A LARGE NEWS CORPUS FOR THE DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)

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1. The NEWSGEN project

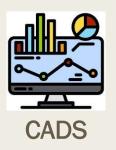
"News values and ideology: The discursive, cross-cultural construction of gender and social inequalities in (digital) press through online, real time corpus linguistic tools. The Gender Gap Tracker and Kaleidographic."

Grant PID2019-110863GB-I00, funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033



Study and analysis of public discourses on **gender and social inequality** in the (digital) press

- ✓ Diachronic analysis
- ✓ Political, cultural, social and ideological impact



Frameworks & Methods:

- ✓ Discursive News Values Analysis
- ✓ Critical Discourse Studies
- ✓ Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies



Corpora:

NEWSGEN_VAW (Violence Against Women)
NEWSGEN_DES (social inequality)

1. The NEWSGEN project: *TEAM*

























1. THE NEWSGEN PROJECT: TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE (TECNOLENGUA-UMA)

2. Principles & theoretical framework: Critical Discourse Analysis

- An important assumption is that the press plays a crucial social role in shaping public opinion in, say, two opposing directions:
 - (1) reproducing (common/ shared norms, values, beliefs) or
 - (2) resisting discourses (i.e. challenging these social norms, values, beliefs) (Van Dijk 1991).
- The main focus is the analysis of *ideologies* and *inequalities* in news discourses, which already has a established tradition in CD studies.

2. Principles Framework: views of news discourse & VAW

Constructivist view of discourse(s): calls into question the belief in objectivity or neutrality of news stories (cf. Burr 1995: 48)

CD analysts claim that all kinds of discourse have a purpose/goal, regardless of whether the linguistic (and any non-linguistic) choices are conscious or unconscious. The ideological expression in discourses is unavoidable.

Our interest is not related to the *linguistic analysis of news* stories around in itself, but in unveiling the *underlying ideologies linguistically construed* by journalists in such stories around VAW.

Of particular relevance to our VAW approach is found in works at the intersection between discourse and gender studies: e.g., in Butler (1990), Lazar (2005) or Ehrlich Meyerhoff and Holmes (2014), Maruenda-Bataller (2021), Santaemilia (2021), Fuster-Márquez (forthcoming)

3. Methodology: CADS

- The compilation of a relatively large computerised corpus of this kind also implies that analysts borrow and take advantage of methods typically used in Corpus linguistics.
- The analysis of discourse by means of corpus linguistics techniques is known in the literature as **Corpus-assisted Discourse Studies**, described by Partington, Duguid and Taylor (2013: 10) as:

"that set of studies into the form and/or function of language as communicative discourse, which incorporate the use of computerised corpora in their analyses".

4. Objectives

Design, compilation, and annotation of a journalistic corpus (news stories and editorials) from the UK, the USA, Spain, and Catalonia around the topic of Violence Against Women (VAW).

Diachronic multilingual digital news corpus of Violence Against Women (VAW)

Selecting **seed words** (most often the case in (Critical) Discourse Studies for ad-hoc corpora:

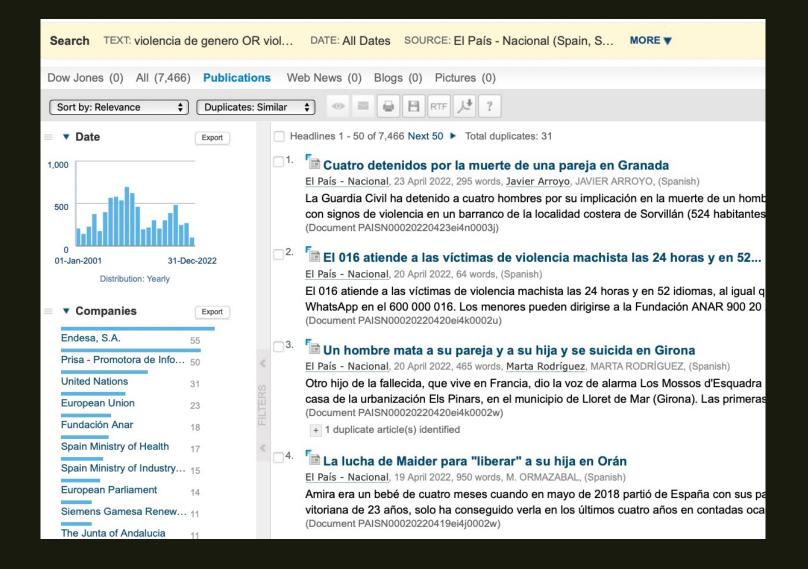
- 1. which cover the topic: Violence Against Women,
- 2. In cross-linguistic and cross-regional studies, the seed words should be semantically and pragmatically equivalent in
 - 1. three languages: English, Spanish, Catalan
 - 2. three countries: Spain, UK & US
 - 3. And should allow research for diachronic analysis

5. Corpus design, compilation & annotation: issues in corpus design

General questions concerning corpus compilation: size, representativeness and balance (Xiao 2010: 148: 153)

- Size. Bowker and Pearson (2002: 49) consider that there is no pre-established ideal number of words, since it depends on the purpose of study. Sinclair (1991: 18) believes that "a corpus should be as large as possible and should keep growing."
- Representativeness. Defined by Biber (1993: 243) as "the extent to which a sample includes the full range of variability in a population"
- Balance. Sinclair (2005) "the proportions of different kinds of text in a corpus should correspond with informed and intuitive judgements." Douglas (2003: 34) considers the balance of a corpus to be secondary to good practice.

5. Corpus design, compilation & annotation: issues in corpus design



5. CORPUS DESIGN, COMPILATION & ANNOTATION: SELECTION & EXTRACTION FROM DATABASE

5. Corpus design, compilation & annotation: appearance in FACTIVA

EL PAÍS

España

Cuatro detenidos por la muerte de una pareja en Granada

Javier Arroyo

JAVIER ARROYO

295 words

23 April 2022 El País - Nacional

PAISN

N (Nacional)

21

Spanish

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La Guardia Civil ha detenido a cuatro hombres por su implicación en la muerte de un hombre y una mujer cuyos cuerpos fueron hallados anteayer con signos de violencia en un barranco de la localidad costera de Sorvillán (524 habitantes, Granada), según el delegado del Gobierno en Andalucía, Pedro Fernández. La investigación sigue su curso y no se descartan nuevas detenciones, según la misma fuente. Los fallecidos son un hombre de 61 años y su pareja, una mujer de 47, que fue concejal del PP en la localidad vecina de Gualchos-Castell de Ferro entre 2015 y 2019.

La jueza Irene Navarrete Cánova, titular del juzgado de Instrucción 1 de Motril, decretó ayer el secreto de sumario. El barranco de Los Yesos, en el que se encontraron los cuerpos, está cerca del cortijo en el que ambos residían. Fuentes de la investigación habían descartado desde el inicio que el caso tenga relación con la **violencia machista**.

La tarde del jueves, día en el que fueron hallados los cadáveres, la línea de investigación prioritaria vinculaba las muertes con un ajuste de cuentas por drogas. El fallecido ha sido identificado como J. A. V., apodado el Rey León, a quien se relaciona con el tráfico y plantación de cáñamo, según informa Efe.

La investigación se inició a primeras horas de la mañana del jueves, cuando la Guardia Civil recibió la llamada de la hija del hombre fallecido informando de la desaparición de la pareja y del hallazgo del vehículo de su padre en la salida de Castell de Ferro de la autovía A-7, cercana al domicilio, con restos de sangre. Pocas horas después, los agentes encontraron los dos cadáveres, semidesnudos, en el barranco.

Diario AS, SL

Document PAISN00020220423ei4n0003j



NEWS STORY AS FOUND ONLINE

España

JAVIER ARROYO

Granada - 22 ABR 2022 - 14:33 CEST







Miembros de la Guardia Civil investigan la muerte violenta de un hombre y su mujer en Sorvilán (Granada), este jueves.

La Guardia Civil ha detenido a cuatro hombres por su implicación en la muerte de una pareja en Sorvillán (524 habitantes, Granada), según el delegado del Gobierno en Andalucía, Pedro Fernández. La investigación sigue su curso y no se descartan nuevas detenciones, según la misma fuente. Los fallecidos son un hombre de 61 años y su pareja, una mujer de 47 años que fue concejal del PP en la localidad vecina de Gualchos-Castell de Ferro entre 2015 y 2019. Sus cuerpos fueron hallados este jueves en un barranco de Los Yesos, anejo de la localidad costera granadina de Sorvilán este jueves.

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NEWSLETTER

 \boxtimes

Recibe EL PAÍS de la mañana con el mejor análisis de la actualidad

NEWS STORY AS FOUND ONLINE (2)

EL PAÍS

España

Cuatro detenidos por la muerte de una pareja en Granada

Javier Arroyo

JAVIER ARROYO

295 words 23 April 2022 El País - Nacional PAISN N (Nacional) 21 Spanish

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Diario AS. SL

Document PAISN00020220423ei4n0003j

5. CORPUS DESIGN, COMPILATION & ANNOTATION: CLEANING TEXTS AND REMOVAL OF DUPLICATES

- Year of publication: encoded as four digits (YYYY)
- Name of country or region
- Name of newspaper
- A numeric ID code to identify each article: each of the files has a unique identification code
- Example: 2020_SP_ABC_0145.txt(Year_country/region_newspaper_ID code)

5. Corpus design, compilation & annotation: Classification, labelling, and post-processing of corpus files

5. Corpus design, compilation & annotation: annotation

- Leech (1997:2) defines corpus annotation as "the practice of adding interpretative, linguistic information to an electronic corpus of spoken and/or written language data".
- In TXT & XML, ready to use in Sketch Engine

Metadata:

- <country>
- <newspaper>
- <date>
- <author>
- <news_section>
- <editorial>
- <wordcount>
- <language>
- <headline>
- <body>

```
<xml>
<article country="UK" newspaper="The Guardian" date="2000-01-
03" year="2000" month="January" day="03" author="Diane Taylor"
news_section="No section" editorial="left-centre" wordcount="805
words" language="English">
<section section_type="headline">
Go it alone.
</section>
<section section_type="body">
Ann Hudson finally found the courage to leave her abusive husband after 26 years of marriage [...]
</section>
</article>
</xml>
```

6. NEWSGEN_VAW: overview

Country	Source	Years	Texts	Tokens	Words	%
USA	Boston Globe	1987-2020	9,065	9,421,687	7,883,912	11.9
	New York Times	1980-2020	9,243	11,544,100	9,659,914	14.6
	Washington Post	1977-2020	7,992	10,044,341	8,404,935	12.7
	Corpus USA		26,300	31,010,128	25,948,761	39.2
UK	Daily Telegraph	2000-2020	2,209	1,686,959	1,431,972	2.1
	The Guardian	1986-2020	10,729	15,287,037	12,976,453	19.3
	The Times	1985-2020	4,817	4,485,931	3,807,884	5.7
	Corpus UK		17,755	21,459,927	18,216,309	27.1
SP	ABC	1997-2020	13,056	7,288,477	6,312,549	9.2
	El Mundo	1995-2020	8,126	6,420,942	5,561,175	8.1
	El País	2001-2020	11,955	7,457,408	6,458,865	9.4
	Corpus SP		33,137	21,166,827	18,332,589	26.8
CA	Diari Ara	2013-2020	2,580	2,051,241	1,756,476	2.6
	El Periódico	2014-2020	2,681	1,801,817	1,542,895	2.3
	La Vanguardia	2013-2020	2,584	1,553,528	1,330,284	2.0
	Corpus CA		7,845	5,406,586	4,629,655	6.9
	TOTAL		85,037	79,043,468	67,127,314	

Database



Study Corpus:

VAW (seeds)

Formats:

.txt and .xml

Metadata:

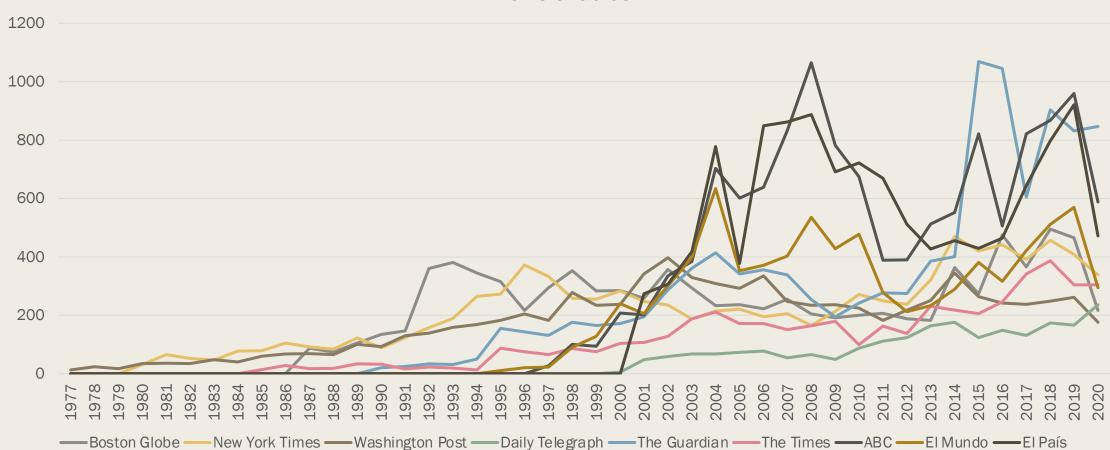
Country/region
Newspaper
Date
Author
Section

Editorial
Wordcount
Language
Headline
Body



6. NEWSGEN_VAW: overview (II)

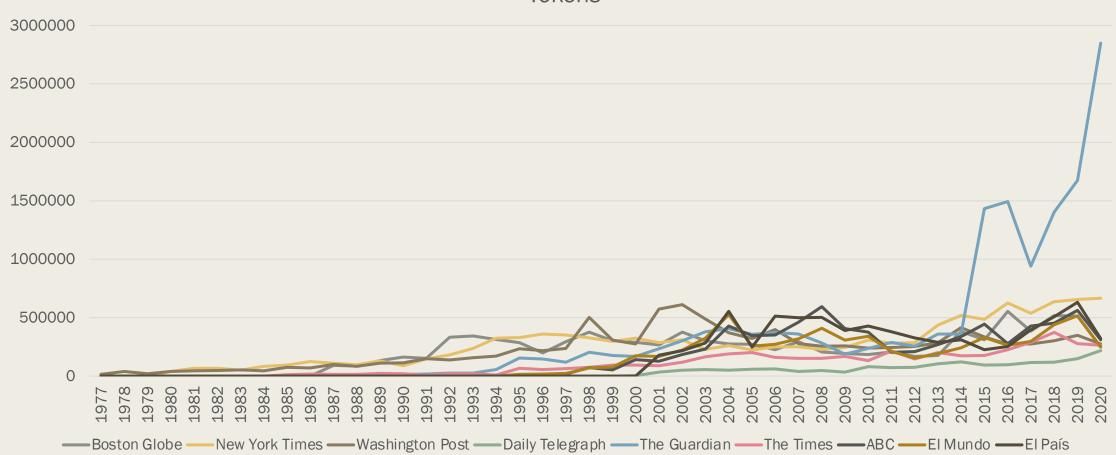
NEWSGEN_VAW
News articles





6. NEWSGEN_VAW: overview (III)

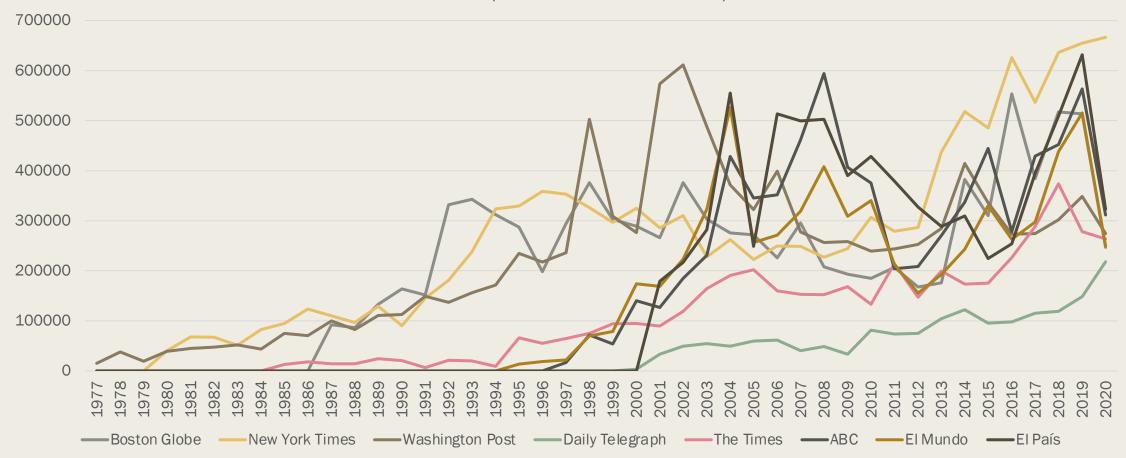
NEWSGEN_VAW
Tokens



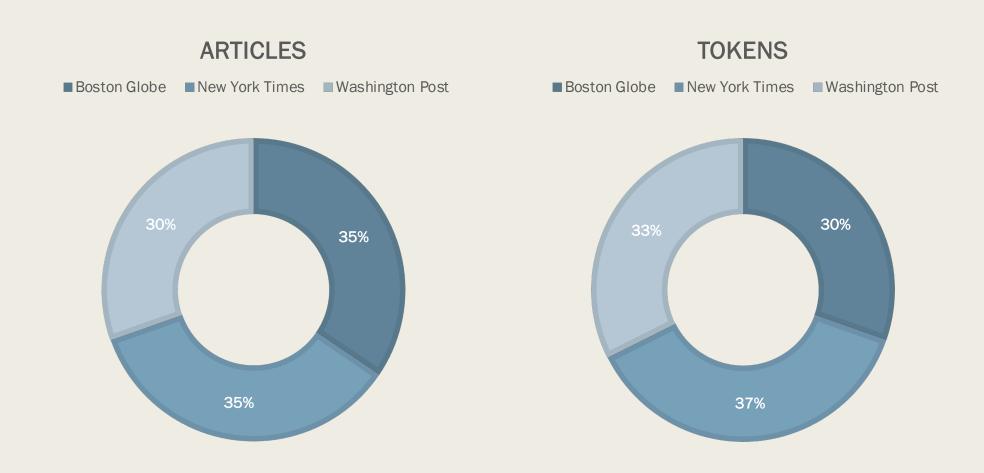


6. NEWSGEN_VAW: overview (IV)

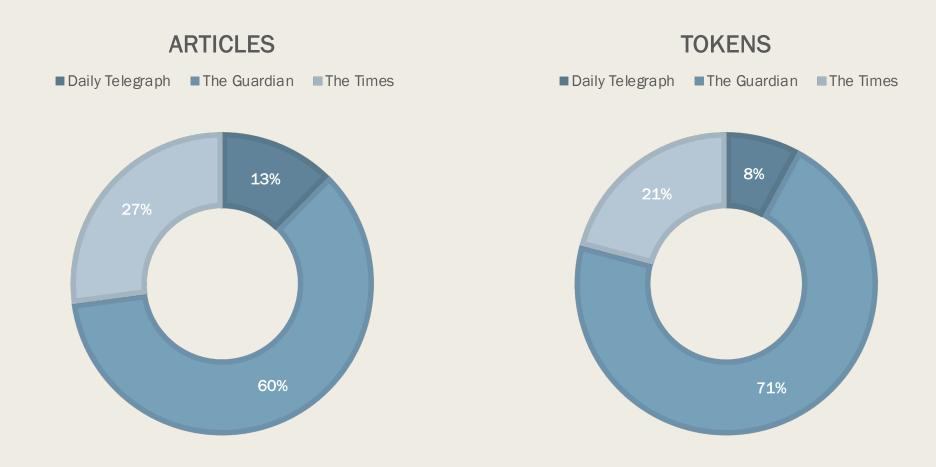
NEWSGEN_VAW
Tokens (without The Guardian)



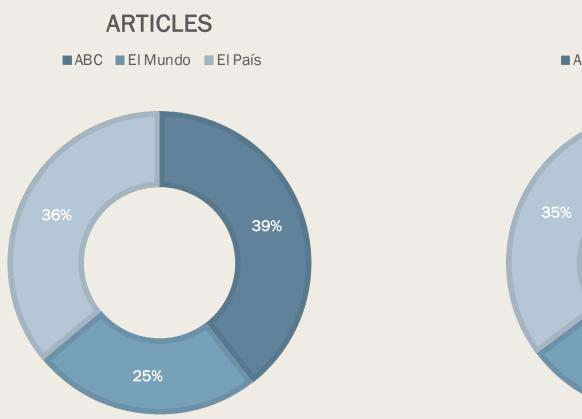
6. NEWSGEN_VAW: overview (V) USA

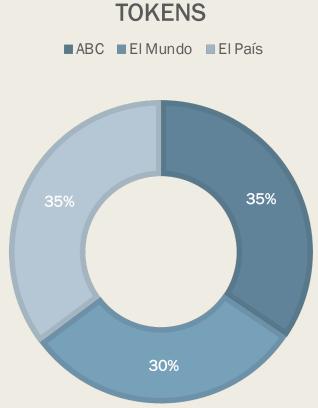


6. NEWSGEN_VAW: overview (VI)



6. NEWSGEN_VAW: overview (VII) Spain





NEWSGEN_VAW and NEWSGEN_DES are designed to examine aspects of newsworthiness but they allow for other kinds of Corpus-assisted Discourse Analysis (quantitative and/or qualitative).

- Diachronic analysis
- Political, cultural, social, and ideological impact in news texts.
- Potential searches by selecting from the metadata: headlines, body, date, country/region, newspaper, author, section, editorial, length, language varieties (British English vs. American English) ...

7. Applications

7. Applications

Sketch Engine



- Sketch Engine provides us with tokenization, POS tagging, parsing and lemmatisation necessary to process our study corpus.
- Various techniques (concordances, word sketches, frequency lists, keyword lists, etc.) can be used together with in-build large corpora in Sketch Englne which allow for useful comparisons.
- Thanks to the annotation of our NEWSGEN corpora, and also word-level annotation in Sketch-Engine we can make use of these techniques at different levels of comparison.

7. Applications

Trends: change over time. Daily Telegraph (2000-2020)



Word	Trend ↓	Frequency	Sample	Word	Trend ↓	Frequency	Sample	Word	Trend ↓	Frequency	Sample
1 abusers	≥ 2.25	80		18 cost	· -1.2	8 137		35 support	→ 0.93	646	
2 online	→ 1.96	246	<i>~</i>	19 experiences	/ 1.23	3 108		36 area	→ -0.90	192	
3 opinion	→ 1.96	82		20 killing	· -1.2	3 228		37 abuse	→ 0.90	1,495	
4 era	≯ 1.88	69	<i>~</i> ~	21 round	· -1.1	9 134		38 either	→ -0.90	197	
5 via	→ 1.66	111		22 sport	→ 1.19	9 177		39 red	→ -0.90	125	
6 survivors	→ 1.60	110		23 warned	/ 1.19	273	<u> </u>	40 girl	→ -0.87	352	
7 battered	-1.60	82		24 sexist	/ 1.19	75	<i></i>	41 process	→ 0.87	171	
8 campaigners	→ 1.54	86		25 near	· -1.1	5 200		42 due	→ 0.87	237	
9 murders	· -1.54	143		26 supporting	→ 1.15	5 111		43 trial	→ -0.87	398	
10 brilliant	→ 1.48	77		27 decide	-1.1	1 77		44 common	→ -0.87	190	
11 killings	-1.48	117		28 students	/ 1.07	7 154		45 yesterday	→ -0.84	753	···
12 intended	-1.43	89	···	29 passion	· -1.0	0 137		46 large	→ -0.81	181	
13 murder	-1.43	681		30 beaten	· -1.0	0 95		47 parents	→ -0.78	527	
14 overseas	→ 1.43	99		31 bought	· -1.0	0 82	·	48 change	→ 0.75	399	
15 conflict	→ 1.38	123		32 wives	· -1.0	0 120	~~	49 include	→ -0.75	246	
16 amid	→ 1.33	106		33 charity	→ 0.97	7 446		50 prepared	→ -0.75	106	
17 economy	→ 1.33	83	<u> </u>	34 chief	→ 0.97	7 462					

8.

Conclusions: limitations, and future perspectives

Conclusions:

The research team is always present and aware of the procedures at every stage of the compilation process.

Every stage requires important decisions to be made so that the objectives of the team are met by the corpus that has been compiled.

The software which has to be used to explore the corpus is also a crucial issue.

Conclusions: limitations, and future perspectives

Limitations

Morphosyntactic annotation is here provided by the software Sketch Engine (a paid licence is needed for its use)

Future perspectives of the research team

- The NEWSGEN_VAW corpus potential can still be enhanced (e.g. new features can be added as metadata, and more newspapers can be added, and updated)
- The **NEWSGEN_DES** is in the final compilation stage.
- Creating a Gender Gap Tracker (Maite Taboada) in the Spanish context, with static and more dynamic journalistic corpora to measure the bias of gender presence in news stories.

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