

# The Collocational and Colligational Behaviour of the Lemmas MAN and WOMAN in the British National Corpus (BNC)

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## **Abstract**

This paper reports on research on the collocational and colligational behaviour of the lemmas *MAN* and *WOMAN* in the BNC. Using the *Sketch Engine* software developed by Adam Kilgarriff, Pavel Smrz and David Tuckwell, I look at the behaviour of the target lemmas in selected grammatical relations (e.g. *MAN/WOMAN* as Subject; *MAN/WOMAN* as Object). The study reveals differences between the way *MAN* and *WOMAN* are used in the corpus. This is not surprising, given what is known about the asymmetries between terms used for male and female human beings. However, the findings do help to demonstrate the structured and systematic nature of these differences, and to give a new perspective on them.

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