THE EFFECTIVENESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SKELL IN TEACHING WRITING

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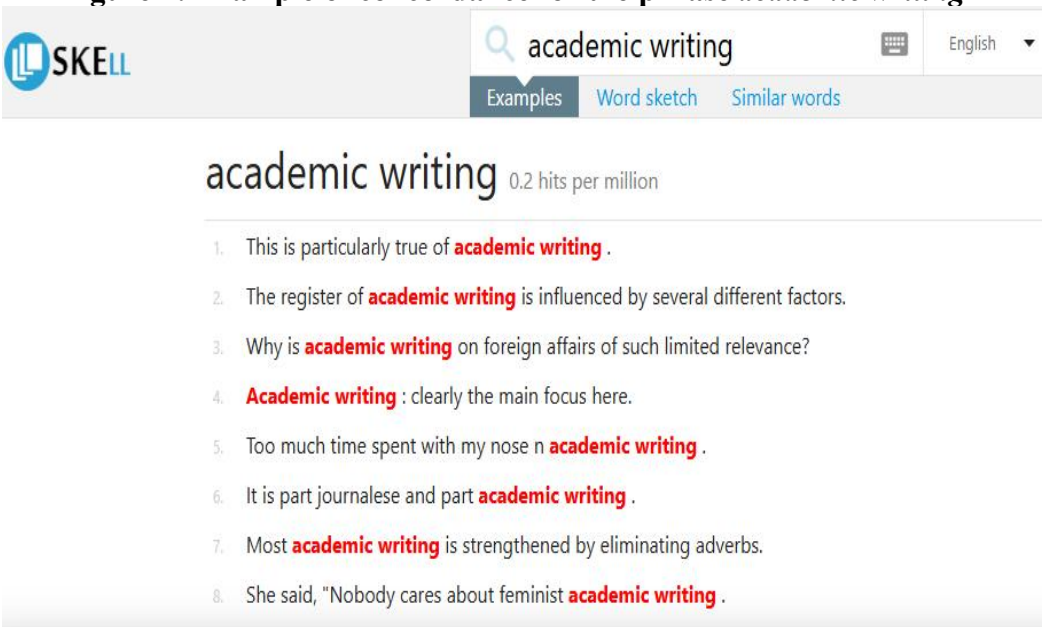
Writing is one of the key dimensions to acquire in LA (Language acquisition), as it enables learners thinking habits in both languages. Teaching writing mostly requires not only adequate knowledge on subject, but also following certain rules, wide range of vocabulary, and coherent thinking as well. In the past to enhance vocabulary range, to prevent repetition or to use words and collocations correctly dictionaries or grammar rules were mainly used.

But with the rapid advancements in LL(language Learning) a plenty of methods, techniques have been developed, Furthermore, with the integration of corpus linguistic tools such as SkELL, improving writing skills became easier for both educators and students.

SkELL (*Sketch Engine for Language Learning*) is a simple web interface derived from Sketch Engine (**https://www.sketchengine.co.uk**), which is a state-of-the-art web-based tool for building, managing, and exploring large text collections in dozens of languages. SkELL was developed for teachers and learners of English and is based on specially processed corpus data sufficiently covering everyday, standard, formal and professional English. Students and teachers of English can easily check how a particular phrase or word is used by native English speakers and rely on the SkELL corpus because it was especially collected for language teaching and learning purposes (Baisa & Suchomel, 2014).

SkELL provides a search engine that returns concordances, collocations, and related words for a given search term. These three functionalities are called *Examples*, *Word sketch* and *Similar words*. The functionality of *Examples* (or concordance) will return up to 40 example sentences with a given word or phrase to help the user see how the word or a phrase is used in English. The user does not have to specify the part of speech of the search term as this functionality will yield all parts of speech for the given search term. When searching for *water*, SkELL will return sentences with *water* as a noun and as a verb in various forms (*watering, watered, waters*). Figure 1 illustrates the example of the example functionality for the search term academic writing

Figure 1: Example of concordance for the phrase *academic writing*

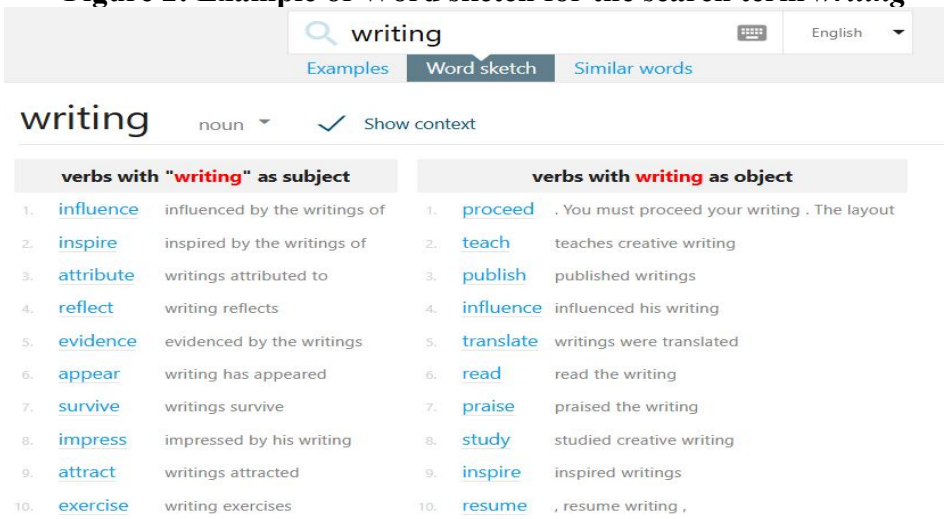


The second function is called Word sketch (or word profile), which will present the most typical collocations for the search term. The collocations are divided into logical categories for every content

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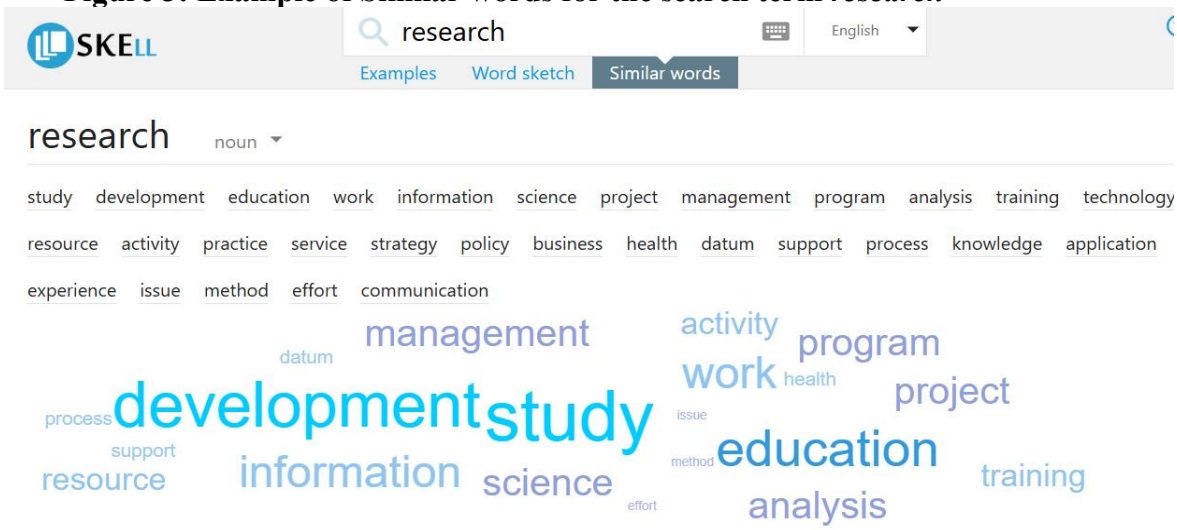
word (i.e., noun, adjective, adverb, and verb). This functionality can assist users in finding an appropriate collocate of the search term to sound more natural in a target language both oral and written form. Figure 2 illustrates the example of the Word sketch functionality for the search term writing

Figure 2: Example of Word sketch for the search term *writing*



The third functionality is Similar words or thesaurus. This functionality will generate words that are synonymous, related, or similar to the search term. These words will be visualized in a word cloud to indicate the extent to which each word in the word cloud is similar to the search term. The more central the word is in the word cloud, the more similar or related it is to the search term. If the search term can have more than one part of speech, alternative results for other parts of speech can be generated. The third section assists to prevent repetition and distinguish words to use for literary or academic context. Figure 3 illustrates an example of the Similar words functionality for the search term research.

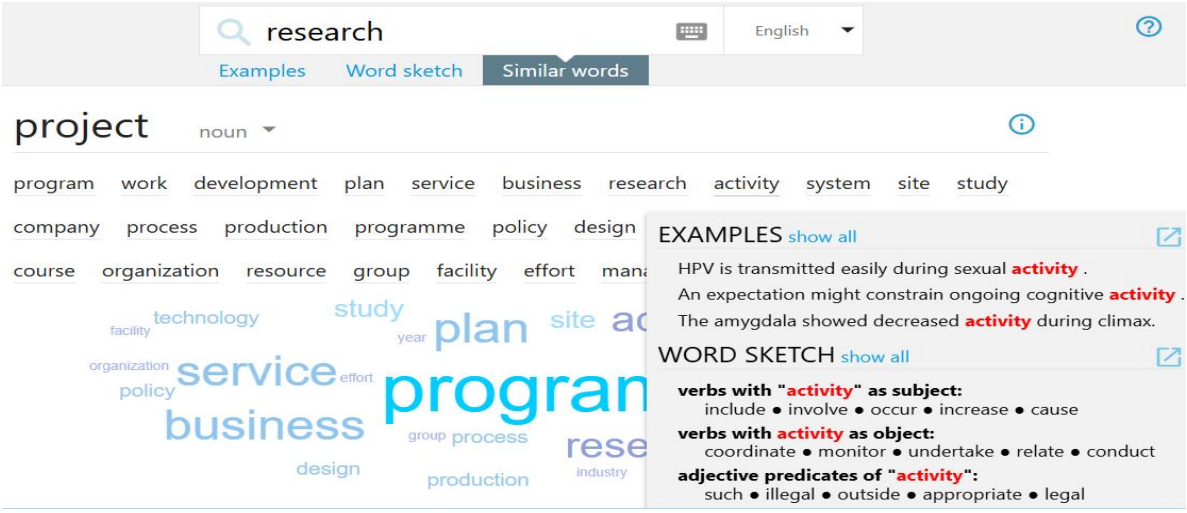
Figure 3: Example of Similar words for the search term *research*



The synonyms generated by the Similar words function might sometimes include words that do not seem similar to the search term. This is because of the technology used for identifying synonyms in the automatically generated thesaurus, and thus this functionality might occasionally yield inappropriate words. To choose the necessary words, it is possible to click the questionable word to open Examples and Word Sketch and check the word in the example sentences or in collocations. Figure 4 below illustrates how SkELL interconnects the functionalities Examples, Word Sketch and Similar.

Figure 4: Comparing SkELL functionalities for the search term *research*

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The application of SkELL in writing lessons allows to get familiar the inclusive range of words and collocations, sentence samples, synonyms and their usage. Additionally it is free which gives opportunity to everyone to access the corpus web interface. It helps writers see contextual differences while drafting an essay, showing that the former term is far more prevalent in academic contexts than the latter. (Crostwaite, P., & Steeples, B. 2024)

Proficiency in academic writing is crucial for EFL students, yet many struggle with authentic usage, scholarly conventions, and applying theoretical rules. SkELL addresses these obstacles by offering direct access to real-world language patterns, collocations, and usage frequencies. By interacting with corpus interface, learners develop greater stylistic awareness and confidence, shifting from rigid grammar rules to a dynamic view of writing. (Utami, R., & Davlatova, N.,2026)

In conclusion rather than simply pointing out errors, integrating SkELL into teacher feedback enables an indirect, discovery-based approach. Students can check their linguistic hypotheses against real-world data and take an active role in self-correction.

By helping learners choose natural collocations and appropriate word forms across multiple drafts, SkELL bridges the gap between passive vocabulary knowledge and fluent written execution, making it a highly effective tool for developing writing proficiency.

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