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LINGUISTIC PECULIARITIES OF THE *WISDOM* NOUN USAGE: CORPUS-BASED APPROACH

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*This research article delves into a diachronic exploration of the English noun *WISDOM*, employing a corpus-based methodology to investigate its semantic evolution over two distinct temporal spans: 1990–1994 and 2015–2019. The primary dataset utilized is the Corpus of Contemporary American English, facilitating a comprehensive analysis that delves into the confluence of linguistics and cybernetics. This confluence has fostered a deeper understanding of the evolution of corpus linguistics, a field advanced through designated corpora and specialized software. Noteworthy scholars in corpus linguistics, both international and Ukrainian, are highlighted in the article.*

*The study extensively examines the noun *WISDOM*, its corresponding noun phrases, and collocational patterns to offer a detailed examination of its semantic deployment and temporal frequency shifts. The research employs a corpus-driven methodology, capitalizing on the vast and varied materials within the Corpus of Contemporary American English. Furthermore, the article provides a thorough overview of the noun's attributes and grammatical profile, establishing *WISDOM* as an uncountable singular abstract common noun.*

*The study's findings reveal a decline in the usage frequency of *WISDOM* during the 2015–2019 period compared to 1990–1994. Interestingly, specific collocational associations showcase a contrary trend. Additionally, minimal divergence is observed in the domains of application and prevalent collocations between the two examined time frames, suggesting a remarkable consistency in the contextual usage of the term. Overall, the article underscores the paramount importance of corpus methodologies in propelling linguistic inquiries forward. By shedding light on the intricate interplay between linguistic evolution and cybernetic principles, this research contributes to a nuanced understanding of semantic fluctuations within language, which are a promising and pertinent area for further scholarly investigation.*

Key words: *collocation, corpus linguistics, diachronic study, noun, noun phrase, *WISDOM*.*

ЛІНГВІСТИЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ВЖИВАННЯ ІМЕННИКА МУДРІСТЬ: КОРПУСНОБАЗОВАНИЙ ПІДХІД

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*Стаття спрямована на вивчення специфіки вживання іменника *WISDOM* (МУДРІСТЬ) в англійській мові у діахронії з використанням корпусного підходу. Дослідження охоплює два*

періоди часу, 1990–1994 та 2015–2019 роки, з використанням *Corpus of Contemporary American English*. У статті проаналізовано іменник *WISDOM* і колокації, які він утворює, та з'ясовано, що частотність його використання скоротилася у період з 2015 по 2019 роки, однак деякі колокації проявили протилежну тенденцію. Стаття акцентує увагу на важливості корпусного підходу у мовознавчих дослідженнях.

Ключові слова: колокація, корпусна лінгвістика, діахронічне дослідження, іменник, іменникова сполука, МУДРІСТЬ.

The problem statement. The evolving landscape of linguistics, driven by an increasing interest in pragmatic applications, has led to the emergence of computer linguistics and corpus linguistics. These disciplines are rooted in specialized corpora that encompass a diverse collection of linguistic materials sourced from various layers and functional styles of a language. Scholars from both native and international backgrounds have contributed valuable insights to the domain of corpus linguistics. This academic pursuit aims to unveil the progression of lexical semantics over time, utilizing a methodology based on corpus analysis. Specifically, this research paper focuses on investigating the noun *WISDOM*, its associated noun phrases, and the network of word combinations in which it is embedded. The research undertakes a diachronic exploration, comparing two distinct time frames: the years between 1990 and 1994, and the five-year span from 2015 to 2019. Within this timeframe, the esteemed *Corpus of Contemporary American English* serves as the primary data source, facilitating a comprehensive examination of lexical trends and contextual intricacies surrounding the noun *WISDOM*.

The examination of contemporary research and scholarly works. The past few decades have witnessed a substantial increase in applied studies within the field of linguistics, primarily driven by the growing “demand for incorporating natural language mechanisms into information and computer systems” (Zhukovska, 2020, p. 113). The fusion of linguistics and cybernetics has played a significant role in the emergence of computer linguistics, which subsequently led to the development of corpus linguistics. Corpus linguistics is founded upon the utilization of a designated corpus, consisting of a vast collection of linguistic materials from various levels and functional styles of any given language. These materials are compiled into a large computerized system using specialized software (Kovbasiuk, 2017, p. 9).

Numerous foreign linguists have dedicated their research to the field of corpus linguistics, including Henry Kučera, Douglas Biber, John McHardy Sinclair, Chris Kennedy, Tomaž Erjavec, Marek Lazinskyi, Ruprecht von Waldenfels, Elena Tognini-Bonelli, and Petra Storjohann. Among Ukrainian scholars, notable contributions to corpus linguistics have been made by Mariia Shvedova, Vasyl Starko, Andrii Rysin, Darchuk Nataliia, Siruk Olena, and Khodakivska Yaryna.

In addition to the domains of philosophy (Descartes, Aristotle, Molière, Heraclitus) and psychology (Aleida Assmann, Gerard M. Brugman, Ursula M. Staudinger, Judith Gluck, etc.), the concept of *WISDOM* has been extensively studied in the realms of semantics and discourse studies within cognitive linguistics (Olha Taranenko, Nataliia Kishchenko, Tetiana Kryzhanovska, and Elżbieta Górka).

The integration of digital and linguistic interests in this corpus-based study highlights its current relevance and significance.

The objective of this article is to perform a diachronic study, utilizing a corpus-based approach, focusing on the noun *WISDOM*, noun phrases containing the head noun *WISDOM*, and collocations involving the noun *WISDOM*. The study specifically examines two distinct time periods, namely from 1990 to 1994 and from 2015 to 2019, using the *Corpus of Contemporary American English* as the primary data source.

Presenting main material. The current research adopts a corpus-driven approach, which allows for the extraction of data without making any assumptions or having preconceived expectations. The empirical basis for this study is The *Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)*, which offers unparalleled insights into the variation of English. This corpus comprises over one billion words of text (more than 25 million words per year from 1990 to 2019) and encompasses eight diverse categories, including spoken language, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, academic texts, TV and movie subtitles, blogs, and other web pages (following an update in March 2020) (*English-Corpora: COCA, n. d.*). Additional sources utilized in this study include

the Cambridge Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, Oxford English Reference, and Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's English Dictionary. By employing both qualitative and quantitative research methods, this study ensures the acquisition of relevant and unbiased outcomes.

Given that the focus of this research is on nouns, it is essential to outline the principal characteristics of nouns and noun phrases in English. Nouns constitute one of the four primary word classes, alongside verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, with nouns being the largest word class. Within the category of nouns, various types can be identified, including common nouns, proper nouns, concrete nouns, and abstract nouns. The latter refers to non-material objects such as ideas, emotions, and situations (Nouns, n. d.).

Noun phrases typically start with a noun or pronoun serving as the phrase's head, which may be accompanied by supporting components both preceding and following it (Nouns, n. d.). Dependent elements before the head of a noun phrase can take the form of determiners or premodifiers, while those following the head are either complements or postmodifiers. Complements are necessary to fully express the meaning of a noun, whereas postmodifiers are optional but provide additional details aiding in the identification or location of the noun.

The study of the noun *WISDOM* is enriched by its etymology, which reveals a substantial historical background. As indicated by the Collins dictionary, the word *WISDOM* has its origins traced back to a period preceding the year 900 (Wisdom, n. d.). In American English, *WISDOM* encompasses several distinct meanings, which are as follows:

- 1) the quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight;
- 2) scholarly knowledge or learning, the wisdom of the schools;
- 3) wise sayings or teachings; precepts;
- 4) a wise act or saying;
- 5) (cap.) Douay Bible See Wisdom of Solomon (Wisdom, n. d.).

According to the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, *WISDOM* can be defined as follows:

- 1) ability to discern inner qualities and relationships: INSIGHT, b) good sense: JUDGMENT, c) generally accepted belief, d) accumulated philosophical or scientific learning: KNOWLEDGE;
- 2) a wise attitude, belief, or course of action;
- 3) the teachings of the ancient wise men (Definition of *WISDOM*, n. d.).

Here, we encounter the noun *WISDOM* which is always capitalized referring to "a didactic book that holds a place within the Roman Catholic canon of the Old Testament and corresponds to the Wisdom of Solomon present in the Protestant Apocrypha". According to this dictionary, the word *WISDOM* originated "before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1d" (Definition of *WISDOM*, n. d.) above.

The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English presents the following explanations for the term *WISDOM*:

- 1) good sense and judgment, based especially on your experience of life;
- 2) knowledge gained over a long period of time through learning or experience;
- 3) a belief or opinion that most people have (Wisdom | meaning of wisdom in longman dictionary of contemporary english | LDOCE, n. d.).

Thus, the noun *WISDOM* has been traced back to its earliest recorded usage prior to the 12th century, where it encompassed specific meanings, such as possessing sound judgment, common sense, and the ability to discern underlying traits and relationships. It also referred to the accumulation of philosophical or scientific knowledge, as well as embracing a wise attitude, belief, or course of action. Moreover, *WISDOM* denoted the teachings imparted by ancient wise individuals. During the 15th century, the term *WISDOM* took on an additional connotation when it began to be associated with a didactic book included in the Roman Catholic canon of the Old Testament. This usage corresponded to the Wisdom of Solomon found in the Protestant Apocrypha. In contemporary usage, *WISDOM* has broadened its scope and is commonly employed to describe the knowledge accumulated by a civilization or culture over an extended period. It also encompasses the ability to apply acquired experience and knowledge in order to make rational decisions or judgments. When referring to the *WISDOM* of a particular decision or action, one is assessing its degree of sensibility.

From a grammatical perspective, the noun WISDOM is classified as an uncountable singular variable abstract common noun. It functions as an uncountable noun to denote “the ability to use your experience and knowledge in order to make sensible decisions or judgments” (...the patience and wisdom that comes from old age; ...a great man, who spoke words of great wisdom).). It is used as a variable noun to mean “the store of knowledge that a society or culture has collected over a long period of time” (...a folksy piece of wisdom; ...this church’s original Semitic wisdom, religion, and faith; ...a simpler and more humane approach, based on ancient wisdoms and ‘natural’ mechanisms) or “to refer to ideas that are accepted by a large number of people” (Unchallenged WISDOMS flow swiftly among the middle classes) (Wisdom, n. d.).

The COCA provides several definitions for WISDOM, including:

1. Accumulated knowledge, erudition, or enlightenment.
2. The trait of utilizing knowledge and experience with common sense and insight.
3. The ability to apply knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight (English-Corpora: COCA, n. d.).

Having analyzed the frequency of the noun WISDOM in the COCA corpus, it is evident that this concept appears 26,819 times (see Figure 1).

HELP	ON CLICK:	CONTEXT	TRANSLATE (??)	ENTIRE PAGE	GOOGLE	IMAGE	PRON/VIDEO	BOOK (HELP)								
1	WISDOM	26826	4205	6059	1647	1734	2540	4357	2143	4141	3294	3002	3036	2992	2320	1918

Fig. 1. Frequency of occurrences of the noun WISDOM in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)

The subsequent section provides a comparative analysis of the concept of WISDOM during two distinct periods: 1990 to 1994 and 2015 to 2019. In the initial period, the occurrence of the term WISDOM was 3293 times, while in the latter period (2015–2019 inclusive), it appeared 1918 times. Notably, the frequency of usage for the noun WISDOM was significantly higher in the earlier time span, specifically 71% more prevalent than in the subsequent period (refer to Figure 2 below).

SEC 1 (1990-1994): 121,107,016 WORDS						SEC 2 (2015-2019): 122,751,878 WORDS					
WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1	TOKENS 2	PM 1	PM 2	RATIO	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2	TOKENS 1	PM 2	PM 1	RATIO
1 WISDOM	3293	1918	27.2	15.6	1.7	1 WISDOM	1918	3293	15.6	27.2	0.6

Fig. 2. Temporal analysis of word frequency: the noun WISDOM usage in two investigated time intervals (1990–1994 and 2015–2019)

Figure 3 below illustrates the frequency of mentions of the noun WISDOM within various categories during the period from 1990 to 1994. The categories include academic English, magazines, fiction, newspapers, spoken English, and TV and movie subtitles. The analysis reveals that the noun WISDOM is most frequently encountered in academic English, with a total of 967 occurrences. In contrast, its usage in TV and movie contexts is comparatively lower, with only 276 instances recorded. Notably, there is no available data on the use of the noun WISDOM in the categories of blogs and the web. The absence of information regarding the utilization of the noun WISDOM in these categories can be attributed to the emergence of these platforms during the specified time period. It is reasonable to assume that blogs and other web resources were still in their nascent stages, hence explaining the lack of recorded instances involving the noun WISDOM.

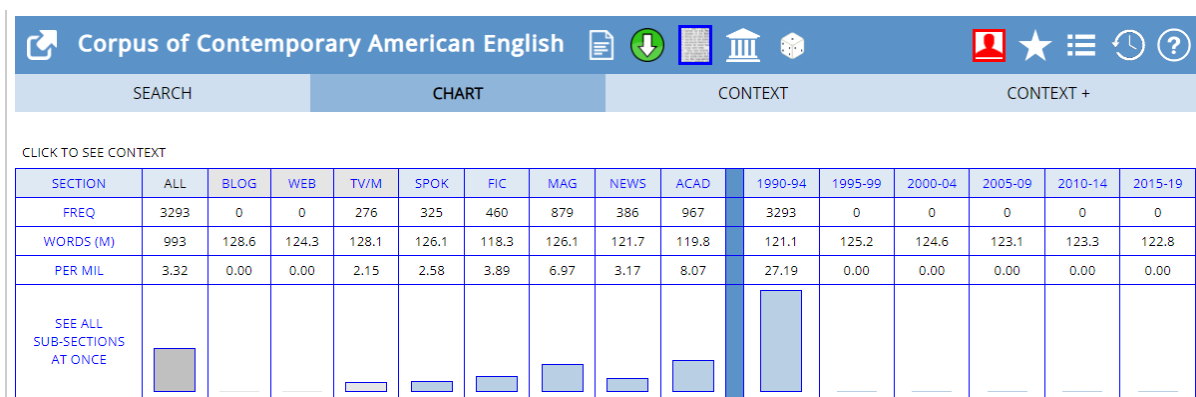


Fig. 3. Frequency of occurrences of the noun WISDOM in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) in 1990–1994

Let us now direct our attention to Figure 4 presented below, which outlines the sub-categories of academic English. We will proceed to examine the frequency of occurrences of the concept of WISDOM within these sub-genres. According to the COCA, the noun WISDOM is observed in the following sub-categories of academic English: philosophy, psychology and religion, miscellaneous, law and political science, geography and social science, history, humanities, education, and Sci-Tech. Notably, it is most frequently encountered in texts pertaining to religion and philosophy. Additionally, it exhibits a relatively high occurrence in texts related to law and social sciences, but its usage is relatively infrequent within the Sci-Tech category. It is worth noting that during the period from 1990 to 1994, the noun WISDOM was not found in the categories of medicine and business.

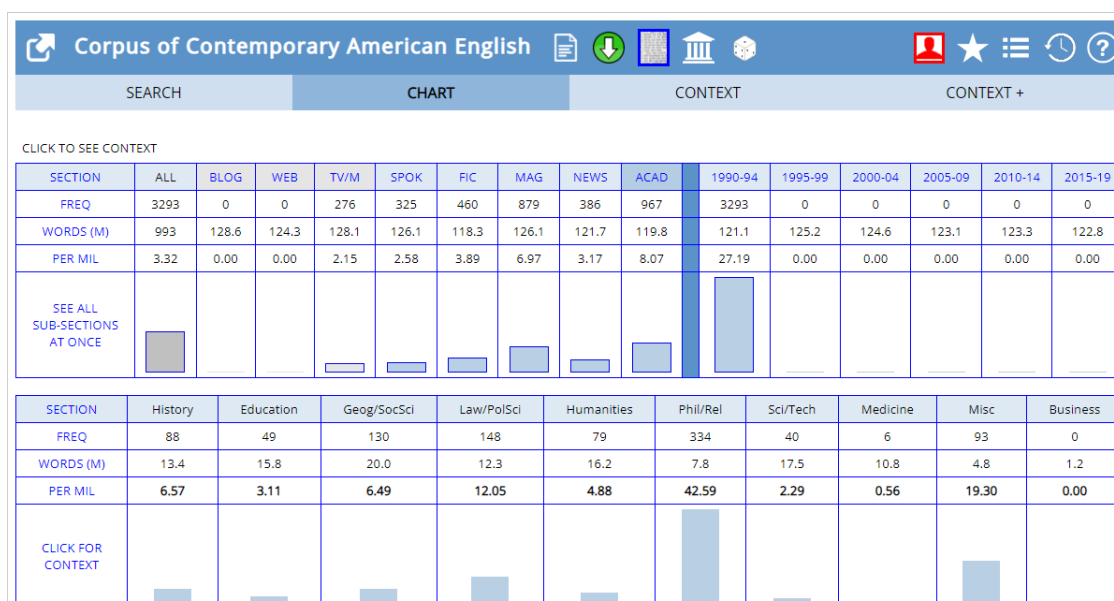


Fig. 4. Occurrences of the noun WISDOM in academic sub-categories in 1990–1994

Moving on to the next category under analysis, which is commonly linked to the noun WISDOM, it can be observed that it appears 879 times within the context of magazines, as depicted in Figure 5 hereafter. Predominantly, the majority of these occurrences are observed in magazines focused on topics like news, entertainment, and religion.

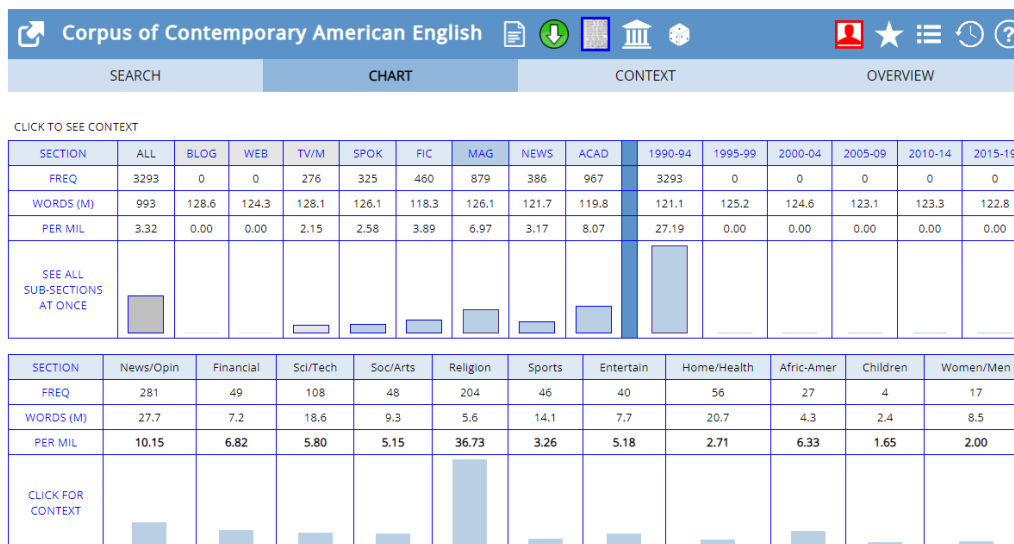


Fig. 5. Occurrences of the noun WISDOM in the magazines category in 1990–1994

The noun WISDOM frequently appears in works of fiction, as evidenced by its occurrence 460 times in the texts analyzed in the COCA corpus during the specified time frame (see Figure 6).

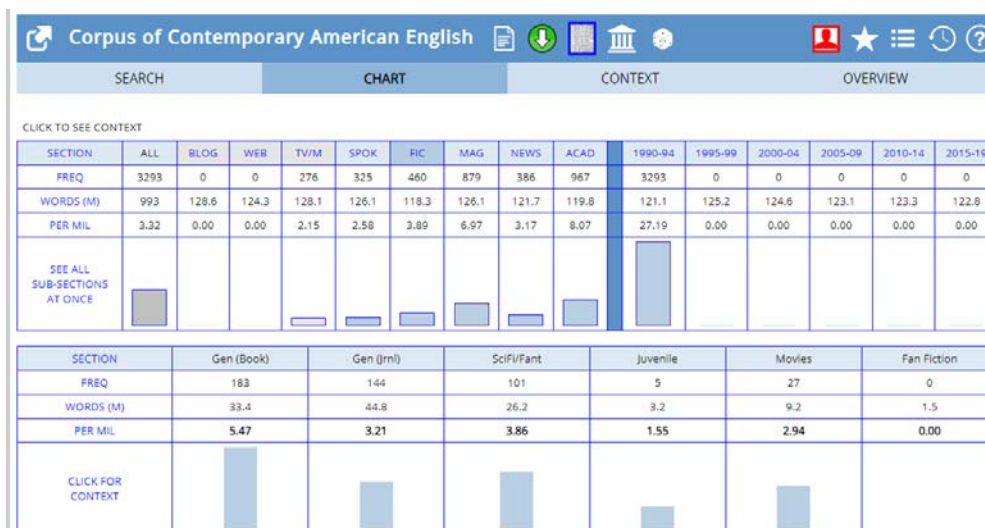


Fig. 6. Occurrences of the noun WISDOM in the category of fiction 1990–1994

As previously indicated, the target word under investigation exhibited a notably reduced frequency of occurrence (merely 1918 instances) during the interval from 2015 to 2019, in stark contrast to its prevalence during the period from 1990 to 1994. Notably, its usage was predominantly observed within diverse categories, including magazines, academic English, fiction, newspapers, TV and movie subtitles, as well as spoken English.

When examining the domains in which this concept was employed, it is evident that there was little variation in the primary areas of its utilization from 2015 to 2019. Specifically, it continued to be predominantly observed in academic English, periodicals, and works of fiction (refer to Figure 7 provided below).

Below, the collocations formed by the noun WISDOM in the two distinct periods are analyzed. To understand the distribution, we employ the formula ADJ + WISDOM, enabling us to trace the compatibility of this studied word with various adjectives. In a noun phrase, the noun following the adjective premodifier acts as the head of that noun phrase. Figure 8 illustrates that the adjectives most frequently associated with the noun WISDOM include: “conventional”, “common”, “infinite”, “received”, “prevailing”, “collective”, “practical”, “great”, “divine”, and “ancient”. It can be inferred that the use of the adjectives “common” and “collective” in conjunction with the noun WISDOM conveys a similar meaning, indicating “shared knowledge derived from the efforts of individuals and groups”.

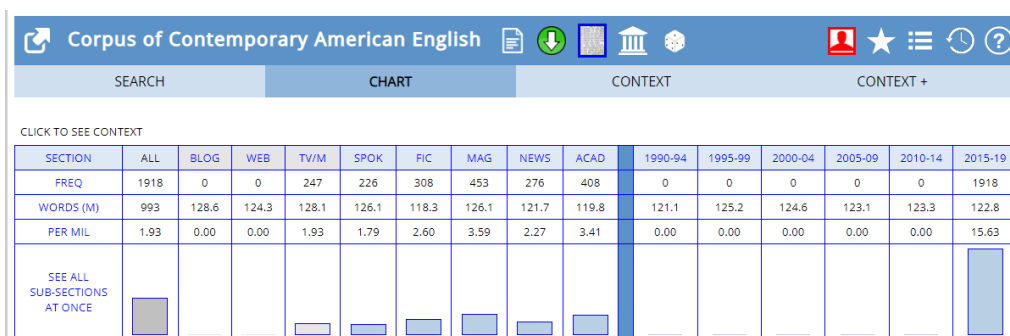


Fig. 7. Frequency of occurrences of the noun WISDOM in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) in 2015–2019

Interestingly, there is a notable discrepancy in frequency between the combination of WISDOM with the adjective “conventional” compared to other adjectives. The collocation “conventional WISDOM “ denotes “the beliefs that most people accept are correct” with its origin dating back to 1965-70, according to the Collins Dictionary (Wisdom, n. d.).



Fig. 8. Adjective collocations with the noun WISDOM

Figure 9 illustrates a significant decline in the frequency of the collocation “conventional WISDOM” between 2015 and 2019 inclusive when compared to the time period spanning from 1990 to 1995. Specifically, there was an approximate 55% reduction in the usage of this collocation during the latter time span. Conversely, when examining other collocations with adjectives, the disparity in frequency of use appears to be insignificant.

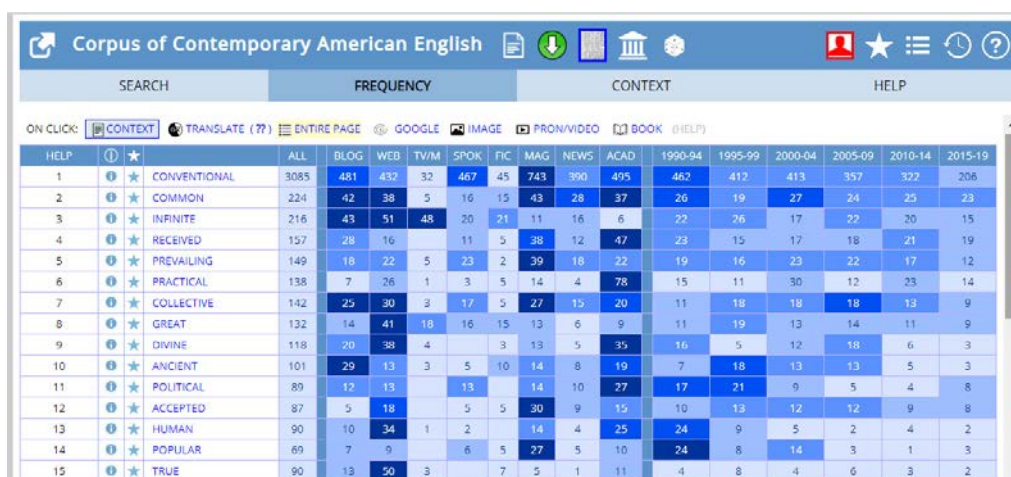


Fig. 9. Frequency distribution of adjective collocations with the noun WISDOM in 1990–1994 and 2015–2019

The present study also aims to analyze the most commonly used nouns preceding the word “WISDOM” in the pattern of NOUN + WISDOM. Figure 10 illustrates that in noun phrases, the noun preceding the head noun functions as a premodifier.

As depicted in Figure 10, the nouns that frequently occur before the noun WISDOM include: “folk”, “lady”, “sage”, “country”, and “son”. It can be inferred that when combined with nouns such as “lady”, “sage”, and “son”, the word WISDOM conveys the notion of “the innate ability of certain individuals to comprehend concepts that elude most others”.

Figure 10 clearly demonstrates that the noun “folk” exhibits a significantly higher collocation rate with the term “WISDOM” compared to other nouns. The collocations “folk WISDOM” and “woman WISDOM” denote “the wisdom or beliefs associated with or customary to the ordinary people of a specific country” (Wisdom, n. d.). These examples serve as evidence that numerous nouns can function as modifiers for other nouns, similar to the way adjectives modify nouns. These nouns are commonly referred to as attributive nouns.



Fig. 10. Attributive noun collocations with the noun WISDOM

According to Figure 11, there is a noticeable decline in the frequency of the collocation “folk WISDOM” from the period between 1990 and 1995 to the timeframe spanning 2015 to 2019.



Fig. 11. Frequency distribution of attributive noun collocations with the noun WISDOM in 1990–1994 and 2015–2019

The noun WISDOM can also exhibit the function of an attributive noun when combined with other nouns in post-position. A distributional analysis is employed to examine the compatibility of the studied word as an attributive element with various nouns, following the pattern WISDOM + NOUN. When positioned before the head word within a noun phrase, the noun WISDOM assumes a dependent role and functions as a premodifier, specifying certain aspects of the head noun.

It becomes evident that the attributive noun *WISDOM* was most frequently encountered in association with the noun “teeth” (or singular “tooth”) (Figure 12). The term “*WISDOM* tooth” refers to “the posterior tooth on each side of the jaw in humans” or “any of the four third molars that typically appear between the ages of 17 and 25”. The Collins Dictionary traces the origin of this phrase back to the years 1660-1670 (Wisdom, n. d.).

SEC 1 (1990-1994): 121,107,016 WORDS						SEC 2 (2015-2019): 122,751,878 WORDS					
WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1	TOKENS 2	PM 1	PM 2	RATIO	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2	TOKENS 1	PM 2	PM 1	RATIO
1 [WISDOM] [TRADITION]	30	2	0.2	0.0	15.2	1 [WISDOM] [TOOTH]	41	30	0.3	0.2	1.3
2 [WISDOM] [TOOTH]	30	41	0.2	0.3	0.7	2 [WISDOM] []	4	0	0.0	0.0	3.3
3 [WISDOM] [TEACHER]	5	0	0.0	0.0	4.1	3 [WISDOM] [TREE]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.6
4 [WISDOM] [SAYING]	4	0	0.0	0.0	3.3	4 [WISDOM] [WAY]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.6
5 [WISDOM] [LITERATURE]	4	0	0.0	0.0	3.3	5 [WISDOM] [BUILDING]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.6
6 [WISDOM] [AMULET]	4	0	0.0	0.0	3.3	6 [WISDOM] [BOOK]	2	2	0.0	0.0	1.0
7 [WISDOM] [TIME]	4	0	0.0	0.0	3.3	7 [WISDOM] [TRADITION]	2	30	0.0	0.2	0.1
8 [WISDOM] [TEACHING]	3	1	0.0	0.0	3.0	8 [WISDOM] [ARTICLE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8
9 [WISDOM] [BRIDGE]	3	0	0.0	0.0	2.5	9 [WISDOM] [BLOG]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8
10 [WISDOM] [TRAJECTORY]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7	10 [WISDOM] [COLLAPSE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8
11 [WISDOM] [BOOK]	2	2	0.0	0.0	1.0	11 [WISDOM] [DIVIDE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8
12 [WISDOM] [BANDWAGON]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	12 [WISDOM] [HOUSE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8
13 [WISDOM] [DISCOURSE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	13 [WISDOM] [GESTURE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8
14 [WISDOM] [DISCOUNT]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	14 [WISDOM] [FLOUNDER]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8
15 [WISDOM] [CORPUS]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	15 [WISDOM] [FIGURE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8

Fig. 12. Utilization of the noun *WISDOM* as an attributive noun in 1990–1994 and 2015–2019

The analysis of Figure 13 reveals that the frequency of the collocation “*WISDOM* tooth” remains relatively consistent across both investigated time periods. Notably, the data presented in this table highlight an intriguing observation: several collocations involving the noun *WISDOM* functioning attributively were prevalent during the period from 1990 to 1995 but are conspicuously absent in the texts of the corpus from 2015 to 2019. Examples of these include “*WISDOM* literature”, “*WISDOM* watch”, “*WISDOM* sayings”, and “*WISDOM* bridge”. Additionally, it is noteworthy that the phrase “*WISDOM* tradition” exhibited substantially higher usage frequency from 1990 to 1995 compared to the period from 2015 to 2019, whereas the collocation “*WISDOM* tooth” experienced a significant increase in usage during the latter time frame.

HELP	SEARCH	★	ALL	BLOG	WEB	TV/M	SPOK	FIC	MAG	NEWS	ACAD	1990-94	1995-99	2000-04	2005-09	2010-14	2015-19
1	★	[WISDOM] [TOOTH]	501	56	224	73	21	61	36	23	7	30	49	29	46	26	41
2	★	[WISDOM] [TRADITION]	71	4	8	1	4	1	41	12	12	30	11	5	8	3	2
3	★	[WISDOM] [LITERATURE]	45	5	5	1			9		25	4	6	16	3	6	
4	★	[WISDOM] [WATCH]	19					18	1			1			7	11	
5	★	[WISDOM] [BOOK]	15	1		1	1	1	5		6	2	1	6	1	2	2
6	★	[WISDOM] [TEACHING]	15	1	8				3		3	3	1	1			1
7	★	[WISDOM] [TEACHER]	10		1		1		8			5	2			2	
8	★	[WISDOM] [WAY]	9					6	1		2		7				2
9	★	[WISDOM] []	11	2	3	1		1	2	1	1				2		4
10	★	[WISDOM] [FIGURE]	8	1					5	1	1		3	2		1	1
11	★	[WISDOM] [PANEL]	14	8	5				1							1	
12	★	[WISDOM] [BRIDGE]	7							7		3	2	1		1	
13	★	[WISDOM] [SAYING]	6						5		1	4		1		1	
14	★	[WISDOM] [KEEPER]	5			1		1	3				2	1	1		1
15	★	[WISDOM] [TREE]	5				1	1	3				2		1		2

Fig. 13. Frequency distribution of collocations with the noun *WISDOM* in an attributive position in 1990–1994 and 2015–2019

Based on the data presented in Figure 14 below, a clear pattern emerges, indicating that the verbs that accompany the noun *WISDOM* exhibit similarity between the two periods under investigation. The most frequently utilized verbs in both time frames are “to say”, “to hold”, “to come”, and “to suggest”.

HELP	SEARCH	FREQUENCY	CONTEXT	OVERVIEW												
1	[WISDOM] [SAV]	190	35	21	5	27	8	53	29	12	24	27	29	20	19	15
2	[WISDOM] [HOLD]	151	12	12	2	6	7	56	23	33	17	19	20	31	26	14
3	[WISDOM] [COME]	79	17	15	6	4	9	16	5	7	10	13	7	4	5	8
4	[WISDOM] [SUGGEST]	56	8	5	1	1	1	16	8	16	6	9	9	6	7	6
5	[WISDOM] [GO]	37	9	4	2	4	3	13	1	1	7	2	6	3	3	3
6	[WISDOM] [GAIN]	28	7	1	2			3	6	9	4	2	5	1	4	4
7	[WISDOM] [TELL]	23	5	3	5			2	1	4	1	6	2	3	1	2
8	[WISDOM] [DICTATE]	19	3	2	1		1	6	2	4	2	1	4	2	3	2
9	[WISDOM] [REQUIRE]	17	1	2	1	2	1	1	9		1	2	6	3		2
10	[WISDOM] [KNOW]	25	2	18	1		3	1			1	3		1		
11	[WISDOM] [LET]	18	2	4	11		1					4	7	1		
12	[WISDOM] [SEEM]	20	4	6		3	3	1	2	1	4	1		3	2	
13	[WISDOM] [CONTAIN]	16	3	3	3			1	4	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
14	[WISDOM] [OFFER]	14		4				4		5	5	3	1		1	
15	[WISDOM] [BECOME]	17	7	4				3		3	3			1	1	1

Fig. 14. Verbs used with the noun WISDOM in the post position

Having analyzed the data presented in Figure 15 below, it becomes evident that during the investigated time periods, the noun WISDOM is frequently preceded by verbs such as “to gain”, “to seek”, “to receive”, “to find”, “to impart”, and “to bring”. Notably, the frequency of verb collocations involving “to receive”, “to impart”, and “to bring” demonstrated an increasing trend over time, whereas the collocations “to find WISDOM” and “to get WISDOM” ceased to occur entirely. These VERB + WISDOM collocations depict a dependency relationship, wherein the noun WISDOM assumes the role of an object within the sentence.

HELP	SEARCH	FREQUENCY	CONTEXT	OVERVIEW												
1	[GAIN] [WISDOM]	56	11	15	8	1	5	10	1	5	2	10	3	4	8	3
2	[SEEK] [WISDOM]	43	9	13	2	1	5	5	2	6	4	4	2	4	3	4
3	[RECEIVE] [WISDOM]	36	6	6	3	2	1	11		7	4	3	7	4	1	5
4	[FIND] [WISDOM]	38	10	13	3	1	4	6	1		4	3	3	1	4	
5	[IMPART] [WISDOM]	33	13	2	2	1	1	5	8	1	1	2	2	4	5	4
6	[BRING] [WISDOM]	31	8	5	1	2	5	3	4	3	1	2	3	6	3	3
7	[LACK] [WISDOM]	32	8	10	6		1	4	1	2	1		5	2	4	2
8	[COME] [WISDOM]	31	7	10	6	4	1	3				3		4	3	4
9	[CALL] [WISDOM]	26	2	7			3	8	2	4	4	1	3	6	2	1
10	[GIVE] [WISDOM]	30	7	13			2	1	3	4	4		3	3		
11	[GET] [WISDOM]	26	4	12	3	1	2	4			2	2	1	1	4	
12	[USE] [WISDOM]	21	7	5	1	3		2	1	2	1	2	3		1	2
13	[ACQUIRE] [WISDOM]	16	3	2	1			3	2	1	4	2	3	4	1	1
14	[LEARN] [WISDOM]	18	1	8				5	3		1	1	2	4	2	
15	[NEED] [WISDOM]	17	3	4	2	1	4	2	1		2	2	1	1	2	2

Fig. 15. Verbs preceding the noun WISDOM

An analysis of the determiners frequently employed in association with the noun WISDOM (refer to Figure 16) reveals notable patterns. During the initial timeframe under investigation, the prevalent determiners included “that”, “much”, “some”, “more”, and “this”. In the subsequent period of the study, the determiners most frequently utilized were “some”, “this”, “that”, “all”, “what”, and “own”.

The data presented in Figure 17 demonstrates a consistent usage of conjunctions such as “and”, “that”, and “or” following the noun “WISDOM” in both time periods.

Regarding noun phrases featuring the preposition “of” in conjunction with the noun WISDOM functioning as the head of the noun phrase, it is noteworthy that such constructions frequently occur in the COCA corpus during the initial time period. Figure 18 presents a sample, revealing the frequent usage of noun phrases like “WISDOM of hindsight”, “WISDOM of king”, “WISDOM of government”, “WISDOM of experience”, “WISDOM of generation”, and “WISDOM of age”. In the latter time period, within the COCA texts, the following phrases appear: “WISDOM of elder”, “WISDOM of legislation”, and “WISDOM of crowd”.

SEC 1 (1990-1994): 121,107,016 WORDS							SEC 2 (2015-2019): 122,751,878 WORDS						
WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1	TOKENS 2	PM 1	PM 2	RATIO		WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2	TOKENS 1	PM 2	PM 1	RATIO	
1 [THAT] [WISDOM]	23	15	0.2	0.1	1.6		1 [SOME] [WISDOM]	16	12	0.1	0.1	1.3	
2 [MUCH] [WISDOM]	14	2	0.1	0.0	7.1		2 [THIS] [WISDOM]	15	11	0.1	0.1	1.3	
3 [SOME] [WISDOM]	12	16	0.1	0.1	0.8		3 [THAT] [WISDOM]	15	23	0.1	0.2	0.6	
4 [MORE] [WISDOM]	11	4	0.1	0.0	2.8		4 [ALL] [WISDOM]	9	6	0.1	0.0	1.5	
5 [THIS] [WISDOM]	11	15	0.1	0.1	0.7		5 [WHAT] [WISDOM]	8	2	0.1	0.0	3.9	
6 [SUCH] [WISDOM]	8	4	0.1	0.0	2.0		6 [OWN] [WISDOM]	7	4	0.1	0.0	1.7	
7 [WHOSE] [WISDOM]	6	4	0.0	0.0	1.5		7 [ANY] [WISDOM]	5	4	0.0	0.0	1.2	
8 [ALL] [WISDOM]	6	9	0.0	0.1	0.7		8 [WHOSE] [WISDOM]	4	6	0.0	0.0	0.7	
9 [SAME] [WISDOM]	4	2	0.0	0.0	2.0		9 [SUCH] [WISDOM]	4	8	0.0	0.1	0.5	
10 [ANY] [WISDOM]	4	5	0.0	0.0	0.8		10 [MORE] [WISDOM]	4	11	0.0	0.1	0.4	
11 [OWN] [WISDOM]	4	7	0.0	0.1	0.6		11 [SAME] [WISDOM]	2	4	0.0	0.0	0.5	
12 [WHATEVER] [WISDOM]	3	1	0.0	0.0	3.0		12 [MUCH] [WISDOM]	2	14	0.0	0.1	0.1	
13 [WHICH] [WISDOM]	3	0	0.0	0.0	2.5		13 [LITTLE] [WISDOM]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0	
14 [MOST] [WISDOM]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7		14 [WHATEVER] [WISDOM]	1	3	0.0	0.0	0.3	
15 [WHAT] [WISDOM]	2	8	0.0	0.1	0.3		15 [WHICH] [WISDOM]	0	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Fig. 16. Determiners used with the noun *WISDOM*

SEC 1 (1990-1994): 121,107,016 WORDS							SEC 2 (2015-2019): 122,751,878 WORDS						
WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1	TOKENS 2	PM 1	PM 2	RATIO		WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2	TOKENS 1	PM 2	PM 1	RATIO	
1 [WISDOM] [AND]	261	162	2.2	1.3	1.6		1 [WISDOM] [AND]	162	261	1.3	2.2	0.6	
2 [WISDOM] [THAT]	97	63	0.8	0.5	1.6		2 [WISDOM] [THAT]	63	97	0.5	0.8	0.6	
3 [WISDOM] [OR]	23	12	0.2	0.1	1.9		3 [WISDOM] [OR]	12	23	0.1	0.2	0.5	
4 [WISDOM] [AS]	8	9	0.1	0.1	0.9		4 [WISDOM] [AS]	9	8	0.1	0.1	1.1	
5 [WISDOM] [THAN]	6	2	0.0	0.0	3.0		5 [WISDOM] [WHILE]	3	2	0.0	0.0	1.5	
6 [WISDOM] [BUT]	5	2	0.0	0.0	2.5		6 [WISDOM] [WHEN]	2	2	0.0	0.0	1.0	
7 [WISDOM] [NOR]	3	1	0.0	0.0	3.0		7 [WISDOM] [BUT]	2	5	0.0	0.0	0.4	
8 [WISDOM] [BECAUSE]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7		8 [WISDOM] [THAN]	2	6	0.0	0.0	0.3	
9 [WISDOM] [WHEN]	2	2	0.0	0.0	1.0		9 [WISDOM] [UNTIL]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0	
10 [WISDOM] [WHILE]	2	3	0.0	0.0	0.7		10 [WISDOM] [BEFORE]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0	
11 [WISDOM] [BEFORE]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0		11 [WISDOM] [NOR]	1	3	0.0	0.0	0.3	
12 [WISDOM] [UNTIL]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0		12 [WISDOM] [WHETHER]	0	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
13 [WISDOM] [WHETHER]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8		13 [WISDOM] [WHERE]	0	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
14 [WISDOM] [WHERE]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8		14 [WISDOM] [SO]	0	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
15 [WISDOM] [NOW]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8		15 [WISDOM] [RATHER]	0	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Fig. 17. Conjunctions used after the noun *WISDOM*

SEC 1 (1990-1994): 121,107,016 WORDS							SEC 2 (2015-2019): 122,751,878 WORDS						
WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1	TOKENS 2	PM 1	PM 2	RATIO		WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2	TOKENS 1	PM 2	PM 1	RATIO	
1 [WISDOM] [OF] [HINDSIGHT]	3	2	0.0	0.0	1.5		1 [WISDOM] [OF] [ELDER]	3	1	0.0	0.0	3.0	
2 [WISDOM] [OF] [KING]	2	1	0.0	0.0	2.0		2 [WISDOM] [OF] [MAN]	3	0	0.0	0.0	2.4	
3 [WISDOM] [OF] [GOVERNMENT]	2	1	0.0	0.0	2.0		3 [WISDOM] [OF] [LEGISLATION]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.6	
4 [WISDOM] [OF] [EXPERIENCE]	2	1	0.0	0.0	2.0		4 [WISDOM] [OF] [CROWD]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.6	
5 [WISDOM] [OF] [GENERATION]	2	1	0.0	0.0	2.0		5 [WISDOM] [OF] [HINDSIGHT]	2	3	0.0	0.0	0.7	
6 [WISDOM] [OF] [AGE]	2	1	0.0	0.0	2.0		6 [WISDOM] [OF] [PEOPLE]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0	
7 [WISDOM] [OF] [TRADITION]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7		7 [WISDOM] [OF] [TEAM]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0	
8 [WISDOM] [OF] [COMPROMISE]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7		8 [WISDOM] [OF] [TRUMPISM]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	
9 [WISDOM] [OF] [CHILD]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7		9 [WISDOM] [OF] [YOUTH]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	
10 [WISDOM] [OF] [PSYCHIATRY]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7		10 [WISDOM] [OF] [HUMANITY]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	
11 [WISDOM] [OF] [PRACTICE]	2	0	0.0	0.0	1.7		11 [WISDOM] [OF] [PROTAGONIST]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	
12 [WISDOM] [OF] [PEOPLE]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0		12 [WISDOM] [OF] [PRESERVING]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	
13 [WISDOM] [OF] [TEAM]	1	1	0.0	0.0	1.0		13 [WISDOM] [OF] [RETRIBUTION]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	
14 [WISDOM] [OF] [PT]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8		14 [WISDOM] [OF] [SANCTION]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	
15 [WISDOM] [OF] [TIME]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8		15 [WISDOM] [OF] [SPEAKER]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0.8	

Fig. 18. Noun phrases with the head noun *WISDOM* and the preposition “of”

Having analyzed the noun phrases featuring the preposition “of” where the noun *WISDOM* serves as the dependent, several recurring patterns have been revealed, namely “word of *WISDOM*”, “pearl of *WISDOM*”, “source of *WISDOM*”, “book of *WISDOM*”, “part of *WISDOM*”, and “age of *WISDOM*”. The overall results demonstrate minimal variation between the two periods under examination (see Figure 19). However, it is noteworthy that the noun phrase “word of *WISDOM*”

exhibited a growing popularity in the latter of the two periods, contradicting the overall decline in the usage of the noun “WISDOM” over time.

The screenshot shows the COCA interface with search results for 'WISDOM' with the preposition 'of'. The results are split into two sections: SEC 1 (1990-1994) and SEC 2 (2015-2019). The table below summarizes the data from the screenshot.

SEC 1 (1990-1994): 121,107,016 WORDS						SEC 2 (2015-2019): 122,751,878 WORDS					
WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 1	TOKENS 2	PM 1	PM 2	RATIO	WORD/PHRASE	TOKENS 2	TOKENS 1	PM 2	PM 1	RATIO
1 [WORD] [OF] [WISDOM]	56	88	0.5	0.7	0.7	1 [WORD] [OF] [WISDOM]	88	56	0.7	0.5	1.5
2 [PEARL] [OF] [WISDOM]	15	14	0.1	0.1	1.1	2 [LOT] [OF] [WISDOM]	16	3	0.1	0.0	5.3
3 [SOURCE] [OF] [WISDOM]	10	2	0.1	0.0	5.1	3 [PEARL] [OF] [WISDOM]	14	15	0.1	0.1	0.9
4 [BOOK] [OF] [WISDOM]	7	1	0.1	0.0	7.1	4 [BIT] [OF] [WISDOM]	12	7	0.1	0.1	1.7
5 [PART] [OF] [WISDOM]	7	0	0.1	0.0	5.8	5 [PIECE] [OF] [WISDOM]	10	4	0.1	0.0	2.5
6 [BIT] [OF] [WISDOM]	7	12	0.1	0.1	0.6	6 [LOVE] [OF] [WISDOM]	5	1	0.0	0.0	4.9
7 [AGE] [OF] [WISDOM]	6	1	0.0	0.0	6.1	7 [GODDESS] [OF] [WISDOM]	5	2	0.0	0.0	2.5
8 [BEGINNING] [OF] [WISDOM]	6	3	0.0	0.0	2.0	8 [NUGGET] [OF] [WISDOM]	4	1	0.0	0.0	3.9
9 [PURSUIT] [OF] [WISDOM]	6	4	0.0	0.0	1.5	9 [PURSUIT] [OF] [WISDOM]	4	6	0.0	0.0	0.7
10 [VOICE] [OF] [WISDOM]	4	1	0.0	0.0	4.1	10 [SEAT] [OF] [WISDOM]	3	1	0.0	0.0	3.0
11 [PERSONIFICATION] [OF] [WISDOM]	4	0	0.0	0.0	3.3	11 [STORE] [OF] [WISDOM]	3	1	0.0	0.0	3.0
12 [PIECE] [OF] [WISDOM]	4	10	0.0	0.1	0.4	12 [SORT] [OF] [WISDOM]	3	0	0.0	0.0	2.4
13 [MEASURE] [OF] [WISDOM]	3	1	0.0	0.0	3.0	13 [BEGINNING] [OF] [WISDOM]	3	6	0.0	0.0	0.5
14 [COURSE] [OF] [WISDOM]	3	0	0.0	0.0	2.5	14 [LOVER] [OF] [WISDOM]	2	1	0.0	0.0	2.0
15 [FOUNT] [OF] [WISDOM]	3	0	0.0	0.0	2.5	15 [REPOSITORY] [OF] [WISDOM]	2	1	0.0	0.0	2.0

Fig. 19. Noun phrases with the preposition “of” and the noun WISDOM

Conclusions. In summary, it is evident that the noun WISDOM maintains consistent semantic usage across both studied periods. However, its frequency of use experienced a nearly 50% decline from 2015 to 2019, compared to the period of 1990-1994, indicating a clear tendency towards reduction. Interestingly, certain collocations demonstrated an opposite trend, becoming more popular over time. These collocations include “WISDOM tooth” and “word of WISDOM”.

Regarding adjective usage with the noun WISDOM, commonly employed adjectives include “conventional”, “common”, “infinite”, “received”, “prevailing”, “collective”, “practical”, “great”, “divine”, and “ancient”. Nouns acting in an attributive role before WISDOM are “folk”, “lady”, “sage”, “country”, and “son”. Within noun phrases, “WISDOM” is also used attributively with nouns such as “tooth”, “tradition”, “literature”, and “sayings”. In the noun phrases with the preposition “of”, WISDOM appears as the head word in collocations such as “WISDOM of hindsight”, “WISDOM of king”, “WISDOM of government”, “WISDOM of experience”, “WISDOM of generation”, and “WISDOM of age”. Additionally, as a dependent word in noun phrases with “of”, WISDOM forms a part of collocations like “word of WISDOM”, “pearl of WISDOM”, “source of WISDOM”, “book of WISDOM”, “part of WISDOM”, and “age of WISDOM”. The verbs following WISDOM remain virtually consistent in both studied periods, including “to say”, “to hold”, “to come”, and “to suggest”. Furthermore, WISDOM often appears after verbs such as “to gain”, “to seek”, “to receive”, “to find”, “to impart”, and “to bring”.

Additionally, the research findings suggest that the areas of usage and the most frequent collocations and noun phrases involving the noun WISDOM do not differ significantly between the two periods.

Undoubtedly, English has been the language that has benefited the most from corpus application in language studies, primarily due to the field’s origins and development in English-speaking countries, particularly the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The utilization of corpora to comprehend the most commonly used language patterns within a specific timeframe or dynamics is undoubtedly indispensable and remains relevant.

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