



**A CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH
SYNONYMS:**

EXCELLENT, OUTSTANDING, SUPERB

BY

MISS NISCHARVEE RUNGSIDHAVASPONG

**AN INDEPENDENT STUDY SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF ARTS IN CAREER ENGLISH FOR
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021**

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ENTITLED

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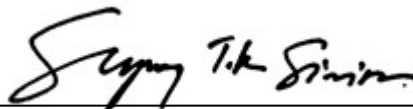
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ABSTRACT

This study examines three synonyms, *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, using two criteria: collocations and degrees of formality. The information for the three synonyms is derived from the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, the Macmillan Dictionary, and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The results show that these three synonyms differ based on previously mentioned criteria. In terms of definition, *excellent* and *superb* mean extremely good in general, whereas *outstanding* may have a more specific meaning associated with action and money. Determined by frequency and MI value, the majority of noun collocates of *excellent* and *superb* are associated with broader and more general themes, whereas the majority of noun collocates of *outstanding* are associated with a narrower meaning. *Outstanding* appears to be the most formal word, as it appears with the highest frequency in academic texts, whereas *superb* appears to be the least formal word, as its frequency is highest in informal genres, i.e., spoken English and TV/movie subtitles. As a result, all three synonyms are considered loose synonyms because they cannot be substituted for each other in all contexts. This corpus-based study provides pedagogical implications in addition to lexical knowledge about synonyms. Because corpora can provide far more insightful lexical knowledge about synonyms than dictionaries, this

(2)

may encourage L2 learners to use corpora, in addition to dictionaries, when studying vocabulary.

Keywords: Synonyms; Genre; Collocations; Corpus-based analysis; Dictionaries



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Approximately 1.5 billion people in the world today speak English, which is the most widely used language. It is an official language in 67 countries and is widely used for international communication. English is widely used in various fields such as computer programming, international business, and higher education (Potter & Crystal, 2020).

American English or Modern English has become the most recognizable language as a result of the global dissemination of its media, news, movies, and television programs (Hoynes et al., 2011; Pokorny et al., 2004), which many people learn English from. It made American culture more dominant than British culture in Asia and many other continents (Awonusi, 1994).

One of the most difficult tasks for non-native speakers or second language learners (L2) is choosing the right words for the right context. Lexicon is vital in all languages. The same could be said of English. According to Wilkins (1972, p. 111), “without grammar very little can be conveyed, without vocabulary nothing can be conveyed.” This statement substantiates the importance of vocabulary in communication. The ability to choose the appropriate choice of words in the right context and the use of synonyms is essential in academic writing because they can improve precision, conciseness, and diversity. Students can expand their word bank when they learn synonyms and use them in a variety of contexts (Rozakis, 2011).

Several questions have been raised about the differences in the usage of some synonyms on English-learning websites. Online commentators who offered and shared their answers have largely relied on their own understandings and provided little empirical evidence. The synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* are among those questions. Although there are many previous studies on synonyms, these three words have not yet been studied. Therefore, these three synonyms will be examined methodically, using corpus data as the primary evidence in this study.

The study aims to compare three English adjective synonyms, *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, in terms of noun collocations and formality across genres. The main research tools included the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version), the MacMillan Dictionary (online version) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). COCA consists of over a billion words and is constantly updated which enables the users to track language trends, language and word changes. It is therefore expected that L2 learners will understand the differences between these synonyms and use them appropriately by utilizing corpus as a complementary tool apart from looking up the words from various dictionaries.

1.2 Research Questions

- 1) What are the similarities and differences of noun collocates of the English synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*?
- 2) How are the synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* different in the degree of formality across eight different genres in COCA?

1.3 Objective of the Study

- 1) To compare and contrast the similarities and differences of the synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in terms of noun collocations.
- 2) To explore the similarities and differences of the synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in terms of formality level across eight different genres in COCA.

1.4 Definition of Key Terms

The following are the definitions of the terms used in this study:

- 1) Collocation refers to nouns that appear near three adjectives: *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* – in the top-20 frequency list and with a MI score greater than or equal to three.
- 2) Concordance lines refer to a collection of randomly selected 500-line examples stored in COCA.

3) Genre refers to the collection of written and spoken material from each of the eight genres: academic journals, blogs, fiction, magazines, newspapers, spoken, and other web pages, as well as television/movie subtitles.

4) Synonymous words refer to the three target synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The English synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* were chosen as the focus of this corpus-based study. The data came from two lexical sources: two traditional lexical databases, namely the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version) and the MacMillan Dictionary (online version), which are later compared with the data from Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), a collection of contemporary American-English texts from 1990 to 2020. The investigation is primarily concerned with the similarities and differences between these three synonymous adjectives in terms of collocation information and formality. In terms of collocation information, this study examined only noun collocates.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The comparison of three English synonyms, *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, is significant for several reasons:

1) The study clarifies the three synonyms in terms of noun collocations and degree of formality. It is important to remind people that synonyms are not always interchangeable. English learners will need to learn to use synonyms effectively.

2) The study shows a linguistic approach to synonym research. Using corpora to research synonyms helps to determine collocations and degree of formality. L2 learners can use this method daily. It can also be used by language learners to compare other corpus-based synonym pairs.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study will analyze and evaluate the similarities and differences of three English synonyms, *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, using concordance lines in comparison with the data gained from the two target dictionaries. The distribution of these words across genres will also be investigated in depth. The aim of this chapter is therefore to review the literature related to the present research in order to provide background of the research and frame the study.

Relevant academic literature in three main areas will be examined and discussed: (1) the notion of synonyms, (2) criteria for distinguishing synonyms, and (3) relevant research.

2.1 The Notion of Synonyms

Synonyms are defined in the online Macmillan Dictionary (2021) as “a word that has the same meaning as another word. For example, *scared* is a synonym for *afraid*”. However, these equivalences can be deceptive, as synonymous terms are frequently used differently and convey different connotations. Corpus-based analyses are ideally suited for revealing systematic differences, ranging from registering distinction to association with other collocations (Biber et al., 2006).

2.1.1 *Strict and Loose Synonymy*

Jackson and Amvela (2000) differentiate synonyms into two main types: strict or absolute synonyms and loose synonyms. They state that when two terms are regarded as “**strict synonyms**”, they can be used interchangeably in any circumstance. No difference is made in the meaning, style, or connotation of the message by substituting one word for another. The use of strict synonymy results in redundancy in the language. It has historically been the case that when two words are strict synonyms, they compete for use until one of them loses its meaning or is obliterated. *Sky*, which was borrowed from *Old Norse*, and *heaven*, which was a native English word, are two examples of this type of synonymy. Both terms refer to the region of the atmosphere and outer space visible from *Earth*, as well as to God's and angels' spiritual realms. Both terms were

once synonymous until the *sky* came to refer exclusively to the physical and *heaven* to refer exclusively to the spiritual. As implied by the definition of strict synonymy, there are not two words that are completely the same because of their meanings, how they are used, and how often they happen. Even though these words have the same basic meaning, they do not always have the same linguistic features. This means that they can be differentiated by using certain linguistic criteria.

The above definition says that strict synonyms are very rare or non-existent (McCarthy et al., 2010). On the other hand, strict synonymy is thought to be a waste of time because it leads to a lot of extra repetition in a language.

Instead, a **loose/near-synonym** pair does not have an exact match in terms of meaning, but it does share some sense similarities with other words. For instance, *fast* and *quick* have some similarities but cannot always be used interchangeably (Jackson and Amvela 2000). A close consideration reveals that *quick* refers to the completion of an action in a short time (i.e., *quick* comment) while *fast* describes the manner of movement (i.e., *fast* car). Murphy (2010) raises the example of *obtain* and *acquire*. While both of these words refer to getting something, further investigation reveals that they differ in nuance. This is demonstrated by noting that one could talk about how someone *acquired* a habit, but not that someone *obtained* one.

Nearly thirty years prior to this, Halliday (1976) noted this same thing by pointing out the example of *strong* and *powerful*. *Strong* is used frequently in describing *tea*, whereas *powerful* would typically sound unnatural when used in this way. The situation is reversed when the object being described is *automobile*. Similarly, *weak tea* is said rather than *feeble tea* (Mackin, 1978 as cited in McEnery et al., 2006). Both the semantic prosody and the colloquial differences between near synonyms can affect their usage and understandings; for example, *fickle* is a negative term while *flexible* is a positive one (Tognini-Bonelli, 2001).

Because *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* have similar meanings, they are near-synonyms in this study. However, they cannot be used in the same way in every context. Additionally, examining the noun collocational preferences of synonyms can reveal how they differ from one another (Kaminski, 2017; Moon, 2013).

2.2 Criteria for Distinguishing Synonyms

There are many criteria for distinguishing synonyms, this study will differentiate synonyms based on their collocations and their formality.

2.2.1 Collocations

Collocation is the term used to describe the natural occurrence of two or more words together. While definitions can vary, Hoey (1991, p. 7) asserts that a collocation is "the readership a lexical item has with items that appear with a greater than random probability in its (textual) context." Lexical elements, however, are more likely to be collocate-independent choices than collocate-dependent ones (Sinclair & Carter, 2004). The word *general* is an example of an adjective that is frequently used in conjunction with other words or phrases. When used with the nouns in the collocations "*general trend, general perception, general drift, general opinion, general accord,*" the adjectival phrases with *general* do not convey a distinct meaning, but it does highlight some of the meanings of the nouns. It is possible to say that these nouns are syntagmatically related when they are used with the adjective *general* (Sinclair & Carter, 2004, p. 22).

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version) defines collocation as "a word that you often use with another word. This can be an adjective used with a noun, it can be a verb used with a noun, and it also can be an adverb used with an adjective". For example, when talking about *friend*, we use *close friend* not *near friend*, when talking about *money*, we can *owe money, invest money, spend money, save money, or donate money*, when talking about *effective*, we can say that it is *extremely effective, reasonably effective, or amazingly effective*.

Collocational error analysis can provide useful information for the creation of student reference books, especially bilingual and monolingual learners' dictionaries, as well as the study of learner interlanguage. Using advanced German English learners' collocational mistakes as a case study, Nesselhauf's (2003) study differs from previous research on non-native collocation production in that it examines genuine natural production data rather than relying almost entirely on elicitation tests and translation exercises (e.g., Laufer & Waldman, 2011; Nesselhauf, 2003; Pei, 2008).

Collocations serve three important functions in language learning, according to Nation (2001). To begin, collocational knowledge is a component of language

knowledge. This is partly because stored word sequences serve as the fundamental building blocks for learning, knowledge acquisition, and information application. Collocations are required for fluent and acceptable language use in general, as well as for any language use in particular. Collocations are important in developing a language that is similar to one's native tongue. Finally, numerous words are associated with a small number of collocations, which must be understood in order to comprehend the terms.

2.2.2. Degree of Formality

Degrees of formality define the degree of formality at which a set of synonymous words is likely to occur. Some of the words in a set of synonyms should be used in formal contexts, while others are more likely to be applied in informal contexts (Jackson & Amvela, 2007). For instance, Leech and Svartvik (2003) cite *obtain* and *get* as synonyms with differing degrees of formality. To clarify, *obtain* is commonly used in formal contexts while *get* is commonly used in informal contexts.

In communication settings, the degree of formality employed by the interlocutors may be influenced by their personal relationship and physical distance between them. The channels or means of communication are significant factors which have an impact on the degree of formality. The propensity of the uses of language in written contexts is more formal than oral communication by its very nature (Gramley & Pätzold, 2003).

However, previous research studies substantiate the facts that the demarcation between formal and informal registers may not clearly be drawn. One source of texts may contain both formal and informal words, such as magazines and newspapers (Claus, 2012; Jarunwaraphan & Mallikamas, 2020). A manifestation of informality may nonetheless be found in current academic contexts (Hyland, 2017).

Synonyms can be distinguished from one another based on the contexts in which they are used. "If two words have the same meaning, one may be more appropriate for formal contexts than the other; or one may be slang or spoken English, while the other is a more generic term" (Jackson & Amvela, 2000, p. 95).

A conversation, or in a more formal sense, a discussion, occurs when two people exchange words in order to reach an understanding or relate to one another. The

flow of the conversation is also determined by your relationship with the receiver or other person; for instance, when addressing one's boss, one should use honorifics such as Mister or Sir/ Madam or Mrs.

This list contains pairs of words, one of which is formal and the other informal.

Informal	Formal
sorry	apologize
get	obtain
point out	indicate

The distinctions between formal and informal varieties of English are widely acknowledged; however, due to the development and widespread use of online communication channels such as mobile phones, online chat rooms, and email in recent years, the distinction between formal and informal English has become increasingly blurred. New varieties of English that are specific to digital communications have emerged and deserve the same level of attention as the language used in traditional formal and informal settings. Linguistically, they have not yet determined which form of the language they will employ to convey their message. In linguists' minds, they may have very clear intentions, but if they have the opportunity to express these intentions during a conversation, they will do so spontaneously (Davies, 2005).

Digital communication structures that are highly characteristic of both informal speech and writing (slang) (complicated legal terms or chemical names). Blogs use constructions from both written and spoken language: their written nature permits the discussion of lengthy, rarely spoken terms, while their informality permits the use of contractions, nonsense words, and abbreviations such as LOL (laughing out loud).

It is important to clarify the meaning of the term "formal" as it is used in this context. The term "formal" is typically contrasted with "informal". Insofar as it is merely an intuitive connection, contextuality does appear to be related to formality in the conventional sense (as it relates to tone and informality). The combination of formal and informal language in online messages, according to Danet (2002), attenuates and improves digital communication. The study explains that it is less complicated than spoken and written communication. Face-to-face verbal

communication is enhanced by nonverbal and paralinguistic cues to word meaning. The absence of a physical object makes digital writing less formal than traditional writing. Unlike spoken language, digital communication leaves traces and can be reexamined as long as the program is open and the text is stored in the computer's memory. It is also known as enhanced writing because its real-time interactive modes restore the absent presence of the interlocutor in lengthy texts. It has never been simpler to communicate with the author of an asynchronous message or text, making it more dialogic than print culture. It suggests that formality should also have a nonlinear effect. In terms of the language as a whole, formal texts may contain longer, more unusual words, whereas informal texts contain more slang and nicknames, so maybe no longer use the terms formality and informality.

The following section will review relevant research studies which will be divided into four subsections: A Corpus-based study of verb English synonyms, A Corpus-based study of adjective English synonyms, A Corpus-based study of adverb English synonyms, and A Corpus-based study of noun English synonyms.

2.3 Relevant Research

Various corpus studies have concentrated on English synonyms. The study's primary objective was to determine noun collocations and formality level across eight different genres in COCA. To accomplish this, the similarities and differences between synonyms and nearly synonyms are examined. On the other hand, focusing on nearly synonyms may result in increased language comprehension, as evidenced by the results for two near synonyms. As a result, the findings may reveal patterns of similarity or dissimilarity among non-native English speakers (Fan, 2010). Corpus analyses focused on specific terms may be an effective method for obtaining detailed results (Nordlund, 2010).

Many corpus-based studies have examined the similarities and differences between synonyms. The following subsections will review a selection of these studies, beginning with corpus studies related to synonymous verbs, synonymous adjectives, and synonymous nouns.

2.3.1 A Corpus-based study of Verb English Synonyms

Somrang (2013) compared and contrasted the English verbs *give*, *provide*, and *offer* in three dimensions: referential meanings, grammatical patterns, and collocations. Two research instruments were used to collect data: the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 5th edition, 2009 (LDOCE) and the British National Corpus (BNC). The LDOCE contains both meanings and grammatical patterns, while the British National Corpus contains native speakers' spoken and written text. The three hundred concordance lines for each verb were extracted from the BNC in order to compare and contrast these three synonyms. Additionally, concordance lines provide information not included in the LDOCE. The findings indicated that while the verbs *give*, *provide*, and *offer* were close synonyms due to their shared core meaning, they could not be replaced in all contexts due to their additional meanings. In terms of collocation, the verbs *give*, *provide*, and *offer* were associated with the top ten most frequently occurring abstract nouns. Additionally, *advice*, *opportunity*, and *support* were frequently used as nouns in conjunction with those verbs.

Figes (2013) examined how the three synonyms *want*, *fancy*, and *wish* were used differently in various genres. This study's definitions and grammatical patterns were sourced from the Longman Language Activator (an iOS app software from 2012). Those were then compared to the British National Corpus's first 100 concordance lines (BNC). Some structures that were not found in the LLA appeared in the BNC. When the words were examined further by the LLA, it was discovered that the words *want*, *fancy*, and *wish* cannot be used interchangeably in all contexts. This is due to the fact that their connotations, grammatical structures, and formalities differ greatly. Furthermore, he discovered that the terms *want*, *fancy*, and *wish* are not interchangeable.

2.3.2 A Corpus-based study of Adjective English Synonyms

Mäkelä (2020) used a corpus-based study to investigate the meaning variation of two synonyms, *near* and *close*, by comparing dictionary definitions and common collocations from the Macmillan Dictionary and Cambridge Dictionary, as well as data from corpus studies. The researcher did not find significant semantic differences in his investigations. To denote time or distance, *close* is frequently used with noun

collocates, but it can also be used to denote a closeness between people or relationships. With relationship collocates, it is also interesting to note that *close* happens more frequently. The gathered item has multiple meanings when the adjectives are in superlative form (nearest/closest object). The search was performed separately with the basic, comparative and superlative forms of adjectives. The results of this study allow us to say, at the very least, that the data collected by the Corpus of Contemporary English strongly prefers specific meanings in collocates. Near-synonyms, in this view, should have more illuminating properties.

Aroonmanakun (2015) also studied two English adjective synonyms, *quick* and *fast*, using COCA and three learner dictionaries as a source. The study compared the similarities and differences between the two synonyms. The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English was used to compare the basic definitions of two words that were very close to each other. When the noun collocations were found, they were used to show how and why synonyms are the same or different from each other. The results of this study show that corpora can give us information that dictionaries cannot. When you look at the basic definitions of both words, some of these definitions seem to be the same. *Quick*, on the other hand, refers to the act of doing something quickly, while *fast* refers to moving quickly. It may not be enough for students to look at dictionaries to learn about the reasons and ways to use these words, according to the research. Instead, corpus data can help. This is what the corpus found when it looked at the list of noun collocations and sample text in concordance lines. It was found that they are different and similar in some situations. *Quick* appears to be more concerned with "action quality" than with "action or motion manner." Someone who is a *quick* learner, for example, is someone who can *quickly* pick up new information. *Fast*, on the other hand, is usually used with words that describe how quickly things move, like acceleration, attack, and boat. However, they aren't completely interchangeable.

2.3.3 A Corpus-based study of Adverb English Synonyms

There are some words in this corpus-based study that are alike in meaning, but in fact are not. Ozaki (2012) defines five uncertain adverbs: *maybe*, *perhaps*, *possibly*, *probably*, and *likely*. The study used 178 examples from spoken and written corpora. It examined the use of semantic, stylistic, pragmatic, and syntactic elements. People used

these five hedging adverbs in various ways. *Maybe* is used in informal situations and writing to show uncertainty. Occasionally, the term *maybe* can also mean encouragement, sympathy, or jokes. *Perhaps* is also used when the speaker is unsure of their own words. Even if you speak English, it may sound formal. In practical terms, the word *possibly* is used less *maybe*, *probably*, and *perhaps*. *Probably* reflects people's fear of speaking or writing English. Also, like *maybe*, *perhaps* is used in pragmatics. Finally, the word *likely* is used to suggest something is possible but not certain. This word is often used with proof. Like *possibly* and *probably*, it's usually used to talk about things that don't involve people. Adverbs like *possibly*, *probably*, and *likely* overlap in the study.

As part of her research, Katharina (2014) investigated the six adverbs *nice*, *kind*, *lovely*, *friendly*, *gorgeous*, and *pleasant* as synonyms. Methods used in this study were systematic. The researcher began by searching for these near-synonyms in Macmillan, Collins American, and Merriam Webster online dictionaries. In the Corpus of Contemporary American English, raw frequencies and the MI score were used to calculate the nominal collocation's frequency (COCA). For the purposes of this study, five COCA genres of both spoken and written data were analyzed for stylistic variation, as well (fiction, spoken, magazine, academic writing, and newspaper). In the study, dictionary definitions fail to adequately explain the meaning differences between the six adjectives. For the set of nearly synonyms, anonymous collocations were used. Near-synonymous words with the same nominal collocates have different collocates for these words. Everyone who's *nice*, *kind*, and *friendly* is part of the people lexicon. The word *guy* frequently occurs in conjunction with the adjective *nice*. *Kind* is frequently used in fixed collocation as in *kind eyes* and *kind words*. The word *lovely* appears frequently with the words *women*, *girl*, and *lady* when used as an adjective. *Friendly* is a word that is frequently used to describe how people interact with one another. When the noun *face* is added, *pleasant* and *lovely* can be interchanged. According to the research, *pleasant* was the most frequently used near synonym between these two words in formal academic writing, while *kind* was the least formal. It is difficult to distinguish between these six near-synonyms, according to the results. These near-synonymous adjectives require additional criteria, such as grammatical patterns, to distinguish them.

2.3.4 A Corpus-based study of Noun English Synonyms

Phoocharoensil (2020), who looked at how the words *consequence*, *result*, and *outcome* are used in all eight COCA genres and their usual verb and adjective groups, looked at how they are similar and different. In academic writing, the three synonyms are used the most, but they don't appear very often in popular genres like TV and movie subtitles, or in fiction. The fact that the same verb and adjective are used together a lot has important educational implications. COCA frequency and MI (≥ 3) show that *consequence* is used a lot with words and adjectives that have a negative meaning, and the usual *outcome* collocates have a long history of being used in research situations. It has the most semanticized features, but it doesn't fit into any specific context. Besides the distribution patterns that can be seen in the corpus data, the top 20 verbs and the top 30 adjectives are also shown in this study. The COCA results don't have as many collocates as the result, which is more like the verb.

In summary, a review of the literature demonstrates that these studies employ a variety of methodologies for the study of synonyms. As a result, the researcher's method can be tailored to the study's objectives. Phoocharoensil's research served as the primary inspiration for this study, which focused on noun collocations and the formality or style of the contexts in which they occur. In order to get a clear picture of how specific synonyms function semantically, a thorough analysis is needed.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

These topics are covered in this chapter: (1) the target synonymous words; (2) the instruments; and (3) data collection and analysis procedures.

3.1 The Target Synonymous Words

Three English synonyms were analyzed in the study: *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*. The three terms were chosen due to their frequency of use in English communication. Two of them are included in the Longman Communication 9000, a list of the most frequently used words in written and spoken English, based on statistical analysis of the 390 million words in the Longman Corpus Network, a collection of authentic English language corpora. Longman Communication 9000 assists users with vocabulary acquisition, and the Grammar Guide provides information on major grammar topics as well as grammar notes that illustrate common grammar mistakes made by learners. It is a powerful tool for improving L2 learners' comprehension and communication skills in English. CORPUS is considered convenient to use because it contains over 100 million words from spoken and written English from a variety of sources, including academic books, newspapers, and well-known fiction, and includes concordance lines that illustrate keywords in context. From the concordance lines, it is found that it is one good option to observe lexical and structural information about a searchable keyword. To look more deeply, it is worthwhile to analyze the similarities and differences between *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in terms of meaning, genre, and collocation by methodically using dictionaries and corpus data.

3.2 Instruments

The following instruments were used in this study:

1) Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English or LDOCE (online version), a well-known American learner dictionary, includes 300,000 words, phrases, and definitions, 88,000 pronunciation examples, and one million additional corpus examples as well as 165,000 corpus-based examples. There are over 147,000

collocations and 48,000 synonyms, antonyms, and related words which can help learners to choose the best word. This edition also includes the Longman Communication 9000, an updated list of essential vocabulary. The dictionary also provides learners with grammar notes to help them avoid grammatical errors relating to specific words.

2) There are both British and American versions of the Macmillan Dictionary (online version) available for use on this website. This study will use the American version of English, as well as a collection of common word combinations compiled with the help of collocation-finding software and a 2-billion-word corpus of modern English. More than 4,500 key words are covered in this dictionary, which also includes usage boxes that include grammatical notes, synonyms, and alternative expressions as well as other useful information. Also important is that the meanings are written in such plain and simple language that L2 learners will not only be able to comprehend them perfectly, but they will also find them enjoyable to read as well.

3) COCA, the third instrument used to retrieve the data, was the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), which served as the study's primary corpus. The concordance program demonstrated native speakers' use of English in authentic contexts across a variety of genres, including spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, academic texts, TV and Movie subtitles, blogs, and other web pages. It is a "monitor" corpus, which means that new texts are continuously added, thereby increasing its size each year (Davies, 2020). As a result of this diverse, large volume, and up-to-date information, the number of international users attests to its reliability and validity (e.g., Liu, 2010; Yoo & Shin, 2020). In terms of collocation, data were gathered from the top twenty collocations that frequently co-occurred with each adjective in order to identify common collocations and word classes for the three synonyms.

3.3 Data Collection and Analysis Procedures

This section details the data collection procedure for the corpus-based analysis of three English synonyms: *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*.

3.3.1 Design of the study

This study utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis. The purpose of this study was to empirically investigate the similarities and differences between three adjective synonyms, *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, through data analysis in terms of noun collocation information and degree of formality, respectively.

A quantitative technique is required to compare the frequency of occurrence of each word, the co-occurrence of collocations with each word, and the mutuality of each collocation to the grammatical structure revealed in the corpus (Biber et al., 2004). While qualitative analysis enables the gathering of information about the functions of words or phrases and their appropriate use in various contexts (Conrad, 1999).

3.3.2 Data Collection

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version), the MacMillan Dictionary (online version), and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) were all used to compile the information. These dictionaries were used to compare examples of word use in order to gather lexical data.

Collocation information and the level of formality were determined using the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). However, the synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* were examined. Because of this, the study began by looking at the word's noun collocations in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The random 500 concordance lines in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) were used to generate samples for this study.

Each synonym was entered into the COCA website's "WORD(S)" search box. In the search box, only the simplest form of the word was entered. For greater precision, the search is narrowed down to only look for the adjective *excellent*, which is used as *excellent [j*]*. In COCA, The LIST function method was chosen in COCA as a function method for analyzing data from 500 concordance lines. The words were then selected depending on how often they were used. The search results for each synonym represent the frequency of 500 random sentence examples in the corpora. The study focused on noun collocations and formality as criteria for distinguishing synonyms.

The list was compiled based on previous research findings that collocations are useful in demonstrating the differences between synonyms. The search is restricted to

nouns that appear immediately after the synonyms. After that, the collocations were chosen using statistical corpus-based methods, as well as the Mutual Information (MI) value or score (Phoocharoensil, 2020). As a result, noun collocations in the COCA list with a MI score greater than or equal to three, the significance value for collocational association, were selected (Cheng, 2012) Furthermore, the data from the dictionaries was compared and contrasted with the five hundred concordance lines of each synonym at random.

To get information on how formal each synonym is, the screen from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) was shown. It is required that the chart mode be chosen before clicking the search button. When you want to sort by frequency, you need a sorting mode. After clicking the search button, the number of times each synonym was used in eight different types of texts, such as spoken, fiction, magazines, newspapers, academic journals, blogs, and other web pages, as well as television/movie subtitles, was shown in descending order. The frequency distribution was made by looking at all the words in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

3.3.3 Analysis Procedures

The researcher examined the data using two criteria: (a) collocation information and (b) degree of formality, in order to determine the similarities and differences between the three synonyms.

The findings on noun collocates were discovered. They were displayed in the top 20, ranked from highest to lowest frequency and the Mutual Information (MI) value or score, which should be ≥ 3 . In this step, it is essential to carefully and manually recheck the information retrieved, as relying solely on the automatic process can lead to erroneous conclusions regarding the accuracy of the results. The final step consisted of categorizing the noun collocates to illustrate the types of nouns co-occurring with the three synonyms more clearly. This demonstrated that each adjective synonym has distinct noun collocates, the majority of which appear to have specialized functions. However, some noun collocates can be used with multiple synonymous adjectives. This process helps to explain why English lacks strict or absolute synonyms due to the fact that not all near synonyms share the same collocational patterns (Crawford & Csomay, 2016).

The three words' styles were examined by indicating the degree of formality based on the genres displayed in COCA were presented in the form of a table, showing the use of the search words by native speakers. Thus, the results appear clearly from the table reported.



CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings regarding the collocation frequency of each of the synonyms are presented and discussed, followed by the overall frequency of *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in eight different genres, in order to answer the two research questions below.

RQ. 1: What are the similarities and differences of noun collocates of the English synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*?

RQ. 2: How are the synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* different in the degree of formality across eight different genres in COCA?

4.1 COLLOCATION

4.1.1 Definitions and Examples

In this regard, the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version) and the MacMillan Dictionary (online version) were the primary sources of the study. *Excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* were discovered to have the same core meaning, i.e. extremely good, but differ in detail meanings.

Table 1

Definitions and examples of excellent, outstanding, and superb from the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version) and the MacMillan Dictionary (online version)

	Definitions and examples	
Synonyms	Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version)	MacMillan Dictionary (online version)
<i>excellent</i>	1. extremely good or of very high quality <i>e.g. Second-hand computers can be excellent value.</i> 2. spoken said when you approve of something <i>e.g. 'I'll bring the books over tonight.' 'Excellent.'</i>	1. extremely good <i>e.g. It's an old bike, but in excellent condition.</i> 2. used for showing that you are very pleased about something [SPOKEN] <i>e.g. "We should be finished in a few hours." "Excellent!"</i>
<i>outstanding</i>	1. extremely good <i>e.g. an outstanding example of a 13th-century castle</i> 2. not yet done, solved, or paid <i>e.g.. We've got quite a few debts still outstanding.</i> 3. very great or clear <i>e.g. The question of who is in charge is of outstanding importance.</i>	1. extremely good or impressive <i>e.g. a visit to an area of outstanding natural beauty</i> 2. a job or action that is outstanding has not yet been completed or dealt with <i>e.g. Some tasks are still outstanding.</i> 3. an amount of money that is outstanding has not yet been paid <i>e.g. All your outstanding debts must be settled now.</i>
<i>superb</i>	1. extremely good <i>e.g. The food was superb.</i>	1. of the highest quality <i>e.g. The Hotel Gardesana offers superb views of the lake.</i>

In addition to their general definitions, MacMillan Dictionary (online version) provides information on the specific meanings of these three synonyms in its thesaurus box, illustrating how they are distinguished.

As shown in table 1, which contains the definitions from the online versions of the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and the Macmillan Dictionary, the core meanings of *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* appear to be the same, i.e. extremely good. However, some distinctions can be observed. *Outstanding*, as shown in the tables, has more detailed meanings than *excellent* and *superb*. While both *excellent* and *superb* refer to something extremely good or very high quality, *excellent* can also be used to show that you are pleased about something. However, *outstanding* contains additional meanings related to action and money.

Furthermore, the findings show that senses of meaning are also different. The meaning of *outstanding* is more specific than *excellent* and *superb*. To clarify this, if someone is *outstanding*, it means that someone has done something very well. On the other hand, if something is *excellent* or *superb*, it means that you are pleased with it or that it has impressed you.

Discussion According to Bergdahl (2009), despite having the same core meaning, some words may differ in their usage characteristics. In addition, Aroonmanakun (2015) indicates that the meanings of words in a set of synonyms both overlap and do not overlap. *Excellent* and *superb* are examples of these concepts. While they appear to have the same core meaning, they do not have the same precise meaning. Thus, *superb* refers to the highest quality, whereas *excellent* refers to a quality that is very high. This suggests that *superb*, as opposed to *excellent*, is a first-rate or *excellent* superlative.

The findings of this study clearly show that *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* do not have the same detailed meanings and senses of meaning; they cannot be used in the same contexts. As Jackson and Amvela (2000) suggest, these three words can be classified as loose synonyms in terms of meaning.

4.1.2 Details of Noun Collocations

All of the three target words *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in this study are adjectives, and their main collocates are nouns. The collocations were examined to

figure out the answer to the first research question: what are the similarities and differences of noun collocates of the English synonyms *Excellent*, *Outstanding*, and *Superb*? Because these synonyms are adjectives, the study focused solely on noun collocations. Each synonym is noticed in the random concordance lines and dictionaries in singular form in relation to its noun, and is shown as follows:

Table 2

Noun collocates of excellent, outstanding, and superb in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA)

Rank	<i>Excellent</i>			Rank	<i>Outstanding</i>			Rank	<i>Superb</i>		
	Noun Collocation	Freq.	MI Value		Noun Collocation	Freq.	MI Value		Noun Collocation	Freq.	MI Value
1	job****	1190	6.33	1	job****	355	6.18	1	job****	201	6.81
2	article**	626	6.62	2	performance****	190	6.76	2	performance****	42	6.03
3	example****	588	5.7	3	debt	186	7.5	3	quality	36	5.88
4	point	567	4.84	4	work***	176	3.79	4	book**	36	4.37
5	work***	506	3.72	5	contributions	170	8.82	5	collection	35	6.52
6	post**	465	6.03	6	issues	166	5.92	6	example****	34	4.63
7	way	452	3.09	7	warrants	165	11.27	7	choice**	26	5.27
8	choice**	437	6.3	8	shares	152	8.41	8	article**	25	5.02
9	idea**	411	5.04	9	player	133	6.71	9	acting	21	6.37
10	book**	373	4.7	10	service****	116	5.25	10	starlings	20	12.85
11	question	364	4.68	11	achievement	107	7.87	11	athlete	18	7.92
12	opportunity	315	6.04	12	balance	104	6.88	12	piece**	16	4.69
13	source	272	5.93	13	student	103	5.48	13	post**	16	4.21
14	chance	223	5.01	14	example****	83	4.47	14	service****	16	3.84
15	health	215	3.92	15	loans	69	7.36	15	food	16	3.6
16	condition	195	6.15	16	questions	67	4.58	16	idea**	16	3.4
17	service****	185	4.33	17	leadership	64	5.97	17	views	14	5.52
18	piece**	170	5.06	18	teacher	61	5.19	18	writer	14	5.39
19	results	159	4.43	19	stock	50	5.48	19	blog	13	5.07
20	performance****	146	4.79	20	research	49	3.56	20	cast	12	5.42

Notes. * refers to a collocate shared by *outstanding* and *superb* only.

** refers to a collocate shared by *excellent* and *superb* only.

*** refers to a collocate shared by *excellent* and *outstanding* only.

**** refers to a collocate shared by the three synonyms.

This section examines the noun collocates that typically accompany *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*. The selected nouns must have a MI value of ≥ 3 to be statistically significant (Cheng, 2012; Schmitt, 2010)

Concordance Samples of Frequent Noun Collocates of *Excellent* The corpus data indicate that there are more than 100 noun collocates of *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* based on frequency and MI scores (≥ 3). However, Table 2 only displays the top-20 noun collocates, with the first rank of *excellent* collocates being *job*, which co-occurs the most frequently (1190 times). *Article* is ranked second (626 times). The third most frequent word is *example* (588 times), followed by *point* (567 times), and *work* (506 times). The concordance lines of each are exemplified in (1-5) respectively.

- (1) I think they've done an ***excellent*** **job** in the last two cases presented to ,...
- (2) ... Loading comments...# ***Excellent*** **article!** The barriers listed here...
- (3) ...information on this ***excellent*** **example** of the Ouidah asen style...
- (4) Alasdair, you raise an ***excellent*** **point** about the word choice of social...
- (5) Anderson house tomorrow. ***Excellent*** **work.** June, you understand how...

Concordance Samples of Frequent Noun Collocates of *Outstanding* The noun collocates that usually follow *outstanding*, the first rank is *job* which co-occurs in the most frequency (355 times), the second rank is *performance* (190 times), and the third rank is *debt* (186 times), the fourth rank is *work* (176 times), and the fifth rank is *contributions* (170 times) as exemplified in (6-10) respectively.

- (6) Pompeo is going to do an ***outstanding*** **job** at the CIA. Dan Coats is going to...
- (7) ... season. # Trubisky's ***outstanding*** **performance** against the Lions came...
- (8) ... nor the seniority of ***outstanding*** **debt** issued by the debtor...
- (9) ...Commissioner for " the ***outstanding*** **work** you are doing to rid our...
- (10) ...those who make ***outstanding*** **contributions** to national security or...

Concordance Samples of Frequent Noun Collocates of *Superb* As shown in Table 2, the first-ranked word that collocates with the target word *superb* is *job*, which co-occurred with the most frequency of 201 times. The second-ranked was *performance* which occurred 42 times, followed by *quality* (36 times), the fourth rank is *book* (36 times), and the fifth rank is *collection* (35 times) as exemplified in (11-15) respectively.

- (11) ... I thought you did a ***superb*** **job** in that debate...
- (12) ...low expenses and a ***superb*** **performance** record: 16% a year...
- (13) ...happy because of the ***superb*** **quality** of his goods...

- (14) ...of Being # " In this *superb* **book**, Sean Carroll provides a....
- (15) ...Self-Healing: " This *superb* **collection** of imagery techniques is ...

4.1.3 Details of Shared Collocates

It is interesting to note that four words of the top 20 noun collocates are *job*, *performance*, *service*, and *example* are shared by the adjectives *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*. Thus, it appears unlikely that these three synonyms will always co-occur with the same noun because it has only 4 from 20 noun collocates between three synonyms. In terms of noun collocation, the findings indicate that *excellent* is more similar to *superb* than to *outstanding*, as *excellent* and *superb* share up to six noun collocates. *Excellent* and *outstanding* have only one noun collocate in common, whereas *outstanding* and *superb* share four noun collocates. These details of these three synonyms' shared noun collocates, are shown in table 3:

Table 3

Shared noun collocates between excellent, outstanding, and superb

Shared Noun Collocates			
<i>excellent</i> and <i>outstanding</i>	<i>excellent</i> and <i>superb</i>	<i>outstanding</i> and <i>superb</i>	<i>excellent</i> , <i>outstanding</i> , and <i>superb</i>
work	article, post, choice, idea, book, piece	-	job, example, service, performance

In comparison to the total noun collocates shown in Table 2, common noun collocates of *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* were collected from COCA. As the Table 3 shows, the three synonyms share four noun collocates: *job*, *example*, *service*, and *performance*.

The results show that *excellent* and *superb* share up to six common noun collocates, whereas *excellent* and *outstanding* share only one. Surprisingly, *outstanding* and *superb* do not share a noun collocate. When it comes to noun collocation, the findings suggest that *excellent* is closer to *superb* than *outstanding*.

Discussion It is noticeable that even though the noun collocates *job* is found to be shared by the three synonyms, it has a different meaning when the concordance lines are scrutinized. The examples are as follows:

- (16) other child care, " she said. " I think we've done an ***excellent job*** with it, but I think there are people who can do as good [NEWS]
- (17) a skirmish the other day on NBC, and I thought Matt Lauer did an ***excellent job***, but he was criticized horribly because everyone said and all the polls said [SPOKEN]
- (18) a Mac, just buy Apple's Pages word processing software. It does an ***excellent job***. I've also used the Calibre eBook management tool, which is free [WEB]
- (19) ordeal, both law enforcement and the citizens of Pasadena and surrounding areas did an ***outstanding job*** of coming together on behalf of the late children and their family. // [NEWS]
- (20) faith in the people he has appointed. Mike Pompeo is going to do an ***outstanding job*** at the CIA. Dan Coats is going to do a outstanding job as[SPOKEN]
- (21) happy all the measures were approved. # " We feel we have done an ***outstanding job*** for Stamford, " Mallozzi said. " I'm thrilled the hard work [WEB]
- (22) it accessible to novices. In that regard, the Mitras and Kumar do a ***superb job***. The food might not be as fiery as you'll find in Tamil [NEWS]
- (23) , OK? Nor your performance in the debate which I thought you did a ***superb job*** in that debate. And I'm really talking about the coverage. Look [SPOKEN]
- (24) back and modify the names: -) # Disclaimer: Kishimoto-sensei is doing a ***superb job*** with Naruto. I couldn't have possibly come up with all his cool [WEB]

It is clear from examples (16) to (24) that the word *job* modified by *excellent* does not refer specifically to a career or assignment but it implies a person who did an action perform that specific job exceptionally well. In other words, apart from their first sense of meaning provided by the dictionaries, it also contains a connotation regarding the professionalism of that specific person.

In case of sample 16, an *excellent job* means that a person who performs child care services did the job exceptionally well. In case of sample 20, an *outstanding job*,

it is expected that Mike Pompeo will be an exceptional CIA officer. As well as in the case of sample 23, a *superb* job, it is expected that a person performed in the debate exceptionally well.

4.1.4 Semantic Preference

The semantic preference of the synonyms was then analyzed to classify their noun collocates according to their semantic similarities. Semantic preference refers to the relationship between a word form and a set of semantically related words (Stubbs, 2001). Stubbs examined the adjective *large* in a 200-million-word corpus and found that at least 25 percent of the 56,000 occurrences of *large* were co-occurring with words conveying quantities and sizes, including numbers, scale, part, amounts, and quantities. Thus, semantic preference can be influenced by the semantic relationships between words and their collocates.

Table 4

Semantic preference of noun collocations between excellent, outstanding

<i>Excellent</i>		<i>Outstanding</i>		<i>Superb</i>	
Categories	Nouns	Categories	Nouns	Categories	Nouns
1. Action	way, performance, service	1. Action	performance, contribution, service, achievement,	1. Action	performance, acting, service, cast
2. Business	job, work	2. Business	debt, shares, loan, warrant, job, work, leadership, stock, balance	2. Business	job
3. Thing	book, piece, post, article, choice, results, source	3. Thing	research, issues	3. Thing	book, piece, blog, choice, food, post, article, collection
4. Thought	point, idea, question, example	4. Thought	questions, example	4. Thought	example, view, idea

<i>Excellent</i>		<i>Outstanding</i>		<i>Superb</i>	
Categories	Nouns	Categories	Nouns	Categories	Nouns
5. Health	health	5. Human	student, player, teacher	5. Human	athlete, writer
6. Opportunity	opportunity, condition, chance			6. Other	starling, quality

A number of nouns that frequently collocate with the three target synonyms have four common themes, which are Action, Business, Thing, and Thought. These themes may be indicative of the three words' synonymy to a certain extent. *Outstanding* and *superb* appear to be more similar to *excellent* than they are to each other in terms of semantic preferences, as evidenced by the fact that both *excellent* and *outstanding* share up to four common themes with *superb*, and *outstanding* share up to five common themes with *superb*, whereas *excellent* and *superb* share only four themes. The noun collocates of *excellent* are not associated with humans, but they are associated with the noun collocates of *outstanding* and *superb* respectively. Furthermore, the vast majority of noun collocates composed of three synonym words are strongly associated with the themes of Action, Business, Thing, and Thought.

Discussion The results of this study indicate that the three adjectives *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* are considered "near-synonyms," which is consistent with the findings of Harley (2006) and Jackson and Amvela (2007), who discovered that near-synonyms may be used differently in terms of collocation and semantic preferences despite having similar meanings.

The findings also suggest that corpus-based synonym analysis, rather than relying solely on dictionaries or native speaker intuition, may produce more surprising and illuminating results (Aroonmanakun, 2015; Conrad, 2010). Furthermore, the current findings are generally consistent with previous research in that the near-synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* cannot be used interchangeably in all contexts, and they have distinct semantic properties despite sharing some collocations (Aroonmanakun, 2015; Gu, 2017; Phoocharoensil, 2020; Sinclair, 2004; Thornbury, 2002).

4.2 Degree of Formality

The degree of formality of the target synonyms was investigated in response to the second research question of how the three synonyms are distributed across different genres. Because one word in a synonymous set can be used in formal contexts while the others cannot, this is one of the criteria for distinguishing synonyms (Jackson & Amvela, 2000).

In terms of formality, the results indicate that COCA contains information not found in The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version), and MacMillan Dictionary (online version). As Table 5 demonstrates *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* were found with different degrees of frequency in eight genres, which are blogs, web-GENL, magazines, TV/movies, academic contexts, newspapers, spoken language, and fiction.

Table 5

Overall frequency and distribution of excellent, outstanding, and superb across eight genres in COCA

<i>Excellent</i>			<i>Outstanding</i>			<i>Superb</i>			Total
Genre	Freq.	Per million	Genre	Freq.	Per million	Genre	Freq.	Per million	
BLOG	9,204	71.56	BLOG	2,240	17.42	BLOG	844	6.56	
Web-GENL	8,571	68.98	Web-GENL	2,609	21	Web-GENL	941	7.57	
TV/Movies	6,113	47.73	TV/Movies	938	7.32	TV/Movies	264	2.06	
Spoken	3,410	27.03	Spoken	1,374	10.89	Spoken	405	3.21	
Fiction	3,120	26.37	Fiction	387	3.27	Fiction	329	2.78	
Magazine	6,831	54.18	Magazine	2,432	19.29	Magazine	1,504	11.93	
Newspaper	4,790	39.35	Newspaper	3,209	26.36	Newspaper	983	8.07	
Academic	4,826	40.29	Academic	2,352	19.63	Academic	423	3.53	
Total	46,865		Total	15,541		Total	5,693		68,099

According to COCA, Table 5 shows that of all the three synonyms, the total number of tokens for *excellent* is 46,865, *outstanding* is 15,541, and 5,693 for *superb* across all eight genres combined. *Excellent* occurs the most frequently, approximately three times more frequently than *outstanding* and nine times more often than *superb*. Moreover, *excellent* and *outstanding* were distributed across the different registers more evenly than *superb*. It is more than likely linked to the fact that *excellent* and *outstanding* are used in a much broader range of contexts than *superb* is.

Table 6

Distribution of excellent, outstanding, and superb across eight genres in COCA according to frequency

<i>Excellent</i>			<i>Outstanding</i>			<i>Superb</i>			Total
Genre	Freq.	Per million	Genre	Freq.	Per million	Genre	Freq.	Per million	
BLOG	9,204	71.56	Newspaper	3,209	26.36	Magazine	1,504	11.93	
Web-GENL	8,571	68.98	Web-GENL	2,609	21	Newspaper	983	8.07	
Magazine	6,831	54.18	Magazine	2,432	19.29	Web-GENL	941	7.57	
TV/Movies	6,113	47.73	Academic	2,352	19.63	BLOG	844	6.56	
Academic	4,826	40.29	BLOG	2,240	17.42	Academic	423	3.53	
Newspaper	4,790	39.35	Spoken	1,374	10.89	Spoken	405	3.21	
Spoken	3,410	27.03	TV/Movies	938	7.32	Fiction	329	2.78	
Fiction	3,120	26.37	Fiction	387	3.27	TV/Movies	264	2.06	
Total	46,865		Total	15,541		Total	5,693		68,099

In Table 6, the total frequency of *excellent* (46,865 tokens) is significantly greater than that of *outstanding* (15,531 tokens) and *superb* (5,693 tokens), and *excellent* occurs more frequently than *outstanding* and *superb* in each genre of COCA. In terms of formality, blog (9,204 tokens) contains the highest frequency of *excellent*, while newspaper (3,209 tokens) contains the highest frequency of *outstanding*, and magazine (1,504 tokens) contains the highest frequency of *superb*, indicating that

outstanding is associated with a higher level of formality than *excellent* and *superb*. However, the three adjectives appear to be common in formal English, as they are used more frequently in blog, web-GENL, magazine, and newspaper, all of which are written genres. Due to their relatively low token counts in spoken language, fiction, and TV and movie, i.e. informal styles or contexts, the adjectives *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* do not play a large role in colloquial English, according to the corpus data. *Outstanding* is slightly more formal than *excellent* and *superb* due to its higher frequency in academic texts in the fourth rank than in the fifth rank. Their low frequency in spoken English genres confirms their high degree of formality, with *outstanding* being slightly more formal than *excellent* and *superb* due to its higher frequency in academic in the fourth rank than in the fifth rank.

As discussed in criteria for distinguishing synonyms, degree of formality may vary even in the same genre. The following concordance lines have been drawn to demonstrate the forgoing variations.

Formal

- (25) [BLOG] beliefs to others. # The above commentary about getting the marriage conversation right is **excellent** but needs to be associated with a warning. # It is beyond a doubt
- (26) [BLOG] in order to properly direct and limit Biblical Theology. # This book is an **excellent** piece of Biblical Theology on one aspect of the work of the Holy Spirit.
- (27) [BLOG] Capital Debt Affordability Committee was an outgrowth of two events: the dramatic increase in **outstanding** debt during the mid-1970s and the release f the department of Fiscal Services' two-year
- (28) [WEB] issues who happen to be in the front row here -- from the House, **outstanding** Congressman, George Miller. (Applause.) And from the Senate, the
- (29) [WEB] model program for innovation and entrepreneurship in rural communities. Dr. Norris has done a **superb** job in building this program and connecting it with many regional and national partners.

- (30) [MAG] development of superconducting materials. # Experiments revealed that these newly discovered materials may have **superb** thermoelectric properties in addition to superconductivity. The method we developed may be applicable to **Informal**
- (31) [BLOG] usually " Absolutely, " or something like that, to which I say " **Excellent!** " Everybody seems happy. # I view it as setting the server up
- (32) [BLOG] wisdom of each person, let each find their way. " # Yes, **excellent** point. To each their own. It's great you align with a post-modern
- (33) [BLOG] to birthdays, Christmas, and New Years. So..... yeah. With the **outstanding** chance that we'll have some really cold, snowy, or icy weather by
- (34) [WEB] is when he is lying in the bed rubbing the covers. You did an **outstanding** job on his room too, it's a room any little boy would be
- (35) [WEB] of the City Address, Rawlings Says Dallas Doing " Very Well, Bordering On **Superb** " # On the seventh day, Mayor Mike surveyed his city and saw that
- (36) [MAG] would have been hit by the bus were it not for the driver's " **superb** quick reactions. " He added that the incident was " a deliberate act "

As can be seen from the concordance lines above, language employed in blogs, webpages and magazines can be classified as either formal or informal. This is in line with Claus, 2012; Jarunwaraphan & Mallikamas, 2020 claimed that the demarcation between formal and informal registers may not clearly be drawn. One source of texts may contain both formal and informal words, namely magazines and newspapers. It is noticeable that spoken language which tends to be viewed as informal can be frequently found in direct speech.

Discussion It is obvious that academic writing requires a high degree of formality, whereas both formal and informal usage of English can be found in other genres. In particular, blogs and web-GENL, which are considered to be “new journalism”, are “more spontaneous than traditional commentary” (Weintraub, 2003). Typically, bloggers respond quickly and are not formal in their choice of language (Ward, 2003). In contrast to the more formal academic contexts, by its very nature, usage in the spoken and fiction genres appears to be relatively more informal.

Excellent has gained the most popularity of usage in blogs, web-GENL, magazines, yet the lowest degree of frequency is witnessed in the spoken and fiction genres. *Outstanding* has widely been selected for newspapers, but it also appears frequently in the web-GENL, magazines, and academic contexts. Its degree of frequency declines in the context of spoken usage, and in the TV/movies and fiction genres. *Superb* is distinct in magazines, and there is a gradual decrease in the degree of frequency in other genres, especially those expressed using informal language, including the spoken and fiction genres.

According to the results and analysis, it may be concluded that the three synonyms can be used interchangeably in both formal and informal contexts. However, it can also be inferred that *outstanding* and *superb* are both inclined to be used more frequently in a formal context rather than an informal context.

It can be concluded that the adjectives *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* frequently co-occur with various noun collocates. Despite the fact that they share some collocates, the number of shared collocates is relatively small. Although they are equivalent in terms of formality, these two expressions are utilized differently. This demonstrates that these three synonyms cannot be used interchangeably in all situations; they can be distinguished based on the words they are most likely to occur with. This collocational distinction supports previous research indicating that synonyms can be differentiated based on the collocates with that they can or frequently co-occur. (e.g. Jirananthiporn, 2018; Li, 2019; Petcharat & Phoocharoensil, 2017; Thammasoonthorn, 2020; Yang, 2016). Moreover, the three synonyms have a high degree of formality, but they appear to be representative of different text types. The fact that *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* are distributed differently across genres in COCA supports previous research that some synonyms differ in the style or formality of the contexts in which they are used.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the study and is divided into four sections: (1) a summary of the study, (2) a summary of the findings, (3) conclusions, and (4) recommendations for future research.

5.1 Summary of the Study

This section summarizes the similarities and differences between the English adjectives *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in terms of noun collocations and degree of formality from Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version), the MacMillan Dictionary (online version) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

5.1.1 Objectives of the Study

The study aimed to 1) compare and contrast the similarities and differences of the synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in terms of noun collocations and 2) explore the similarities and differences of the synonyms *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* in terms of formality level across eight different genres in COCA.

5.1.2 Target Words, Materials, and Procedures

The study targeted the words *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*. The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version), the MacMillan Dictionary (online version), and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) provided the data for the three synonyms.

Collocations and degrees of formality are used to distinguish these synonyms. All relevant data for each synonym was listed and sorted. To investigate the definitions, examples, and collocations of the three synonyms, the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (online version) and the MacMillan Dictionary (online version) were used. The random selection of 500 concordance lines from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) for each word. The corpus data revealed the

noun collocates frequently occurring with *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, as well as the frequency and distribution of the target synonyms in eight different genres.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The following is a summary of the findings:

5.2.1 Definitions and Examples

Words in a set of synonyms, according to Aroonmanakun (2015), have both overlapping and non-overlapping senses of meaning. It is clear that each synonym, such as *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, had multiple definitions. *Excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* are also discovered to have the same core meaning (extremely good). *Excellent* and *superb* appear to have the same meaning in that they both refer to the highest quality. There are, however, some variations. *Excellent* is used to convey that someone is very delighted with something [SPOKEN], whereas *superb* is used to show that someone is very amazed by something. This means that *superb* is more commonly used with people than *excellent*. This supports Bergdahl's (2009) theory that certain words have the same core meaning but differ in terms of the characteristics they are associated with.

Moreover, among the three synonyms, *outstanding* encompasses a broader range of meanings than both *excellent* and *superb*, and its senses of meaning appear to be related to action and money.

As a result, they are loose synonyms since, while their essential meanings overlap, there are nonetheless instances in which these words cannot be interchanged (Jackson & Amvela, 2000, p. 94).

5.2.2 Collocations

Nouns are the main collocates of *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*. In terms of noun collocation, the corpus data show that there are over 300 noun collocates of *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*, but this study focused only on the top-20 noun collocates with a MI value of ≥ 3 that frequently occurred with these three target adjectives. The results showed that the noun collocations mostly related to business, for instance, the top-ranking noun collocations of the synonyms were concerned with the

work: *excellent*: job; *outstanding*: job; *superb*: job. *Excellent* seems to be closer to *superb* than to *outstanding* since *excellent* shares more common noun collocates with *superb* than it does with *outstanding*.

Frequently, words are restricted to particular semantic domains (Ang et al. 2017; Cheng, 2012). Sinclair (2004) defines semantic preference as the restriction of co-occurrences of lexical items to those with a semantic trait. In other words, semantic relationships between words and their cognates may affect semantic choice. Therefore, when analyzing the semantic preferences of the three target synonyms, the researcher categorized their noun collocates based on their semantic similarity. The semantic relationships among words and their collocates may influence semantic choice. A list of collocational information aids in determining the scope of the search term's connections as well as the semantic connections between its collocates. (Ly & Jung, 2015). The top 20 noun collocates of each synonym were grouped together based on their semantic preference, and four common themes emerged: action, business, thing, and thought. In the business category, the noun collocates that are shared by three synonyms. While the words *job* and *superb* are noun collocates, the word *work* is only shared by *excellent* and *outstanding*.

The results of this study indicate that the three adjectives *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* are considered "near-synonyms," which is consistent with the findings of Harley (2006) and Jackson and Amvela (2007) that near-synonyms can be used differently in terms of collocation and semantic preferences despite having similar meanings.

5.2.3 Degree of Formality

Excellent, *outstanding*, and *superb* are words that can be used in both formal and informal situations. *Outstanding*, on the other hand, appears to be the most formal word, as it is used more frequently in formal contexts and less frequently in informal contexts than *excellent* and *superb*; in contrast, *superb* appears to be the least formal word, as it is used less frequently in formal contexts and more frequently in informal contexts than *excellent* and *outstanding*. As a result, the words *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* all have the same core meaning but differ in formality. This is consistent with the findings of Petcharat (2017) and Phoocharoensil (2020), who discovered that

words in a set of synonyms are distributed across various text genres, with some words appearing more frequently in specific genres than others, despite their similarity.

Due to the widespread use of online communication channels like mobile phones, chat rooms, and email in recent years, the distinction between formal and informal English has blurred. New varieties of English specific to digital communication have emerged and deserve the same attention as formal and informal English. They haven't decided how to communicate linguistically. If they can express their intentions during a conversation, they will do so spontaneously (Davies, 2005). *Excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* differ in formality. Blog and web-GENL are synonyms. Blogs and web-GENL are called new journalism. Bloggers are becoming unofficial eyewitness sources for news stories because they are "more spontaneous than traditional commentary" (Weintraub, 2003). Bloggers respond quickly and are not formal (Ward, 2003).

5.2.4 The Comparison between Dictionary and Corpus Data

The data from dictionaries and the corpus were compared in terms of collocation and formality for these three synonyms. The research conducted by Phoocharoensil (2010) and Thamratana (2013) demonstrates that corpus-based data contains information that cannot be found in dictionaries. The study's findings are comparable. It was discovered that the corpus contains a substantial amount of information that cannot be located in dictionaries. However, there are a few noun collocates that appear in dictionaries but not in the 500 random concordance lines from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). This may be due to the fact that the 500 concordance lines are compiled from a smaller corpus than dictionaries, which are derived from a larger corpus.

5.3 Pedagogical Implications

Meanings (Bergdahl (2009), connotations, styles or degrees of formality, dialects (Jackson & Amvela, 2000), and grammatical patterns (Phoocharoensil, 2010) all play a role in how synonyms are distinguished. This study looked into three synonyms: *excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb*; two criteria were used in this study: collocations and formality degree. The study's findings indicate that these three

synonyms differ in terms of the three criteria: definitions and examples, collocations, and degree of formality listed above.

As Moon (2010) shows, corpora can be used to distinguish synonyms by looking at word features such as genre, variety and frequency, and collocation. This corpus-based study contributes to learning benefits in addition to providing lexical knowledge. *Excellent*, *outstanding*, and *superb* are distinct in terms of meanings, collocations, and formality structures, according to a thorough examination of synonyms. Linguists and L2 practitioners should promote corpus approaches in synonym analysis because of their reliability and authenticity. In order to broaden students' perspectives, the use of corpus data in EFL or ESL classes, particularly in vocabulary teaching and learning, should be encouraged. These distinctions will be advantageous in the following ways:

The core meaning shared by the three synonyms, namely, extremely good, should be studied first, followed by a thorough presentation of the specific additional meanings and contexts in which each sense of meaning is used. *Outstanding* should be highlighted among these three synonyms because it has more senses of meaning and refers to something concrete, which appears to be appropriate in more contexts than the other two synonyms. Aside from the senses of meaning, it is also important to consider degrees of formality when selecting a word from this list of synonyms. It should be noted that *outstanding* is the most formal word, followed by *excellent* and *superb*, in that order. Furthermore, noun collocates of the three synonyms should be considered. This can be accomplished by directing attention to each synonym's high-frequency collocates, followed by the shared collocates. To help learners gain a thorough understanding, some sample sentences of these synonyms with their frequently occurring collocates from the corpus data may be shown. To use synonyms correctly, learners need to know how similar or different each synonym is in terms of their collocations and degree of formality. This differs very much from the traditional style of vocabulary teaching which is likely to put more emphasis on the word's meaning.

The results demonstrate that corpus data can provide EFL learners with a more comprehensive understanding of the three near-synonyms. Corpora can also provide learners with clear examples of collocations from concordance lines, highlighting the fact that each adjective can occur in a variety of contexts and contain collocational

information that may not be found in printed or digital dictionaries. Learners frequently produce unnatural language because they are unaware of the characteristics of each synonym, such as formality or collocational patterns (Szudarski, 2018). Even though the three adjectives have the same core meaning, students should be aware that dictionary information alone may not be sufficient to choose appropriate words. In fact, corpus data provide more information than dictionaries about the spoken and written communication of native speakers. However, there are a large number of English synonyms, and it would be beneficial for learners to take note of effective synonym learning in order to employ them appropriately. In addition to dictionaries, English language learners should utilize corpus databases as an innovative tool for acquiring additional vocabulary information.

Additionally, it should be emphasized that a corpus-based approach has a number of advantageous implications, including enhanced collocation knowledge (Liu & Jiang, 2009). This data-driven learning activity may be implemented and utilized to raise student awareness of semantic preferences, grammar, and collocations, particularly among intermediate and advanced learners (Lee & Lee, 2010). It may be more important to raise awareness than to teach specific synonym pairs.

Moreover, Corpus data can assist creators in selecting words and determining their relative importance at different levels. Highly frequent words should be displayed before less frequent ones, along with other significant differences in the usage of synonyms, especially in terms of collocations and formality.

Blogs are a type of digital asynchronous tool that can be used to teach students and give them complete freedom to publish content on the internet. Getting learners to write, especially weaker writers, can be difficult unless blogging is used as a literacy tactic. Blog writing is more casual than academic writing, which can be intimidating to some, if not all, students. Blog writing relieves the pressure of writing and allows students to express themselves in a safe environment. With the increased use of technology and the numerous forums available to voice opinions, it is becoming increasingly important for learners to understand proper use of these channels and writing style.

5.4 Recommendations for Further Research

Following are some recommendations for future research based on the findings of this study.

1) Grammatical patterns, as previously mentioned, are one of the criteria for distinguishing synonyms (Jackson & Amvela, 2000). Due to time constraints, this corpus-based study focused solely on the meanings, degrees of formality, and collocations of the three synonyms: excellent, outstanding, and superb. To gain a better understanding of synonyms, it is suggested that grammatical patterns be included in the criteria of future studies.

2) The current research focused solely on American English dictionaries and corpora. As a result, the findings may not be applicable to other varieties of English, such as British English. Further research should be conducted to fill in the research gap by collecting data from dictionaries and corpora based on various dialects, such as British English, Canadian English or New Zealand English.

3) The top-20 lists were used to limit the number of noun collocates of the three synonyms. In a future study, expanding the investigation to include collocates with a lower frequency will provide more accurate collocational patterns for the target synonyms.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
SAMPLE CONCORDANCE LINES OF *EXCELLENT*

Categories	Nouns	Examples
1. Action	way	out to build something new of their own (www.unltd.org.uk). Apprenticeships are an <i>excellent way</i> of attracting new talent into the organization and re-skilling existing staff using the career [ACAD]
	performance	I consider this a definite upgrade over the Android 9 default. # With its <i>excellent performance</i> , reliable battery life, handsome looks, and acceptable compromises, the Honor [MAG]
	service	and public service, and well trained. He is competent and fully qualified for <i>excellent service</i> in any law office.' " # " That's what had you [FIC]
2. Business	job	right now, a contracting one. I'm very proud. He did an <i>excellent job</i> . He's lost the weight, I hope he continues... Ready, [MOV]
	work	Everything is under control. I'm taking her to the Anderson house tomorrow. <i>Excellent work</i> . June, you understand how important this is, right? You may [MOV]
3. Thing	book	gifts over the past few years. It is excellent! # This is an <i>excellent book</i> to have at your desk. I give a copy to every student teacher [WEB]
	piece	a cult following over many years. We readers cannot experience or explain these <i>excellent pieces</i> of art for you, that is something you must do if you ever [BLOG]
	post	waking up early and consistently and 18 ways to stay focused at work. Two <i>excellent posts</i> , I wish I could have an office/study as tidy as Dave's [WEB]

Categories	Nouns	Examples
	article	More proof that a large percentage of DPreview commentators cannot even read. This excellent article answers just about all of the questions, dumb or otherwise, raised in [BLOG]
	choice	you're looking for a new laptop with some dazzle, you now have two excellent choices in the MacBook Pro line. The 15-inch MacBook Pro was updated earlier this [BLOG]
	results	differ from other actions, such as 'good practices'. Because they achieve excellent results in the diversity of contexts in which they are implemented, this implies that [ACAD]
	source	as wheat). Quinoa is a good source of dietary? bre, an EXCELLENT SOURCE of VITAMIN E, MAGNESIUM, ZINC and SELENIUM # Maca -- Contains high [WEB]
4. Thought	point	That's an excellent point . We got to take break right now. Up next, Rick and..[SPOK]
	idea	to bring with them? " # Fred's face lit. " What an excellent idea! If we gave them seeds now- " He poked a gnarled finger at [FIC]
	question	I mean, I could comment on a question, "This is an excellent question. " and at least one person may think I'm being facetious. [BLOG]
	example	patients, careers and clinicians. The example of research which measures fatigue is an excellent example of the type of outcomes research should address. # To need to take [WEB]
5. Health	health	inherent risk factors for poor health outcomes or, for that matter, for excellent health outcomes. Although increased health [ACAD]

Categories	Nouns	Examples
		That's not even minimum wage! They got a union. They have <i>excellent health</i> benefits. You are a super-villain. [TV]
6. Opportunity	opportunity	juvenile justice professionals match the offender with the right program. # Virginia has an <i>excellent opportunity</i> to follow in these footsteps and achieve a more effective and cost-efficient system that [BLOG]
	condition	Despite evidence of disseminated disease, the patient nevertheless remained asymptomatic and in <i>excellent condition</i> , and he reported no diminution of performance status or quality of life. [ACAD] It's an old bike, but in <i>excellent condition</i> . [MacMillan]
	chance	the votes are there in the Senate, and I believe we stand an <i>excellent chance</i> at making this progress for Missouri in 2014. " He believes right-to-work is [NEWS]

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE CONCORDANCE LINES OF *OUTSTANDING*

Categories	Nouns	Examples
1. Action	performance	What I want to do is go in there, put on an <i>outstanding performance</i> and make a statement that I deserve that world championship. " # Hunter [MAG]
	contribution	is the nation's highest civilian honor, and is awarded to those who make <i>outstanding contributions</i> to national security or national interest, world peace, culture or other public [NEWS]
	service	incentives that really reward people for good -- for their good work, outstanding -- <i>outstanding services</i> . But it's hard in public service. So, what I always [SPOK]
	achievement	a coach. " We are proud to enshrine this elite group of Cardinals whose <i>outstanding achievements</i> have earned them the honor of permanently joining the greatest names in Cardinals history [NEWS]
2. Business	debt	of its creditors is sensitive to neither the amount of leverage nor the seniority of <i>outstanding debt</i> issued by the debtor. All things equal, higher leverage and more secured [ACAD] All your <i>outstanding debts</i> must be settled now. [MacMillan]
	shares	if demands for payment are filed with respect to 5 percent or more of the <i>outstanding shares</i> of that class. (2) Which were outstanding on the date for [WEB]
	loan	Post points out, these kinds of agreements are typical and recover more of the <i>outstanding loan</i> . The FDIC's own handbook said that restructuring a loan is more productive [WEB]

Categories	Nouns	Examples
	warrant	to get off when it stopped and almost certainly get caught. I had no outstanding warrants ; a \$200 fine seemed like a small price to pay to get a [MAG]
	job	faith in the people he has appointed. Mike Pompeo is going to do an outstanding job at the CIA. Dan Coats is going to do a outstanding job as [SPOK]
	work	Justice not the Army rules. Not to mention us Army folks have done some outstanding work . I don't have to wear my husband's rank I got SGT [WEB]
	leadership	recognition received from professional groups. The selected individuals who are highlighted here have shown outstanding leadership ability as educators early in their careers. # This list is by no [ACAD]
	stock	ownership and voting rights. For example, if corporation ABC has thirty shares of outstanding stock , then each of the three shareholders own ten shares. Additionally, corporation [ACAD]
	balance	It's three months past due. I'm afraid you remain liable for the outstanding balance , which is about \$6,000. Oh. Well, pay for it from [MOV]
3. Thing	research	practice medicine, " said Chen. " I think this is testimony to the outstanding research we perform for AFib at the University of Minnesota which is recognized by the [MAG]
	issues	his promise to leave Albany on June 21, with or without agreements on the outstanding issues . [NEWS] Talks will resume next month to discuss the outstanding issues . [MacMillan]
4. Though	questions	A growing number of lawmakers are calling for special committees or investigators to oversee

Categories	Nouns	Examples
		the <i>outstanding questions</i> . There's even a petition with more than 100,000 names of Americans calling [BLOG]
	example	drugs his liquor his swine his women. A Muslim must be strikingly upright an <i>outstanding example</i> so that those in the darkness can see the power of the light. [MOV]
5. Human	student(s)	to previous standards. Large numbers of high school graduates who were considered to be <i>outstanding students</i> have been required to take remedial courses when entering universities. The high retirement [NEWS]
	player(s)	It fell down by nine. # Then Winston, the region's most <i>outstanding player</i> , scored four in the lane. Tillman hit a 3-pointer -- yes, [NEWS]
	teacher(s)	that teaching non-English-speaking students words they would connect with first would enable these hardworking, <i>outstanding teachers</i> to eventually capture the minds of their students, enabling them to one day [NEWS]

APPENDIX C
SAMPLE CONCORDANCE LINES OF *SUPERB*

Categories	Nouns	Examples
1. Action	performance	it out being moved. (William-and-Harry) Sir FROST: And then the queen gave a <i>superb performance</i> . She was warm and she was clear and she was emotional. Queen [SPOK]
	acting	Wow! A powerful, fun production with an outstanding set, fabulous costumes and <i>superb acting!</i> Although more set in the Victorian Era, In The Next Room brought [WEB]
	service	newly developed mission statement that declares, " We intend to become an oasis of <i>superb service</i> . " # Management Team A, made up of believers in image positioning [MAG]
	cast	is appreciative, and praises audibly when praise is justified. Chaplin always has a <i>superb cast</i> because he rapidly eliminates poor support. # He is a worker. " [FIC]
2. Business	job	Nor your performance in the debate which I thought you did a <i>superb job</i> in that debate. And I'm really talking about the coverage. Look [SPOK]
3. Thing	book	Wilczek, Nobel Laureate, author of The Lightness of Being # " In this <i>superb book</i> , Sean Carroll provides a fascinating and lucid look at the most mysterious and [WEB]
	piece	an iron " Tower of Babel " in 1889, deriding it as " a <i>superb piece</i> of hardware " (" une quin-caillerie superbe ") (quoted in Burton [ACAD])
	choice	entirely different subject but it has pretty much the same page layout and design. <i>Superb choice</i> of colors!... # http: **33;26944;TOOLONG free dating # dating site reviews [BLOG]

Categories	Nouns	Examples
	food	The Italian marines occupied the sector just north of the U.S. Marine positions. Superb food was the rule of the day for the Italians while most U.S. marines were [MAG]
	article	would cost me a fortune to do it myself. Thanks again! # Superb article and links from those leaving feedback! I must try the scary-sharp method of [WEB]
	collection	be essential reading for anyone involved in field research. Reviews # " A superb collection of papers documenting the value, trauma, joy, and frustration of taking [WEB]
	blog	glow. # My nominations are: # Innocence and Immanence - Morag Spinner's superb blog in which she combines witchcraft, activism and brutal honesty about her own experiences [BLOG]
	post	the number/sex of the parents. Loading comments... Loading comments... # Superb post , but you will have the thought police after you very soon. It [WEB]
4. Though	example	is basically a manual in techniques of fine penmanship and luxury book-making, illustrated by superb examples of tools of the trade and finished products. The second is an array [NEWS]
	view	kill other angels? # THE SKYBAR on the roof of the hotel had a superb view . Xidaren had been paxoformed thousands of years ago, in the first exuberant [FIC] The Hotel Gardesana offers superb views of the lake. [MacMillan]
	idea	agencies that interest them, rather than applying to OPM, and that's a superb idea . In a reinvented government, OPM would serve as a talent clearinghouse, [MAG]

Categories	Nouns	Examples
5. Human	athlete	marathons and receive little attention and even less financial reward. Still, they are <i>superb athletes</i> , and although they may lack the speed of the world's best, [NEWS]
	writer	I'm so sorry. By the way, this is Whit Still man, <i>superb writer</i> and filmmaker. Delighted to meet you. I liked the play so much [MOV]
6. Other	starling	feeding their offspring, life is easier during the bad times. In fact, <i>superb starling</i> pairs with more helpers successfully raise more young. It is thus no coincidence [ACAD]
	quality	low-budget flick about a jolly fishmonger in Jaffa who made everyone happy because of the <i>superb quality</i> of his goods. Tal, who'd been ducking Hollywood's calls and [FIC]

BIOGRAPHY

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