

UNVEILING LANGUAGE PREJUDICE: A CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS OF RACIAL SLURS ACROSS GENRES

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Abstract

Discrimination and racism have been obvious for decades. This encompasses derogatory racial epithets such as "nigger, niggers, n-words". The objective of this study was to employ corpus-based analysis in order to examine the frequency of racial derogatory expressions across various genre. The COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English) data were employed to perform a corpus-based linguistic analysis of the terms 'nigger', 'niggers', and 'n-word' over a span of 20 years (1990 to 2019). Although the words "niggers" and "n-word" have similar meanings, the occurrence of the word "niggers" and "n-word" in the corpora was significantly less frequent compared to the word "nigger." Primarily, the term "niggers" was used as a plural indicator for the derogatory term "nigger". The term "nigger" has received a close look in a variety of academic fields, including legal studies, hip-hop culture analysis, and race research. Furthermore, the term "nigger" was documented to have been used 277 times in verbal exchanges, primarily in police investigations and political discussions. While the words "niggers" and "nigger" have the same meaning, it is important to note that "niggers" is much less common in the language corpus than "nigger". Unlike the other two words, the n-word has a unique frequency distribution in each genre. This term was mentioned 150 times over the course of two decades, the majority of which were in newspapers. The term "n-word" is a euphemism for the derogatory term "nigger" and not a direct expression of racist language. In formal settings, it is primarily used as a substitute for "nigger". The study's findings contribute to a better understanding of the linguistic dynamics surrounding racial and ethnic issues across genres. This research provides a thorough understanding of the use and evolution of these terms over time.

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, racial slurs have been utilized as tools to demean, offend, and marginalize individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds (Croom, 2011; Diaz-Legaspe, 2020). The presence of racial slurs in contemporary discourse elicits varying degrees of acceptance and condemnation across different societies. While in most societies, the use of racial slurs is universally regarded as offensive and derogatory, leading to their prohibition (Anderson & Lepore, 2013), attitudes and reactions towards racial slurs can be influenced by a myriad of cultural, historical, and regional factors (Popa-Wyatt & Wyatt, 2018). The enduring presence of racial slurs underscores the complex interplay between language, culture, and power dynamics. These derogatory terms not only perpetuate systemic inequalities but also serve as potent symbols of prejudice and discrimination. However, societal attitudes towards racial slurs

are not static and may evolve over time, reflecting shifting cultural norms and values. Moreover, the reception of racial slurs can vary significantly depending on contextual factors such as geographical location, historical context, and prevailing social attitudes. By acknowledging the nuanced nature of attitudes towards racial slurs, scholars and policymakers can better understand the underlying dynamics shaping linguistic discrimination and prejudice. Efforts to combat the use of racial slurs must take into account the multifaceted nature of these phenomena, considering not only their linguistic implications but also their broader social, cultural, and historical significance. Through critical examination and dialogue, societies can work towards fostering environments that promote inclusivity, respect, and dignity for individuals of all ethnic backgrounds, ultimately striving towards a more just and equitable future.

Racial slurs are subject to varying degrees of condemnation across different cultures. In some societies, such as the United States, the use of racially derogatory terms like "nigger" and "chink" is widely regarded as unacceptable and often sparks vehement opposition. The mere utterance of these slurs can evoke strong reactions due to their deeply entrenched history of oppression and discrimination (Technau, 2018; Mobarok et al., 2024). However, attitudes towards racial slurs can differ significantly in other cultural contexts. In certain regions, these terms may be used more casually or may not be perceived as offensive. For instance, in parts of the United Kingdom, the term "gringo" is occasionally employed without the intent to cause offense (Diaz-Legaspe, Liu & Stainton, 2020). This disparity in attitudes towards racial slurs underscores the complexity of linguistic norms and the nuanced interplay between language, culture, and social dynamics. The varying reception of racial slurs highlights the importance of understanding cultural context and sensitivity when navigating discussions surrounding race and ethnicity. While certain terms may be deemed acceptable or benign in one cultural setting, they can carry significant weight and historical baggage in others. Consequently, individuals must exercise caution and awareness when engaging in cross-cultural communication to avoid inadvertently perpetuating harmful stereotypes or perpetuating discrimination. By fostering dialogue and promoting cultural sensitivity, societies can work towards creating inclusive and respectful environments that honor the dignity and humanity of all individuals, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

These derogatory terms have been employed across diverse mediums, including literature, film, music, and social media (Nunberg, 2018). The utilization of racial slurs has sparked intense discussions in recent times, some asserting that their usage falls under the umbrella of free speech. Meanwhile, opponents contend that it perpetuates bias and strengthens social disparities (Cepollaro, 2017; O'Dea & Saucier, 2020). This encompasses, among various other elements, racial slurs or expressions of hatred, such as the derogatory term 'n-words', as well as the explicit utilization of stereotypes (Popa-Wyatt, 2016). Furthermore, the context in which racial slurs are used can have an impact on their effectiveness. For example, some slurs may be used backstage, in situations where only members of the dominant racial group are present, to foster solidarity among those present. In these cases, the slurs may not be meant to offend outsiders, but rather to strengthen group identity and belonging. Furthermore, some racial slurs may be reclaimed by the target group to demonstrate solidarity and pride. For example, the term "nigger" has been reclaimed by some African-American communities, but its use remains controversial and not universally accepted.

Racial slurs, with its various impacts and connections to other forms of social differentiation, exhibits both overt and covert manifestations (McKenzie, 2002). Occasionally, hate speech includes derogatory terms based on race or ethnicity (Cepollaro, 2017; Mobarok et al., 2024). Slurs, like hate speech, are specific phrases, terminology, or nicknames that are used to refer to social groups in a derogatory, demeaning, or offensive way (Bartlett, 2014). They are commonly regarded as expressing disdain and animosity towards their targets. Moreover,

slurs based on race are commonly encountered during historical periods characterized by rapid societal transformation due to social and economic strife (Croom, 2013). The majority of insults can be attributed to major events in our social history, such as waves of immigration, urbanization, war and its consequences, economic downturns, and large-scale labor migrations (Rahman, 2012). As the number of emancipated slaves increased and they started moving around the United States, asserting their individuality in a society that had previously denied their existence, the use of the 'n-word' became more prevalent (Rahman, 2019).

The objective of this study, thus, to analyze the use of racial slurs in various genres using a corpus-based approach. The aim is to investigate the usage and impact of these slurs on discourse. The presence of discrimination and racism is glaringly evident and has been exposed for numerous decades.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The term 'nigger' originated in the 16th century as a derivative of the French word 'nègre,' which in turn was borrowed from the Spanish word 'negro' (Judy, 1994; Williams, 2019). Originally spelled as 'neger' or 'niger' in English, it underwent a transformation to its current form. They originate from the Latin adjective 'niger', meaning 'black' (Sangmpam, 2019; Rahman, 2012). At first, it was considered a neutral term that was almost identical to "black". Instead of explicitly conveying a hostile definition, early documented occurrences during the Atlantic slave trade (16th–19th centuries) generally revealed the authors' underlying attitudes towards black individuals through a patronizing manner. From the mid-18th century to the mid-19th century, the word acquired a negative meaning and became an explicit insult. The term remained neutral in some authors' usage until the latter half of the 20th century, when its use, regardless of context or intent, became more controversial (Pierrot, 2019; Rahman, 2012).

The word "nigger" gradually disappeared from general popular culture in the second half of the 20th century due to its historical association with symbolic and physical violence (Allan, 2015; Ashby, 2006). However, it still persists in certain contexts, particularly within hip-hop culture (Rahman, 2012; Ashby, 2006). As per the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, the term is considered to be "potentially the most offensive and inflammatory racial slur in the English language". Essentially, this word is highly problematic in English and is likely to be considered offensive or prohibited in most situations.

The term 'nigga' is a derogatory word used in African-American Vernacular English (Nguyen, 2013). It emerged as a dialect variation of the racial slur 'nigger' that is directed towards black individuals. This term is commonly associated with hip hop music and African-American gang culture (Autman, 2021; Im, 2020). Public opinion is divided on whether there is a significant differentiation between the spoken phrases 'nigga' and 'nigger' (Davis, 2021; Smith, 2019). Both names are often considered derogatory by many people, and the use of the term "nigga" is a subject of controversy among both black and non-black communities (Davis, 2021). According to the African American Registry, the terms "brother" (brotha) and "sister" (sistah or sista) are expressions of affection, while the words "nigger" and "nigga" have historically and presently been considered derogatory.

The civil rights organization National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also opposes the usage of 'nigga' and 'nigger' (Crawford, 2021; Smith, 2019). Nevertheless, certain African-Americans consider the term 'nigga' offensive, particularly when used by individuals of different races, whom they perceive as engaging in unwelcome cultural appropriation (O'Dea & Saucier, 2020). Black individuals employ this term as a means of expressing "unity or fondness," much like the usage of dude, homeboy, and bro (Baker, 2021; Rahman, 2012; Crawford, 2021). Conversely, some individuals argue that the term "nigga" is not derogatory unless it is directed at an African-American by someone who is not of African descent (O'Dea & Saucier, 2020).

On the other hand, some critics argue that this approach is hypocritical and harmful, as it allows white racists to freely use the derogatory term and confuses the conversation about racial slurs. Meanwhile, the term 'n-word' seems to imply Blacks who should be enslaved, rather than Blacks who were enslaved (Grieser, 2019). It served as a reminder of the continued inferiority of Blacks, despite the freedom they started to experience in the late 19th century (Hartman, 2022). The term "N-word" is synonymous with "nigger" and "nigga." The term "nigger" is a derogatory epithet aimed at individuals of African descent, specifically African Americans. Since the 1980s, the term 'nigger' has been progressively replaced by the euphemism 'the N-word,' particularly when referring to 'nigger' indirectly. African Americans engage in linguistic re-appropriation by informally and fraternally using the term "nigger," often in the variant "nigga," which is spelled based on the phonetic conventions of African-American English (Rahman, 2012).

RESEARCH METHOD

The objective of this study was to employ corpus-based analysis in order to examine of the frequency of racial derogatory expressions, specifically the terms 'nigger', 'niggers', and 'n-word' across a variety of genres. This study employs a corpus-based analysis strategy, with the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) serving as the primary dataset (Pietraszewska, 2013). A key aspect of the study is looking into potential variations in the use of these terms in written texts that have been around for more than 20 years, as opposed to more recent spoken texts. The study contains both independent and dependent variables. The independent variables are genre and time period, with the latter classified as texts older than 20 years and more recent texts. The dependent variables are based on the frequency of the specified racial derogatory terms in each genre and time period.

A corpus-based analytical approach is used in this study because it allows for a systematic and comprehensive analysis of a diverse corpus of texts, which can aid in identifying patterns in the use of racial slurs, exploring their contextual variations, and assessing their impact on various audiences. This approach can provide useful insights into the complex interplay of language, power, and identity, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of racial slurs and their role in shaping societal attitudes and behaviors. An analysis of descriptive statistics is crucial for assessing the occurrence rate of racial slurs in various genres and time periods. This analysis aims to detect any potential disparities in the usage of these terms between a written text and spoken discourse that have been in existence for over 20 years and a more recent spoken text.

A stratified sampling approach was used to ensure that all genres are represented fairly and accurately. This method aims to extract subsets of data from the COCA based on genres such as academic, fiction, news, and spoken language (Erbach et al., 2023). Furthermore, a critical consideration in the sampling process is to separate texts based on their publication date, distinguishing between those that have been in existence for more than 20 years and those that have been published more recently. Due to the ethical concerns that may arise in this study when dealing with sensitive language data, the research team will prioritize privacy and dignity by employing rigorous anonymization and de-identification methods to protect the individuals featured in the corpus. Strict adherence to ethical guidelines is required at all stages of the research process. This discussion will go beyond the statistical results to look at the broader implications for understanding the dynamics of racially offensive language use across genres and over time.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

The findings of this study demonstrate that the accompanying words of racial slurs differ depending on the genre in which they are found.

Table 1
Frequency Counts of the Words Appearing in Each Genre

	Nigger (freq: 4074)			Niggers (freq: 1542)			N-word (freq: 694)		
	Freq	Words	Per mil	Freq	Words	Per mil	Freq	Words	Per mil
Academic	149	119.8	1.24	45	119.8	0.38	18	119.8	0.15
Fiction	797	118.3	6.74	315	118.3	2.66	27	118.3	0.23
Magazine	215	126.1	1.71	101	126.1	0.80	61	126.1	0.48
Newspaper	136	121.7	1.12	38	121.7	0.31	173	121.7	1.42
Spoken	277	126.7	2.20	112	126.7	0.89	147	126.1	1.17

Table 2
Frequency Counts for the Words Across Five-Year Time Increments

	Nigger (freq: 4074)			Niggers (freq: 1542)			N-word (freq: 694)		
	Freq	Words	Per mil	Freq	Words	Per mil	Freq	Words	Per mil
1990-1994	873	121.1	7.21	374	121.1	3.09	6	121.1	0.05
1995-1999	1018	125.2	8.13	371	125.2	2.96	30	125.2	0.24
2000-2004	681	124.6	5.46	238	124.6	1.91	21	124.6	0.17
2005-2009	465	123.1	3.78	137	123.1	1.11	123	123.1	1.00
2010-2014	300	123.3	2.43	67	123.3	0.54	119	123.3	0.96
2015-2019	237	122.8	1.93	110	122.8	0.90	189	122.8	1.54

The study utilized data from the COCA to conduct a corpus-based linguistic analysis focusing on the terms 'nigger', 'niggers', and 'n-word'. These terms were examined within the context of their occurrences across different genres, with the results subsequently categorized and presented in correlation with genre patterns (see Table 1). Additionally, the study explored the frequency distributions of these terms over five-year intervals, providing insights into their usage trends over time (refer to Table 2). Given the contentious nature and historical significance of these racial terms, it is imperative to delve deeper into their connotations and significances within contemporary discourse. The study aims to examine the discussions and ideas surrounding these terms, shedding light on their multifaceted meanings and societal implications. Furthermore, an analysis of the development of these terms over time is crucial for understanding their evolving usage within corpora and broader linguistic contexts. By scrutinizing the patterns of usage and contextual nuances associated with 'nigger', 'niggers', and 'n-word', the study seeks to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the linguistic landscape surrounding racial discourse. Through systematic examination and critical analysis, researchers can elucidate the complexities inherent in the usage of these terms, informing discussions on race, language, and societal attitudes. Ultimately, such insights are essential for fostering greater awareness, sensitivity, and informed dialogue surrounding issues of race and language within contemporary society.

Discussion

Among the three racial terms under examination, "nigger" emerged as the most frequently used term within the corpus over a twenty-year period, making a total of 4,074 appearances. Following this, the term "niggers" was observed with 1,542 occurrences, while the term "n-word" appeared 694 times. This quantitative analysis provides valuable insights into the relative prevalence of these terms within written discourse, highlighting "nigger" as the most commonly encountered term. It is noteworthy that written texts often exhibit a broader range of vocabulary compared to spoken language, making them a rich source of linguistic data for analysis. Thus, the initial focus of the study is to analyze the contextual usage of these terms within written corpora. These corpora encompass a diverse array of written materials, including fiction, magazines, academic papers, and newspapers, reflecting the multifaceted nature of written discourse. By examining the context in which these terms appear across various genres and text types, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of their linguistic and socio-cultural significance within contemporary discourse. Through systematic analysis of written corpora, researchers can discern patterns of usage, identify contextual nuances, and uncover underlying socio-cultural dynamics shaping the usage of racial terms. This analytical approach facilitates a nuanced exploration of language and its role in shaping attitudes, beliefs, and social interactions surrounding issues of race and identity. Ultimately, the examination of written corpora offers valuable insights into the complexities of racial discourse and contributes to broader discussions on language, power, and social justice.

The term "nigger" exhibited an intriguing pattern of usage within the corpus, with a notable concentration in science fiction films and books. These sources accounted for approximately fifty percent of the total frequency distributions, comprising a substantial 797 instances. In contrast, the term's occurrence in other written forms, such as magazines, academic papers, and newspapers, was notably lower, constituting only 19.5 percent of the total frequency distributions. An examination of the historical context surrounding the usage of "nigger" sheds light on this disparity in distribution across different genres. Analysis of a corpus of historical materials reveals that during the early 19th century, science fiction films and fictional literature often depicted themes of racial oppression and discrimination, particularly focusing on the racially demeaning treatment of African Americans by the white male majority in the United States (Bleich, 2019). These works frequently employed lexical choices and narrative motifs that mirrored the pessimistic discourse prevalent in society at the time. The prevalence of "nigger" in science fiction films and literature reflects the broader socio-cultural milieu of the period, wherein racial tensions and inequalities were pervasive themes in artistic expression. By examining the thematic content and lexical choices within these works, researchers can gain insights into the prevailing attitudes and beliefs surrounding race and identity during this historical era. Moreover, this analysis highlights the complex interplay between literature, popular culture, and societal attitudes, underscoring the enduring impact of racial discourse on artistic representation and cultural production.

The prevailing narrative in these stories portrays a society characterized by inequality and injustice, where African-Americans are frequently depicted in clichéd and negative stereotypes (Franklin & James, 2015). It is common for authors to explore the complex and challenging topic of racial injustice through fiction. This enables them to portray the complex and tense relationships that existed at that time between various ethnic groups (Fox & Stallworth, 2005; Grieser, 2019). An observable pattern was the frequent combination of the term "nigger" with other derogatory attributes, including "dumb nigger," "angry nigger," "dirty nigger," and "stupid nigger," among others.

Despite the negative connotations associated with the term "nigger" in fiction, modern fiction is currently inclined to accurately depict the historical realities of the previous century in North America (Hartman, 2022). Contemporary writers, in addition to being mindful of the

delicate nature of race and identity terminology, tend to employ language that is both respectful and inclusive. However, modern fiction continues to strive for an authentic and comprehensive depiction of the difficulties, inequalities, and societal interactions within the African-American community during that era. Therefore, although the manner in which words are employed may have evolved, the essence of delving into the past and crafting compelling stories continues to be a primary emphasis in modern works of fiction.

Moreover, the term "nigger" has garnered significant scrutiny in diverse academic domains, including legal studies, analysis of hip-hop culture (Autman, 2021; Im, 2020), and research on matters pertaining to race. Within these frameworks, the term is employed to comprehensively grasp the intricacies of social dynamics, historical events, and individual identity within particular contexts. Additionally, certain publications and newspapers link the term "nigger" to musical themes, emphasizing its unique significance in symbolizing the impact and contribution of African-American culture to music (Delis, 2022). Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that within the realm of criminal activity and aggression, the term "nigger" is frequently employed with unfavorable implications. The utilization of it can manifest profound racial stereotypes and biases, thereby reinforcing stigma and inequality (Rahman, 2015). Hence, it is crucial to acknowledge the intricacy associated with the utilization of this term and contemplate its influence in diverse settings, particularly in endeavors to comprehend and address social obstacles pertaining to race and identity.

Moreover, the term "nigger" was documented to have been spoken 277 times in verbal exchanges, specifically within the realm of police investigations and political discussions. This phenomenon demonstrates that despite widespread criticism and its derogatory nature, the term continues to be used in everyday conversations, particularly in fields like police investigations and political discourse. Curiously, in certain situations, the word "nigger" can be perceived as a casual expression of camaraderie, particularly among individuals of African-American descent. The utilization of the term in specific circumstances exemplifies the intricacies and cultural subtleties inherent in the way individuals communicate and express their identities. Although there are still individuals who view the term positively, there is an ongoing discussion regarding its sustainability and relevance. This has resulted in a captivating area of debate within the fields of linguistics and social sciences.

While both "niggers" and "nigger" have the same meaning, it is important to acknowledge that the word "niggers" is significantly less common in the language corpus compared to "nigger". Essentially, the term "niggers" is employed as the plural form of the word "nigger" (Baker, 2021; Rahman, 2012; Crawford, 2021). The analysis of frequency reveals a strong correlation between the term "nigger" and the usage of pronouns like "they," "us," "those," "all of you," and similar expressions, indicating a linguistic pattern. Therefore, it is crucial to acknowledge that the change in the usage of the plural form of "nigger" may indicate an effort to avoid employing the singular term, which is deemed more contentious. Nevertheless, this discrepancy in frequency could also indicate cultural shifts and evolving social standards throughout history. These observations offer further understanding of how language mirrors social dynamics and evolving perspectives on terms associated with race and identity.

The frequency distribution of the word "niggers" across all genres is similar to that of the word "nigger". In the realm of fiction literature and films, which comprise the majority of instances, the term "niggers" is present in approximately twenty percent (315) of cases. This trend has also changed the frequency distributions of other musical genres. However, the n-word stands out as the only word that has a unique frequency distribution in each genre, unlike the other two words. Over the course of two decades, this specific term was mentioned 150 times, predominantly in newspapers. Based on contextual analysis, the term "n-word" serves as

a euphemism for the derogatory term "nigger" and is not a direct manifestation of racist language. It is primarily employed as a substitute for "nigger" in formal settings.

A multitude of occurrences of this substitution were observed in spoken discourse, amounting to a total of 147 instances. This phenomenon enhances comprehension regarding the lack of representation of this word in alternative genres. An examination of the frequency distribution within the set of five-year time intervals reveals a noteworthy pattern. During the initial time period (1995-1999 and 1990-1994), the terms "nigger" and "niggers" had the highest frequency distribution, with 1018 and 374 occurrences, respectively. Conversely, the term "N-word" had a notably limited occurrence, being present merely three times throughout the specified duration.

The idea presented shows a significant increase in the use of the term "N-word" from 2015 to 2019, with 189 instances, the highest frequency recorded over a 5-year period. This increase in usage indicates that the term was more popular during this time period, particularly in news-related contexts. The term was used to describe a variety of situations in both written and spoken media, indicating that it was a source of discussion and concern across various forms of news reporting. This information could be useful for researchers investigating language trends, media representation, and cultural shifts. It may also shed light on the social and political climate of the time, as the term "N-word" has historical and cultural significance. The data could be analyzed further to identify specific trends, such as whether the term was more commonly used in certain regions, by specific news outlets, or in relation to specific events or topics (Grieser, 2019).

Conversely, the terms "negro" and "nigger" exhibited a slight decrease in frequency of occurrence during the five-year period. This alteration may indicate the progression of societal standards and the recognition of the linguistic delicacy surrounding terms related to race. Hence, this analysis of frequency distribution offers a more comprehensive depiction of the evolution and alteration of specific words in the realm of verbal communication (Grieser, 2019; Rahman, 2012). The study's findings demonstrate the diversity in the utilization of racial slurs, depending on the genre in which they are encountered. Specifically, these pejorative terms often appear in newspapers and magazines when addressing issues related to racism and discrimination. This discovery indicates the ongoing utilization of these expressions to marginalize and disparage individuals from diverse ethnic origins. Furthermore, derogatory terms are prevalent in both fiction and non-fiction literature that explores diverse facets of culture and history. The inclusion of racial slurs in these works underscores the utilization of such vocabulary as an indication of attitudes and convictions pertaining to particular time periods and geographical contexts.

Within the realm of television and film scripts, derogatory terms hold a prominent position in drama and comedy genres that delve into a wide range of cultural and historical contexts (Keuris, 2023). The utilization of these terms in both dramatic and comedic scenarios signifies an endeavor to create a sincere and genuine ambiance within the storyline. Meanwhile, on social media platforms, these derogatory terms predominantly manifest in tweets and posts associated with. This phenomenon exemplifies the intricacies of online communication and the way offensive language can materialize in digital settings, underscoring the difficulties of addressing and handling racialized problems in virtual public domains.

CONCLUSION

This study employed corpus-based analysis in order to examine the prevalence of racially offensive terms in different genres. The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) served as the primary data source for the corpus-based linguistic analysis of the terms 'nigger', 'niggers', and 'n-word'. The study acknowledges that written texts of more than 20 years have a larger lexicon than spoken texts.

The findings of this study have significant implications. These implications assist to advance our understanding of the linguistic dynamics associated with racial and ethnic issues across genres. This study provides a comprehensive understanding of the usage and evolution of these terms over time. The study also emphasizes the differences between written and spoken texts in terms of vocabulary, with older written texts having a greater number of words. Furthermore, the use of COCA as a data source emphasizes the importance of selecting a corpus that aligns with the study's objectives, as this allows the investigation to cover a broader timeframe and explore variations in word usage. Further, researchers are recommended to include various types of texts into their analysis in order to provide a comprehensive and precise depiction of the use of these terms in various settings.

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