government	84

2	Rely on people	69
3	Rely on data	43
4	Rely on information	42
5	Rely on family	39
6	Rely on food	34
7	Rely on technology	29
8	Rely on state	28
9	Rely on volunteers	24
10	Rely on luck	22
11	Rely on water	19
12	Rely on oil	18
13	Rely on experts	17
14	Rely on support	17
15	Rely on things	16
16	Rely on fossil	15
17	Rely on memory	15
18	Rely on computer	14
19	Rely on faith	14
20	Rely on science	14
21	Rely on tips	14
22	Rely on friends	14
23	Rely on welfare	13
24	Rely on word	13
25	Rely on coal	12

An important question is “Which collocation is the most preferred by Americans?” Table 3 clearly shows that the expression *rely on government* is the most frequently used by Americans. This in turn indicates that the expression *rely on government* is the most preferable one among Americans. As alluded to in Table 3, the expression *rely on government* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *rely on people*, *rely on data*, *rely on information*, *rely on family*, *rely on food*, *rely*

on technology, rely on state, rely on volunteers, and rely on luck, in that order. It is interesting to point out that the everyday expression *rely on people* is the second most preferred one in America. Again, it is interesting to note that the everyday expression *rely on information* is the fourth most preferred one in America. The expressions *rely on luck* and *rely on support* rank tenth and fourteenth, respectively. Now by using the software NetMiner, we visualize the collocation of *rely on* in the top twenty five. As illustrated in Figure 5, particular nouns that are much used with *rely on* are linked to it. These nouns have a collocation relationship with *rely on*:

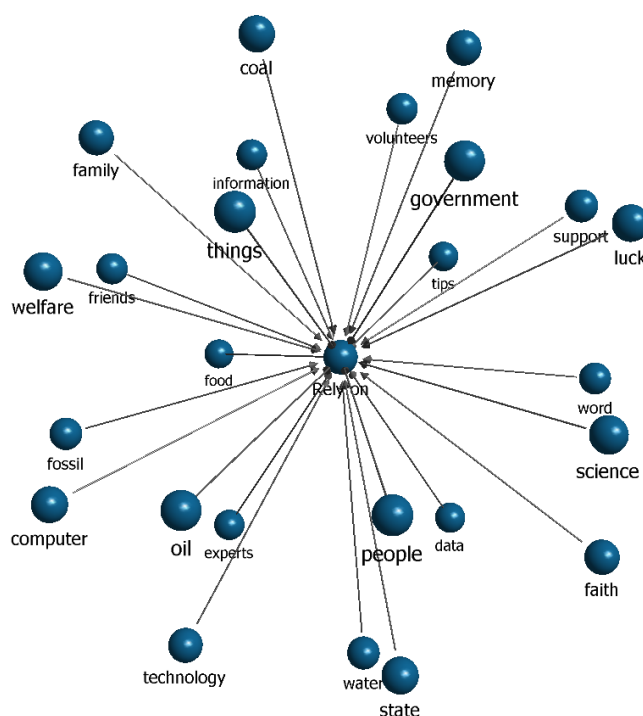


Figure 5. Visualization of the collocation of rely on in the COCA

Now, we aim to consider the collocation of *depend on* in the COCA. In this section, we attempt to visualize the collocations of *depend on* and *rely on* in the top twenty five. Table 4 indicates the frequency of the collocation of *depend on* in the top twenty five:

Table 4. Frequency of the collocation of depend on in the COCA

Number	Collocation of rely on	Frequency
1	Depend on slate	80
2	Depend on government	71
3	Depend on people	34
4	Depend on oil	20
5	Depend on factors	18
6	Depend on water	17
7	Depend on circumstances	15

8	Depend on nature	12
9	Depend on welfare	12
10	Depend on family	11
11	Depend on information	11
12	Depend on men	11
13	Depend on things	11
14	Depend on time	11
15	Depend on agriculture	10
16	Depend on food	10
17	Depend on fossil	10
18	Depend on luck	10
19	Depend on state	10
20	Depend on fish	9
21	Depend on knowledge	9
22	Depend on money	9
23	Depend on temperature	9
24	Depend on age	8
25	Depend on advertising	8

An immediate question is “Which collocation is the most preferred by Americans?” Table 4 shows that the expression *depend on slate* is the most widely used one in America. This in turn suggests that *depend on slate* is the most preferable expression among Americans. As alluded to in Table 4, the expression *depend on slate* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *depend on government*, *depend on people*, *depend on oil*, *depend on factors*, *depend on water*, *depend on circumstances*, *depend on nature*, *depend on welfare*, *depend on family*, and *depend on information*, in that order. More interestingly, *rely on government* ranks first in the COCA, whereas *depend on government* ranks second. On the other hand, *rely on people* ranks second, whereas *depend on people* ranks third. It should be pointed out that *rely on oil* ranks twelfth in the COCA, whereas *depend on oil* ranks fourth. Finally, the everyday expression *rely on welfare* ranks twenty third in the COCA, whereas *depend on welfare* ranks ninth. This in turn implies that *depend on* and *rely on* show a similar pattern with respect to their collocations.

Now we attempt to visualize the collocations of *depend on* and *rely on* by using the software NetMiner:

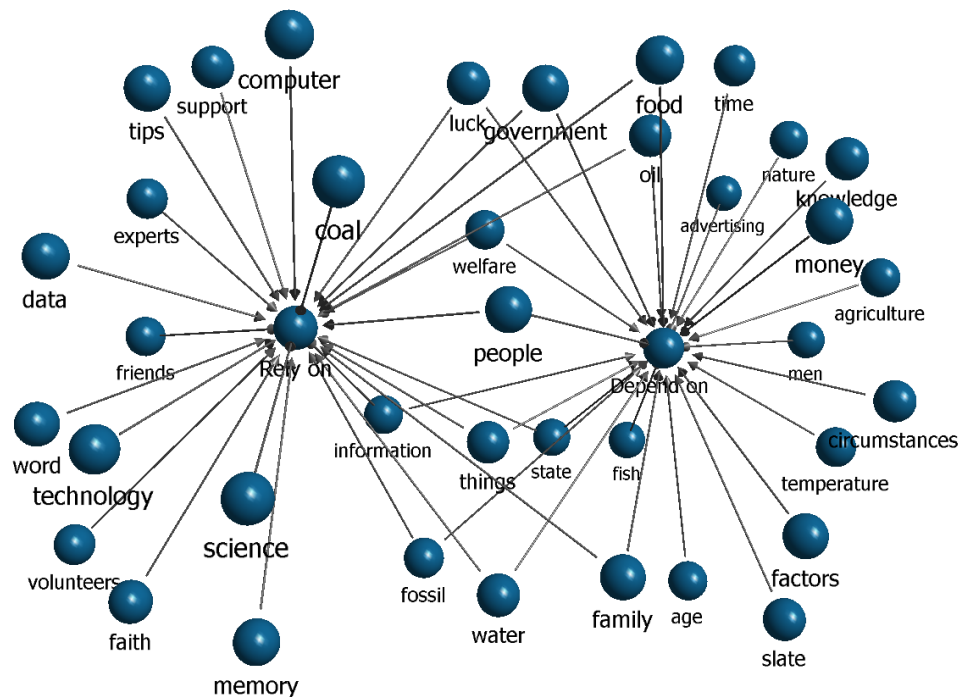


Figure 6. Visualization of the collocations of depend on and rely on in the COCA

As indicated in Figure 6, twelve nouns are linked to both *depend on* and *rely on*. More specifically, the nouns *government*, *luck*, *welfare*, *people*, *information*, *state*, *fossil*, *water*, *family*, *oil*, *food*, and *things* are linked to both *depend on* and *rely on*. These nouns have a collocation relationship with both *depend on* and *rely on*. This seems to suggest that *depend on* and *rely on* have the same property, but many nouns are not still linked to both of them, as illustrated in Figure 6. This in turn suggests that *rely on* is slightly different from *depend on* in its use.

4. A Collocation Analysis of Rely on and Depend on in the BNC

In what follows, we aim to consider the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the BNC. Table 5 indicates the frequency of the collocation of *rely on* in the BNC:

Table 5. Collocation of rely on in the BNC

Number	Collocation of rely on	Frequency
1	Rely on others	8
2	Rely on people	7
3	Rely on friends	5
4	Rely on income	5
5	Rely on intuition	5
6	Rely on advice	4
7	Rely on charity	4

8	Rely on relatives	4
9	Rely on sound	4
10	Rely on state	4
11	Rely on support	4
12	Rely on government	3
13	Rely on information	3
14	Rely on staff	3
15	Rely on word	3
16	Rely on bills	2
17	Rely on chance	2
18	Rely on advertisements	2
19	Rely on customers	2
20	Rely on Dr	2

An important question is “Which collocation is the most preferred by the British?” Table 5 clearly shows that *rely on others* is the most frequently used one in the UK. This in turn suggests that the expression *rely on others* is the most preferable one among the British. As alluded to in Table 5, the expression *rely on others* is the most preferred by the British, followed by *rely on people*, *rely on friends* (*rely on income*, *rely on intuition*), and *rely on advice*, in descending order. It is interesting to point out that *rely on government* ranks twelfth in the UK, whereas it ranks first in America. It is significant to note that *rely on people* is the second most preferred by the British. Likewise, it is the second most preferred by Americans. On the other hand, the collocation *rely on friends* rank third in the UK, whereas it ranks twenty second in America. It is worth noting that *rely on information* ranks thirteenth in the UK, whereas it ranks fourth in America. More interestingly, the expression *rely on word* ranks fifteenth in the UK, whereas it ranks twenty fourth in America. From all of this, it is clear that the BNC and COCA show a similar pattern with respect to the collocation of *rely on*.

Now attention is paid to the visualization of the collocation of *rely on* in the BNC.

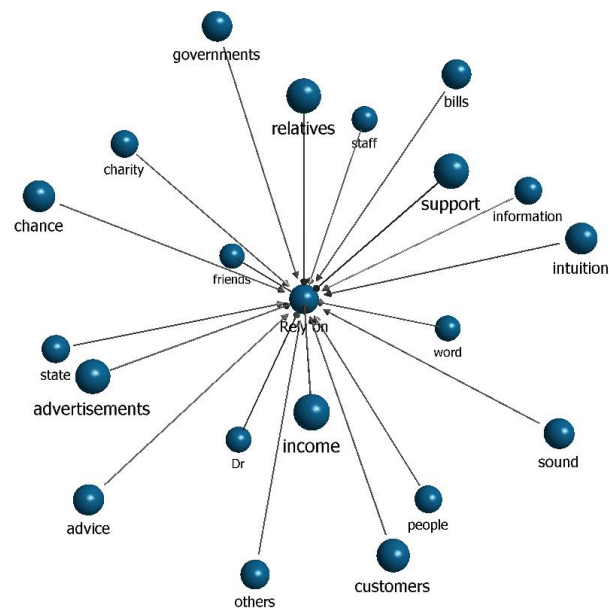


Figure 7. Visualization of the collocations of *rely on* in the BNC

As illustrated in Figure 7, particular nouns have a collocation relationship with *rely on*. More specifically, Figure 7 shows that twenty nouns are linked to the type *rely on*. This indicates that these nouns are frequently used with *rely on* in the UK. This 3-D visualization is performed by the software NetMiner.

In the following, we aim to examine the collocation of *depend on* in the BNC. Table 6 indicates the frequency of the collocation of *depend on* in the top twenty:

Table 6. Collocation of *depend on* in the BNC

Number	Collocation of <i>rely on</i>	Frequency
1	Depend on factors	5
2	Depend on others	5
3	Depend on age	4
4	Depend on food	3
5	Depend on property	3
6	Depend on state	3
7	Depend on time	3
8	Depend on customer	2
9	Depend on chance	2
10	Depend on advances	2
11	Depend on developments	2

12	Depend on faith	2
13	Depend on access	2
14	Depend on demand	2
15	Depend on gene	2
16	Depend on individuals	2
17	Depend on market	2
18	Depend on grants	2
19	Depend on government	2
20	Depend on input	2

An immediate question is “Which collocation is the most preferred by the British?” Table 6 clearly indicates that the expressions *depend on factors* and *depend on others* are the most commonly used by the British. This in turn implies that *depend on factors* and *depend on others* are the most preferable collocations for the British. As indicated in Table 6, *depend on factors* and *depend on others* are the most preferred by the British, followed by *depend on age*, and *depend on food* (*depend on property*, *depend on state*, *depend on time*), in descending order. It is worth pointing out that *depend on factors* ranks first in the UK, whereas it ranks fifth in America. On the other hand, *depend on age* ranks third in the UK, whereas it ranks twenty fourth in America. Interestingly, *depend on time* ranks seventh in the UK, whereas it ranks fourteenth in America. This indicates that the BNC and COCA show a similar pattern with respect to the collocation of the type *depend on*. More interestingly, *depend on others* is the second most preferred by the British, whereas *rely on others* is the most preferred by them. On the other hand, *depend on government* ranks nineteenth in the UK, whereas *rely on government* ranks twelfth.

Figure 8 displays the visualization of the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the top twenty.

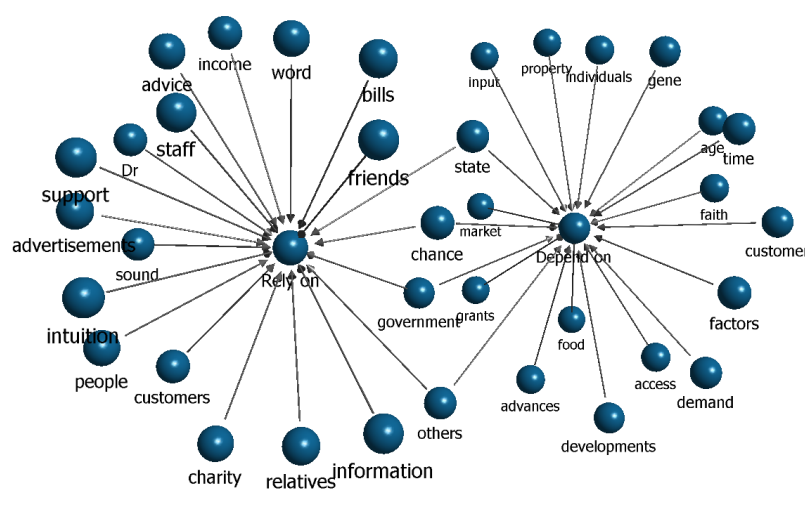


Figure 8. Visualization of the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the BNC

As alluded to in Figure 8, the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the top twenty are captured by the software NetMiner. These nouns have a collocation relationship with *rely on* and *depend on*, respectively. Note that only some nouns are linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*. More specifically, the nouns *state*, *chance*, *government*, and *others* have a

collocation relationship with both *rely on* and *depend on*. However, many nouns are not still linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*. This in turn suggests that the use of *rely on* is slightly different from that of *depend on* in the BNC.

5. Conclusion

To sum up, we have provided a comparative analysis of the types *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA and BNC. In section 2.1, we have argued that the type *rely on* is preferred over the type *depend on* by Americans. We have further argued that the types *rely on* and *depend on* are the most widely used in the academic genre. Most importantly, *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern in the academic and spoken genres and the newspaper, TV/movie, and fiction genres, whereas they show a different pattern in the web, magazine, and blog genres of the COCA. In section 2.2, we have maintained that the type *depend on* is preferred over the type *rely on* by the British. We have also maintained that *rely on* and *depend on* are the most commonly used in the academic genre. More interestingly, *rely on* and *depend on* show the same pattern in the academic, non-academic, and misc genres and the newspaper and magazine genres, whereas they show a different property in the fiction genre and the spoken genre. To sum up, *rely on* and *depend on* show a different pattern in the three genres of the COCA, whereas they show a different one in the two genres of the BNC. This in turn indicates that *rely on* and *depend on* are synonymously used, but they are somewhat different from each other in their use. In section 3, we have examined the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the COCA. In this section, we have also visualized the collocations of *rely on* and *depend on* in the top twenty five. We have contended that the expression *rely on government* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *rely on people*, *rely on data*, *rely on information*, *rely on family*, *rely on food*, *rely on technology*, *rely on state*, *rely on volunteers*, and *rely on luck*, in that order. We have also contended, on the other hand, that the expression *depend on slate* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *depend on government*, *depend on people*, *depend on oil*, *depend on factors*, *depend on water*, *depend on circumstances*, *depend on nature*, *depend on welfare*, *depend on family*, and *depend on information*, in that order. We have argued that the expression *rely on others* is the most preferred by the British, followed by *rely on people*, *rely on friends* (*rely on income*, *rely on intuition*), and *rely on advice*, in descending order. We have further argued that *depend on factors* and *depend on others* are the most preferred by the British, followed by *depend on age*, and *depend on food* (*depend on property*, *depend on state*, *depend on time*), in descending order.

Finally, in the COCA, the nouns *government*, *luck*, *welfare*, *people*, *information*, *state*, *fossil*, *water*, *family*, *oil*, *food*, and *things* are linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*, but many nouns are not still linked to both of them. On the other hand, in the BNC, the nouns *state*, *chance*, *government*, and *others* have a collocation relationship with both *rely on* and *depend on*. That is, only four nouns are linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*. Conversely, many nouns are not still linked to both *rely on* and *depend on*. It can thus be inferred from this that *rely on* is slightly different from *depend on* in its use.

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