

# **A LINGUISTIC STUDY OF METAPHORICAL COLLOCATIONS IN THE LANGUAGE OF NEWS**

**AbdulrahmanZuhairShalal.** University of Anbar . College of Education for Humanities. Department of English.

**Assist. Prof. Dr.ImadHayif Sameer.** University of Anbar. College of Education for Humanities. Department of English

## **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to investigate metaphorical collocations in The Guardian from a linguistic point of view. Collocation is a linguistic phenomenon in which two or more words go together in a text. Such phenomenon is considered as the best instrument to detect linguistic metaphor in which one of collocation's parts sometimes is used metaphorically, and this collocation is called metaphorical collocation. Almost all editors of newspapers use metaphorical collocations to make the events strong and effective. So the researcher selects the language of newspapers to identify and analyze certain list of metaphorical collocations. The researcher detects linguistic metaphors in these collocations in order to say that these collocations are metaphorical collocations. This study includes a qualitative analysis. This qualitative analysis is based on investigating linguistic metaphors in the selected list of collocations ( ten samples of The Guardian), adopting a method of Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007), and identifying the syntactic patterns of these collocations.

**Key Words:** Linguistic metaphor, conceptual metaphor, collocation, collocational patterns, node, collocate

## **1. Introduction**

Collocation is a linguistic phenomenon that can be defined as the tendency for the lexical items to co-occur in a text e.g. completely satisfied (Firth: 1957). Sinclair (1991:120) argues that collocations is "the occurrence of two or more words within a short space of each other in a text". Collocation is a linguistic phenomenon that has a deep relationship with the other linguistic phenomena such as a linguistic metaphor in which one of these two component parts of a collocation may be used metaphorically. Deignan, A. (1999 :22-25) supports the notion of metaphorical collocation saying that the best instrument to detect linguistic metaphors in any corpus data is a list of collocations for the whole corpus. This indicates that sometimes one of the parts of a collocation is used metaphorically to give a metaphorical collocation. McCarthy, M. and O'Dell, F. (2017) support this idea saying that sometimes one of these words that are used together is used metaphorically. For example, the first meaning of sunny is connected with the weather, so we talk about a sunny day. However, sunny can also collocate with another noun like a sunny smile and sunny faces to give a metaphorical meaning, to mean happy. In these collocations sunny is used metaphorically, and these collocations are considered as metaphorical collocations.

In the language of newspapers, the editors use metaphorical collocations in the news text in order to make the events stronger and more effective. The researcher in this study analyzes a list of metaphorical collocations linguistically, investigating to which extent these collocations include metaphors adopting a method of Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007). Moreover, he shows the syntactic patterns of this list of collocations. Based on the aims of the study, the following research questions are raised:

1. Some collocations used in the language of news may contain linguistic metaphor e.i. one of collocation's component words gives its non-literal meaning. Is it true that some collocations contain linguistic metaphor? And which kind of metaphor do these collocations contain?
2. Do all syntactic patterns of collocations contain linguistic metaphor?
3. Is it possible to apply MIP suggested by Pragglejaz Group to collocation list to detect metaphor rather than applying it to all lexical units in the text?

## **2. Previous studies**

Palmer is regarded as the first linguist to use the term of collocation in the present-day sense. Palmer (as cited in Nation, 2001: 317) claims that each collocation is better or more easily learned as a separate entity, rather than through the method of piecing together their component parts. For Firth (1957), in natural languages, words are not combined randomly, but they have preferences. Firth named such preferential words combinations as collocation. Benson et al. (1986b) state collocations as fixed phrases stored in the mind. While Halliday, M. K, and Hasan, R. (1976) view collocations as a lexical phenomenon rather than a grammatical one. Deignan, A. (1999 :22-25) issued an article entitled “Linguistic Metaphors and Collocation in Non-literary Corpus Data”. In this article, the researcher claims that the best instrument to detect linguistic metaphors in any corpus data is a list of collocations for the whole corpus. i.e. collocations are regarded as a vehicle to convey linguistic metaphors. In 2003, Hassan Abadi Siavosh has talked about “Learning English Lexical and Grammatical Collocations by Iranian EFL Learners”. He finds out that acquisition of lexical collocation is easier than grammatical one. “Study of the Use of Collocations in Some Selected English Novels” has been written by Muhannad Hadi Abdulameer in (2013). He tackles collocations linguistically. He aims at identifying the significant patterns of collocations within data of the five novels, and throwing light on the textual role of collocations within the novels. He concludes that collocational forms can exceed the phrase boundaries, and can be patterned in a finite clause structure. Finally he concludes that colligation and semantic prosody are not types of collocation, but they are aspects of it.

Concerning the problem of collocational errors, in (2016), Assist Lect. Afaneen, A. Yaqub wrote a paper entitled as “An Investigation of Advanced Iraqi Learners’ Recognition of Some English Collocations”, in university of Basrah. In this paper, the researcher focuses on the collocational errors made by advanced Iraqi learners as well as the degree of difficulty they have faced while conducting the test. In this paper, the researcher concludes advance Iraqi learners’ performance in the type of restricted collocations implies a general unawareness of the semantic range and selectional restrictions of the English lexicon. In (2018), in Birmingham city university, Haiyan Men investigates “vocabulary increase and collocation learning”. This thesis focuses on the role of vocabulary growth in the learning of L2 collocations. She concludes that vocabulary growth plays an important role in the learning of L2 collocations.

Consequently, the researcher believes that none of the previous researches investigated the metaphorical collocations in the language of newspapers from a linguistic point of view, and felt that there is a necessity for investigating the use of metaphorical collocations in the language of news. The closest idea to the present study is the one presented by Deignan (1999), when he suggests that collocations can be considered as an instrument to analyze linguistic metaphor in large corpora such as news texts. Here in the present study, and through analyzing the data, the researcher supports the same idea suggested by Deignan, A. (1999) in which collocations are a sufficient means to detect linguistic metaphors. In addition he detects linguistic metaphor in the collocations list taken from *The Guardian*, and showing the syntactic patterns of these collocations.

## **3. Definitions of Collocations**

Collocation is a linguistic phenomenon in which certain lexical items tend to occur with each other in a text e.g. give advice (Firth: 1957). Sinclair (1991:120) argues that collocations is “the occurrence of two or more words within a short space of each other in a text”. It can be said that collocation is two or more words that usually go together in a text. These definitions are based on a frequency- based approach. According to this approach, the focus is on the frequency in which a particular word, the node word occurs in the company of other words, collocates (Herbst, 1996 :380). Stubbs (2001 :24 ) gives the same idea discussed above, stating that collocation means a “lexical relation between two or more words which have a tendency to co-occur within a few words of each other in running text”.

Cowie argues that collocations should be considered as a type of word combination, the one that is fixed to some degree but not completely. It is an abstract combination in actual texts. Thus collocations can be defined by delimiting them from other types of word combinations, like ‘idioms’ and ‘free combinations’. This definition is based on the phraseological approach. (Cowie and Howarth :1996).

The phraseological approach distinguishes free combinations (e.g., do a task ) from restricted collocations (e.g. , throw a budget; perform a task ). In free combinations, all elements of the word combination are used with their own literal meaning. For instance, “throw a stone”, “do a task” are clear, and they are used with their literal meaning. In restricted collocations, on the other hand, although some lexical substitutions are possible, there are

limitations on substitution; plus sometimes one word in a combination has a literal meaning while the other word has non-literal. For example throw a party, contains non-literal meaning .(Nesselhauf: 2003 )

Also collocation is defined according to the association between the two words that occur together. This definition is based on the psychological approach. The psychological approach is mainly concerned with the association in meaning between words i.e. collocations involve strong association between the words that co-occur. This association can be considered as one type of the meaning of a word. Such kind of meaning is referred to as a collocative meaning. For instance ‘pretty’ and ‘handsome’ have the same meaning of “good looking”, but should be used with different nouns e.g. ‘handsome man’, and ‘pretty woman’ . Thus there should be a degree of association between the two words .(Leech,1974 :20)

It should be noticed that the related bonds between words stored in the native speaker's mental lexicon may vary from those found in an L2 student. For instance, when both a native speaker and a non-native speaker are asked to communicate 'strong coffee', native speakers may easily equate the strong collocate with coffee, but non-native speakers can use other collocates as powerful rather than strong. (Meara, p. 1984: 232)

**4. Classifications of Collocations**

Collocations can be classified into many different types. These types are classified according to various dimensions. According to the nature of this study, the classification based on the syntactic structure of collocation is adopted in this study. Thus collocations are classified into lexical and grammatical collocations.

Lexical collocations(L) refer to the combination of two equal lexical components, and these components are considered as (open class words). In other words, these lexical words combine with each other to form lexical collocations e.g. “a difficult decision”. Grammatical collocations (G) on the other hand, refer to the combination of lexical words (noun, verb and adjective) with a grammatical word. In other words, it means the combination of one open class word and one closed class word .e.g. interested in, afraid of. Consequently, phrasal verbs like carry on, leave out ... etc. are considered as grammatical collocations. (Benson et al. 2010:xxxii - xxxiv).

The researcher views that grammatical collocations are assumed to not carry linguistic metaphors because they are composed of grammatical words like prepositions, infinitive, etc. more than the lexical words. Although they include lexical words combined with the grammatical words, but they don't often carry linguistic metaphors as the lexical collocations do. So the researcher adopts lexical collocations rather than grammatical ones. Thus there is no need to mention grammatical collocations, and the focus in this study is on lexical collocations. There are seven types of lexical collocations classified by Benson et al. (2010:xxxii - xxxiv).

L1: ----- V.+ N. e.g. make an agreement, set an alarm, fly a kite

L2 ----- Adj. + N. e.g. strong tea

L3 -----N. + V. e.g. alarms go off, danger lies

L4 ----- N1 + of + N2 e.g. a bit of advice, roots of the disease

L5 ----- Adv. + Adj. e.g. deeply absorbed

L6 -----V.+ adv. e.g. affect deeply

The classification of lexical collocations suggested by Benson et al. (2010) is adopted in this study to show the syntactic patterns of these metaphorical collocations. In this classification, the researcher views that there is no need to use both L1 and L2 that are explained by (Benson et al. 2010:xxxii - xxxiv), and they should be combined into one pattern, V. + N. . So the total number of the patterns is six, and not seven as mentioned above.

In addition to these collocational patterns, the functional structure of collocations can be represented by two concepts node and its collocates. Sinclair (1991:170) claims that any collocation consists of two main parts, the node and its collocates. The node is the word that a researcher focuses on. It is the word that is under investigation. The collocates on the other hand, are the words that co-occur with the node within the span. They occur on the left and right of the node. However the researcher adopts these two concepts suggested by Sinclair (1991: 170) in analyzing these collocations syntactically.

## **5. Criteria and Characteristics of Collocations**

Mounya, A. (2010:23) mentions three main criteria of collocations: Non-compositionality, non-substitutability and non-modifiability. The first criterion of collocation is non-compositionality. Collocation is sometimes non-compositional in which we can not understand its meaning even if we understand the meaning of the individual words. Secondly, non-substitutability means that it is impossible to substitute the words of a collocation for their synonym. For instance, in the collocation 'close the meeting', it is incorrect to say shut the meeting because "shut" and "meeting" do not go together, while one might say shut the door. Finally, Collocations are non-modifiable. It is impossible to modify collocations by adding extra words.

Seretan, V. (2011: 15) mentions some basic features of collocations. These features distinguish collocations from other types of word-combinations: Collocations are prefabricated in a sense that children memorize not solely words in isolation, but also, to an oversized, sets (chunks) of words. Collocations are arbitrary, and they are not regularly made. Collocations are not regular productions of language, but "arbitrary word usages". Collocations are unpredictable in which it is impossible to predict a collocation because it is a prefabricated unit that does not depend on clear linguistic reasons (Cruse :1986). Collocations are recurrent i.e. the words of a collocation usually occur together. Firth (1957) defines collocation as "actual words in habitual company". Collocations are created of two or more words. Although collocations are usually made up of two lexical words, in theory there is no length limitation for collocations.

## **6. Linguistic Metaphors and Collocations**

The relationship between linguistic metaphors and collocations, and how collocations can be considered as an instrument to detect linguistic metaphors are shown in this section.

The researchers such as (Deignan, A.1999, Deignan 2005, Berber Sardinha 2006) suggest that there is a need for an independent instrument to detect linguistic metaphors in corpus analysis, especially when data are much bigger than what we can process by reading each text in full. What spark this suggestion is the realization that we don't have an instrument in metaphor corpus analysis that makes it possible to have a comprehensive look into a corpus. Also this instrument enables us together evidence for the presence of conceptual metaphors and linguistic metaphors. In other words, since we have no sufficient instruments to detect metaphor in corpus analysis, the researchers find out that collocations are best instruments to detect linguistic metaphors in large data.

The traditional tools (instruments) of identifying metaphor such as concordances, and wordlists are not sufficient instruments to identify metaphor because each is restricted to its own way. For instance, a word list does not allow a researcher to see words in use because it presents words in isolation. Other traditional methods such as beginning with a set of examples drawn from intuition from literature are not sufficient because they may under-represent the data. Thus such traditional instruments are insufficient as they may leave behind potentially metaphors (Cameron and Deignan.2003:151)

Deignan.(1999 :22-25) suggests a solution for this problem arguing that the best instrument to identify linguistic metaphors in any corpus data is a collocation list for the whole corpus. Thus the researcher who depends on a list of collocations has a general picture on the patterns in the corpus, and can then infer about the possible vehicles existed in the data. Collocations are a useful means to identify linguistic metaphors in corpora because collocates often indicate an incongruity between a word and its surrounding context. In other words, the degree of metaphorical effect depends on the mutual unexpectedness or unusuality of two or more co-occurring words. (Deignan, A.2005:193)

Therefore, the researcher adopts MIP suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007) to identify linguistic metaphor in the list of collocations adopted in this study. This method is explained in details in the next section.

## **7. A Method for Identifying Metaphorically Used Words in Discourse (Pragglejaz Group, MIP).**

The Pragglejaz Group(2007) provides an explicit approach which can be used consistently to identify terms used metaphorically in discourse. Their aim is to provide metaphor scholars with an instrument that can be applied flexibly to many research contexts. Pragglejaz group has tried to create an explicit, reliable, and flexible method to identify metaphorically used words in both spoken and written language. They present procedures, and outline how they can be used for different empirical researches by metaphor scholars. These basic procedures are explained as follows:

1. Reading the entire text in order to identify metaphor related words or what is called a lexical unit of analysis that is examined for metaphorical use. Identifying lexical units depends on the incongruity, and the mutual unexpectedness or unusuality of two or more co-occurring words.

2- The Second procedure is identifying the contextual meaning of this lexical unit. The contextual meaning is a meaning of a word in the situation in which it is used. Most of words have their contextual meaning in the contemporary dictionary e.g. Macmillan Dictionary.

3. The third procedure is to check if there is a more basic meaning of the lexical unit which is a more concrete, specific and human oriented sense in contemporary language uses' dictionaries. The meaning can not be more basic if it is not included in a contemporary uses' dictionary. Also it is the historical meaning of a word.

4-Makeing a comparison between the contextual meaning and the more basic meaning of this word. In other word, if the contextual meaning of a lexical unit contrasts to its more basic meaning and can be understood in comparison with it, this lexical unit is used metaphorically. Thus the metaphorical meaning depends on a contrast between the contextual meaning and more basic meaning.

5. Examining the relationship between the contextual meaning and the more basic meaning of the lexical unit. In other words, explaining if they show some degree of similarity or not. These two meanings may display some form of similarity.

Steen et al.(2010: 9,15) argue that "The Pragglejaz Group have built MIP on the assumption that metaphor in discourse can be identified by looking for indirectly used words which then have to be interpreted by comparison to a more basic sense". Therefore, according to MIP, metaphorical meanings are indirect meanings because they are the outcome of a contrast between the contextual meaning of a lexical item and its basic meaning.

It should be noticed that Pragglejaz Group (2007) applied MIP to all the lexical units in the text without restricting it to specific instruments like collocation list. Therefore the researcher in this study throws light on the possibility of using this method in identifying metaphor in selected collocation list.

## 8. Methodology

The data of this study is collected from *The Guardian* from 6<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The data is collected from the website of this newspaper. The collecting process of the samples depends on the criteria and characteristics of collocations mentioned in section 5. Also a qualitative research technique is adopted by the researcher to analyze the data. It is based on identifying linguistic metaphor in the collocations collected from the Guardian, and identifying their syntactic patterns.

To achieve the aims of this study, there are certain steps followed in this study: Giving a theoretical perspective of collocations i.e. discussing the previous studies, definitions of collocation, classification of collocations, criteria and characteristics of collocations, showing the relationship between linguistic metaphor and collocations, and explaining a method of Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007). After that, according to the first research question, the researcher identifies linguistic metaphors used in the selected list of metaphorical collocations adopting a method of Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007). In addition to identifying linguistic metaphors in metaphorical collocations, the researcher shows the syntactic structure of these collocations, and how they are constructed. Also he shows the syntactic patterns of collocations in table (1)

## 9. Analysis and Discussion

In this study, the researcher analyzes ten collocations supposed to carry linguistic metaphor selected from *The Guardian*. These samples are analyzed below taking into account the methodology explained above.

### 1-Poor Health

The procedure suggested by Pragglejaz Group (2007) in their method of MIP are applied to decide on the linguistic metaphor in this collocation. First, the word 'poor' is identified as a unit of analysis to be investigated for metaphorical use. This is the first procedure of this method. Secondly, the metaphorical meaning is an indirect meaning, which depends on the comparison between the contextual meaning and the basic meaning of a lexical unit. The contextual meaning of the selected word 'poor' is 'something not good or of a quality that is low or lower than expected'. For example, 'poor connection'. Here in this example poor means bad connection or lower than expected. This contextual meaning is identified through examining the context in which 'poor' is used, and it is usually given in the contemporary dictionaries such as Macmillan. The more basic meaning of the word "poor" is its dictionary meaning (or its old meaning) which is "having very little money" e.g. the poor boy was at school. This meaning is historically prior. It is cited in Macmillan dictionary.

However, the contextual meaning of this word (poor) contrasts with its basic meaning, and can be understood in comparison with it i.e. we can understand abstract badness and lowness in term of physical lacking money. Thus we can say that the word poor is used metaphorically in this context. In addition, the two separate meanings (contextual meaning and basic meaning) are regarded as manifestation of what is called conceptual domains, source domain and target domain as suggested by Lakoff and Johnson (2003) in their theory of a conceptual metaphor.

The syntactic pattern of this collocation is Adj. +N. . This is one of the patterns suggested by Benson et al.(2010). The node of this collocation is 'poor', while its collocate is health.

### **2-Roots of Disease**

According to the procedures of a method of Metaphor Identification Procedure suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007), the linguistic metaphor is detected as follows:

Through reading and understanding the text word by word, it becomes clear that the word 'roots' is a lexical unit of analysis (metaphor related word). This word should be analyzed and checked to show whether it is used metaphorically or not. Then, the word "roots" has a clear contextual meaning as given by Macmillan . In this context, the word 'roots' means "the main causes of something such as disease or problem".The next step includes checking whether this lexical unit has a meaning that is more basic than its contextual meaning. Such a more basic meaning of this word is "part of a plant that grows under ground through which a plant gets water and food". Since this word (roots) has two separate sense descriptions found in the dictionary, and these two meanings are distinct, and understood in comparison with each other, the word "roots" is used metaphorically in this context.

The syntactic structure of this collocation is N1+of +N2 . This pattern is one of the patterns suggested by Benson et al. (2010). The node of this collocation is 'roots', while its collocate is 'disease'.

### **3-Heavy Rain**

In this collocation, there is an incongruity between heavy and rain, so it is assumed that there is a linguistic metaphor in this collocation. The procedures of MIP are applied to investigate this. By reading and interpreting the text word by word, the word 'heavy' is identified as a lexical unit (metaphor related word).The word heavy has a clear contextual meaning which is 'worse than usual in amount, degree etc.'. The next step of Pragglejaz Group's method is to test if this lexical unit has a more basic meaning than its contextual meaning. Such a more basic meaning of this word is "weighing a lot or a heavy object weighs a lot ". According to MIP, since this word has two distinct meanings found in the dictionary, and these two meanings clearly contrast and can be understood in comparison to each other, the word 'heavy' is used metaphorically in this context. So this collocation is called metaphorical collocation.

Syntactically this collocation consists of Adj. + N. This is one of the patterns suggested by Benson et al. (2010).The adjective heavy functions as a node, whereas the noun rains functions as its collocate. Also this collocation contains a noun, and an adjective serves as its modifier, so this collocation is called an attributive collocation.

### **4- Deaths Jump**

The procedures of a method of Metaphor Identification Procedure suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007) are adopted to identify linguistic metaphors in this collocation.

First, the word 'jump' is selected as a metaphor related word (lexical unit) to be investigated. The second procedure of this method includes showing the contextual meaning of this word. The contextual meaning in general is found in the contemporary dictionaries. The contextual meaning of the word jump is 'to increase or improve suddenly by a large amount'. The next procedure is to check whether there is a more basic meaning than the contextual meaning. The more basic meaning of this word is "to move your body off the ground using your legs". This is the old meaning of this word. According to the procedure of Pragglejaz Group(2007), since the contextual meaning of 'jump' contrasts with its basic meaning, and they can be understood in comparison with it with some form of similarity, we can say that this word is used metaphorically in this context.

Concerning the syntactic structure of this collocation, it is composed of N. +V. . This is one of the patterns suggested by Benson et al. (2010). This collocation consists of a verb and a noun phrase which serves as its subject, and this collocation is referred to as a subject collocation. The word jump functions as the node of this collocation, whereas its collocate is Deaths.

### 5-Golden Opportunity

The word 'golden' is identified as a lexical unit of analysis, and to be checked whether it is used metaphorically or not adopting MIP. The word golden has a contextual meaning which is 'very important or essential'. The next step includes checking whether this lexical unit has a meaning that is more basic than its contextual meaning. Such a more basic meaning of the word golden is "something made of gold". Gold means precious metal used for making jewelry e.g. the country's gold reserves. Thus since this word has a contextual meaning and a basic meaning, and these two meanings clearly contrast and can be understood in comparison with each other, this word is used metaphorically in this context. We understand an abstract importance or necessity of the opportunity in terms of the gold which is a physical metal. So this collocation can be considered as a metaphorical collocation.

The researcher explains the syntactic structure of this collocation adopting patterns suggested by Benson et al. (2010). This collocation is structured with Adj. + N. which is one of the patterns given by Benson et al. (2010). Also this collocation is an attributive collocation that contains a noun and an adjective that modifies it. The word 'golden' is considered as the node of this collocation, while opportunity is its collocate.

### 6- Throw Budget

In this collocation, the word 'throw' is the word that should be checked for metaphorical use. In other words, it is a lexical unit of analysis (metaphor related word) in this collocation. The contextual meaning of 'throw' is "to direct something at something or somebody". The next and the very important procedure includes checking whether this lexical unit has a meaning that is more basic than its contextual meaning. The more basic meaning of this word is "to use your hand to send an object through the air". Since this word has a contextual meaning that contrasts with its more basic meaning and can be understood in comparison with it, it is used metaphorically. Therefore, this collocation is a metaphorical collocation.

The syntactic Structure of this collocation is V.+N. This is one of the syntactic patterns suggested by Benson et al. (2010). This collocation is also called an object collocation which contains the verb 'throw' and the noun phrase 'budget' serves as its object. In addition, the node of this collocation is throw, while its collocate is budget.

### 7- Pass a Budget

First, the word pass is identified as a lexical unit of analysis, and this is one of the procedures adopted by the researcher. Secondly, the contextual meaning of this word is "to make a law proposal etc. become official usually by voting to accept it". This contextual meaning is found in the contemporary dictionary of Macmillan. The next procedure is to check whether there is a more basic meaning than the contextual meaning. The more basic meaning is "to go past something". Since this word has two separate meanings and can be understood in comparison with each other, this word is used metaphorically in this context, and this collocation is called a metaphorical collocation.

Concerning the syntactic Structure of this collocation, it is composed of a verb and a noun phrase comes after it. This pattern V. + N, is one of the patterns suggested by Benson et al. (2010). The node of this collocation is the word 'pass' that the researcher focuses on, while the collocate word is 'budget'.

### 8- Novel Coronavirus

One of the collocations identified by the researcher in this British newspaper (*The Guardian*) is 'novel coronavirus'. Depending on the incongruity between these two words of collocation, it assumes that the word 'novel' is used metaphorically in this context, so the protocol of MIP introduced by Pragglejaz Group (2007) is applied to identify linguistic metaphor. The procedures of this approach are applied as follows:

The word "novel" is identified as a lexical unit of analysis, and this is the first procedure of this approach. The contextual meaning of this word is its meaning in this context. The contextual meaning of this word is "different from anything known before" (strange). While the more basic meaning of this word is "a long written story about imaginary or partly imaginary characters and events". These two meanings can not contrast with each other, and we can not identify one of them as a more basic meaning. So this word does not have a more basic meaning. According to MIP suggested by Pragglejaz Group (2007), since this word does not have a more basic meaning, it is not used metaphorically. Here novel is considered as a homonym not metaphor. So this collocation is not a metaphorical collocation. Since novel does not have more basic meaning, the literal meaning of this collocation is the same as its intended meaning.

The syntactic structure of this collocation is Adj. + N., and this is one of the lexical collocations suggested by Benson et al. (2010). In this collocation the word ‘novel’ serves as the node of this collocation, while the word coronavirus serves as its collocate.

**9-Cuts the chance**

In this study, there is an application of the procedures of MIP suggested by Pragglejaz Group(2007) to detect linguistic metaphor in this collocation. The word “cut” is identified as a lexical unit of analysis.

The contextual meaning of this word is “to reduce the amount or level of something”. While the more basic meaning of this word is “to use a knife or sharp tool to divide something into two or more parts”. Thus we can notice that these two meanings are distinct, and can be understood in comparison with each other. So this word is used metaphorically in this context to mean reducing or preventing the chance of coronavirus to enter the body. Thus we can say that this collocation is a metaphorical collocation.

The syntactic structure of this collocation is V. + N. It is an object collocation which contains a verb and a noun phrase serves as its object.

**10- Heavy Cost**

In this collocation, the word heavy is identified as a metaphor related word. This is the first procedure of Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) adopted in this study. The second procedure includes identifying the contextual meaning of heavy. The contextual meaning of this word is ‘very high cost’.The third procedure of this method is to identify the basic meaning of this word. The more basic meaning of this word is “weighing a lot or a heavy object weighs a lot”. Thus this word has two separate meanings found in the dictionary of Macmillan. According to MIP, the metaphorical meaning depends completely on the comparison between the contextual meaning and the basic meaning of the word. Since these two meanings are distinct, and can be understood in comparison with each other, the word ‘heavy’ is used metaphorically. We understand abstract highness in cost of something in terms of the physical heavy object that weighs a lot.

Syntactically this collocation is composed of the pattern Adj. + N. which is one of the classifications suggested by Benson et al. (2010).The node of this collocation is heavy while its collocate is cost.

<i>The Guardian</i>		
	Collocations	The Syntactic patterns
1	Poor health	Adj. + N.
2	Roots of disease	N1 + Prep. + N2
3	Heavy rain	Adj. + N.
4	Deaths jump	N. + V.
5	Throw budget	V. + N.
6	Pass a budget	V. + N.
7	Cuts the chance	V. + N.
8	Golden opportunity	Adj. + N.
9	Heavy cost	Adj. + N.
10	Novel coronavirus	Adj. + N.

**Table (1) Metaphorical Collocations and Their Syntactic Patterns**

From this table it is clear that each metaphorical collocation has its own syntactic pattern. According to the table explained above, the metaphorical collocations are frequently used with Adj. + N. patterns more than the others. In addition, from this section of analysis, the collocation (Novel Coronavirus) is confirmed as a non-metaphorical collocation because MIP confirmed that the word novel isn’t used metaphorically in this



collocation. Also the findings of this section reveal the possibility of applying MIP suggested by Pragglejaz Group (2007) on collocations list to detect linguistic metaphor.

### 10. Conclusion

The findings of this study reveal that some collocations used in the language of news include linguistic metaphor. Also they reveal that nine of the collocations analyzed in this study are confirmed to be metaphorical collocations, and only one of them (novel coronavirus) is confirmed as not metaphorical collocation. Also this study reveals that the metaphor identified by MIP is indirect metaphor rather than direct and implicit ones. This answers the first research question. In addition, results reveal that the collocational pattern (Adj. + N.) include linguistic metaphor more than the others, but we can not generalize this because the data in this paper are extracted from MA thesis data, and they aren't enough to generalize. The metaphorical collocations are restricted to lexical collocations rather than grammatical collocations. This answers the second research question in this study. Also the findings reveal the possibility of applying MIP on collocations list to detect metaphor, regardless the errors occur during applying this method (MIP). This answers the third research question.

In addition to the results mentioned so far, the researcher comes up with other results: Collocation can be considered as a means to detect linguistic metaphors in any large data such as news texts. Also he concludes that editors use metaphorical collocations to make the events effective, and to attract their readers' attentions.

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