



Synonymy

Level of Linguistic Analysis II, Lexical Semantics,
Freie Universität Berlin

Introduction

Synonymy can be defined as the `` the state of being synonymous``. Synonyms are characterized by having the same meaning, but the is not the only feature that they need to have in common. Modern linguistics theories defined as ``blurry`` the line between meaning and function, so they defined meaning as the relationship between the use and the context. Furthermore, these features are both related to subjectivity, to the experience , which humans build through language These process of redefine concepts lead linguistics to defines meaning as the

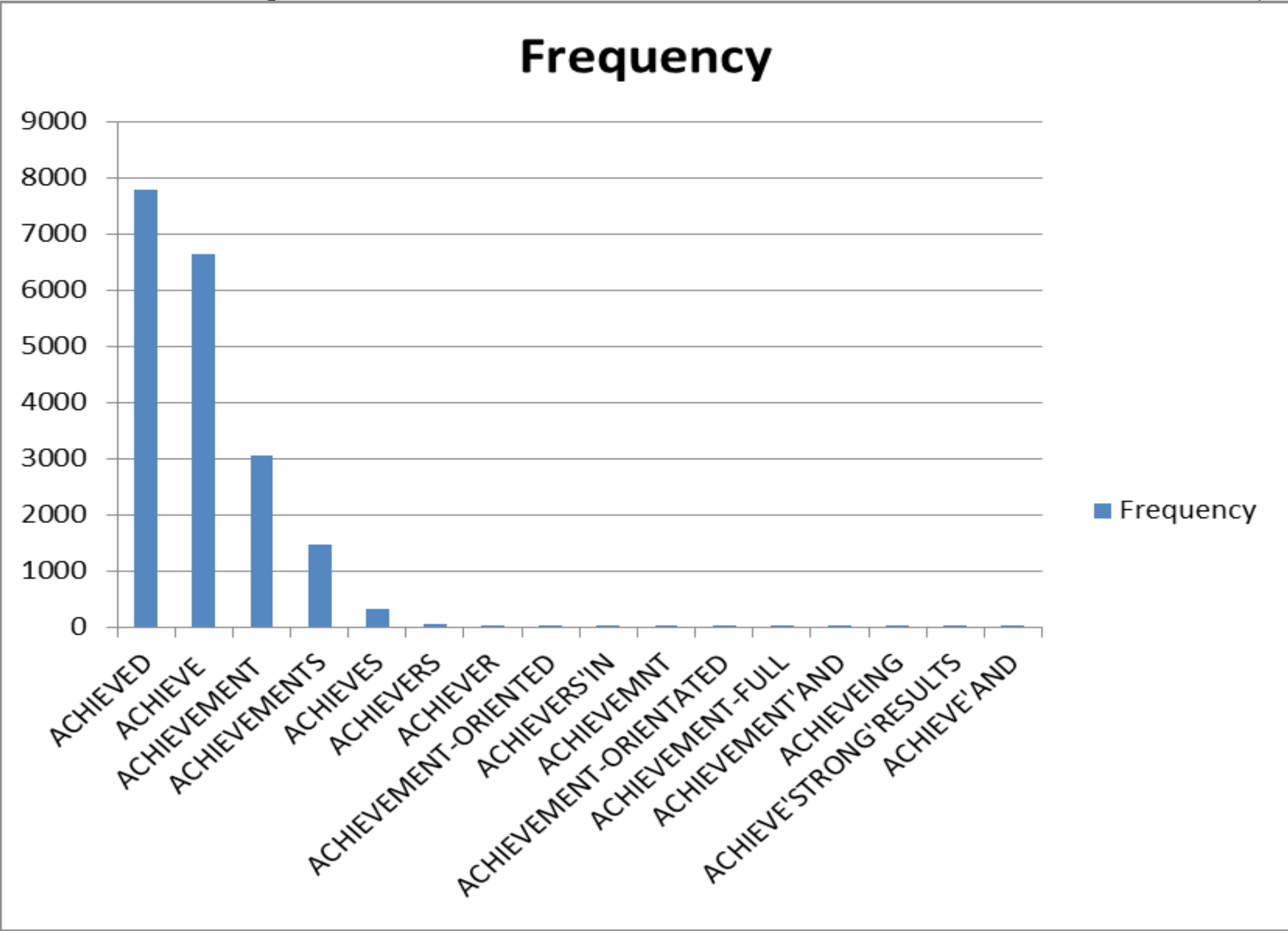


Chart 2 Frequency: Achieve forms.

	Collocates	Frequency	ALL	%
1	TO	161	2565070	0.01
2	THIS	34	449404	0.01
3	CAN	17	229823	0.01
4	COULD	10	158325	0.01
5	THEM	8	165536	0.00

Table 2. Accomplish Collocates (Top 5)

Methods and Materials

In order to study synonymy, I'm going to study the differences between set of synonyms, for this poster I chose just two of them : Achieve and Accomplish . I'm going to study the frequency and the different context in which they both are used . In this case study I'm going to use the BNC (British National Corpus) where I can classify and study every different form of the word ;noun, verb forms... All this information we can find it in the BNC. In order to study the context I'm going to show the frequency in the different fields, such as : spoken, magazine,

Results

The results from the collected data are:

- Achieve (19408) has more frequency that Accomplish (1467), involving their different forms.
- We can appreciate the similar frequencies of their different forms, being their past form the most common followed by the regular form, and the noun form with the -ment prefix.
- The context in which these words are used is parallel, they have similar percentages in the context frame,.
- The difference in the total frequency doesn't impact on the context use.

Chart 3: Accomplish Context

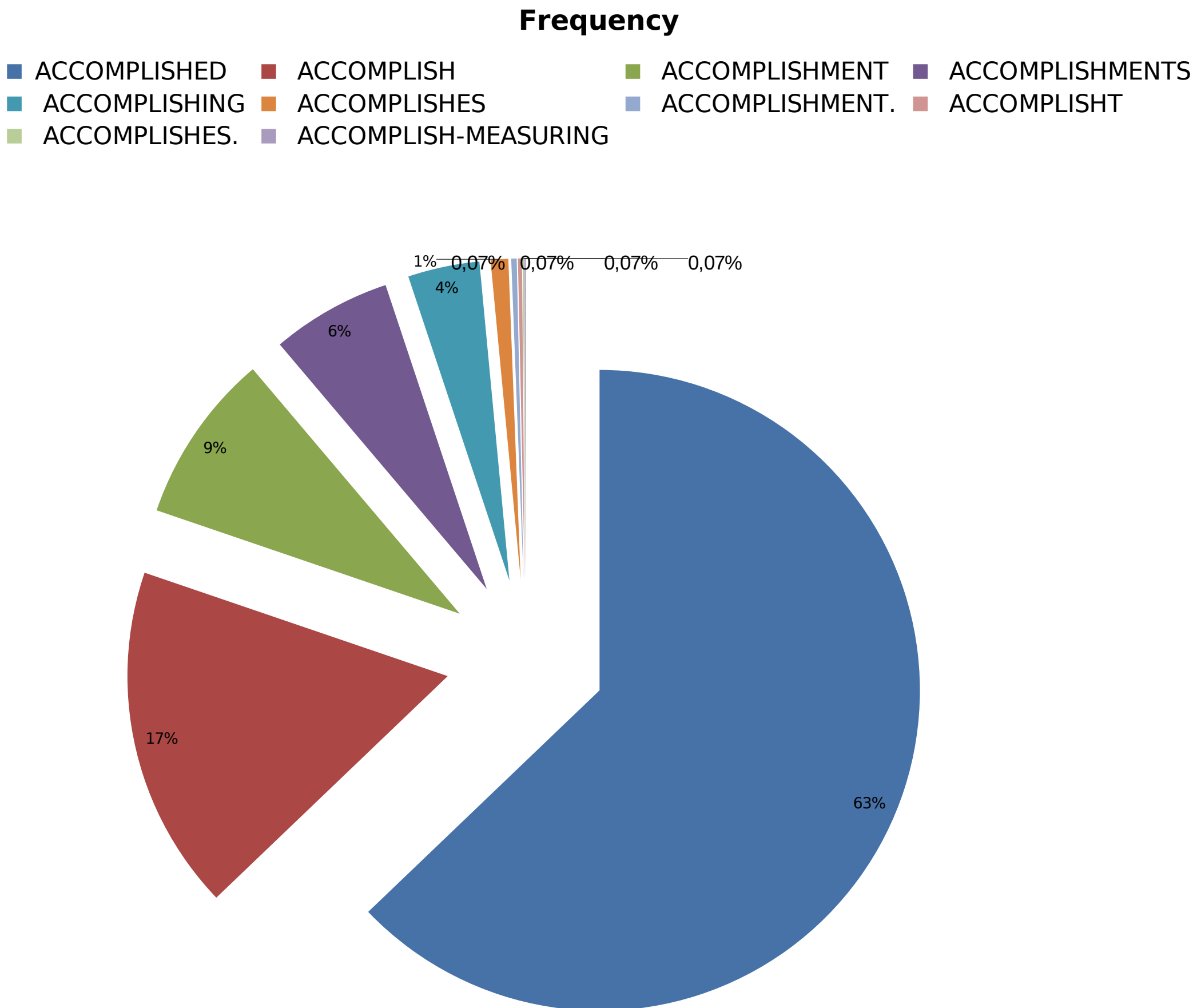
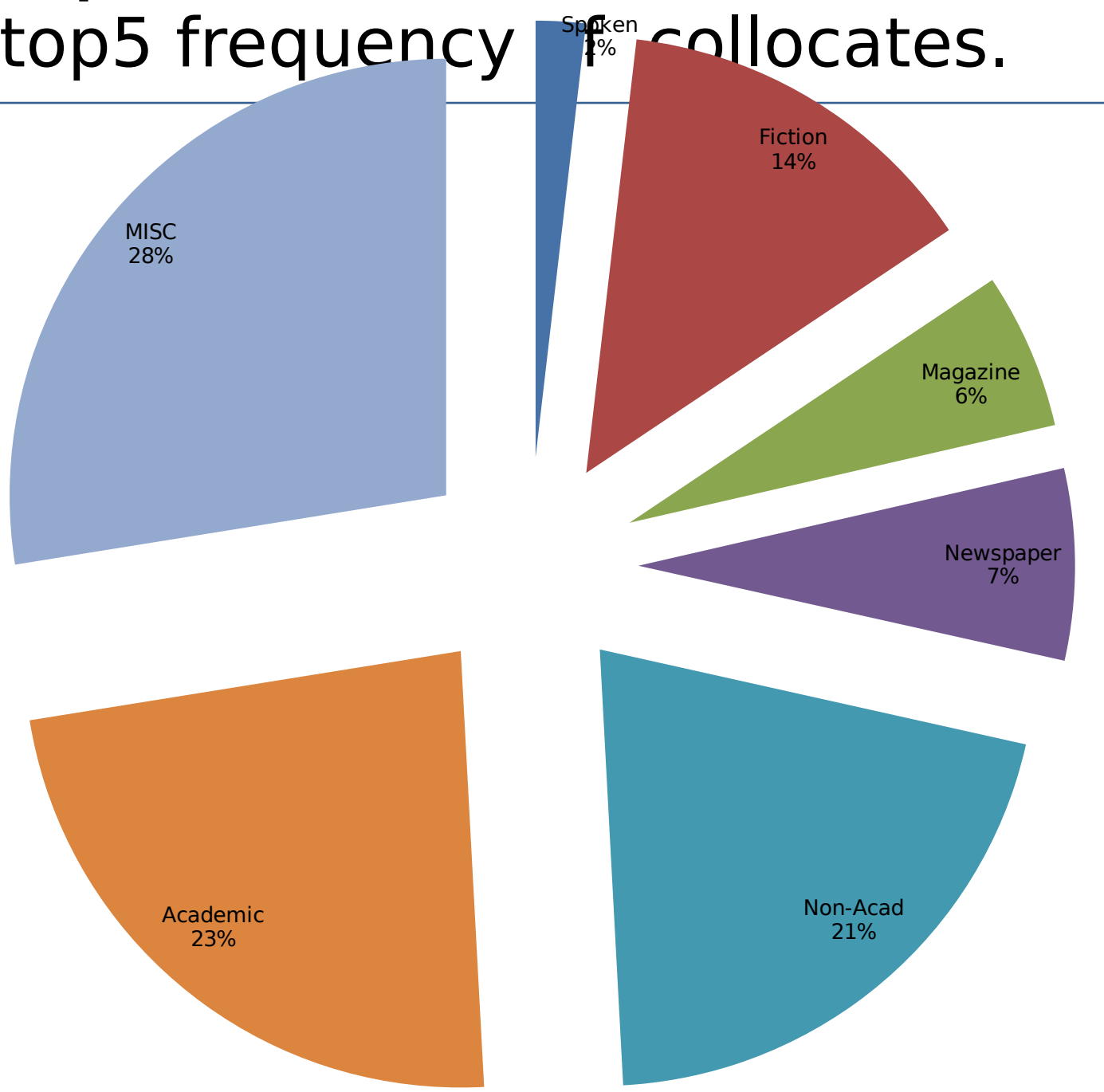


Chart 1. Accomplish Forms Frequency

	Collocates	Frequency	%
1	TO	4663	0.18
2	CAN	318	0.14
3	ANYTHING	49	0.18
4	GREATER	35	0.23
5	SUCCESS	34	0.26

Table 1. Achieve Collocates (Top 5)

Conclusions

Although this is just a small part of the project we can appreciate , the similar use of this words in terms of context, where they have parallel percentages although one has bigger frequency. Frequency also affects its relationship but what really determines the synonymy is the meaning, context of use, and we can appreciate it with this examples, even when the use of one word its bigger. The next step is to study sets of synonyms .

Contact

Dario Ortiz Montes
FU Berlin
Email: daortizmontes@gmail.com
Phone: +34658545207

References

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- Goldberg, Adele E. 1995. Constructions: A construction grammar approach to argument structure. 1st edition. University Of Chicago Press