



**A CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF ENGLISH SYNONYMS:
GOAL, PURPOSE AND AIM**

BY

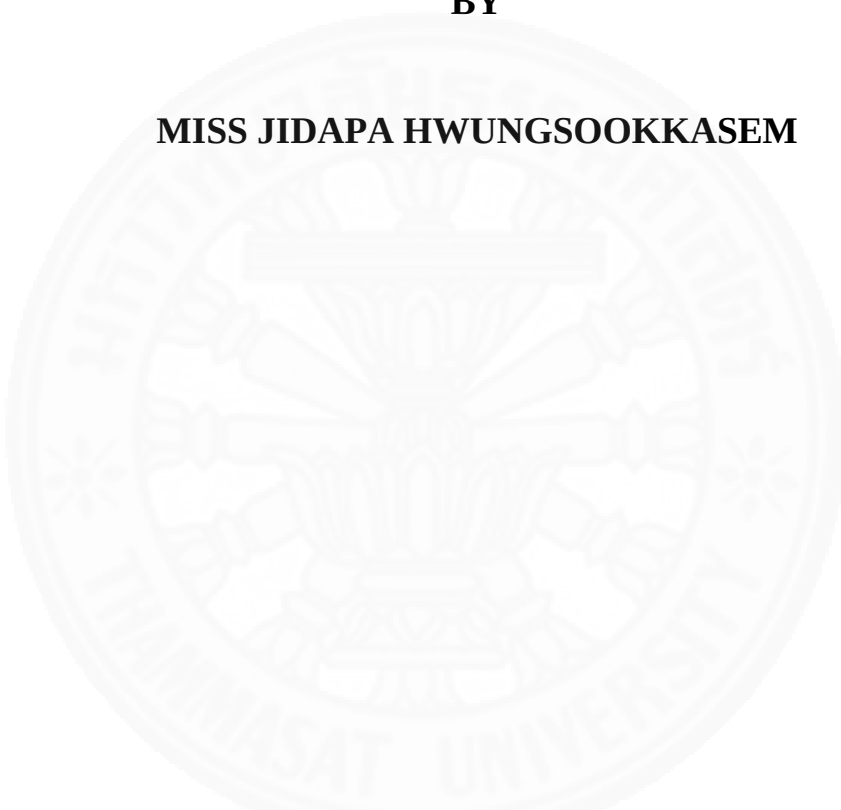
MISS JIDAPA HWUNGSOOKKASEM

**AN INDEPENDENT STUDY PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC YEAR 2018
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INDEPENDENT STUDY PAPER

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MISS JIDAPA HWUNGSOOKKASEM

ENTITLED

A CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF ENGLISH SYNONYMS:
GOAL, PURPOSE AND AIM

was approved as partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts in English Language Teaching

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ABSTRACT

The corpus-based study aims to examine the similarities and differences of three synonyms which are goal, purpose and aim, by focusing on three aspects: lexical meaning, grammatical patterns and collocations. The English dictionaries, Longman's Dictionary of Contemporary English and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, were used in this study to compare the lexical meaning of the synonyms while the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) was used to collect the data from two hundred concordance lines to analyze the grammatical patterns and collocations of the synonyms. The results show that these three synonyms share the same core meanings, have some similar grammatical patterns and also occur with some collocations in common. However, there are some different points in specific grammatical patterns shown from the data in concordance lines, and the collocations (especially verb) are strong collocations for each. Furthermore, these synonyms have the same core meaning yet they cannot be interchangeable in any context, especially in academic contexts, that prefer use of purpose to goal and aim.

Keywords: Corpus, Corpus-based, English synonym, Synonym

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Miss Jidapa Hwungsookkasem

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	(1)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	(2)
LIST OF TABLES	(6)
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Research Question	2
1.3 Objectives of the study	3
1.4 Definition of Terms	3
1.5 Scope of the study	4
1.6 Significance of the study	4
1.7 Limitations of the study	4
1.8 Organization of the study	5
CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
2.1 Synonyms	7
2.1.1 Strict and Loose synonyms	8
2.1.2 Criteria for distinguishing synonyms	9
2.1.2.1 Grammatical pattern	9
2.1.2.2 Collocations	10
2.2 Corpus	11
2.2.1 Definitions of Corpus	11
2.2.2 How the corpora been used	12
2.3 Previous studies	12

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	16
3.1 Instrument	16
3.2 Data collection and analysis	16
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	17
4.1 The similarities and differences between the synonyms <i>goal</i> , <i>purpose</i> and <i>aim</i> in term of meanings	19
4.2 The similarities and differences between the synonyms <i>goal</i> , <i>purpose</i> and <i>aim</i> in term of grammatical patterns	20
4.2.1 Corpus data for the word GOAL	20
4.2.2 Corpus data of the word PURPOSE	21
4.2.3 Corpus data of the word AIM	23
4.3 The similarities and differences between the synonyms <i>goal</i> , <i>purpose</i> and <i>aim</i> in term of collocations	25
4.3.1 Example sentences of the adjective <i>primary</i>	27
4.3.2 Example sentences of the adjective <i>main</i>	27
4.3.3 Example sentences of the verb <i>fulfill</i>	27
4.3.4 Example sentences of the verb <i>achieve</i>	28
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	29
5.1 Summary of the study	29
5.2 Summary of the findings	30
5.3 Discussion	30
5.3.1 The lexical meaning	30
5.3.2 Grammatical Patterns	31
5.3.3 Collocations	31
5.4 Conclusions	32
5.5 Recommendations	33

(5)

REFERENCES

34

BIOGRAPHY

36



LIST OF TABLES

Tables	Page
1 The comparison of the synonyms in three topics	10
2 The similarities and differences between the synonyms in term of meanings	15
3 The similarities and differences between the synonyms in term of grammatical patterns	16
4 The similarities and differences between the synonyms in term of collocations	17



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Since English is the most widely spoken language in the world, it can act as the world language for communication among many nations and countries. It has become a lingua franca, or the language that is used by people who have different native languages (Harmer, 2008). Apart from the grammatical patterns, vocabulary plays an important role in language learning. Verghese (1989) stated that the language is delivered to communication by the use of meaningful words of its own language so that teaching vocabulary could be immensely important in teaching English as a second language. There are also many vocabulary aspects included in teaching English. Liu and Espino (2012) said that synonyms have been a benefit to language users as word choices to convey the message more effectively. With proper contexts and interlocutors, they have some meanings that can be used interchangeably.

Among the English synonyms, the words *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* are found amongst the top 3000 most common words in English. (Education First, 2018). This study will focus on the investigation of these synonyms in order to see the similarities and differences among these three words by using dictionaries and corpus data. Corpus-based studies have been increasing in many topics and areas in an attempt to study the linguistics features of many languages. The studies are commonly focused on lexis and grammatical patterns in the language uses (Sinclair, 2004; Stubbs 2007; Granger & Meunier 2008; Shao 2017).

The synonyms are very hard to exclude from their near-synonyms. Many linguists and professionals in the language fields have been struggling to distinguish various synonyms (Edmonds & Hirst 2002; Divjak 2006; Lee & Liu 2009). Shao (2017) pointed out that the use of dictionaries only shows meaning and information with the same results. This is very challenging for the L2 users because when they are conveying a message, the information and examples from the dictionaries may not be sufficient. On the other hand, the corpus data can provide the language use in various types of context, giving the authentic use that would help the language users to pick up the suitable synonyms with specific contexts.

In the study, the similarities and differences between three synonyms in terms of meanings, grammatical patterns and collocations will be investigated by compiling the data from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005), Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2009) and Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

1.2 Research Question

1.2.1 What are the similarities and differences between the synonyms 'goal', 'purpose' and 'aim' in term of meaning?

1.2.2 What are the similarities and differences between the synonyms 'goal', 'purpose' and 'aim' in terms of grammatical patterns?

1.2.3 What are the similarities and differences between the synonyms 'goal', 'purpose' and 'aim' in terms of collocations?

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 To investigate the meaning and of the synonyms ‘goal’, ‘purpose’ and ‘aim’ from the dictionaries and Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

1.3.2 To study the grammatical patterns of the synonyms ‘goal’, ‘purpose’ and ‘aim’ from the dictionaries and Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

1.3.3 To study the collocations of the synonyms ‘goal’, ‘purpose’ and ‘aim’ from the dictionaries and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

1.4 Definition of Terms

In this study, here are some of the terms which are important and constantly mentioned in the study and have specific terms and definitions.

1.4.1 COCA refers to Corpus of Contemporary American English

1.4.2 Collocations means a combination of words in a language that happens very often and more frequently than would happen by chance. (OALD,2005)

1.4.3 Corpora/Corpus means a collection of texts, written or spoken, which is stored in a computer.

1.4.4 Dictionary means Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary.

1.4.5 Grammatical patterns refer to how the vocabulary can be placed in the sentence structure.

1.4.6 Synonym means a word with the same meaning as another word in the same language. (LDOCE,2009)

1.5 Scope of the study

This study of English synonyms focuses on three synonyms: *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* which function as countable nouns. The data is also collected in singular and plural forms of these three words. The researcher collected the data from two learners' dictionaries: Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and the data from concordances lines from Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Furthermore, the data will be analyzed by emphasizing grammatical patterns and collocations. The researcher will compare the data to investigate the context that these synonyms have been used in.

1.6 Significance of the study

Since the vocabulary is the important part for the use of a language, it is important for the language users to choose the appropriate vocabulary and put them into the proper context. The synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* are commonly used among the EFL students to talk about something that they want to achieve or succeed with. This study will be beneficial for the EFL learners who are interested in the use of these synonyms. They could study how to use these three synonyms properly with their meaning and contexts.

1.7 Limitations of the study

In this study, there are three synonyms that have been chosen to investigate in term of meanings, grammatical patterns and collocations by collecting the data from two English dictionaries and the data from the first 100 concordance lines from

COCA. This data collection and analysis may be too specific and limited for all the uses of the language.

1.8 Organization of the study

The study is organized to complete the investigation of the similarities and differences between the synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* by collecting the data from the learners' dictionaries (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) and COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English). The data which is compiled from those three sources is analyzed by their meanings, grammatical patterns and collocations to see the similarities and differences of the synonyms. The study will be divided into five chapters:

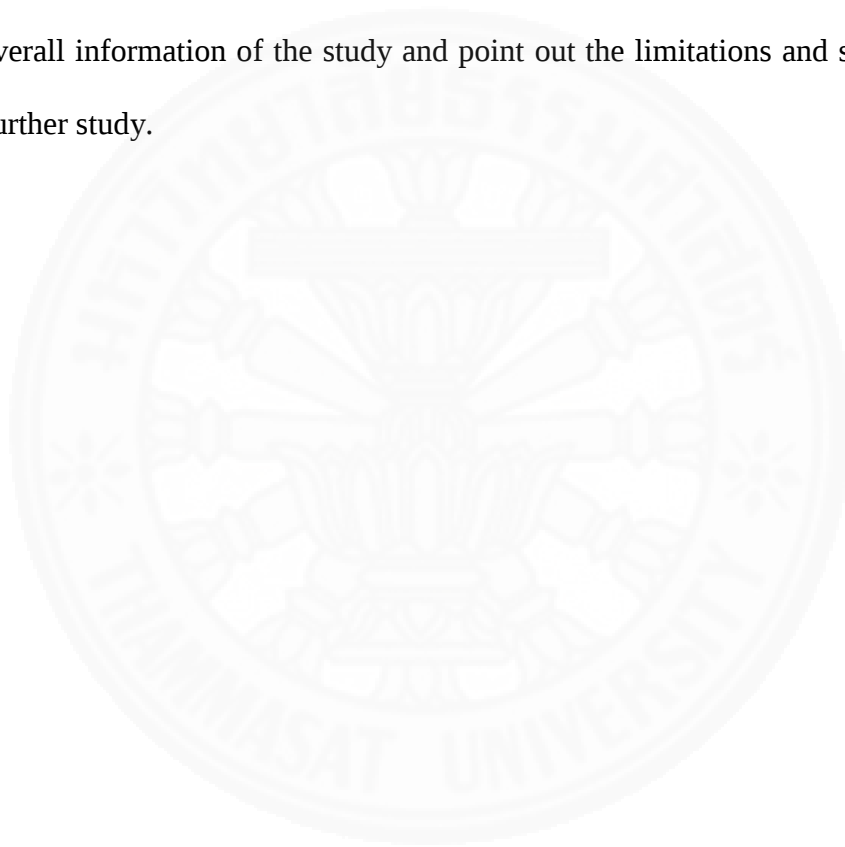
Chapter 1 Introduction: This chapter will briefly explain about the overall approach of the study from the background of the study, and scope and limitations of the study. The research questions and objectives of the study will be stated in this chapter.

Chapter 2 Review of literature: The basis and useful theories and previous studies about synonyms, corpus and the use of corpus to investigate the synonyms will be provided in chapter 2.

Chapter 3 Research Methodology: This chapter will inform about how the data will be collected and analyzed to answer research questions.

Chapter 4 Results and Discussion.: The data that has been collected by the research methodology will be presented in tables to compare the similarities and differences of each synonym. The data will be analyzed by applying the criteria and theories to distinguish each synonym.

Chapter 5 Conclusion and Recommendations: This chapter will conclude with the overall information of the study and point out the limitations and suggestions for any further study.



CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The study investigates the similarities and differences synonyms of three synonyms: *goal*, *purpose* and *aim*, by focusing on their meaning from dictionaries, grammatical patterns and collocations from COCA. The researcher has searched for the definitions, types and the criteria to distinguish the synonyms in order to adapt these data as basic theory. The theory about corpus and how to use the COCA are also studied in order to adapt these theories to the data collections and analysis. Furthermore, the researcher has also compiled some useful previous studies about the uses of the corpus data to investigate how the words have been used in the context. These following theories and previous studies will be useful for this study.

2.1 Synonyms

The synonym is defined as a word or expression that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another in the same language in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD, 2005); for example, the words 'big' and 'large' are synonyms because they have the same meaning. Also, from the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE, 2009), it means a word with the same meaning as another word in the same language. A number of researchers have defined the term synonyms in many aspects.

Since English is the language that has originated from Anglo-Saxon and other languages which are French, Latin and Greek, this origin of English language means it has come up with numerous numbers of vocabulary (Palmer, 1981: 89). He stated

that the synonyms are the words that are identical and can be interchangeable in any kind of context; it is hard to find the words that can fulfill these criterion. Greebaum (1996:420) explained that “synonyms are the words that are identical or similar in meaning and that can be interchangeably in at least one context.” Palmer (1981. 89-91) also provided the points to differentiate the synonyms as follows:

- words come from different dialects (cowshed /byre)
- words used in different styles (nasty smell/ obnoxious effluvium)
- words that share the same cognitive meanings but different evaluation and emotional meanings. (hide/ conceal)
- words that are collocationally restricted (rancid butter)
- words that have similar meanings and some of their meanings are identical. (govern, direct, control, determine)

Ullman (ibid. 143) found out the substituent test to examine the synonyms as to whether they are interchangeable. If one word can be replaced by the other word without causing the change of literal meaning and senses of use, they are synonyms. However, even if some of the words have the exact same meaning they cannot replace one another in every context. For example, the word *deep* and *profound* can be used with *sympathy* but we can only use *deep* with *water*.

2.1.1 Strict and Loose synonyms

Not only has the synonym been defined in different meaning, it also can be theoretically divided into categories which are strict synonym and loose synonym.

The strict synonyms are the words that have the same meaning and can be replaced with each other in any kind of context and structures without causing any changes of meaning or sense of the meaning (Jackson &Amvela, 2000: 66) . He also stated that there is no word like a strict synonym in English because the word that is a strict synonym would be lost or literally cut off. For example, the French words *mouton*,

which meant exactly the same as the word *sheep* subsequently dominated as the meaning of meat of sheep instead while *sheep* remained the meaning of the animal.

Meanwhile, the loose synonyms are more various. Jackson & Amvela, (2000: 94) identified the loose synonyms as the words that have the same meaning which can be replaced with each other in some similar context but not to all contexts. They may share the same sense of use but cannot be replaced in every context. They also could replace each other in some wider contexts of one another but not all in all contexts. For example, the words *mad* and *insane* have the same core meaning, which is mentally ill. They can sometimes be used interchangeably in some contexts; however, the word *mad* can sometimes be used as meaning angry. In this situation, the word *insane* cannot replace the word *mad*.

2.1.2 Criteria for distinguishing synonyms

There are many criteria to distinguish the English synonyms as follows:

2.1.2.1 Grammatical pattern

The grammatical patterns are the pattern of the structure of the words in the sentences. Some words have identical meanings but cannot be used to replace each other in the sentences since they do not share the same grammatical patterns. (Thonbury, 2002, p. 122). For instance, the words *say* and *tell* both mean *to speak or tell something or someone* (OALD, 2005) but they have different grammatical patterns. The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2005) presented the grammatical patterns of the words 'say' and 'tell' as follows:

- tell someone something
- say something
- say something to someone
- say something about

The word 'tell' can be followed by a person as an object while the word 'say' cannot be followed by a person as a noun. These grammatical patterns difference means *say* and *tell* cannot be interchangeable. Some synonyms that have the similar meaning are used in different grammatical patterns when they are put into sentences. For example, the word 'same' and 'identical' as an adjective. The word 'same' could be placed in front of a noun to modify a noun only while the word 'identical' can be placed before nouns or after verb to be. (OALD,2005).

2.1.2.2 Collocations

The synonyms can occur with some words or phrases only; collocation is also very important. Collocations are a combination of words in a language that happen very often and more frequently than would happen by chance. (OALD,2005). For example, the word 'crime' is collocated with verb 'commit', the word 'perfume' is always used with the verb 'wear' (OALD,2005). Lewis (2000) defined collocation as the phenomenon that words co-occur together naturally and significantly. Hill (2000) has divided collocations into four categories as follows:

- unique collocations which are the collocations that are unique, mostly happen together; e.g. *foot the bill*.
- strong collocations which are the collocated words that rarely occur separately; e.g. *rancid oil*.
- weak collocations which are the words that normally occur with many words; e.g. *long, short, colors*.
- medium-strength collocations which are the group of words that should be used together; e.g. the phrase *hold a meeting*.

2.2 Corpus

2.2.1 Definitions of Corpus

The most common definition for corpus was stated by O’Keeffe, McCarthy and Carter (2007): “A corpus is a collection of texts, written or spoken, which is stored in a computer” while Biber, Conrad and Reppen (1998) identified the corpus as “a principled collection of texts available for qualitative and quantitative analysis”. Since there are many types of texts that are collected in various corpora, some researchers have used them as a tool to collect the data for their research. For instance, the study of how the words ‘same’ and ‘identical’ are used. By counting the number of occurrences from the corpus, the researcher could see which word is used more frequently than the other. This will give a quantitative result.

On the other hand, if the researcher would like to study more about how the words or phrases are used among the contexts from a corpus, we can see the concordance lines. Using concordance lines means to use the data from the corpus software to investigate the uses of a keyword in various contexts (O’Keeffe, McCarthy and Carter, 2007: 2). The data is compiled from many useful contexts which will be of benefit for distinguishing the use of synonyms.

2.2.2 How the corpora been used

Using a dictionary to see the meaning or function of synonyms may not be enough to separate the similarities and differences of them. The corpora are suitable for this purpose. The researcher could look at the lexical-grammatical patterns from the concordance lines to see the example of how the words are used in various contexts and compile the data from those examples. Gathering the data from two sources, dictionary and corpora, could benefit the researcher to examine the meaning

and lexico-grammatical profiles of the words or phrases (O’Keeffe, McCarthy and Carter, 2007:2-3).

There are many corpus techniques that are used to examine corpus linguistic variables. One is concordancing which is used for presenting the words in Key-Word-In-Context (KWIC) in concordance lines. There is a node for the words or phrases that are searched in the center of the concordance line. This will present the various contexts that the words or phrases are used in and the lexico-grammatical pattern can be examined (O’Keeffe, McCarthy and Carter, 2007:8-9).

2.3 Previous studies

There are many studies use the corpus-based data to investigate the distinctions of how the words are uses. For example, Bergdahl (2009), studied the adjectives *beautiful*, *handsome* and *good-looking* by using five contemporary dictionaries, one etymological dictionary and a computerized corpus. The resulted showed that these synonyms have a few similarities from the data in the dictionary but from the corpus analysis, they also have some similar uses. However, the data provided that these three synonyms have gender distributions; i.e. ‘beautiful’ is used to describe women, ‘handsome’ is used to describe men, while ‘good-looking’ is mostly used with men.

Phoocharoensil (2010) studied the use of five synonyms, i.e. *ask*, *beg*, *plead*, *request*, *appeal* which is focusing on the lexical meaning, stylistic information. The study collected the data from three famous dictionaries and a corpus to compare the information between the dictionary and corpus data. The results provided that the data

from corpus could provide more information than dictionaries from the context data in concordance lines.

Petcharat (2017) studied the three English synonyms, i.e. *appropriate*, *proper* and *suitable* to investigate meanings, collocations, and grammatical patterns by examining the data from three dictionaries and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The result showed that these synonyms shared the same core meaning but are different in degrees of formality. Moreover, the data provided from the COCA showed more data than that provided in the dictionaries.

Ruenroeng (2014) has also studied English synonyms by using corpus-based data to analyze certain topics. She investigated the three synonyms: *ruin*, *demolish* and *destroy*, which have shared the exact same meanings. The researcher used three aspects which are grammatical patterns, degree of formalities, collocations and the distribution in different genres in order to analyze the similarities and differences among these synonyms. The researcher used the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary to examine the connotation, example usage and grammatical information of the words and also used WordNet 3.1 to find the sense of meaning and context which are suited for each word. The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) was used to compile the data from 100 concordance lines which provided the frequency, pattern from the structure and also top 10 collocations that co-occur with these synonyms. The findings identified that the definitions of them are identical but their grammatical patterns are not the same. Even where there are some patterns used among the synonyms, there are still the patterns that have been used specifically by

each one. Another difference is the degree of formality. The word *demolish* is used in more formal contexts than *ruin* and *destroy*. To conclude, the synonyms *ruin*, *demolish* and *destroy* have the same core meaning but they cannot be interchangeable because there are some differences in terms of grammatical patterns and degree of formality.

Nisani (2015) has investigated three adjective synonyms which are *possible*, *probable* and *likely* by comparing to find the differences among these synonyms in terms of meaning, grammatical patterns, noun collocation and degree of formality. The data of the study derived from two online dictionaries which were the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) in order to explore the similarities and differences of the synonyms. The researcher searched for the meaning of these synonyms from two dictionaries and analyzed the examples from the concordance lines to get the meaning from context of each synonym to find the deeper meaning. For grammatical patterns analysis and degree of formality, the data was analyzed from the 500 concordance lines which presented the uses of these synonyms in various contexts and styles, while the collocations were focused on the top five nouns that co-occur with each synonym. The collocations revealed that when they co-occur with their collocated nouns, they convey a different sense of meaning. For example, *possible* conveys the meaning of 'something that can be achieved but not certain' while *probable* conveys the meaning of 'something that may expected to happen or to be true with evidence' whereas *likely* conveys the meaning of 'something that might happen or be true with reason'. In terms of the degree of

formalities the data from the COCA presented that the word *probable* was used among formal contexts more than *possible* and *likely*. The results of the study concluded that these adjective synonyms cannot be interchangeable in all types of context since they also have some differences in meaning, grammatical patterns, noun collocation and degree of formality.

From these studies above it has been shown that the investigation into lexical meaning, dialects, grammatical profiles and collocations could be done by using dictionary and COCA to distinguish the similarities and differences among the synonyms.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Instrument

3.1.1 The English dictionary: Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary.

3.1.2 Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) :
Concordance lines

3.2 Data collection and analysis

The data for this study was collected from two sources to investigate the findings for the research questions. They were the practical learner's dictionary, the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD,2005) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE,2009). These dictionaries provide the basic lexical information such as lexical meaning, part of speech, pronunciation, synonyms and various example sentences to make the learners understand the vocabulary clearly. If choosing a noun, these two dictionaries will provide that the word is countable or uncountable.

Moreover, along with the dictionary information the data was also compiled by the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) to search the keyword ('goal', 'purpose' and 'aim' for this study) to explore the uses of synonyms which basically shared the identical meaning. The concordance lines from the COCA be investigated for the answers to the research questions.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data of this study was compiled from three sources: Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and the concordance lines from the COCA. According to the collected data, in order to analyze the synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* the results provided many kinds of data which were compared in tables to show the distinguishing factors for each topic.

Table 1 The comparison of the synonyms in three topics

WORDS/CONTENT	GOAL	PURPOSE	AIM
1. Meanings from the dictionaries			
1.1 Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD, 2005)	1. (in sports) a frame with a net into which players must kick or hit the ball in order to score a point. 2. the act of kicking or hitting the ball into the goal; a point that is scored for this. 3. something that you hope to achieve	1. [countable] the intention, aim or function of something; the thing that something is supposed to achieve 2. purposes [plural] what is needed in a particular situation 3. [countable, uncountable] meaning that is important and valuable to you 4. [uncountable] the ability to plan something and work successfully to achieve it.	1. [countable] the purpose of doing something; what somebody is trying to achieve 2. [uncountable] the action or skill of pointing a weapon at somebody/something
1.2 Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE, 2009)	1 [countable] something that you hope to achieve in the future. 2 [countable] the area between two posts where the ball must go in order to score in games such as football or hockey 3 [countable] the action of making the ball go into a goal, or the score gained by doing this	1. [countable] the purpose of something is what it is intended to achieve 2 [countable] a plan or aim 3. [uncountable] a feeling of determination to achieve things in life	1. [countable] something you hope to achieve by doing something aim of 2. [uncountable] someone's ability to hit what they are aiming at when they throw or shoot something
2. Grammatical Patterns	adjective + goal goal + v.to be + to infinitive goal of + noun	adjective + purpose purpose + v.to be + to infinitive (for the) purpose of + noun	adjective + aim aim + verb to be + to infinitive aim of + noun aim of + gerund

WORDS/CONTENT	GOAL	PURPOSE	AIM
	goal of + gerund	(for the) purpose of gerund for such a purpose	
3. Collocations			
3.1 Verb	achieve, reach, commit to, make, focus on, remain, fulfill , support, begin with, count, spot, expertise with, agree with, cross, score	serve, suit to, fulfill , add, joint, grace, defeat	take, change, determine to aim at, take aim at
3.2 Adjective	main , primary , ultimate, common, original, future, next, important, outcome, reasonable, traditional, ambitious, original, tangible, realistic, immediate, long-term, short-term, realistic, achievable, ambitious, modest	main , major, direct, same, sole, real, whole, original, holy, primary , fundamental, intended, principal, entire, medical, unconscious, subconscious, ostensible, indisputable, useful, practical	triple, unequivocal, fundamental, paramount, explicit, rehabilitative, limited, legitimate, declared, primary, main, political, practical, theoretical, central, moral, critical, whole, basis, social, direct, ultimate, final and the possessive adjectives
3.3 Preposition	-	for, on	of, with, in
3.4 Compound Noun	goal difficulties, achievement goal, goal participants, goal setting, goal keeper, goal perspectives		

Table 1 presents the data from three instruments in order to compare the similarities and differences of the three synonyms in terms of meanings, grammatical patterns and collocations. This table shows the total data which will be used to compare the similarities and differences by each topic.

4.1 The similarities and differences between the synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* in term of meanings

Two dictionaries were used to investigate the meanings of these synonyms. In order to emphasize the similarities and differences, the data which was compiled from the dictionaries is presented in Table 2

Table 2 The similarities and differences between the synonyms in term of meanings

	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD, 2005)	Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE, 2009)
GOAL	1. (in sports) a frame with a net into which players must kick or hit the ball in order to score a point. 2. the act of kicking or hitting the ball into the goal; a point that is scored for this. 3. something that you hope to achieve	1 [countable] something that you hope to achieve in the future. 2 [countable] the area between two posts where the ball must go in order to score in games such as football or hockey 3 [countable] the action of making the ball go into a goal, or the score gained by doing this
PURPOSE	1. [countable] the intention, aim or function of something; the thing that something is supposed to achieve 2. purposes [plural] what is needed in a particular situation 3. [countable, uncountable] meaning that is important and valuable to you 4. [uncountable] the ability to plan something and work successfully to achieve it.	1. [countable] the purpose of something is what it is intended to achieve 2 [countable] a plan or aim 3. [uncountable] a feeling of determination to achieve things in life
AIM	1. [countable] the purpose of doing something; what somebody is trying to achieve 2. [uncountable] the action or skill of pointing a weapon at somebody/something	1. [countable] something you hope to achieve by doing something 2. [uncountable] someone's ability to hit what they are aiming at when they throw or shoot something

4.2 The similarities and differences between the synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* in term of grammatical patterns

From the investigation of the concordance lines by using corpus analysis, the data shows many useful examples to examine the similarities and differences to answer the research questions.

4.2.1 Corpus data for the word **GOAL**

1. They're the actionable goals that move you toward *your outcome goal*
Performance goals, to be effective, should be " SMART "
2. twice and they overthrow their tight end, and so that fast it's
Thrilling Goal Line Stand time: fourth and inches, and they're going for it.
3. Now, the proposals, of course, nowhere near the scale of *the ambitious goal* the president set last year of trying to overhaul Social Security. Instead, these
4. with Elliman say he's gifted at bringing people together to work for a *common goal* - in addition to the fundraising, marketing and branding skills he brings to the
5. Internet is a wonderful tool for enriching the learning experience of students. An *initial goal* will likely be just to get students on-line using the Internet. At a more
6. remember that for most of my fellow students who went on in painting, their *goal* in life was *to do* something novel. Each of them thought his or her
7. dreams of making a steady income as a freelance writer come true. Whether your *goal is to quit* your day job and become a full-time freelancer or just make a
8. systematic theology of missions, (n12) to name but a few. My *goal is to establish* a context for examining the Board's activities, both at home
9. " stated David Gallagher, President and CEO of Q Sound Labs. " Our *goal* for 2006 *has been to align* with as many platform providers for the mobile device
10. Alaska recently completed a comprehensive survey on solid waste management (SWM). The *goal* of the survey was *to document* SWM needs of the native villages. # Life
11. hole -- or sometimes none. " Growing Up in a Petri Dish # The *goal of Fitch's research* is to produce papaya seedlings that are nearly certain to bear
12. of the choral ensemble while others believe that learning to read music should be the *goal of every music student*. Some teachers want their students to experience a variety of
13. more or even hundreds of millions more. JUDY-WOODRUFF: Dan Primack, so the stated *goal of a private equity firm* involved in these buyouts like Bain, what is it

14. , you get desensitized to it, " says Pakzaban, adding that a major **goal of medical training** is to teach students to put personal feelings on hold when necessary
15. all of the goals. At interpretive facilities, the extent to which the ultimate **goal of behavior change** in resource-site visitors has been attained through the use of the programs
16. a lot of money. " In 2002 they founded Fulcrum, beginning with a **goal** of raising \$40 million for an endowment fund. People responded, and the fund
17. challenge is to encourage preservice elementary teachers to adopt and teach the all-important social studies **goal** of working to improve society.
18. ..end of January. But politics was quickly overtaken by bickering, and the main **goal of electing** a permanent speaker was left unresolved. NPR's Lourdes Garcia-Navarro has the
19. There are a variety of types of changes to the classification that can serve the **goal of facilitating** communication. These include the following: (1) changes to the
20. essay was not comprehensiveness, whether thematic or historiographical. We were charged with the **goal of acquainting** scholars outside the United States with a significant, emerging tendency in the

According to the corpus data the word goal is mostly used in the following pattern.

- adjective + goal as in line 1-5
- goal + v.to be + to Infinitive as in line 6-10
- goal of + noun as in line 11-15
- goal of + doing (something) as in line 16-20

4.2.2 Corpus data of the word **PURPOSE**

21. elements used by the Christians in the same places but obviously not for the **same purpose**.... There was definitely no separation needed or practiced as can be seen from the
22. and attorneys have come to see their job as helping businesses get around the **clear purpose** of the law. Moreover, " watchdog " lawyers, claiming to represent "
23. all. " Directing branch members to view certain titles over others defeats **the entire purpose** of the rule changes, " said Joe Berlinger, whose documentaries include the "
24. by trade enhancement and trade resolution techniques; so mesmerized that we forget the **whole purpose**. The whole purpose is to benefit our populations. # Second, I have

25. the meantime, a perception of Iran being besieged from abroad serves a domestic *political purpose*. # The history of U.S.-Iranian relations makes the United States the archenemy from the
26. of legislation or agency action); or (II) a communication the principal **purpose** of which *is to influence* legislation or agency action and; (v) officiald
27. associations like MENC effective is to declare, publicly and clearly, that their major **purpose is to advance** their particular profession.
28. 12 hours at 85-92 percent relative humidity (RH) and 22 1C. The **purpose was to simulate** a fumigation using ClOsub2 gas to inactivate B. anthracis spores in a
29. how illnesses or accidents come about (which is known as etiology). The **purpose is to detect** what is causing the problem and how great the problem is,
30. , 39th Cong., 1st Sess. 1090 (1866). He added that the **purpose** of the Amendment *was to provide* a means for enforcing such guarantees:
31. to have had adequate time to learn their new language. # Purpose # The **purpose of this study** was to determine relative strengths and weaknesses in language development in a
32. situations, according to Shklar, but only if we keep in mind the limited **purpose of the models** of justice we employ.
33. but in a sense, it was unnecessary to do so. The very first **purpose of the United Nations set forth** in article II, article I, section 1
34. "conservative, " but right-wing. Atwater was an in-your-face politico who thought the **purpose of politics** was to win, not just avoid losing. His favorite phrase was
35. as e-mail, brief meetings, or bulletin boards. The notification should explain the **purpose of the survey** and include directions on how and when to complete it. In
36. anxiety disorder (Kahn, Nursten, & Carroll, 1991) # For the **purpose of having** a working set of concepts of school phobia for this paper, the
37. a prosecutor objected: What was the **purpose of the questioning?** # " The purpose is to cast ridicule on everybody who believes in the Bible, " Bryan snapped
38. goals; it is a model that allows for the integration of technology for the **purpose of enhancing** the curriculum rather than just using technology as an add-on to the lesson
39. early teachers, we realize that what they advocated was not teaching English for the **purpose of reading or writing**, but teaching English for the purpose of communicative competence.
40. # One could argue, however, The following are examples of policy elements that I encourage hospitals to use for the **purpose of enhancing** security: # All sensitive data, such as HIV or psychiatric records
41. and lay the fold over the newspaper rack built into the wall *for such a purpose*. I leave each pen and pad in its shrink-wrap and place these items on
42. customary for Nomads to sew leather into the crowns of their hoods *for such a purpose*. There were few parts of the body that could not be used in combat

43. Lauer that he wasn't holding academic seminars, he was meeting with experts *for a purpose*, and then went to define the anatomical outcome of that discussion, it was nonetheless

According to the corpus data the word goal is mostly used in the following pattern.

- adjective + purpose as in line 21-25
- purpose + v.to be + to – infinitive as in line 26-30
- (for the) purpose of noun as in line 31-35
- (for the) purpose of gerund as in line 36-40
- for such a purpose as in line 41-43

4.2.3 Corpus data of the word *AIM*

44. and, as such, frustrates the ability of the law to achieve its *fundamental aim* "). # 304. See id. at 350. # 305. Id
45. While the general public and the vast majority of commentators accept deterrence as a *legitimate aim* of the criminal justice system, there are serious academic criticisms of deterrence and of
46. on their face under Quill' s interpretation of the Commerce Clause. Their *unequivocal aim* is to undo any Commerce Clause reading that includes a physical presence standard. That
47. to be seen in relation to, or' relativised' by, the *central aim* of theological education; and no one part should be seen as the heart of
48. political production (Mateos and Goana, 2015, p. 16). Their *primary aim* may not be audiovisual activity. However, by forming the video activist group
49. expressing the desire for "... a more perfect Union. " The *aim is to heighten* the experience of human organization for the attainment of a better life
50. intense, fervent, and well-funded lobbying by the consumer credit industry. The paramount *aim was to force* debtors with expected future income in excess of necessary expenses-supposed' can
51. performed a simple Google search to find a CPC on the front page? whose *aim is actually to guide* women out of having the procedure?). # 282
52. The *aim* of the global record *will be to ensure* the effectiveness of port state measurements,
53. cost of this sacrifice? Who and what mediates the sacrificial exchange? Impuesto's *aim is to ethically interpellate* and fracture history and answer these questions. Feminist thinkers such
54. when the hypothetical reference coupon rate was reduced from 8% to 6%. The *aim of this measure* was not to put an end to the known CTD spell
55. further empirical testing (Ilicic & Webster, 2011). Moreover, with the *aim* of appropriately selecting celebrity endorsers, a variety of models have been developed

56. held accountable through ex parte hearings after proper notice and proof of criminality. The **aim of my proposal** is to preserve pluralistic institutions against the exploitation of electronic networks by
57. available information on beneficial ownership subject to confidentiality requirements in accordance with national law.¹⁵⁴ The **aim of the global record** will be to ensure the effectiveness of port state measurements
58. the video material and the research focus (Freitas, 2015). Since the **aim of this coding scheme** is to enable researchers to code activities in a structured manner
59. speech that can be restricted because of the substantial, and probably even compelling, **aim of maintaining public safety**. This history and tradition applies especially to cases involving
60. desire to keep lines of communication with Syria open but to the more morally acceptable **aim of protecting** Lebanese citizens residing there. Nasrallah insisted that those who needed help along
61. the area of Isla Portillos in particular by excavating in 2010 a caño with the **aim of connecting** the San Juan River with the Harbor Head Lagoon and laying claim to
62. In the Lectures, Dewey says that social critical theory has the **aim of restoring** society's " health ", or of curing its " disease "
63. films also used a shutter system-they were implemented, in both cases, with the **aim of achieving** only one, ever elusive, effect: perfect 3-D illusionism.
64. would be good policy. # We now turn to more recent scholarship that **takes aim at** other aspects of secured credit financing and advances proposals to allow further unwinding of
65. of the film. Just prior to Twombly's accidental selfinflicted wound, Jack **takes aim at** a less than spectacular deer-it does not have any antlers, the coveted trophy
66. , 1933. # The remarks weren't the first time The Morning Oregonian **took aim at** ethnic jurors. In previous editorials around that time, the paper bemoaned "
67. In the first week of February 1996, an atmospheric river of moisture **took aim at** the state, bringing with it warm temperatures that melted the snow, and
68. President Trump at the 2017 Emmy Awards. Many nominees, presenters and winners **took aim at** the president from the Microsoft Theater stage. Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin even

According to the corpus data the word goal is mostly used in the following pattern.

- adjective + aim as in line 44-48
- aim + v.to be + to infinitive as in line 49-53
- aim of + noun as in line 54- 58
- aim of + gerund as in line 59-63
- take aim at as in line 64-68

From the corpus data, the grammatical patterns that have been used among *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* have both similarities and differences. Table 3 will provide the similar and different patterns of the synonyms.

Table 3 The similarities and differences between the synonyms in term of grammatical patterns

A : Similar Patterns		
GOAL	PURPOSE	AIM
adjective + goal	adjective + purpose	adjective + aim
goal + v.to be + to Infinitive	purpose + v.to be + to Infinitive	aim + v.to be + to Infinitive
goal of + noun	purpose of+ noun	aim of+ noun
goal of + gerund	purpose of + gerund	aim of + gerund
B : Different Patterns		
-	for such a purpose	take aim at

From the comparison in terms of grammatical patterns, these three synonyms have mainly similar patterns as countable nouns. However, the word ‘purpose’ is mostly used in the academic contexts while the word ‘aim’ is used in general topics, especially in reporting news, whereas the word ‘goal’ is used in more general topics.

4.3 The similarities and differences between the synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* in term of collocations

This study also focuses on the collocations or the words that mostly co-occur in various contexts. It is also important to examine the words that can be used with these three synonyms in order to provide the most accurate use of the language. Since

these synonyms function as nouns, the words that always co-occur with them are always verbs, adjectives or prepositions. The collocations that will be provided for the synonyms are from the dictionaries and concordance lines in Table 4

Table 4 The similarities and differences between the synonyms in term of collocations

	GOAL	PURPOSE	AIM
Verb	achieve , reach, commit to, make, focus on, remain, fulfill , support, begin with, count, spot, expertise with, agree with, cross, score	serve, suit to, fulfill , add, joint, grace, defeat	take, change , achieve
Adjective	main , primary , ultimate, common, original, future, next, important, outcome, reasonable, traditional, ambitious, original, tangible, realistic, immediate, long-term, short-term, realistic, achievable, ambitious, modest and the possessive adjectives	main , major, direct, same, sole, real, whole, original, holy, primary , fundamental, intended, principal, entire, medical, unconscious, subconscious, ostensible, indisputable, useful, practical and the possessive adjectives	triple, unequivocal, fundamental, paramount, explicit, rehabilitative, limited, legitimate, declared, primary , main , political, practical, theoretical, central, moral, critical, whole, basis, social, direct, ultimate, final and the possessive adjectives
Preposition	-	for, on	of, with, in
Compound Noun	goal difficulties, achievement goal, goal participants, goal setting, goal keeper, goal perspectives		

From the collections of the collocation that occur in these synonyms, there are some weak and strong collocations and also some vocabulary that could be used with the three synonyms. There are some verbs and adjectives that tend to be predominantly

used with the three synonyms which are *main*, and *primary*. These adjectives occur among the use of goal, purpose and aim frequently, while the verbs which co-occur between these words are divided in pairs. The verb 'fulfill' is regularly used with 'goal' and 'purpose' but could not be found in use with 'aim'. On the other hand, the verb 'achieve' is mostly used with 'goal' and sometimes used with 'aim' but could not be found in use with 'purpose'. The example sentences from the concordance lines will be provided.

4.3.1 Example sentences of the adjective *primary*

- the science knowledge assessment indicate that students learned content during an intervention with the *primary goal* of improving reading.
- forth is far, far, far worse than Obamacare, and that its *primary purpose* is massive tax breaks for the very wealthiest people in this country.
- I briefly touch on possible policy solutions, although I must stress that my *primary aim* is to elucidate problems facing the Canadian economy, not to prescribe remedies.

4.3.2 Example sentences of the adjective *main*

- was Israel's policy for years after 1967. # This should be the *main goal* of President Bush's peace offensive and what he presses for when he visits
- assessments of the group's success. Arco believes the committee has fulfilled its *main purpose*, serving as an effective communications channel between the company and indigenous organizations.
- 47 In his critical theory manifesto, Horkheimer characterizes as well the *main aim* of critical theory as " a reasonable organization of society that will meet the needs

4.3.3 Example sentences of the verb *fulfill*

- the awards was the first step in their development. In order to *fulfill* its **goal** of reaching all the campus community with these awards, the RPWG decided upon four.
- argue in this article that the DDC can play a key role in *fulfilling* this **purpose**, if we start thinking about how Dewey can help us solve today's problems

4.3.4 Example sentences of the verb *achieve*

- the chemical structures of proteins and their functions must be clarified. *To achieve* this **goal**, quantum chemical methods can be used in the vision system, and equivalent analyses
- was being there like a teammate. " # But Cross did *achieve* his primary **aim** by winning the long jump. # " I can't explain it, but

From the comparison of the collocations of these synonyms. we can show the result that in some contexts where the three of these synonyms are used as the core meaning, they can be interchanged since all of them mainly share the same grammatical patterns and also some basic collocations.

Nevertheless, the three words are considered to be loose synonyms; they cannot be interchanged in every context, especially in academic writing. The word 'purpose' is used in academic contexts while the words 'goal' and 'aim' are used in general topics.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter consisted of (1) a summary of the study, (2) a summary of the findings, (3) discussions of the similarities and differences of the three synonyms: *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* (4) conclusion and (5) recommendations for the further research.

5.1 Summary of the study

The objective of the study was to investigate the three synonyms, *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* in terms of lexical meanings, grammatical patterns and collocations in order to compare the similarities and differences. The synonyms were chosen from the lists of the top 3000 most common words in English which could cause confusion when choosing the words to use with proper context among the second language learners.

The data in this study derived from three sources. The meanings of the synonyms were compiled from two dictionaries, which were the English dictionary, the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, to examine the similar core meaning from each word while the grammatical patterns and the collocations were compiled from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) by selecting the first two hundred concordance lines. The data was presented in the tables divided into each aspect to identify the similarities and differences.

5.2 Summery of the findings

The result of this study can be summarized into certain aspects to answer the research questions as follows:

5.2.1 The definitions of the synonyms: *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* from the two dictionaries revealed that they have shared the same core meaning, which is ‘*something that you want to achieve*’, but they also have some specific meanings of each which convey different meanings.

5.2.2 Most of the grammatical patterns of these synonyms are the same. However, some words have more specific patterns.

5.2.3 These three words share some of the common adjectives and verbs that are collocated, but mostly they have different collocations.

5.3 Discussion

From the research questions, the study focused on the similarities and differences of the three synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim*, in terms of lexical meaning, grammatical patterns and collocations. The results presented the similarities and differences in those aspects among these three synonyms.

5.3.1 The lexical meaning

The results from the dictionaries showed that these three words have the same core meaning, which is ‘*something that you want to achieve*’, but they also have some specific meanings of each which convey different meanings. This means that these three synonyms can be used to replace each other in some contexts where they shared the same meanings but they cannot be used interchangeably in every kind of context since they have other specific

meanings that convey a different sense of use. From this result we can see the correspondence with the meaning of synonyms that Palmer (1981) provided; the meaning of the synonym as the “words that have similar meanings and some of their meanings are identical.”

5.3.2 Grammatical Patterns

From the comparison of the data that was compiled from the concordance lines and focused on grammatical patterns, this presented both similarities and differences of the grammatical patterns. Though when the synonyms do share some similar grammatical patterns, some of them still have a dominant pattern which cannot be replaced by the others. According to Ruenroeng (2014), her findings from the study of synonyms to see their comparisons concluded that grammatical patterns are not the same in the focused synonyms. Even if there are some patterns which are commonly used among the synonyms, there are still the patterns that have been used specifically by each one. The result is similar to the result from this study.

5.3.3 Collocations

Since the synonyms are focused in their part of speech as countable nouns, the collocations that mostly come along with them are collocations and verbs. The adjectives that tend to be used with the three synonyms are *main*, and *primary* which occur among the use of goal, purpose and aim frequently, while the verbs which co-occur between these words are divided in pairs. The verb ‘fulfill’ is regularly used with ‘goal’ and ‘purpose’ but could be found in use with ‘aim’. On the other hand, the verb ‘achieve’ was mostly used with ‘goal’ and sometimes used with ‘aim’ but could not be found in use with

‘purpose’. From these examples it can be concluded that there are some words that collocated with them but the context that they occur in was different.

From the analysis above, in many aspects which can provide the answers for the research questions, it can be concluded that the synonyms in this study are loose synonyms since they share some core meanings, grammatical patterns and collocations. However, there are also many differences that have been drawn from the data in each aspect from these synonyms which separate them from being used to replace each other in some contexts.

5.4 Conclusions

This study has investigated the use of English synonyms *goal*, *purpose* and *aim* in terms of their lexical meaning, grammatical patterns and collocations by collecting the data from contemporary dictionaries and concordance lines. The results showed that these synonyms share the same core meaning, provide many similar grammatical patterns and also have some collocations in common. However, there are some different points in specific grammatical patterns that have been shown from the data in concordance lines and the collocations (especially for verbs) are strong collocations for each.

To conclude, these synonyms have the same core meaning yet they cannot be interchangeable in any context, especially in academic contexts where the preferred use is for *purpose* instead of *goal* and *aim*. This result should be mentioned in EFL classes since the learners should know the similarities and differences between the synonyms that are used in many contexts, and the details obtained not just from the dictionary.

5.5 Recommendations

From the results and conclusions of this study, there are some recommendations for further research study.

5.5.1 The further research should specify the data when searching from the COCA in order to widen the scope of the results with the information that will be shown in concordance lines. There are some words that could function in more than one part of speech. The researcher should be concerned about the singular and plural form of the keywords.

5.5.2 The researcher should study in more than three aspects to investigate the similarities and difference of the synonyms since some words are very similar to each other. There might be some specific aspect where they are different from each other so the study should be focused on many criteria.

5.5.3 This study could be beneficial the teacher who teaches English as second language, or to L2 learners who are either confused or interested in these synonyms. The teacher can point out the similarities and differences of these synonyms from the study to inform the students who may have to use these words in their study or in real life.

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