



The Interrelationship between Semantic Peculiarities and Impracticability of Independent Use of *fully*: A Corpus-Based Analysis*

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ABSTRACT

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From the standpoint of semantics relevant to descriptive grammar, this research has enlarged upon analyzing semantic approaches to collocational styles and semantic peculiarities of *fully* in its collocations. In addition to this, it has attempted to explain the correlation of the distinct semantic characteristics and the impracticability of independent use of *fully*. Although based upon the Michigan Corpus of Academic Spoken English (MICASE), *fully* is found to bond with divergent kinds of lexical items, its collocational styles occur in the two areas having negative and positive senses depending on context modifications. Throughout the analysis, the findings show that the percentages of the types of selected words between the two categories, however, are completely disparate. *Fully*, for instance, tends to collocate preferentially with words connoting more favorable senses than unfavorable ones. Nonetheless, it is meaningful to suggest that *fully* almost never connects with superlative and hyperbolic words having intensive positive meanings. This case may be intimately related to the impracticability of its independent use. This research surmises that although *fully* indicates an affirmative sense in its associations, it may not move to an exceedingly powerful positive semantic force. Namely, if forceful favorable superlative and hyperbolic tokens in discourse are not reiterated, it does not appear possible for *fully* to stand in for and does not enable the ellipsis of unnecessary after the adverbial element *fully* because the independent use in adjacency pairs can generally play a role of an absolute agreement as both a TCU-initial factor and response device. Based on a variety of corpora and institutional cases, future researches can be expatiated on concrete semantic approaches as regards *fully*.

KEYWORDS

collocational style, context modification, *fully*, independent use, semantic peculiarity

1. Introduction

The selected maximizer¹, *fully* in spoken language is generally utilized by utterers. There has been little research in the matter of context modifications of *fully* in dependent use and an impracticability of its independent use in previous articles. This article focuses on addressing these target linguistic issues. From a lexical point of prospect, a number of dictionaries refer to lexical senses of *fully* (e.g., The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English 2010, Collins COBUILD English Dictionary for Advanced Learners 2001, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English 2006, Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners 2007, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 2005, Oxford Collocations Dictionary for Students of English 2002). For example, *fully* means to the greatest degree or extent possible, as in "She was *fully* aware of my thoughts... I don't *fully* agree with that." *Fully* is harnessed to say that a process is completely finished, as in "He had still not *fully* recovered." It is utilized to emphasize how great an amount is, as in "*Fully* 30% of the poor could not even afford access to illegal shanties." Throughout the analysis of the lexical aspects, *fully* can be employed with any certain lexical items that indicate the greatest levels and highlight degrees of potentiation. Syntactically, in order to modify exceptional lexical items and strengthen them, *fully* can play a role of a premodifier. Based upon extensive conversational contexts of *fully* in the MICASE², this current research pays attention to the lacuna by comparing and observing the distribution of a broad range of collocational styles of *fully*. This research indicates that independent use of *fully* almost never occurs in everyday language use. This case makes a fascinating trigger for this research of *fully*. The linguistic circumstance originates some questions in the matter of why its independent use may not be harnessed in spoken discourse, i.e., the target of this research is to clarify why its infeasibility with respect to independent use creates and to attain a better comprehension of its attribute. Most linguistic researchers have solely analyzed its ostensible collocational styles. However, there have been few linguistic researches that have expatiated upon in-depth analysis as regards close interrelationships of the maximizer *fully* between its collocational styles and independent use. In order to look into its collocational styles, semantic peculiarities, and irreplaceability of independent use, this article deals with the following particular linguistic issues with corpus data:

- (i) Are there any multiple sorts of lexical items with which *fully* bonds?
- (ii) Does *fully* have distinctive collocational styles and semantic peculiarities in its collocations through context modifications?
- (iii) Are there any analogous and heterogeneous natures concerning collocational styles and semantic peculiarities of *fully*?
- (iv) Are there any connecting links between definite semantic features and the impracticability of independent use in regard to *fully*?

Based on these investigation inquiries, this article is performed as follows: Section 1 provides the introduction of this research (for targets of the study and for research questions in the same section). Section 2 accounts for

¹ See the reports relevant to maximizers in Section 2, Theoretical Background.

² Pertaining to the Michigan Corpus of Academic Spoken English (henceforward MICASE), view more details in Section 3, Data and Method.

theoretical background on *fully* as a maximizer. Section 3, then, manages Data and Method with the MICASE. Collocational styles and semantic peculiarities of *fully* through context modifications are dealt with in Section 4. The leading interest of this section is to denote how its collocations are attained. In addition to this, Section 4 expounds on why independent use of *fully* in spoken discourse almost never occurs in the same section. Section 5, finally, arranges a summary and conclusion of the primary perspectives of the research.

2. Theoretical Background

In this section, some of the previous theoretical backgrounds on the categorization of maximizers and their interpretations are considered. There is a grade of lexical components known as maximizers or degree words (Bolinger 1972 and Quirk et al. 1985). Quirk et al. (1985) represent that intensifiers are essentially partitioned into amplifiers and downtoners. A more in-depth hierarchical subdivision of amplifiers and downtoners is categorized as maximizers (e.g., *fully*) and boosters (e.g., *very*), approximators (e.g., *almost*), compromisers (e.g., *more or less*), diminishers (e.g., *partly*), and minimizers (e.g., *hardly*). In addition, pertaining to maximizers, Quirk et al. (1985) mention that they connote the higher utmost on this range. Altenberg (1991) states that maximizers are mostly harnessed to modify nonscalar lexical items because they indicate a complete degree, i.e., items that do not commonly permit classifying (e.g., *wrong*, *empty*, *impossible*, etc.) or already include an idea of utmost or absolute level (e.g., *marvellous*, *exhausted*, *huge*, etc.). Analogous to the findings denoted by Altenberg (1991), Paradis (1997) mentions a similar assertion that maximizers bond with nongradable lexical items (e.g., *excellent*, *fantastic*, etc.). In this perspective, maximizers may not have a broader range of applicatory potentialities than boosters connoting a high but nonmaximal level in regard of the scale, i.e., a dissimilarity between maximizers and boosters is that boosters seem to indicate a broader scale of tailorability than maximizers in respect of their collocational styles. With regard to the other categories of intensifiers, approximators indicate that the item to which the intensifier applies indicates more than is pertinent. Compromisers, expressing a little lowering force, tend to dispute the suitability of the idea regarded. Diminishers briefly denote *to a small degree* and scale downwards. Minimizers mean *to virtually no degree*.

As for corpus-based researches of degree modifiers, Paradis (1997), using a small corpus, investigates numerous semantic and phonological variables linked with the categorization of their degree modifiers and adjectives, and the significance of combinational relations between them. In her study pertinent to restrictions on the feasible connections of gradable adjectives and degree modifiers, she indicates that gradable adjectives, such as *interesting* or *nice* can be associated with *terribly*, *very*, or *rather*. On the other hand, nongradable adjectives (or absolute adjectives), such as *classical*, *dead*, or *excellent* can be linked with *totally*, *absolutely*, or *completely*. She claims that the gradable attribute in the adjective semantically has to collocate with the grading role of the degree modifier concerning entirety in order to make a complete and successful connection. In addition to this, she argues that powerful collocational connections can occur between specific degree modifiers and certain adjectives.

Maximizers have been examined from some linguistic areas. Especially, various researches which are corpus-based have been paid more attention to applied linguists. Altenberg (1991), Bäcklund (1973), Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad and Finegan (1999), Bolinger (1972), Greenbaum (1970, 1974), Kennedy (2003), Kirchner (1955), Recski (2004), and Tao (2007) conduct studies on collocations of maximizers. Even though maximizers especially have been the theme of some researches in the previous work (e.g., Bäcklund 1973, Bolinger 1972, Greenbaum 1970, 1974, Kirchner 1955), there has been no analysis of their utilization in spoken language. What makes maximizers an attractive pattern in order to investigate from a combinational point of view is that they appear to be subject to numerous lexical, semantic, and stylistic limitations having an impact on their use in

disparate means and promoting various competition between them.

Altenberg (1991), for instance, elaborates on combinational constraints in maximizers, based on the LLC (London-Lund Corpus). Biber et al. (1999), utilizing a computer-aided, corpus-based approach in order to analyze the use of linguistic attributes in four registers (academic prose, conversation, fiction, and news), compare and analyze the distribution of maximizers in American and British English. Biber et al. (1999) propose that in a number of circumstances, there seems to be little semantic heterogeneous nature between degree modifiers. On the contrary, they also indicate that even for analogous degree modifiers, there tend to be divergent priorities in their collocations with heterogeneous adjectives. Kennedy (2003), employing British National Corpus, looks into combinations of maximizers in dependent utilization. Recski (2004) focuses on associations of maximizers between spoken and written English. However, these researchers outwardly analyze superficial words, not using variable context investigations in terms of lexical items. Maximizers are not themselves rigidly classified as outward and rigorous lexical items. This is to the matter, not solved by early investigations, which this article now turns. The issue that occurs from this linguistic phenomenon is how the maximizer *fully* collocates with particular words through context observation.

From a linguistic viewpoint, maximizers, syntactically, play a role of either within a clause constituent, predominantly as modifiers of adverbs and adjectives, but infrequently of prepositional phrases, pronouns, and determiners, or as adverb subjuncts heightening a verb or part of a verb (Quirk et al. 1985). Semantically, according to Kennedy (2003), the sense of lexical items such as adjectives or verbs is intensified by maximizers, such as *fully*. The behaviors of maximizers to modificate specific lexical items are expressed most extensively by Altenberg (1991), Greenbaum (1970, 1974), Kennedy (2003), Paradis (1997), Quirk (1985), and Tao (2007). These researchers propose that maximizers present diverse preferences and they collocate with heterogeneous lexical items. As for associational patterns of *fully* from a brief examination, Altenberg (1991), for instance, mentions collocational styles of *fully*. The collocational styles that he investigates for *fully* are as follows:

Fully: automatic 4, understand 2 (Altenberg 1991, p. 136)

As indicated above, Altenberg (1991) suggests the particular collocational styles of *fully* (the figures show tokens). *Fully* is found to recurrent with the two lexical items only: *fully* is the only maximizer with *automatic* and *understand*. In addition to Altenberg's work, Kennedy (2003) utilizes the British National Corpus as his dataset. He depends on the Mutual Information calculation, the statistical calculation selected to show the intensity of collocations between *fully* and lexical items. The Mutual Information calculation makes a comparison with the probability of the two lexical items occurring together incidentally. According to his investigation using the BNC, cases of collocational styles of *fully* are shown in Table 1:

Table 1. Cases of Collocational Styles of *fully* in Kennedy's Work (Kennedy 2003, p. 475)³

<i>Fully</i>																																																																															
fledged	7.77	conversant	6.90	battered	6.37	clothed	6.22	air-conditioned	6.06	deductible	5.82	elucidated	5.77	configured	5.70	comprehended	5.61	automated	5.49	washable	5.27	equipped	5.24	programmable	5.22	operational	5.19	sighted	5.19	dilated	4.92	rigged	4.91	staffed	4.83	utilized	4.83	briefed	4.83	integrated	4.82	computerized	4.73	exploited	4.65	matured	4.61	carpeted	4.58	adjustable	4.55	inclusive	4.53	informed	4.43	aligned	4.40	computerised	4.36	compatible	4.35	manned	4.34	justified	4.26	licensed	4.26	loaded	4.26	implemented	4.22	turbulent	4.22	articulated	4.20	glazed	4.20	assimilated	4.19

³ The values are intensity of the association as considered by the Mutual Information degree. According to Kennedy's model, the Mutual Information results are considered with the succeeding method: $Mutual\ Information = \log^2((f(n,c) \times N) / (f(n) \times f(c)))$ (view more data in Kennedy's research).

Table 1 shows the disparate lexical items linked with *fully*, based on the corpus. The greatest ranked linkage with *fully* is *fledged*, followed by *conversant*, *battened*, *clothed*, and *air-conditioned*. In Kennedy's study, heterogeneous lexical items are found to bond with *fully*. Additionally, he states that *fully* has exclusively favorable and affirmative collocations; 13% of the adjectives have an *-able* or *-ible* suffix; 78% have an *-ed* suffix.⁴

So far the diverse linguistic aspects of *fully* have been monitored. As for these linguistic circumstances, there appears to be some coincidence and incoincidence between the previous studies and those of the present research. This article especially analyzes further whether or not *fully* may indicate analogous and disparate semantic priorities in the case of collocational styles. There have been few researches paying attention to analysis pertaining to context modifications and the correlation of *fully* between its semantic peculiarities and impracticability of independent use. These issues are addressed in Section 4.

3. Data and Method

This study focuses on a conversational corpus of American English. Specific data of the corpus is expressed as follows: This corpus is a collection of virtually 1.8 million words of recorded conversations from the University of Michigan. Speech events ranging in length from 19 minutes to 178 minutes are included in the corpus, with words counts ranging from 2,805 lexical units to 30,328 lexical units. The number of texts and samples is 152 (over 190 hours). The MICASE includes information from extensive discourse phenomena pertinent to advising sessions, lab sections, classroom discussions, lectures, and seminars. Additionally, it contains discourses that appear in scholarly circumstances related to intellectual explanations, justifications, definitions, humors, personal episodes, and admissions. Scholarly incidents in specialized schools such as dental, law, medical, business are not included. The range of discourse events occurs in adjacency pairs and monologic speech; undergraduate students and graduate students; junior faculties and senior faculties, and staff members; and native, non-native, and near-native interlocutors. This investigation, however, exclusively puts emphasis on native speakers of American English relevant to the characteristics, such as all ages (e.g., 17 and over) and all genders (e.g., men and women). Furthermore, an approach is made to acquire generally identical amounts of utterances from men and women interlocutors within each scholarly separation. Each utterance circumstance in this spoken corpus is classified in accordance with a wide range of contextual traits. Utterance condition features contain the kind of episode, the topic part of the occasion, the area to which an occurrence is correlational or monologic, as well as the scholarly role or level of the most of utterers.

Analyzing collocational styles of *fully*, it primarily links with heterogeneous lexical items, such as verb, *-ed* suffix, *-al* suffix, *-able* suffix, *-ing* suffix, clause, and noun, based on the corpus. Figure 1 indicates the frequency of occurrences pertinent to collocations of *fully* in the MICASE:

⁴ As for a sociolinguistic perspective, there seem to be prominent imbalances presenting frequencies between men and women in maximizers' use. Men, for instance, utilize maximizers more recurrently than women (Drescher 2003, Fahy 2002). Analogous to the findings shown by Drescher (2003) and Fahy (2002), Vasilieva (2004) states that hedging adverbial expressions relevant to maximizers are used by men more very often than women. Lakoff (1973), on the other hand, makes a disparate contention that women employ maximizers more often than men. Looking into prior researches of maximizers related to a sociolinguistic viewpoint, there seem to be analogous and heterogeneous standpoints pertaining to the frequencies of their use between men and women.

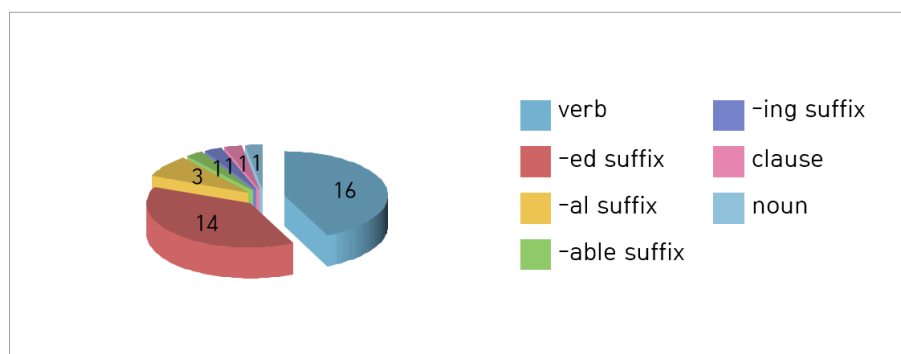


Figure 1. Collocational Styles of *fully* in the MICASE

Based upon the corpus, in the 1.8 million words, a total of 16, 14, 3, 1, 1, 1, and 1 instances of verb, *-ed* suffix, *-al* suffix, *-able* suffix, *-ing* suffix, clause, and noun with respect to collocations of *fully* are found individually from the corpus. Throughout the examination of its collocational styles, the findings indicate that *fully* bonds with distinct collocational styles. *Fully*, for instance, is found in large part with words, such as verbs and adjectives; 51% of the collocates have adjectives including *-ed*, *-al*, *-able*, and *-ing* suffixes; 43% have verbs (e.g., *exploit*, *automate*, *understand*, etc.); only two (6%) have a clause and a noun respectively.

As for data analysis, this research pays attention to linguistic events as follows: First, on the basis of the research of the corpus in relation to *fully*, diverse collocational styles of *fully* are analyzed. Second, in order to elucidate whether or not collocations of *fully* are spontaneous, symmetrical and unsymmetrical collocational styles of *fully* are observed. Third, with special reference to these linguistic phenomena of *fully*, the spoken corpus is used to describe its semantic peculiarities in dependent use. The corpus is administered to have the themes examine practical use of *fully* in spoken American English. Looking into the utilization of lexical items and semantic peculiarities in the matter of spontaneous English discourse is the prominent goal of this research. Accordingly, since the corpus is reliable references of subject matters for this article, it is employed, which puts emphasis on specific manners of *fully* as regards its collocational styles. Essentially, collocations are commonly utilized to refer to connections of two certain single lexical items. In this research, collocations in discourse play a significant role as a linguistic device. Thus, collocational styles of *fully* and special lexical items in dependent use are monitored. This research suggests that its collocational styles make it feasible for reader and hearer to evaluate whether its collocations in particular contextual circumstances are appropriate or not; moreover, its semantic peculiarities are investigated.

The collocational styles of *fully* will be examined in distinctive words including negative and positive cases because speakers principally utilize these words implying specific senses in terms of their statements and most importantly since there tends to be a disequilibrium in the utilization of unaffirmative and affirmative words depending upon the context analysis between speakers. This research expatiates upon variable and adjustable words which cannot seemingly be immovable. Consequently, to analyze semantical peculiarities of *fully*, negative and positive lexical items depending upon ostensible and adjustable contextual circumstances can bond with *fully*.

4. Discussion

In this section, the issue of which lexical items collocate with *fully* more commonly will be analyzed. A

noticeable element in making clear semantic peculiarities of *fully* is its collocational styles. Accordingly, collocational styles and semantic peculiarities of *fully* are expanded upon, based on my dataset. My assumption is that *fully* preferentially seems to choose words implying peculiar semantic priorities, whereas it tends to be determinedly reluctant to bond with specific circumstances.

In regard to divergent collocational styles of *fully* in dependent use, as has been pointed out, from my data, *fully* is found to link with different lexical items, such as verb, *-ed* suffix, *-al* suffix, *-able* suffix, *-ing* suffix, clause, and noun. Consider excerpts (1)-(7).

- (1) h- helps the plant to *fully* exploit its environment (MICASE) (Transcript ID: DEF305MX131)
- (2) oh so it's it's not a *fully* covered mall (MICASE) (Transcript ID: OFC115SU060)
- (3) but you want it to be as *fully* functional as possible. (MICASE) (Transcript ID: LES165JG121)
- (4) maybe it's doing it in a way that's *fully* quantifiable. (MICASE) (Transcript ID: LES175SU025)
- (5) good place to go also they have a *fully* functioning and great Clinique counter. (MICASE) (Transcript ID: TOU999JU030)
- (6) that's i think what constitutes this narrative world, *fully*. (MICASE) (Transcript ID: LEL300SU076)
- (7) if you didn't have a wife, you weren't *fully* a man. (MICASE) (Transcript ID: LEL105SU113)

As shown in (1)-(7), *fully* modifies, respectively, the words and sentence, such as *exploit*, *covered*, *functional*, *quantifiable*, *functioning*, *great*, *man*, and *I think what constitutes this narrative world*. Syntactically, *fully* consists of a general syntactic style and role in that this maximizer is primarily placed before verbs or adjectives and it chiefly modifies the distinctive words, such as verbs and adjectives.⁵

In this section, the syntactic characteristics of *fully* may not be provided in detail since this matter in regard to its syntactical part is not the emphasis of this article. The principal element pertaining to its collocational styles in this research is closely described, where emphasis is given to examining its divergent collocations. As has been pointed out, most previous linguists have monitored ostensible words in collocations of *fully*. They, on the other hand, did not add varying and changing words through contextual analysis. However, in order to examine both superficial and variable words with respect to its collocational styles, this research makes an attempt in an elaborate method. Consequently, a new philological phraseology, *context modifications*, has been suggested for this research. This terminology indicates words that may not ostensibly be infix formations since there might be different mobilities in a broad range of contextual study, which plays a powerful effect on this article. Collocations styles and semantic peculiarities of *fully* pertinent to the target of context modifications are considered in detail.

A notable requisite in giving an explanation of the strong semantic peculiarities of *fully* in dependent use is its collocational styles, i.e., the principal idea of this research is to concentrate on the collocations between peculiar lexical items rather than particular word classes. In light of collocational styles of *fully*, the two types of words including negative and positive connotations are principally discerned and considered. The analysis of the diversified words in collocation with *fully* will substantiate the connection that elucidates the priority and non-

⁵ As for (6) and (7), very strict prescriptive grammarians would point out that they would be erroneous. This research, however, focuses on actual conversations relevant to descriptive grammar, i.e., these excerpts seem to be spontaneous to descriptive grammarians and functionalists. In addition, those may naturally occur in spoken discourse.

preference regulating the collocational styles between *fully* and the words indicating negative and positive senses. In this respect, a theory of this research is that particular types of words are preferentially chosen with *fully*. On the other hand, it firmly seems to shun distinctive kinds of cases. Concerning positive collocational styles and semantic precedences of *fully*, *fully* is ostensibly found to bond with a positive word. Consider excerpt (8).

- (8) 1 S3: so what's your interpretation of um when you're in, the culture, conflict of
2 psychologists and anthropologists? it's uh
3 S1: oh that's (the) well actually [S4: it's it's it's] it's it very it's very much the
4 same thing it's very much the same thing i just wish to hell they'd give us
→5 credit for having something so <SS: LAUGH> being so simple. i *fully*
→6 *understand* their complexity i don't understand why they can't understand my
7 simplicity. <SS: LAUGH> (MICASE) (Transcript ID: DEF500SF016)

In excerpt (8), during a social psychology doctoral dissertation defense of social sciences and education, the committee members and the Ph.D. candidate are having question and answer pertaining to his doctoral thesis. One of the committee members, S3 is asking a question, as in “so what's your interpretation of um when you're in, the culture, conflict of psychologists and anthropologists?” in lines 1 and 2, and then the candidate is answering about his own thoughts. In lines 5 and 6, *fully* bonds with the lexical item *understand*. This linkage (e.g., *fully understand*) is considered a favorable word *per se* in the context.

In contrast to the excerpt (8)⁶, where *fully* is ostensibly found to collocate with *understand* without contextualization, collocational styles of *fully* should be contextualized through larger interlocutory and sequent context in order to analyze the point of view of semantic peculiarities in regard to *fully*. Throughout the observation of its connections, *fully* can combine with lexical items implying positive senses through context modifications. Consider (9) and (10):

- (9) 1 S2: so, the way we use the plant fossils to estimate first paleotemperature and
2 then we're gonna get into elevation from there, you can do, one of two
3 things. one is you can use leaf morphology of your plants to determine
4 temperature. and the way you do that is, basically by looking at the,
5 characteristics of the leaves that you have in your flora. and, as Robyn had
6 mentioned earlier, plants because they, are sessile and they, don't move, are
→7 thought to have, evolved, so that they can *fully, exploit* their environment the
→8 the way the leaves and the trees look, is_ h- helps the plant to *fully exploit* its
9 environment and so what you would expect is that, leaves would look
10 different, in different, environments. (MICASE) (Transcript ID:
DEF305MX131)

In (9), during the conference, the presenter, S2 is giving a presentation with respect to fossil plants defense of biological and health science. Pertaining to the collocations of *fully* from the dataset, *fully* connects with the verb *exploit* in lines 7 and 8 respectively. The two verbs *exploit* ostensibly in the context seem to be neutral lexical items. The collocation (e.g., *fully exploit*) shows that they tend to connote favorable actions with linkages of *fully*.

⁶ Virtually, it is found to express an affirmative connotation through contextual observations as well.

Although the verbs *exploit*, as in excerpt (9), externally seem neutral, they can be concerned in conveying affirmative attitudinal implications with context modifications.

- (10) 1 S1: ... so briefly, i've been spending a lot of time working on, the University of
2 Michigan un- uninhabited aerial vehicle, which the purpose of it is basically to,
3 combine a lot of different technologies, for online identification, fault detection
→4 isolation recovery, and we can figure a little flight control to, *fully automate* the
5 airplane. (MICASE) (Transcript ID: DEF270SF061)

As for excerpt (10), during an artificial intelligence doctoral dissertation defense of physical sciences and engineering, the Ph.D. candidate, S1 is answering a question to one of dissertation committee members. Continuously, she is explaining her research area relevant to the uninhabited aerial vehicle in the University of Michigan. In line 4, the verb *automate* on the surface can be a positive word *per se*. In fact, the connection (e.g., *fully automate*) is dealt with an affirmative case here by looking into contextualized circumstances in lines (1)-(5).

Moving on to negative collocational styles and semantic peculiarities of *fully* with the corpus, *fully* is monitored to combine with words referring to negative properties in its contexts. Consider excerpt (11).

- (11) 1 S2: i mean yeah you could have river bank erosion, and then there are f- the fi- i
2 mean i could you know [S1: okay] they all would_ there's like, twelve models
3 alone, reviewed in that paper.
4 mhm mhm over_ another_ i just wanna talk in general, um, overall, i i feel like
5 you're, um, u- um, using different terms, for the same, thing and i feel like
→6 they're not *fully defined* [S2: mhm] um (MICASE) (Transcript ID:
OFC578SG037)

In (11), the junior faculty, S2 is pointing out some ambiguous phraseologies in respect of physical sciences and engineering of technical communications tutorial. In line 6, *fully* is found to associate with the adjective *defined*, which outwardly has a neutral meaning – that is, neither negative nor positive. However, the negator *not* indicating an unaffirmative sense connects with *fully defined*. By monitoring her utterance, it is apparent that the collocation of *fully defined* has a negative sense in the discourse.

- (12) 1 S1: ... now, when we look at this i'm not gonna proceed uh measure by
2 measure, through this sonata. uh but i want to gather the observations i do
3 make, around uh two headings or under two headings. (xx...) i might as
4 well put 'em down here just to, um, suggest things for you to watch out for.
5 <WRITING ON BOARD> process, and, disruption which i'm going to
6 disrupt because i don't have enough room to write. <SU-f: LAUGH> well,
7 (xx) process, and disruption will be two, of the three key phrases to keep in
8 mind through this. because i think to an extent, uh, anticipated in the other
→9 sonatas but not, so *fully realized* before. (MICASE) (Transcript ID:
LES420MG134)

In (12), during Beethoven lecture in humanities, the junior faculty, S1 is discussing sonatas and dealing with his suggestions. In line 9, *fully* links with *realized* and the collocation ostensibly seems to have an affirmative sense. It, however, appears evident that the de facto sense can be completely explicated with a negative connotation if excerpt (12) is observed by meticulous context investigations. In order to analyze whether *so fully realized before* in line 9 implies a negative or positive sense, the previous lexical items *but not* should be carefully analyzed through context modifications.

- (13) 1 S6: when he says, he looks at it greedily, [SU-f: mhm] he's [SU-f: mhm] already like
 2 insinuating there's this, even if it, he can't_ he cannot price it he's, he's got the
 3 attitude already.
 4 S4: oh well yeah yeah i mean you're gonna be raised by your parents and you're
 5 gonna kinda pick up on that but i think he's still too young to really be like, you
 →6 know, *fully cognizant of*, you know capitalist ideas and what not. (MICASE)
 7 (Transcript ID: SEM545MG083)

In an analogous vein, in (13), the two speakers are dealing with someone's stance in the matter of capitalism in graduate French cinema seminar. In line 6, *fully* bonds with the adjective *cognizant of*, which externally seems to express an affirmative sense. It is consequential, however, to analyze the preceding contexts between the two speakers, S6 and S4. Throughout their utterances, it comes to be clear that the association of *fully cognizant of* implies a negative meaning. Words can be modified by utterers depending upon multiple settings. Thus, an unaffirmative connotation is manifest when the settings are carefully considered. In the case of both ostensible words and context modifications, they will shortly appear noticeable that de facto connoted senses may not be completely analyzed irrespective of their in-depth contextual sequences; namely, lexical items cannot be interpreted as an unaffirmative or affirmative meaning if they are decontextualized.

Of unique concern in this research is the rate of occurrence of the collocational styles of *fully* between unfavorable and favorable lexical items. As has been expressed so far, it is prominent to discuss that words look seeming and modifiable depending upon the respective contextual observations. In this article, divergent words have been investigated for both ostensible and alterable instances, based on my dataset. Both external and changeable words are included here to monitor its frequency in respect of collocational styles of *fully*. Figure 2 below presents the percentages as regards collocational styles of all types of words indicating negative and positive senses in collocation with *fully* in the corpus.

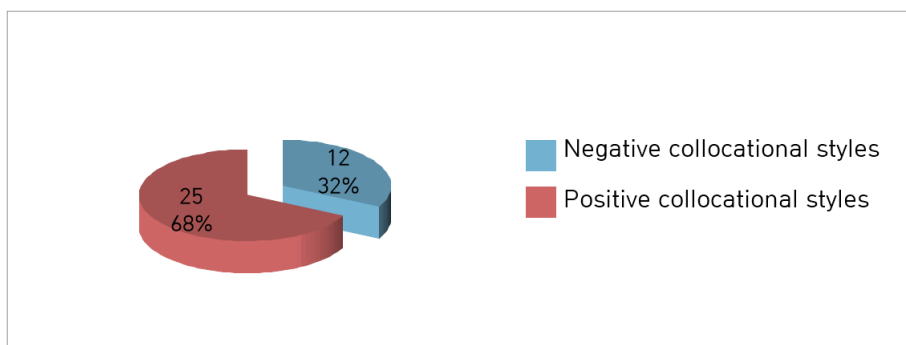


Figure 2. Frequency of *fully* between Negative and Positive Collocational Styles in the MICASE

Throughout the analysis of semantic precedences of *fully*, there are more lexical items suggesting affirmative meanings which collocate more than twice as frequently with *fully* as with words connoting negative senses. Although *fully* is found to bond with both negative and positive collocational styles, the findings in Figure 2 show that *fully* collocates with much more words indicating affirmative senses than unaffirmative cases (e.g., total 68%). Words having negative meanings, by contrast, account for a preponderantly low number of tokens and ratios (e.g., total 32%). This pattern for *fully* arises from its linkage with positive token cases: affirmative linkage with *fully* can resolutely boosts its frequency in its collocations and expresses a favorable sense in its semantic characteristics.

Throughout this analysis, *fully* expresses a favorable sense in its connections. There, however, seem to be symmetrical and unsymmetrical linkages between some kinds of certain words and *fully*. Additionally, constraints referring to certain manners delivered by the definite words in collocation with *fully* may arise in its connections. As has been mentioned above, it is noticeable that there is the close correlation between *fully* and the specific words because the role of *fully* is to boost the semantic force of the words to which it is affixed. With reference to the semantic nonpreferences of *fully*, its linked collocational styles appear to be inharmonious when *fully* seems to bond with superlative words of high level suggesting extremely forceful positive senses (e.g., *extraordinary*, *incredible*, *marvelous*, *amazing*, *wonderful*, *gorgeous*, etc.). Examples (14)-(19) present the restricted collocational styles of *fully*.

- (14) ...when you get up here look at the eyelids, they're really extraordinary(*fully extraordinary?*).
(MICASE) (Transcript ID: LES320SU085)
- (15) ...there's a baby grand piano in there, absolutely incredible(*fully incredible?*) plush, (MICASE)
(Transcript ID: TOU999JU030)
- (16) ...i mean this whole story is really a marvelous(*fully a marvelous?*) story (MICASE)
(Transcript ID: LES605SU080)
- (17) ...the way it works on the brain, this is absolutely amazing(*fully amazing?*). (MICASE)
(Transcript ID: LES500SU102)
- (18) ...Margie was like Erica's so wonderful(*fully wonderful?*) at finding obscure top- (MICASE)
(Transcript ID: SGR999SU146)
- (19) ...gold leaf everywhere absolutely gorgeous(*fully gorgeous?*) go here...(MICASE) (Transcript
ID: TOU999JU030)

In examples (14)-(19), based on the corpus, those respective collocational styles such as *fully extraordinary(?)*, *fully incredible(?)*, *fully a marvelous(?)*, *fully amazing(?)*, *fully wonderful(?)*, and *fully gorgeous(?)* do not tend to be sought. The examples (14)-(19) do not seem to be natural in everyday conversation. From my dataset, although the superlative lexical items of high level indicating exceedingly intensive positive senses, such as *extraordinary*, *incredible*, *marvelous*, *amazing*, *wonderful*, and *gorgeous* are found to link with the other adverbs, such as *really*, *absolutely*, and *so* in (14)-(19), *fully* almost never connects with these cases. Consequently, the strength of the very strong affirmative superlative and hyperbolic words would be inconsistent with *fully* and the consequence would be not symmetrical if *fully* combined with these lexical items. Namely, these linkages with *fully* do not tend to perform the enormously powerful semantic forces of favorable expressions. As the preceding observation proposes, this research seeks a continuum hypothesis in the way *fully* is spotted in its associational and sequential styles of dependent use and the impracticability of *fully* in independent use. This article indicates

that *fully* almost never bonds with the specific forceful positive superlative and hyperbolic cases even though *fully* indicates a favorable meaning in its collocational styles, which means that this may not make the maximizer to shift to connote a particular intensive semantic strength.

Looking into this certain linguistic circumstance, this article analyzes the inconceivability of independent use in terms of the attribute of the correlation in the connections of *fully*. This phenomenon seems to be an outstanding aspect that possibly furnishes us with crucial points with reference to how changes in the use of *fully* have occurred. Throughout the in-depth analysis of collocations and semantic characteristics of *fully*, the findings show that independent use of *fully* almost never appears in spoken English. Consider excerpt (20).

- (20) 1 S1: i've finished like Econ one-oh-one one-oh-two so like
- 2 S2: [those are the prereqs.]
- 3 S1: start out with four-oh-one four-oh-two,
- 4 S2: [absolutely mhm]
- 5 [?*fully* mhm] (MICASE) (Transcript ID: ADV700JU047)

As shown in excerpt (20), independent use of *fully* in spoken language is almost never utilized by utterers. In fact, its percentage pertaining to independent use of *fully* is 0% through the corpus. Table 2 below delineates the proportions of powerful affirmative superlative and hyperbolic words and independent use of *fully* in spoken language from the corpus.

Table 2. Frequency of Occurrences in the Semantic Peculiarities and Independent Use of *fully*

Forceful positive superlative and hyperbolic words	0(0%)
VS.	
Other types of positive and negative words	100(100%)
Independent use	0(0%)
VS.	
Dependent use	100(100%)

The two categories pertinent to intensive favorable superlative and hyperbolic lexical items and independent use of *fully* are absent in discourse. This research raises certain inquiries referring to why *fully* is not possible to occur in independent use. It is essential to point out that there seems to be an intimate linkage between the collocational styles related to superlative and hyperbolic words indicating exceedingly extreme positive senses and the impracticability of independent use of *fully*, as shown in examples (14)-(19) and Table 2, i.e., these peculiar associations tend to connote symmetric aspects with special reference to its disharmony with independent use. This article has accounted for semantic nonpreferences of *fully* in its connectional use. The analysis suggests that *fully* can be linked with its percentages relevant to intensive affirmative superlative and hyperbolic words pertaining to its impracticability of independent use. This case may be ascribed to close associations between its particular collocations and infeasibility as independent use. Accordingly, it does not seem to be possible to harness *fully* as independent use, which means that it may not pragmatically select such concurrence as a response device in adjacency pairs, i.e., *fully* as a turn-initial factor cannot be independent, which almost never occurs as a single-lexical unit response. It cannot be utilized as a back channel⁷ (e.g., *yes*,

⁷ Concerning back channels, such as *yes*, *okay*, *yeah*, *uh-huh*, etc., Fries (1952), Schegloff (1982), and Yngve (1970) state that they function as acknowledgment, comprehension, and interactional linguistic resource in spoken conversation. See more

okay, yeah, un-huh, etc.) or a discourse response device playing a role of an absolute agreement (e.g., *sure, absolutely, of course, totally*, etc.). Thus, syntactically, *fully* does not appear to be free to be utilized as independent use in spoken discourse and it occurs to be fixed as a modifier in dependent use.

In order to recapitulate this research, the maximizer, *fully* has the succeeding distinct linguistic features, based upon my dataset. From a syntactic point of view, *fully* as a premodifier modifies some specific lexical items, such as verb, *-ed* suffix, *-al* suffix, *-able* suffix, *-ing* suffix, clause, and noun. From a collocational style point of view, the forgoing analysis proposes that it conducts disparately in the case of the range of patterns of words with which it collocates. For instance, a noticeable number of terms that collocate with *fully* are loaded with much more positive words than negative cases. The findings of this article suggest that the impracticability of independent use of *fully* in spoken discourse seems to be related to the definite semantic peculiarities. For example, even though *fully* has a positive meaning in its collocations, it almost never associates with superlative and hyperbolic lexical items expressing greatly vigorous positive and favorable senses. This linguistic case may not allow *fully* to move to indicate an exceedingly forceful semantic strength. Throughout the analysis, this research supposes that if this circumstance in discourse is not unceasingly repeated in its associations, it does not become practicable for *fully* as a stand-alone use to shift for and does not enable the omission of unnecessary words after the adverb factor *fully*. Thus, a TCU(Turn-Construction Unit)-initial element and absolute agreement as a response device (e.g., *A: Are you into English linguistics? B: Yeah, fully(?)*) may not be connected to *fully* in turn-sequences. That is, these evident semantic peculiarities of *fully* tend to be associated closely to the infeasibility of its independent use.

5. Summary and Conclusion

Based upon the MICASE, the collocational styles and semantic peculiarities of the maximizer, *fully* have been analyzed in this research. Throughout the analysis of context modifications, *fully* can be spontaneously changed as negative and positive words since its implication can be either unaffirmative or affirmative depending upon multiple contextual analysis. Although *fully* bonds with some different types of lexical items including verb, *-ed* suffix, *-al* suffix, *-able* suffix, *-ing* suffix, clause, and noun, there appear to be connectional boundaries of a dissimilar orientation that do not make its collocational styles spontaneous. Looking into the analysis, these observations elucidate that *fully* differentially selects particular types of words according to if they are unfavorable or favorable. As for symmetrical and unsymmetrical collocational styles of *fully*, this analysis raises several interesting matters. As has been presented by my dataset, collocational styles of *fully* appear in the two areas, such as negative and positive cases. The findings, however, show that *fully* varies in the percentages of the kinds of chosen lexical items expressing unaffirmative and affirmative semantic meanings. Consequently, *fully* is predominantly employed in the context circumstances of favorable lexical items, which means that unfavorable cases with *fully* are relatively less popular. Namely, *fully* seems to indicate a positive sense in its combinations.

In addition to this, this research has sought to demonstrate the interrelationship between the definite semantic peculiarities and the impossibility of independent use of *fully*. For example, in the case of collocations and semantic peculiarities of *fully*, it forcefully bonds with favorable lexical items and it tends to have an affirmative

information pertinent to back channels in their researches. Gardner (1997, 1998) also mentions that the vocalization of comprehension, such as *mmm, yeah*, and *uh-uh* between the two parties, speaker and listener in turn-sequences is closely connected with back-channel signals.

sense in its linkages. However, it cannot move to an exceedingly powerful positive semantic strength since it almost never connects with superlative and hyperbolic words connoting exceedingly forceful affirmative senses (e.g., *extraordinary, incredible, marvelous, amazing, wonderful, gorgeous*, etc.). This article assumes that if this case in discourse is not consecutively reiterated, it becomes impracticable for *fully* as a stand-alone use to substitute for and does not allow the ellipsis of inessential words after the adverbial constituent *fully*. Throughout this analysis, this research elucidates that *fully* may not play a role of a TCU (Turn-Constructional Unit) - initial constituent and enhanced concurrence as a response device between interlocutors in adjacency pairs. Consequently, this can be related to the manner of independent use of *fully* to these semantic peculiarities of *fully*, where *fully* almost never occurs with immensely forceful positive superlative and hyperbolic tokens; i.e., this linguistic case may be connected intimately to its specific semantic distinctions and the impracticability of independent use.

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Examples in: English

Applicable Languages: English

Applicable Level: Tertiary