



**A CORPUS-BASED OF NEAR SYNONYM:  
TRIP, JOURNEY, AND VOYAGE**

**BY**

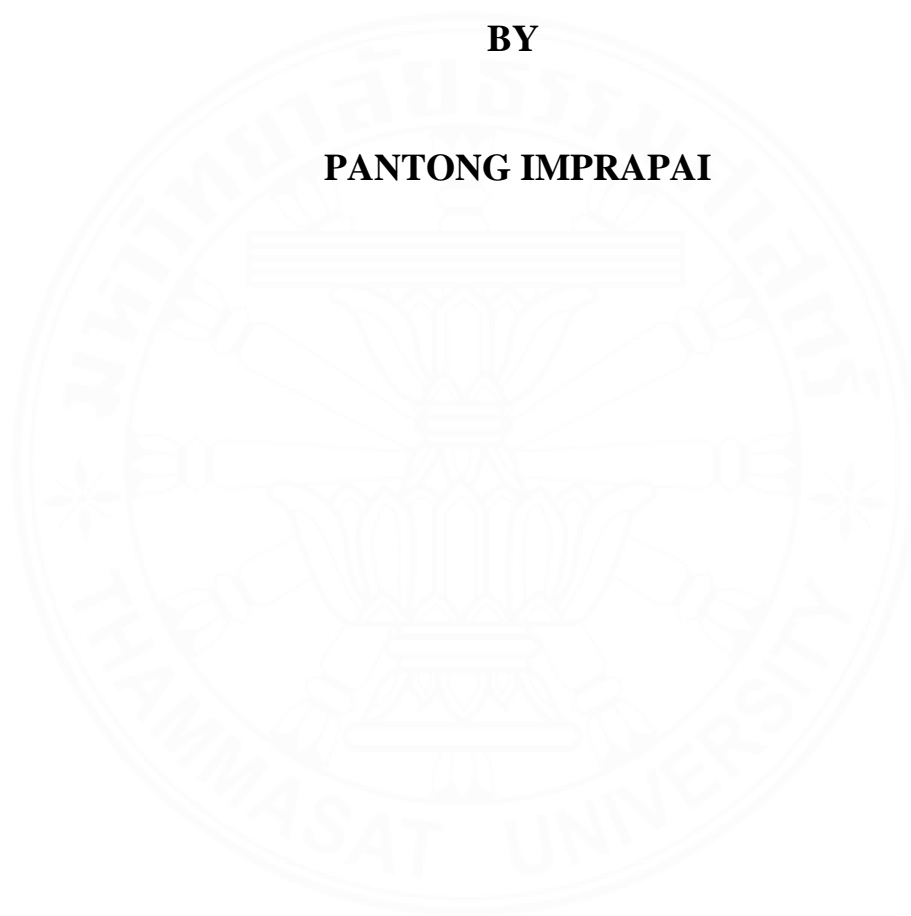
**PANTONG IMPRAPAI**

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

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

on June 20, 2024



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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this corpus-based study is to improve comprehension of the contextual usage of the near-synonyms "trip," "journey," and "voyage" by examining the subtle differences between them. This study examines at the frequencies, distribution patterns, and collocational behaviors of these terms by comparing definitions and uses from the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) and analyzing data from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The procedure entails gathering information on the distribution and frequency of the target synonyms in eight different genres: academic, spoken, fiction, magazines, newspapers, website, blogs, and TV/movie subtitles. This includes examining the Mutual Information (MI) scores to determine common collocates. The results show that, whereas these words are frequently regarded as interchangeable, they have significant preferences in different genres and circumstances. "Trip" is primarily employed in informal and ordinary circumstances, but "journey" and "voyage" are more commonly used in formal and literary literature. The study identifies the specific verb and adjective collocates associated with each phrase, emphasizing their distinct semantic and pragmatic features. This study contributes to the field of applied linguistics by providing a thorough examination of the minor distinctions between near-synonyms, with practical implications for English language learners and educators seeking to optimize word choice for effective communication.

**Keywords:** corpora, near synonyms, collocations, semantic preference



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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of English in the current interconnected world. English, as a global lingua franca, has been instrumental in supporting cross-cultural communication, academic achievement, and career goals for many individuals. The increasing popularity of English as a second language has turned into a tool for success, providing educational opportunities, career advancement and cultural change. Being proficient in English has significant benefits beyond language ability, it affects people's lives internal communication, intellectual development and access to mass media in the digital age.

Even though English is the language chosen among individuals all over the world, education in English is never fixed. Students engage in a variety of learning experiences through a variety of mediums, including traditional classroom formats and online sessions. The challenges and opportunities presented by these structural changes are not limited to vocabulary acquisition and grammatical structures, but also in the variations of expression, where synonyms play a crucial role.

In the broader world of English terms, knowledge of synonyms is useful that supports learners as they discover the difficulties of expressing themselves. However, understanding subtle variations of the similar words can be difficult. This means that learners are required to figure out how words corresponded in different situations, emotions, and how they are formal or informal. This is like learning to interpret language units in order to use words correctly.

Near synonyms are language pairs that appear to have the same meaning but have different detailed contextual uses. These terms, which appear to be synonymous, add a number of levels of variety to communication, providing learners with plenty of options for understanding and carefully conveying their ideas.

To understand the complexity of near synonyms in normal English usage, a corpus is utilized, which is a collection of written and spoken texts including both ordinary and extraordinary language, reflecting the wide range of linguistic expression

found in newspapers, blogs, social media, fiction, and nonfiction. Corpora provide a framework for analyzing the variations and contexts in which near synonyms occur, offering an overview of language in use.

Despite the frequent confusion among the terms "trip," "journey," and "voyage," there is a key distinction that must be carefully taken into account to explain how they are employed. These expressions are frequently used to describe a range of behaviors, from little trips to long journeys. Despite their seeming similarity, language users think that these phrases are not always interchangeable and that pragmatic, semantic, and contextual considerations should be taken into account when choosing a term.

The frequencies and patterns of distribution, and adjective and verb collocations of the synonyms “trip”, “journey” and “voyage” will all be examined in this study. To identify synonyms for the target nouns, the study will analyze data from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The definitions and possible uses of the target terms will be compared and contrasted using two learner dictionaries: the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE). Next, particular details about the target synonyms' appearance in authentic English will be gathered using COCA data.

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

- 1) To investigate the frequencies and patterns of distribution of the term "trip", "journey", and “voyage” across the different text types.
- 2) To examine the differences among the term "trip", "journey", and “voyage” in terms of verb and adjective collocations.

## **1.3 Research Questions**

By investigating the corpus-based distribution and usage patterns of "trip", "journey", and “voyage”, This study aims to provide valuable insights into the factors influencing word choice in a variety of linguistic situations and answer these two RQs which are:

- 1) How do trip, journey, and voyage differ in terms of their frequencies and patterns of distribution across different text types?

2) How do trip, journey, and voyage differ in their collocations with verbs and adjectives?

#### **1.4 Definitions of Terms**

The following are some of the key terms and definitions referenced throughout this study.

1) Synonym refers to a word or expression that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another in the same language. (Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English, 2014)

2) Corpus refers to an electronic collection of authentic texts in both written and spoken languages on computer software. It can be used to learn a language in many genres that people may not distinguish.

3) Collocation refers to a combination of words that occurs more regularly than would happen by coincidence in a language.

4) COCA refers to The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), which is the only substantial and balanced corpus of American English. COCA is likely the most extensively used English corpus, and it is linked to many other English corpora that have been built.

5) Concordance lines refer to a collection of examples of English usage presented by native speakers and collected into a corpus.

6) Genre refers to a particular type or style of literature, art, film or music that you can recognize because of its special features. COCA has been expanded from the existing five genres of spoken, fiction, magazine, newspaper, and academic. The three new genres are blogs, other web pages, and TV and movie subtitles.

7) MI score refers to a statistic employed by COCA use to assess if two words are purposefully clustered together or whether there is a strong relationship between them.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The primary subjects of this study are “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage”, three synonymous terms. the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) are two learner dictionaries

with online versions that served as the data sources. The differences in “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” will be analyzed using concordance lines to investigate frequencies and patterns of distribution as well as verb and adjective collocations.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study focuses on three synonymous nouns: “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage”, which are widely used in both spoken and written English. This investigation explores the interesting subject of colloquial English use, demonstrating subtle variations among "trip," "journey," and "voyage." Despite the fact that these terms frequently look like similar travel related terms, there is a significant distinction between them. This study carefully explores how people use these terms in various contexts. The study focuses on the social aspect of word choice, emphasizing the significance of context, meaning, and practicality over mere language similarity. This study will be useful for EFL learners interested in employing these synonyms. They may acquire knowledge how to utilize these three synonyms correctly, including their meaning and context.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

The study is organized into five chapters, as follows:

Chapter 1 - The first chapter covers seven topics: the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, definitions of terms, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the study.

Chapter 2 - The second chapter summarizes the definition of synonyms, including criteria for distinguishing synonyms and previous related studies.

Chapter 3 - The third chapter consists of methodology as well as materials, data collection procedures and analysis.

Chapter 4 - The fourth chapter reports the finding and discussion.

Chapter 5 - The last chapter will be the conclusion, recommendations, and implications.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This chapter reviews academic literature on four topics: the definition of synonyms, types of synonyms, criteria for distinguish synonyms, and previous related studies.

#### **2.1 Definition of Synonyms**

Synonym definitions vary among dictionaries. The online Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2015) defines synonym as "a word or expression that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word or phrase in the same language." Likewise, the Online Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (n.d.) defines synonym as "a word with the same meaning as another word in the same language." Carter (2012) defines synonymy as a "symmetrical sense relation in which multiple linguistic forms can be said to have the same conceptual or propositional meaning."

#### **2.2 Types of Synonyms**

According to Jackson and Amvela (2000), synonyms are classified as "absolute synonyms" and "near synonyms." Absolute synonyms are terms that have identical meanings and can be used interchangeably in all contexts without changing meaning, connotation, or style. Near-synonyms are terms that have similar meanings but are not identical and cannot be substituted in all situations.

According to Palmer (1997), the English language has a large number of synonyms since its long linguistic history, which involves influences such as Anglo-Saxon, French, Greek, and Latin. This linguistic diversity has resulted in a large number of word pairings with comparable meanings, both native and foreign. Furthermore, Palmer (1981) argues that absolute synonyms are almost non-existent in English. He believes that for two terms to exist within the same language, they must always have some meaning differences.

Taylor (2002) claims that absolute synonymy is extremely rare or probably non-existent, which is consistent with the generally held belief presented by Chalker and

Weiner (1998). This emphasizes the varied nature of language, as even seemingly similar terms have significant subtleties that influence their usage and interpretation.

When researching synonyms, experts such as Taylor (2002) notices a recurrent pattern: subtle variations in meaning frequently exist among pairs or groups of terms that are considered synonymous. Linguistic investigations have demonstrated that these differences, whether semantic, syntactic, or pragmatic, pose challenges to the concept of exact synonymy.

As for loose or near synonyms, according to Jackson and Amvela (2000), loose or near synonyms are terms with significant overlap in meaning but cannot be substituted in all contexts. Phoocharoensil (2020a, 2020b) defined near synonyms as words that are semantically similar and whose meaning overlap but can be distinguished or identified in context. Near-synonyms are commonly used in English, with examples including lie, falsehood, untruth, and misrepresentation. While near-synonyms have similar meanings, they cannot be used interchangeably in most contexts without affecting the semantic or pragmatic aspects of the message.

In general, it may be concluded that near-synonyms are more common than absolute synonyms. The inappropriate use of synonyms can have an impact on the language's meaning, style, and attitude. As a result, it is critical to be able to use near-synonyms in appropriate contexts while taking into account numerous characteristics that distinguish them, such as formality level, collocations, and grammatical patterns.

## **2.3 Criteria for Distinguishing Synonyms**

Petcharat and Phoocharoensil (2017) demonstrated that the degree of formality, collocations, and grammatical patterns are all employed to distinguish synonyms. To utilize appropriate terms in a particular context, consider specific criteria for distinguishing synonyms. This corpus-based study will compare three synonyms using three criteria: patterns of distribution, collocation, and grammatical patterns to identify their differences and similarities.

### ***2.3.1 Pattern of Distribution***

For the purpose of determining the distribution and frequency of the target synonyms, “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” in each of the eight genres—spoken, fiction,

academic, web, blogs, TV, and movies subtitles —COCA will be consulted. Cai (2012), for instance, looked at the adjectives “great, excellent, amazing, terrific, and wonderful”. The findings indicated that excellent is employed more often than others. The spoken genre was where words like "fabulous," "great," "fantastic," and "wonderful" appeared most frequently, whereas "awesome" and "excellent" were more commonly found in the magazine genre.

### **2.3.2 Collocation**

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005, p. 293), a collocation is a combination of words in a language, that happens very often and more frequently than would happen by chance. According to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE, 2009, p. 319), collocation refers to the way in which some words are often used together, or a particular combination of words used in this way.

According to Lewis (2000), collocations are the natural and statistically significant co-occurrence of particular words in texts, as opposed to random frequency (p. 132). Baker, Hardie, and McEnery (2006) define 'collocation' in corpus linguistics as the tendency for certain words to appear together in specific situations. Bennett (2010, p.12) defines collocations as the statistical tendency of words to co-occur.

Conzett et al. (2000), suggests collocations are classified as strong collocations and weak collocations. For example; There is a strong collocation when the words “winding” and “road” are used together as “winding road”. Conversely, there are a number of co-occurrences with the weak type. For instance, the adjective “nice” might co-occur together with other phrases like “nice day”, “nice journey”, “nice smell”, “nice time”, and so forth.

While Hill (2000) divided collocations into four categories: unique collocations, strong collocations, weak collocations, and medium-strength collocations.

1) Unique collocations: collocations in this category cannot be replaced by another term. These are regular events, such as “footing the bill”, which entails paying the sum of money specified on the bill.

2) Strong collocations: collocations belonging into this group are generally powerful and have a few other plausible collocates. They are not unique. Nonetheless,

it is possible to infer the meaning of certain collocations—such as “moved to tears”, “floods of tears”, “bring tears to your eye”.

3) Medium-strength collocations: These collocations belong in between strong and weak collocations. An example of such a collocation would be to make a mistake and then determine which meaning may be inferred from each word component.

4) Weak collocations: collocations in this category are ones in which every element can coexist with a large number of other elements. Weak collocations, such as black car / hair / room / bag / desk / watch / dress / skirt / shirt / clouds /, have an apparent and simple connotation.

English learners require sufficient collocational knowledge to generate natural and standard English, as it is a key concept in lexicology and vocabulary education (Szudarski, 2018). According to Lewis (2000, p14), many learners are not making progress due to a lack of training in the use of word associations. They may have a strong understanding of specific words and grammar, but struggle to employ them in meaningful contexts.

For understanding synonyms, the concept of collocation occurs as a significant criterion for differentiation. Synonyms are not interchangeable in all contexts, according to the researchers, demonstrating the significance of pragmatic or collocational knowledge. This means that selecting the collocations to employ is essential, as others may not be appropriate for particular contexts. Beyond synonymy, collocations are essential for establishing fluent and appropriate language use in general and in specific linguistic situations. They enable non-native speakers to improve language proficiency, especially if they want to sound like native speakers. Furthermore, comprehending related collocations of a variety of words is necessary for an in-depth understanding of terms.

### **2.3.3 Grammatical Patterns**

Grammatical patterns are a common criterion used in research studies to distinguish between synonyms in English. Grammatical patterns are patterns that describe the structure of words in sentences. While certain words have the same meaning, they cannot be used interchangeably in certain phrases due to grammatical differences. (Thonbury, 2002, p. 122). According to McCarthy, O’Keeffe, and Walsh

(2010), a grammatical pattern refers to the rules required for effectively constructing sentences or clauses. According to Clark (2003), perfect synonyms must follow identical grammatical patterns. Synonyms with comparable meanings can be employed in different grammatical patterns in sentences.

English grammatical patterns have two different characteristics which are probabilistic and deterministic. Probabilistic patterns can be modified. According to O'Keefe, McCarthy, and Carter (2007, p.104-105), the probabilistic rule does not appear in English grammar books, but can be found in corpora and employed in informal written or spoken contexts while deterministic refers to inflexible rules. According to Phoocharoensil (2010), grammatical pattern analysis is a useful criterion for distinguishing between English synonymous vocabulary. This is because comparable meanings of words might influence grammatical patterns.

#### **2.4 Previous Related Studies**

Walker (2011) conducted a corpus-based analysis on semantically linked nouns (problem, factor, and aspect) in business English. Data analysis was conducted using the Bank of England (BoE) and the British National Commercial Corpus (BNCs). The learning of lexical items is influenced by specific linguistic features. The terms "growth" and "feel-good" are commonly associated with factors rather than issues or aspects. The growth factor is utilized in a technical context, whereas the feel-good factor is subjective. Some collocations are generated through linguistic properties or processes, as previously addressed. This unusual understanding makes the process of learning L2 collocations more effective.

The result of the study that analyzed the noun collocates of two synonyms, student and learner by Lapangdee (2017) revealed that while students and learners have comparable meanings, their collocations differ. Furthermore, it was revealed that there are less favored collocations of the learner because the student appears to have more possible collocates. As a result, the two synonyms cannot be used interchangeably in every context. Corpus-based data is valuable for language acquisition since it provides examples of a wide range of words.

Jirananthiporn (2018) investigated the two synonyms "problem" and "trouble" using data from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). The two

target terms were examined quantitatively and qualitatively, taking into account frequency, genre distribution, and common verb and adjective collocations. The study found that problems were more frequent than issues. Furthermore, the two target synonyms appeared in different genres. Problems were commonly utilized in spoken and academic materials, while trouble was generally used in fiction and rarely in academic contexts. Trouble is commonly associated with fiction-related verbs and has fewer adjective variations than difficulty. The target synonyms have similar basic meanings, but are employed in different settings.

The corpus-based study compared three synonyms: goal, purpose, and aim, conducted by Hwungsookkasem (2018) emphasized lexical meaning, grammatical patterns, and collocations. The results indicate that these three synonyms have comparable basic meanings, grammatical patterns, and collocations. The data in concordance lines reveals distinct grammatical patterns with significant collocations, particularly for verbs. Although these synonyms have the same underlying meaning, they cannot be used interchangeably, especially in academic contexts where purpose is preferred over objective or aim.

Sukman (2019) investigated two English synonymous nouns, e.g. alternative and option, concentrating on their senses of meanings, collocations, and grammatical patterns. The two synonyms have the same underlying meaning but differ in their interpretations, collocations, and grammatical patterns. The words cannot be used interchangeably in all contexts. The study suggests that corpus data can provide additional information beyond what is available in the learner dictionary.

Phoocharoensil (2020) investigated the use of the phrases consequence, result, and outcome in all eight COCA genres and their corresponding verb and adjective groups, analyzing similarities and differences. The three synonyms are commonly employed in academic writing, but less so in popular genres such as TV and movie subtitles or fiction. The frequent use of the same verb and adjective might have significant pedagogical implications. COCA frequency and MI score indicate that "consequence" is commonly associated with negative words and adjectives, while "outcome" has a lengthy history of use in study. While it incorporates the most semantic features, it still requires context.

Jarunwaraphan and Mallikamas (2020) conducted a corpus-based study on the synonyms chance and opportunity, including both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Data were collected from COCA and online dictionaries. COCA results indicate that chance and opportunity are employed more frequently in academic texts and spoken genres. Additionally, chance and opportunity are employed less frequently in fiction and scholarly texts. The collection of collocations for each term indicates that opportunity is more commonly used in formal situations and has stronger semantic preferences than chance. In conclusion, chance and opportunity are considered near synonyms.

Panruang (2021) analyzed the semantics, collocations, and grammatical patterns of three synonyms (garbage, trash, and rubbish) using COCA and online dictionaries. The study found that whereas garbage, trash, and rubbish have different grammatical patterns, collocations, and detailed meanings, they all convey the same core idea. Not all three synonyms can be used interchangeably.

Kinamanee (2022) investigated two noun synonyms which are “fragrance” and “scent” in terms of meanings, degrees of formality, and adjective collocations. The data show that scent and fragrance are near synonyms because they have similar basic meanings. Scent and fragrance are not interchangeable in all contexts since scent includes animal or human feels, whereas fragrance does not. Both synonyms are often used in informal circumstances, as shown in genres like fiction and periodicals. The study emphasizes the benefits of using dictionaries and corpora for English vocabulary learning and teaching. Dictionaries provide concise word information, while corpora offer more detailed information to identify synonyms.

Klinubon (2022) analyzed three synonyms: job, career, and occupation, in terms of their meanings, genres, and verb and adjective collocations. The study found that all three target words refer to "regular paid work for an employer." The terms "job," "career," and "occupation" cannot be used interchangeably in all contexts due to differences in formality and semantics.

In 2022, Lertcharoenwanich and Phoocharoensil analyzed the frequency of the synonyms "purpose," "goal," and "objective" across genres, as well as their verb and adjective collocate and semantic preference. The results from the frequency of distribution across genres suggests that the three target synonyms are most common in

formal contexts and have similar frequency across genres. MI score levels were used to group related verb and adjective collocates into themes based on semantic preference. The three synonymous nouns share semantically comparable themes and collocations, making them near-synonyms with objective and purpose. Synonyms often occur alongside certain verbs or adjectives. The different collocational patterns of near-synonyms suggest that they cannot be used interchangeably in all settings. It's important to analyze the specific usage of each synonym.



## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter presents: (1) the target words, (2) instruments, (3) data collection procedure, and (4) data analysis as follows:

#### **3.1 The Target Words**

The target synonyms in this study are three nouns, namely “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” as they are mutually defined as actions that involve leaving and returning from one location to another by two online dictionaries: Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE).

#### **3.2 Instruments**

Online dictionaries and a corpus are the study's two main research tools. The online versions of the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) will be consulted for this study. The definitions of the three synonyms; trip, journey, and voyage will be looked up using the selected dictionaries. Following the collection of data from The OALD and the LDOCE, the researcher additionally turns to COCA (the Corpus of Contemporary American English), which serves as the primary corpus for this IS study to find the frequency of the three synonyms in verb and adjective collocations and also grammatical patterns.

#### **3.3 Data Collection Procedure**

To find the differences between the synonyms “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” across genres in relation to their frequency of occurrence, COCA will be consulted for frequency and distribution of the target synonyms in each of eight genres, i.e., spoken, fiction, magazines, newspapers, academic, web, blogs, and TV and Movie subtitles. Then, the frequency in conjunction with the Mutual Information (MI) score or value will be selected to analyze the common collocation. In terms of collocation analysis, three words will be drawn for displaying key words in contexts (KWIC). On the screen,

a hundred concordance lines of each noun will be implemented, and the investigator will analyze those concordances to examine the data.

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

In this study, data will be analyzed in accordance with two main aspects: frequency and distribution, as well as collocational patterns of the target near-synonyms and semantic preference according to the research objectives. The data on genre distribution will be evaluated using overall frequency and frequency of each genre. The common verb and noun collocate of each target word will be then identified using frequency and MI score value (3), providing the top thirty most frequent verb and noun collocates.



## CHAPTER 4

### RESULTS

The study presents and discusses the frequency and pattern of distribution, as well as verb and adjective collocates among the words “trip, journey, and voyage” in eight genres, to address the two research questions below.

RQ. 1: How do trip, journey, and voyage differ in terms of their frequencies and patterns of distribution across different text types?

RQ. 2: How do trip, journey, and voyage differ in their collocations with verbs and adjectives?

#### 4.1 Frequency and Pattern of Distribution

The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) provides unique details not found in the two online dictionaries. The distribution of the target nouns in each genre was first observed using the CHART function. Table 1 presents the statistical data about the frequency and distribution patterns of “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” across the eight genres included in the COCA.

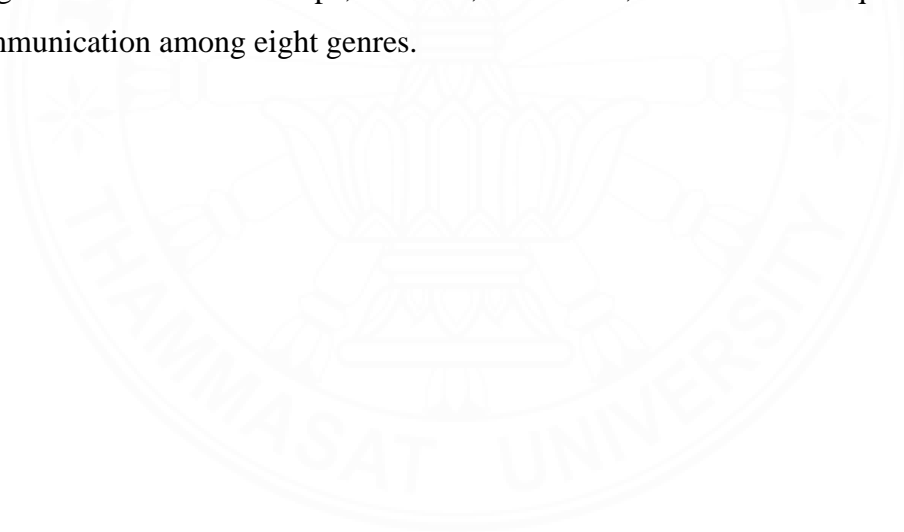
**Table 4.1**

*Overall Frequency and Distribution Patterns of “Trip”, “Journey”, and “Voyage” Across Text Type*

Genre	Trip		Journey		Voyage	
	Frequency	Per million	Frequency	Per million	Frequency	Per million
<b>Spoken</b>	8,662	68.67	3,464	27.46	262	2.08
<b>Fiction</b>	10,620	89.76	4,435	37.48	1,082	9.14
<b>Magazine</b>	13,030	103.34	5,593	44.36	970	7.69
<b>Newspaper</b>	12,809	105.21	4,051	33.28	618	5.08
<b>Academic</b>	3,548	29.62	3,763	31.41	716	5.98
<b>Blog</b>	9,077	70.58	5,625	43.74	298	2.32
<b>Web</b>	8,230	66.24	6,223	50.08	730	5.88

<b>TV/ Movie</b>	10,545	82.33	3,243	25.32	542	4.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,521</b>	<b>77.06</b>	<b>36,397</b>	<b>36.65</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>5.25</b>

According to COCA, Table 4.1 shows that of all the three synonyms, the total number of tokens for “trip” is 76,521, “journey” is 36,397, and 5,218 for “voyage” across all eight genres combined. At a total frequency of 76,521 tokens, “trip” appears more frequently than the other two synonyms in every genre in COCA. The analysis of frequency patterns among the target words "trip", “journey”, and "voyage" using COCA indicates that “trip” is more than twice as commonly as “journey”. (76,521 tokens compared to 36,397) and it is more than ten times as common when compared with “voyage” (5,218 tokens). It is probably related to the fact that “voyage” is used in a considerably narrower variety of circumstances than “trip” and “journey”. This suggests that the word "trip", with 76,521 tokens, is the most frequently used in communication among eight genres.



**Table 4.2**

*Distribution of “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” across eight genres in COCA according to frequency from largest to smallest*

<b>Trip</b>			<b>Journey</b>			<b>Voyage</b>		
<b>Genre</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per million</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per million</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per million</b>
<b>Newspaper</b>	12,809	105.21	<b>Web</b>	6,223	50.08	<b>Fiction</b>	1,082	9.14
<b>Magazine</b>	13,030	103.34	<b>Magazine</b>	5,593	44.36	<b>Magazine</b>	970	7.69
<b>Fiction</b>	10,620	89.76	<b>Blog</b>	5,625	43.74	<b>Academic</b>	716	5.98
<b>TV/Movie</b>	10,545	82.33	<b>Fiction</b>	4,435	37.48	<b>Web</b>	730	5.88
<b>Blog</b>	9,077	70.58	<b>Newspaper</b>	4,051	33.28	<b>Newspaper</b>	618	5.08
<b>Spoken</b>	8,662	68.67	<b>Academic</b>	3,763	31.41	<b>TV/Movie</b>	542	4.23
<b>Web</b>	8,230	66.24	<b>Spoken</b>	3,464	27.46	<b>Blog</b>	298	2.32
<b>Academic</b>	3,548	29.62	<b>TV/Movie</b>	3,243	25.32	<b>Spoken</b>	262	2.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,521</b>	<b>77.06</b>		<b>36,397</b>	<b>36.65</b>		<b>5,218</b>	<b>5.25</b>

As can be seen from Table 4.2 above, the term “trip” is found to occur most frequently in newspapers, second most frequently in magazines, and third most frequently in fiction, all of which represent written text types. The lowest frequency of the word is in academic context, which is 3,548 tokens.

In terms of frequency, it implies that the word "trip" is more commonly used or appears more often in the newspaper genre compared to magazine, and more often in the magazine genre compared to fiction. It most likely emphasizes how frequently the term "trip" occurs in these distinct written genres, demonstrating its use throughout a variety of written communication contexts. Moreover, the pattern of distribution indicates that "trip" is a diverse term that may be used in a variety of contexts and text genres, such as creative storytelling (fiction), magazine articles, and journalistic reporting. While the frequency in fiction emphasizes its function in narrative building and creative expression, its popularity in magazines and newspapers demonstrates its relevance to real-world events and travel-related issues. Conversely, academic contexts have the lowest frequency of the term "trip" (3,548 tokens), indicating that the term “trip” is associated with the lowest level of formality among the three target nouns.

In addition, for the term “journey”, its occurrence is highest in number in the website genre (6,223 tokens), followed by magazine (5,593 tokens), and blog (5,625 tokens), indicating that “journey” seems to be used commonly in communication based on its frequencies in written text type. The highest occurrence of "journey" in web content suggests that it is widely used in online platforms such as websites, online articles, and informational resources. The term "journey" appears in magazines with the second-highest frequency, which emphasizes its relevance to readers looking for engaging and inspiring articles on a range of leisure and lifestyle topics. The occurrence of "journey" in blogs ranks third in frequency, indicating its significant usage in this informal and personal writing medium. Thus, the distribution pattern points to "journey" as an interchangeable term that is widely used in a variety of print and digital media contexts. The frequency in online material emphasizes its importance in online discourse, and its existence in magazines and blogs emphasizes its relevance to readers looking for interesting and perceptive stories in a variety of genres and topics. On the other hand, the term 'journey' appears with its lowest frequency, totaling 3,243 tokens, in TV/movie subtitles contexts. This reflects the colloquial or informal English found

in subtitles, which often imitate natural speech patterns. The word "journey" is rarely used in natural speech, particularly when describing ongoing experiences depicted in TV or movies subtitles.

Moreover, the term "voyage" is mostly used with fiction, magazine, and academic with frequencies of 1,082, 970, and 716 tokens, respectively. The highest frequency of "voyage" occurring in fiction suggests its significant usage within literary narratives. "Voyage" is used more frequently in magazines than in fiction, as seen by the fact that magazines have the second-highest frequency of its usage. On the other hand, the occurrence of "voyage" in academic texts ranks third in frequency, indicating its usage within scholarly discourse and research. Its presence in academic texts suggests its importance as a term used by scholars and researchers to discuss topics related to travel, exploration, or theoretical frameworks. To summarize, the term "voyage" is used less frequently in academic texts than in fiction or magazines due to its specialized usage in scholarly discourse. This usage is based on the disciplinary contexts in which it is employed, the contextualization of research topics, and the influence of scholarly research and citation practices. The term 'voyage' appears with the lowest total frequency (262 tokens) in the spoken genre compared to the other eight genres due to its formal nature, limited relevance to everyday conversation, and preference for simpler synonyms in spoken language. This placement reflects its common usage in informal contexts, as evidenced by its rank among these genres.

The distribution patterns of the terms "trip," "journey," and "voyage" across different text types show diverse patterns of usage. The term "trip" appears most frequently in newspapers, followed by magazines and fiction, indicating that it is commonly used in journalistic reporting and narrative. "Journey" appears the most frequently on the internet, followed by magazines and blogs, demonstrating its popularity in online contexts for personal narratives and informational content. In contrast, "voyage" is most typically found in fiction, with significant usage in magazines and academic writings, indicating its specialized and formal application within literary and scholarly discourses. Furthermore, the corpus data indicates that the three target nouns "trip," "journal," and "voyage" have significant implications in written text type because magazines are the second most common genre. The notion that the terms "trip," "journey," and "voyage" have a greater level of formality can be

supported by the high frequency of the three target nouns in the magazine genre. Overall, these patterns reveal significant variations in how each term is used in different text types, suggesting variations in tone, genre, and audience preference.

## 4.2 Analysis of Verb and Adjective Collocates

This study employed data from the Corpus of Contemporary American English to explore the verb and adjective collocations of the target synonyms. This section focuses on the first 100 concordance lines of each list to identify the most common verb and adjective collocates for “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage”. The collocates of “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” were chosen based on their frequency in the top 30 list with a MI score of  $\geq 3$ .

### 4.2.1 Verb Collocates

This section lists and discusses the verb collocates that are commonly used with the nouns “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage”. The verbs in the top-30 frequency list shown in COCA collocate with the target nouns. The table below shows the list of verb lemmas collocating with the synonymous words; “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage”.

**Table 4.3**

*The Top 5 Verb Collocates of “Trip” in COCA*

Rank	Verb Collocates	Frequency	MI Value
1	plan	1,691	4.08
2	cancel	451	4.76
3	book	191	4.85
4	arrange	189	3.13
5	sponsor	99	3.06

The first five most frequent verb collocates of the word “trip” are plan, cancel, book, arrange, and sponsor as in example (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) respectively.

### Corpus data

- (1) did you see? CALOROSO: he did not plan a **trip** properly. He added huge battery, he added 20-plus
- (2) certain types of rifles and magazines, I have canceled my **trip**. On returning from my last trip to Colorado, I saw
- (3) really need a travel agent if I can easily book a **trip** or vacation on the Internet? A: Booking a simple
- (4) headphones and if you check with the crew you can probably arrange a **trip** up to the cockpit to meet the pilot. Take
- (5) In the summer of 1993, Ibrahim encouraged the AAUG to sponsor a **trip** for its members and others to Palestine. I had

From Table 4.3, the first rank of the collocates of “trip” is *plan* which co-occurs at the highest frequency of 1,691 times. With a frequency of 451 times, the term *cancel* comes in second rank. The verb *book* comes for the third rank with the frequency of 191 times, followed by *arrange* with the frequency of 189 times in the fourth rank. Lastly, the term *sponsor*, which has a frequency of 99 times, comes in at the fifth rank.

**Table 4.4**

*The Top 5 Verb Collocates of “Journey” in COCA*

Rank	Verb Collocates	Frequency	MI Value
1	begin	1,603	3.63
2	embark	389	7.61
3	complete	245	3.48
4	undertake	151	5.13
5	chronicle	108	6.46

The first five most frequent verb collocates of the word “journey” are begin, embark, complete, undertake, and chronicle as in example (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) respectively.

### Corpus data

(6) It is through these structures that the king will begin a **journey** into the underworld, in order to face obstacles, dangers,

(7) keep him, the pup escapes and embarks on a snowy **journey** to find his friend again. Guided by a wise cardinal and

(8) herder once commented to me that one could never complete a **journey** along the Great Wall. At the time I dismissed his murmuring

(9) intervened and spoke through the oracle, instructing him to undertake a **journey** on which he would have to perform 12 labors.

(10) me. I am now writing a book chronicling my **journey** with IC and with several other chronic illnesses, including

Table 4.4 shows that the term *begin* is the collocate of "journey" that ranks highest, occurring 1,603 times in total. Second rank goes to the term *embark*, which appears 389 times. At the third rank, the verb *complete* appears 245 times, but at the fourth rank, *undertake* appears 151 times. The term *chronicle*, which appears 108 times, is the least frequent collocation.

**Table 4.5**

*The Top 5 Verb Collocates of "Voyage" in COCA*

Rank	Verb Collocates	Frequency	MI Value
1	embark	47	7.24
2	sail	44	6.11
3	undertake	43	6.00
4	complete	30	3.12
5	last	20	3.01

The first five most frequent verb collocates of the word "voyage" are embark, sail, undertake, complete, and last as in example (11), (12), (13), (14), (15) respectively.

### Corpus data

- (11) New York only minutes after Titanic had embarked on her maiden **voyage** from Southampton, April 10, 1912. Woolner provided detailed
- (12) August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail on his first **voyage** in command of the Santa Maria and attended by two smaller ships
- (13) was decreed by the Carthaginians, that Hanno should undertake a **voyage** beyond the Pillars of Hercules ... " VII. THE PILLARS
- (14) 11, launched 17 years ago, has completed its incredible **voyage** of discovery among the outer planets, during which it revealed
- (15) The captain hoped that the supplies would last the **voyage** across the treacherous waters.

The term *embark*, which appears 47 times overall in Table 4.5, is the collocate of "voyage" that ranks the highest. With 44 occurrences, the term *sail* comes in second rank. The verb *undertake* occurs 43 times at the third rank, and *complete* appears 30 times at the fourth rank. The final term to reach the fifth rank is *last*, which occurs 20 times.

**Table 4.6***The top 30 verb collocates of “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” in COCA*

Rank	Trip			Journey			Voyage		
	Verb Collocate	Frequency	MI Value	Verb Collocate	Frequency	MI Value	Verb Collocate	Frequency	MI Value
1	plan	1,691	4.08	begin	1,603	3.63	<b><u>embark</u></b>	47	7.24
2	cancel	451	4.76	<b><u>embark</u></b>	389	7.61	sail	44	6.11
3	book	191	4.85	<b>complete</b>	245	3.48	<b>undertake</b>	43	6.00
4	arrange	189	3.13	<b>undertake</b>	151	5.13	<b>complete</b>	30	3.12
5	sponsor	99	3.06	<b>chronicle</b>	108	6.46	last	20	3.01
6	<b><u>embark</u></b>	97	4.33	resume	71	4.00	finance	13	4.02
27	postpone	87	4.24	trace	67	3.38	command	7	3.21
8	hike	79	3.25	document	59	3.15	depart	7	3.74
9	backpack	71	6.79	recount	42	4.01	<b>retrace</b>	7	6.62
10	scout	33	3.17	<b>retrace</b>	26	5.84	conceive	6	3.17
11	chaperon	20	6.57	<b>commence</b>	23	4.00	board	6	3.59
12	snorkel	13	4.46	narrate	14	3.76	<b>chronicle</b>	6	4.97
13	chaperone	11	6.36	<b>chart</b>	13	3.48	commemorate	6	5.01

14	kayak	8	3.81	brave	11	5.39	<b>commence</b>	5	4.48
15	boat	5	3.06	<b>harrow</b>	6	4.87	curse	4	3.00
16	<b>harrow</b>	4	3.01	re-enact	3	3.00	re-create	4	3.66
17	trawl	4	3.19	weary	3	5.02	fascinate	3	3.10
18	snowshoe	4	3.89	oscillate	2	3.04	space	3	3.35
19	economize	4	4.07	kick-start	2	3.86	prosper	3	3.85
20	jaunt	4	6.03	limn	2	5.06	<b>chart</b>	3	4.05
21							fortify	3	5.04
22							outfit	3	5.04
23							oil	3	5.86
24							shorten	2	3.03
25							enlarge	2	3.07
26							thwart	2	3.29
27							reprint	2	3.38
28							weather	2	3.54
29							entice	2	3.62
30							traverse	2	3.77

Table 4.6 shows that while more than 30 verbs can frequently collocate with “voyage”, only 20 frequent verb collocates of “trip”, and “journey” result based on frequency and MI scores ( $\geq 3$ ). It was unexpected that there was only one verb collocates among the three synonyms which is the term “embark”. However, “journey” and “voyage” share several verb collocates such as, *complete, undertake, chronicle, retrace, commence, and chart*, while only one verb, *harrow*, is shared between “trip” and “journey”.

The findings suggest that the verb *embark* forms weak collocations, as it can be used with the synonyms “trip,” “journey,” and “voyage,” as well as the verbs *complete, undertake, chronicle, retrace, commence, and chart*, which are also considered weak collocations because they are associated with the terms “journey” and “voyage.” However, due to weak collocations, COCA may not identify all verbs that collocate with the three synonyms. According to Hill (2000), learners may not encounter certain collocations as they are rarely used.

### Semantic Preference

**Table 4.7**

*Semantic Preference of the Verb Collocates of “Trip*

1. Adventure / Exploration	embark, backpack,
2. Preparation / Organization	plan, arrange, book
3. History	chronicle, trawl, jaunt, scout
4. Support / Partnership	sponsor, chaperon, chaperone
5. Rescheduling	postpone, cancel
6. Financial planning	economize
7. Outdoor Activity	snowshoe, boat, hike, snorkel, kayak

Verb collocates have been classified based on their semantic preferences. Table 4.7 categorizes verb collocates of the term “trip” into seven themes: adventure or exploration, preparation or organization, history, support or partnership, rescheduling, financial planning, and transportation. The theme “Adventure or Exploration”, consists of *embark*, and *backpack*, which indicates that the term “trip” often co-occurs with the verbs that convey the meaning “the beginning or initiation of a significant journey,

often with a sense of excitement or anticipation of new experiences” as exemplified in (16). The term *plan*, *arrange*, and *book* related to the theme of “Preparation or Organization” which convey the meaning of the act of planning, reserving or coordinating the details of accommodations, transportation, or other arrangements for a journey or excursion as in (17). The verb collocates that represent “History” are *chronicle*, *trawl*, *jaunt* and *scout* as in (18) while *sponsor*, *chaperon* and *chaperone* are classified under the theme “Support or Partnership” as in (19). “Rescheduling” consists of *postpone* and *cancel* as in (20). *Economize* is considered to be under the theme “Financial planning” as shown in (21). Lastly, the theme “Transportation” consists of *snowshoe*, *boat*, *hike*, *snorkel*, and *kayak* as in (22)

(16) He was rowed ashore again, and I watched as he embarked on the **trip**.

(17) Perhaps he could take a few weeks off and plan a **trip** for them both to celebrate ... at the

(18) I decided to chronicle a **trip** across Europe, documenting every memorable moment and experience along the way. ... I was

(19) . God knows, I 've tried to get them to sponsor a **trip** to the center! But they say their flights do

(20) to consider taking out a policy. What if you must cancel a **trip** or cruise that has been paid in full and stiff

(21) We had to economize our **trip** by opting for budget accommodations and cooking our meals instead of dining out.

(22) Let's plan to hike a **trip** through the mountains next summer.

**Table 4.8**

*Semantic Preference of the Verb Collocates of “Journey”*

1. Adventure / Exploration	undertake, embark, commence, begin, trace, kick-start
2. Preparation / Navigation	chart
3. Accomplishment	complete
4. Narrative	narrate, chronicle, document
5. Repetition	retrace, recount, re-enact

6. Continuation	resume
7. Miscellaneous	brave, oscillate, limn, weary

Table 4.8 categorizes verb collocates of the term “journey” into seven themes based on their semantic preferences; adventure or exploration, preparation or navigation, accomplishment, narrative, memory reflection, continuation, and miscellaneous. The first theme “Adventure or Exploration” includes the verbs *undertake*, *embark*, *commence*, *begin*, *trace*, and *kick-start* as shown in (23). The term *chart* related to the theme of “Preparation or Navigation” as in (24) and the term *complete* related to “Accomplishment” theme as in (25). There are also verbs classified in the theme “Narrative” which mean “the action of recording or capturing the events and experiences of a significant journey, typically for archival or storytelling purposes, often in a structured or narrative form, i.e., *narrate*, *chronicle*, and *document* as in (26). The action of revisiting or retracing the path of a previous journey is the meaning of the theme “Memory reflection” which consists of the term *retrace*, *recount*, and *re-enact* as exemplified in (27). The term *resume* is classified to the theme “Continuation” as shown in (28). The last theme is “Miscellaneous” which includes the terms *brave*, *oscillate*, *limn*, and *weary* as in (29).

(23) embrace the impossible. It is a call to begin a **journey** that demands all our courage, all our strength, all our

(24) , show a young man looking outward. The postwar years chart a **journey** to interiority. There's the famous procedure Penn

(25) -- he gambles his considerable fortune that he can complete a **journey** around the world in just 80 days ... immediately after a

(26) She sat by the campfire, eager to narrate a **journey** filled with adventure, hardship, and unexpected discoveries to her captivated audience.

(27) After many years, she decided to retrace a **journey** she had taken in her youth, hoping to revisit the places and memories that had shaped her.

(28) After a brief rest, they were ready to resume a **journey** fraught with challenges but filled with the promise of adventure and discovery.

(29) His decision to oscillate the **journey** between hiking and cycling allowed him to experience the landscape from different perspectives.

**Table 4.9***Semantic Preference of the Verb Collocates Of "Voyage"*

1. Adventure / Exploration	undertake, embark, depart, board, commence, fascinate
2. Navigation	command
3. Accomplishment	complete, prosper
4. History / Memory reflection	chronicle, retrace, commemorate, recreate
5. Duration	last, shorten, enlarge
6. Financial support	finance
7. Planning	conceive, space, chart, fortify, outfit
8. Superstition	curse
9. Transportation	sail, traverse, entice
10. Miscellaneous	oil, thwart, reprint, weather

There are ten themes of verb collocates of the term "voyage" according to their semantic preferences which are adventure or exploration, navigation, accomplishment, history or memory reflection, duration, financial support, planning, superstition, transportation, and miscellaneous. The first theme "Adventure or Exploration" includes the verbs *undertake*, *embark*, *depart*, *board*, *commence*, and *fascinate* as in (30). The term *command* is under the theme "Navigation" as in (31) while the terms *complete* and *prosper* are under the theme "Accomplishment" as in (32). The theme "History or Memory reflection" consists of *chronicle*, *retrace*, *commemorate*, and *recreate* as shown in (33). The theme "Duration" implies the duration or endurance of a voyage, suggesting how long it continues or persists as the terms *last*, *shorten*, and *enlarge* as in (34), while the term *finance* related to the theme "Financial Support" as in (35). In terms of the "Planning" theme, five verbs, *conceive*, *space*, *chart*, *fortify*, and *outfit*, are found as shown in (36). Only one verb collocate is found in "Superstition" theme which is *curse* as in (37). "Transportation" is the theme consisting of *sail*, *traverse*, and *entice* as shown in (38). Lastly, the terms *oil*, *thwart*, *reprint*, and *weather* belong to the theme "Miscellaneous" as in (39).

(30) his dislike of learning, and he has permitted me to undertake a **voyage** of discovery to the land of knowledge. " Photograph

(31) The seasoned captain was chosen to command a **voyage** across the uncharted seas, leading the crew with skill and determination through unknown waters.

(32) is particularly lucky for you while Jupiter completes its **voyage** through Pisces, and connections you forge with those at a

(33) To honor their ancestors, the modern sailors decided to recreate a **voyage** undertaken centuries ago, sailing the same route with traditional methods and equipment.

(34) Due to unexpected circumstances, the captain had to shorten the **voyage**, altering the planned route to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone on board.

(35) The wealthy merchant decided to finance a **voyage** to distant lands in search of exotic goods to trade, hoping to expand his business and increase his wealth.

(36) role in human history. They've been used to chart **voyages** of discovery, find buried treasure, even fight war. In

(37) The old sailor warned that to curse a **voyage** with ill wishes would only bring misfortune upon the crew and ship, urging everyone to maintain a positive outlook despite the challenges ahead.

(38) By weaving tales of distant lands and exotic cultures, the storyteller sought to entice a **voyage** of discovery among the eager listeners.

(39) After years of being out of circulation, the publishing house decided to reprint a **voyage**, bringing the classic travelogue back to shelves for a new generation of readers to enjoy.

In conclusion, a number of verb collocates, such as *embark*, *complete*, *chronicle*, *retrace*, *initiate*, and *chart*, are shared by these three very equivalent nouns. Additionally, they are near-synonyms based on verb collocates and semantic preference. Examples of related themes of semantic preference are "Adventure or Exploration," "Preparation, Organization, or Navigation," and "History, Narrative, or Memory Reflection." Furthermore, the theme of "Adventure or Exploration" (i.e., *embark*) shares one verb with all three synonymous nouns; "trip", "journey", and "voyage" as well as one in the theme "Preparation or Navigation" (i.e., *chart*) share one verb collocate between "journey", and "voyage". In addition, the theme "History,

Narrative, or Memory Reflection" also shared two similar verb collocates, i.e., *chronicle* and *retrace*. The results from verb collocates and semantic preferences show that the three target synonyms have a near-synonym status but are not identical and cannot be substituted in all situations according to Jackson and Amvela (2000).

#### 4.2.2 Adjective Collocates

In this section, the adjective collocates that are commonly used with the nouns "trip," "journey," and "voyage" are listed and explained. The top-30 frequency list of adjectives and target nouns in COCA collocate. The table below lists the adjective lemmas that collocate with "trip", "journey", and "voyage" as synonymous terms.

**Table 4.10**

*The Top 5 Adjective Collocates of "Trip" in COCA*

Rank	Adjective Collocates	Frequency	MI Value
1	round	932	5.75
2	quick	456	3.03
3	frequent	232	4.08
4	overnight	211	5.64
5	overseas	194	5.45

The first five most frequent adjective collocates of the word "trip" are round, quick, frequent, overnight, and overseas as in (40), (41), (42), (43), (44) respectively.

#### Corpus data

(40) fare gates. # You 'll see passengers who make a round **trip** are counted twice, but this is apparently standard

(41) the otters playing with each other streamside. We made a quick **trip** back towards the North American Plaza so we could make it

(42) lets you store digital music and movies, as well as frequent **trip** routes. Built-in Bluetooth wireless technology

(43) be gone, you see. If it's just an overnight **trip** one might manage with a couple of old favorites, but

(44) of a toxic work environment, and acted inappropriately on an overseas **trip** during the Obama administration. # Jackson withdrew his

The term *round*, which appears 932 times overall in Table 4.10, is the collocate of "trip" that ranks the highest. With 456 occurrences, the term *quick* comes in second rank. The adjective *frequent* occurs 232 times at the third rank, although *overnight* appears 211 times more frequently at the fourth rank. The final term to reach the fifth rank is *overseas*, which occurs 194 times.

**Table 4.11**

*The Top 5 Adjective Collocates of "Journey" in COCA*

Rank	Adjective Collocates	Frequency	MI Value
1	long	1969	4.22
2	personal	455	3.17
3	spiritual	447	5.35
4	incredible	182	4.21
5	emotional	169	3.42

The first five most frequent adjective collocates of the word "journey" are long, personal, spiritual, incredible, and emotional as in (45), (46), (47), (48), (49) respectively.

### **Corpus data**

(45) had brought with them from England had spoiled during their long **journey** across the Atlantic and had yielded nothing after planting. It

(46) peloton, as well. James Jung recounts his personal **journey** after the death of a fellow competitor in an early-season crit in

(47) current senior pastor, Peter Scazzero, went on his own spiritual **journey** after his wife Geri rebelled against the confines of

(48) I have ever had to make. Thank you for an incredible **journey** and for the support you have shown me, " Long

(49) We're with them through the trauma and for an emotional journey back to the scene of the crime. Here's "Nightline

Table 4.11 shows that the term *long* is the collocate of "journey" that ranks highest, occurring 1,969 times in total. Second rank goes to the term *personal*, which appears 455 times. At the third rank, the adjective *spiritual* appears 447 times, but at the fourth rank, *incredible* appears 182 times. The term *emotional*, which appears 169 times, is the last one to the fifth rank.

**Table 4.12**

*The Top 5 Adjective Collocates of "Voyage" in COCA*

Rank	Adjective Collocates	Frequency	MI Value
1	maiden	283	11.70
2	long	248	3.91
3	fantastic	68	5.91
4	final	58	3.52
5	transatlantic	41	8.93

The first five most frequent adjective collocates of the word "voyage" are maiden, long, fantastic, final, and transatlantic as in (50), (51), (52), (53), (54) respectively.

### **Corpus data**

(50) and came directly from the Titanic. Just prior to the maiden voyage a merchant seaman, who regularly crossed the Atlantic,

(51) ocean liner from another time about to embark upon a long voyage across a wide and tranquil sea. Kendra has already made several

(52) four hours before reaching the border. It is a fantastic voyage in a late 80's Toyota van. Of course, you

(53) Second World War and the men who sailed on her final voyage 47 years ago. After ferrying the atomic bomb parts that would

(54) had taken the picture on the windy third day of a transatlantic voyage, in June of 1907, aboard the England-bound Kaiser

From Table 4.12, the first rank of the collocates of “voyage” is *maiden* which co-occurs at the highest frequency of 283 times. With a frequency of 248 times, the term *long* comes in second rank. The adjective *fantastic* comes for the third rank with the frequency of 68 times, followed by *final* with the frequency of 58 times in the fourth rank. Lastly, the term *transatlantic*, which has a frequency of 41 times, comes in at the fifth rank.



**Table 4.13**

*The Top 30 Adjective Collocates of “Trip”, “Journey”, and “Voyage” in COCA*

Rank	Trip			Journey			Voyage		
	Adjective Collocate	Frequency	MI Value	Adjective Collocate	Frequency	MI Value	Adjective Collocate	Frequency	MI Value
1	round	932	5.75	<b>long</b>	1,969	4.22	maiden	283	11.70
2	quick	456	3.03	personal	455	3.17	<b>long</b>	248	3.91
3	frequent	232	4.08	spiritual	447	5.35	fantastic	68	5.91
4	overnight	211	5.64	incredible	182	4.21	final	58	3.52
5	overseas	194	5.45	emotional	169	3.42	transatlantic	41	8.93
6	one-way	192	6.14	dangerous	160	3.02	damned	24	6.62
27	upcoming	189	4.06	<b>arduous</b>	160	8.17	<b>epic</b>	20	5.78
8	<i>cross-country</i>	180	6.35	<b>epic</b>	150	6.01	fateful	19	7.60
9	<b><u>extended</u></b>	146	3.74	unexpected	146	4.73	unknown	17	3.66
10	backpacking	132	9.09	<b>perilous</b>	130	7.75	cosmic	17	5.40
11	three-day	128	5.90	remarkable	101	3.78	<b>extraordinary</b>	16	3.75
12	week-long	125	6.94	<b>extraordinary</b>	94	3.62	interstellar	15	7.13
13	occasional	106	3.13	musical	85	3.08	<b>arduous</b>	14	7.33

14	<i>two-day</i>	106	5.92	sentimental	74	5.83	<b>perilous</b>	13	7.10
15	two-week	106	6.13	inner	73	3.11	ill-fated	13	7.87
16	guided	105	5.22	painful	72	3.40	historic	12	3.17
17	four-day	103	6.70	lonely	57	3.40	rough	12	3.17
18	memorable	88	3.78	treacherous	57	6.14	<b><u>extended</u></b>	11	3.96
19	five-day	87	6.69	fascinating	54	3.27	subsequent	9	3.17
20	planned	86	3.53	<b>pleasant</b>	52	3.44	prosperous	9	5.31
21	two-hour	60	4.99	lifelong	51	4.24	speedy	9	5.66
22	one-day	49	5.43	sacred	48	3.03	<b>magical</b>	8	3.73
23	six-day	48	6.45	<b>magical</b>	47	3.61	fatal	8	3.86
24	all-expenses- paid	48	9.36	harrowing	45	6.99	lunar	8	4.70
25	worthwhile	47	3.25	healing	40	4.33	six-month	8	6.31
26	scheduled	47	3.50	<b><i>cross-country</i></b>	40	5.45	<b>pleasant</b>	7	3.22
27	last-minute	46	4.10	inward	31	5.70	coastal	7	3.48
28	fact-finding	46	6.97	heroic	30	3.77	two-year	7	4.51
29	fateful	41	4.77	<b><i>two-day</i></b>	27	5.22	two-month	7	7.61
30	eight-day	41	7.40	uncharted	26	5.87	seven-day	7	7.83

Table 4.13 demonstrates that, based on frequency and MI scores ( $\geq 3$ ), no adjectives can commonly collocate among "trip," "journey," and "voyage." It was surprising that there were only two adjective collocates—"cross-country" and "two-day"—between the terms "trip" and "journey," and that the adjective "extended" was the sole adjective collocate between the terms "trip" and "voyage". However, "journey" and "voyage" have various adjective collocates, including *long, arduous, epic, perilous, extraordinary, pleasant and magical*.

According to the findings, the adjectives *cross-country, two-day, extended, long, arduous, epic, perilous, extraordinary, pleasant and magical* form weak collocations because they can be employed with the synonyms "trip," "journey," and "voyage". Nevertheless, not all adjectives that collocate with the three synonyms may be identified by COCA because of weak collocations. There may be further collocates that the three synonyms have in common. The absence of these terms in Table 4.13 may be due to the adjective-collocate selection criteria, which excludes those with MI scores below 3 or those not in the top 30 list. As an illustration, the adjective *long* and *arduous* can be combined with three target synonyms, however, it is not included in the collocation list of consequence due to its low frequency compared to the top 30 list.

### Semantic Preference

**Table 4.14**

*Semantic Preference of the Adjective Collocates of "Trip"*

1. Duration and Timeframe	quick, overnight, one-way, cross-country, extended, three-day week-long, two-day, two-week, four-day, five-day, six-day eight-day, two-hour, one-day
2. Frequency	frequent, occasional
3. Type of Trip	round, backpacking, guided, fact-finding, all-expenses-paid
4. Destination	overseas
5. Upcoming and Future	upcoming

6. Planning and Preparation	planned, last-minute, scheduled
7. Memorable and Significance	memorable, fateful, worthwhile

There are seven themes of adjective collocates of the term “trip” according to their semantic preferences which are duration or timeframe, frequency, type of trip, destination, upcoming or future, planning or preparation, and memorable or significant. The first theme “Duration or Timeframe” includes the adjectives *quick*, *overnight*, *one-way*, *cross-country*, *extended*, *three-day*, *week-long*, *two-day*, *two-week*, *four-day*, *five-day*, *six-day*, *eight-day*, *two-hour*, *one-day* as in (55). The terms *frequent* and *occasional* are under the theme “Frequency” as in (56). The theme “Type of Trip” consists of *round*, *backpacking*, *guided*, *fact-finding*, and *all-expenses-paid* as shown in (57) while the term *overseas* is the only term which is under the theme “Destination” as shown in (58). The theme “Upcoming or Future” has only one term under the theme which is *upcoming* as in (59). The term *planned*, *last-minute*, and *scheduled* related to the theme “Planning or Preparation” as in (60). In terms of the “Memorable or Significant” theme, three adjectives, *memorable*, *fateful*, and *worthwhile*, are found as shown in (61).

(55) dream vacation is to be among the first passengers taking this three-day trip along the southern coast of the United States. Leaving

(56) from parents and alumni, which allow us to organize the occasional trip to a science fiction movie or laser tag game. Most

(57) of experts will evaluate and select one winner to receive an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Hollywood and a unique VIP experience with

(58) that the president of Finland, whom he met on an overseas trip a week earlier, told him about raking the forest floors

(59) allows individuals to record information about their upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you

(60) remain with me for months. The trigger might be a planned trip home to see my parents, it might be going to

(61) arrival, the time has never been better to arrange a memorable trip that celebrates the best of this special season. Offering

**Table 4.15**

*Semantic Preference of the Adjective Collocates of "Journey"*

1. Duration or Timeframe	long, two-day, epic, lifelong
2. Emotional and Personal Experience	emotional, personal, sentimental, inner, painful, lonely, healing, pleasant, fascinating, inward, musical
3. Intensity and Difficulty	incredible, dangerous, arduous, perilous, treacherous, harrowing, unexpected
4. Significance and Impact	remarkable, extraordinary, heroic, uncharted
5. Spiritual and Sacred	spiritual, sacred, magical
6. Landscape	cross-country

According to their semantic preferences, the adjective collocates of the term "journey" fall into six themes which are duration or timeframe, emotional and personal experience, intensity and difficulty, significant and impact, spiritual and sacred, and destination. The adjectives *long*, *two-day*, *epic*, and *lifelong* are used in the first theme, "Duration or Timeframe," as in (62). The terms *emotional*, *personal*, *sentimental*, *inner*, *painful*, *lonely*, *healing*, *pleasant*, *fascinating*, *inward*, and *musical* fall under the theme "Emotional and Personal Experience" as shown in (63). In terms of the "Intensity and Difficulty" theme, seven adjectives, *incredible*, *dangerous*, *arduous*, *perilous*, *treacherous*, *harrowing*, and *unexpected*, are found as shown in (64). Under the "Significance and Impact" theme, the term *remarkable*, *extraordinary*, *heroic*, and *uncharted* are found as in (65). As demonstrated in (66), the term of the theme "Spiritual and Sacred" are *spiritual*, *sacred*, and *magical*. Lastly the term *cross-country* is associated with the theme "Destination" as in (67).

(62) were not unheard of, he blessed it still. The **epic journey** after the deadly faculty meetings (3:30-5:30 on

(63) happy return to your homeland. Have a safe and **pleasant journey** back to China. May you have a safe and pleasant

(64) The first part of The Hobbit trilogy The Hobbit: An **Unexpected Journey** gets its

(65) talk at the White House, calling his recovery and his remarkable journey across space and back, " A monumental achievement. "

(66) has become of our charity? These pilgrims are on a sacred journey to a holy place. We use to take pride in

(67) Descend upon the palm-fringed South Atlantic as your cross-country journey ends in the charming and historical coastal town of

**Table 4.16**

*Semantic Preference of the Adjective Collocates of "Voyage"*

1. Duration or Timeframe	long, two-year, six-month, two-month, seven-day, extended, epic
2. Type and Scope of Voyage	unknown, speedy, prosperous, final
3. Intensity and Difficulty	arduous, perilous, rough
4. Significance and Impact	fantastic, fateful, extraordinary, ill-fated, historic, maiden, subsequent, pleasant
5. Outcome and Result	damned, fatal
6. Destination	transatlantic, interstellar, lunar, coastal, cosmic
7. Spiritual and Sacred	magical

The seven themes that the adjective collocates of the term "voyage" fall under are: duration or timeframe; type and scope of voyage; intensity and difficulty; significant and impact; outcome or result; destination; and spiritual and sacred, in accordance with their semantic preferences. The first theme "Duration or Timeframe" includes the adjectives *long*, *two-year*, *six-month*, *two-month*, *seven-day*, *extended*, and *epic* as in (68). As demonstrated in (69), the terms of the theme "Type and Scope of Voyage" are *unknown*, *speedy*, *prosperous*, and *final*. The theme "Intensity and Difficulty" is significantly connected to condition of being intense or unpleasant environments as in the terms *arduous*, *perilous*, and *rough* as exemplified in (70). As demonstrated in (71), under the "Significance and Impact" theme, the terms *fantastic*, *fateful*, *extraordinary*, *ill-fated*, *historic*, *maiden*, *subsequent*, and *pleasant* are found. The terms *damned*, and *fatal* belong to the theme "Outcome and Result" as in (72). In terms of the "Destination" theme, five adjectives, *transatlantic*, *interstellar*, *lunar*,

*coastal*, and *cosmic* are found as shown in (73). Lastly the term *magical* is associated with the theme “Spiritual and Sacred” as in (74).

(68) . Perhaps if the lady's husband was on an extended **voyage** abroad ...  
Provided he sired no child, Jacob might even consider

(69) Second World War and the men who sailed on her final voyage 47 years ago. After ferrying the atomic bomb parts that would

(70) I answered that it seemed we'd embarked on a rough **voyage**. Luckily, as yet neither of us had a clue just

(71) first to see what it sees and to chronicle the extraordinary **voyage** of an unmanned ship called Galileo 5. He said it right

(72) documentary or to us. Again, the podcast is called Fatal **Voyage**: The Mysterious Death of Natalie Wood. It can be downloaded

(73) spatially, following the traditional periplus, or coastal **voyage** pattern. But Rome was the focal point of his conception of

(74) to help me, because I was there for a magical **voyage**. This is blowing my mind. I would like cheering and

In summary, three common themes across numerous adjectives that commonly collocate with the three target nouns include “Duration or Timeframe”, “Memorable, Significance, or Impact”, and “Destination”. These themes may indicate synonymy among all three terms. In addition, the theme of “Duration or Timeframe” the term *extended* shares one verb with two synonymous nouns; “trip” and “voyage”, the term *two-day* shares one verb with two synonymous nouns; “trip” and “journey”, as well as the term *long*, shares one verb with two synonymous nouns; “journey” and “voyage”. Furthermore, the theme “Memorable, Significance, or Impact” also shared one similar verb collocate, i.e., *extraordinary* between the nouns “journey” and “voyage”. Moreover, the adjective *arduous* and *perilous* are shared between the nouns “journey” and “voyage” under the theme of “Intensity and Difficulty”. The result confirms the near-synonym status of “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” because they shared several adjectives collocates and semantic preferences. According to Phoocharoensil (2020a, 2020b) near synonyms are defined as words that are semantically similar and whose meaning overlap can be distinguished or identified in context.

## CHAPTER 5

### DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the present research study consisting of (1) a summary of the study, (2) a summary of the findings, (3) conclusions, (4) recommendations for further research, and (5) implications.

#### **5.1 Summary of the Study**

##### ***5.1.1 Objectives of the Study***

The objectives of the study were to investigate the frequencies and patterns of distribution of the term "trip", "journey", and "voyage" across the different text types (spoken, fiction, magazines, newspapers, academic, web, blogs, and TV and Movie subtitles), as well as to examine the differences among the term "trip", "journey", and "voyage" in terms of verb and adjective collocations by using the online versions of the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) and also the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

##### ***5.1.2 Target Words, Instruments, and Procedures***

Three frequently used nouns with comparable meanings; "trip", "journey", and "voyage", were the target words of this study. The online versions of the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) were consulted for definitions of the three target synonyms. The primary corpus for employed this study by the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) to find the frequency of the three synonyms in verb and adjective collocations and also grammatical patterns. This analysis considered Mutual Information scores to examine common collocations. Concordance lines for each term were generated for further analysis, aiming to uncover usage patterns and differences across genres.

## 5.2 Summary of Findings

The findings demonstrated that these three synonyms—trip, journey, and voyage—could not be used interchangeably in all circumstances. This section presents an overview of the study's findings based on the frequency, pattern of distribution, and collocation of the three synonymous. The following succinctly describes the study's findings:

### 5.2.1 Frequency and Patterns of Distribution

In response to the first research question, the results demonstrate the target nouns' overall frequency as well as their various patterns of distribution. Among the three target nouns, “trip” is the most frequently used term across eight genres, occurring most frequently in newspapers, second most frequently in magazines, and third most frequently in fiction. These genres primarily represent written text types, demonstrating its use throughout a variety of written communication contexts. While academic contexts use the term "trip" the least, indicating a lower level of formality compared to the other two target nouns. In addition, the highest occurrence of "journey" in web content suggests that it is widely used in communication based on their frequencies in written text types as well as the term “trip”. On the other hand, the term “journey” appears with its lowest frequency, in TV/movie subtitles contexts, reflecting the colloquial or informal English found in subtitles. Moreover, the term “voyage” is mostly used with fiction, magazine, and academic respectively, indicating its specialized and formal application within literary and scholarly discourse. Conversely, the term “voyage” appears with the lowest total frequency in the spoken genre compared to the other eight genres, reflecting its common usage in informal contexts. In conclusion, the corpus data shows that the target nouns "trip," "journal," and "voyage" have major implications in written text type, as magazines are the second most popular genre. The frequent use of "trip," "journey," and "voyage" in the magazine genre provides credence to the notion that these terms are more formal. The patterns show significant variations in term usage across different text types, indicating differences in tone, genre, and audience preferences.

### 5.2.2 Collocations

As for the second research question, the three target nouns were analyzed using the same criteria of semantic preference for verb and adjective collocates. The collocates of “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” were chosen based on their frequency in the top 30 list with a MI score of  $\geq 3$ .

**5.2.2.1 Verb Collocations** The first five most frequent verb collocates of the word “trip” are *plan, cancel, book, arrange,* and *sponsor*. The first five most frequent verb collocates of the word “journey” are *begin, embark, complete, undertake,* and *chronicle*. The first five most frequent verb collocates of the word “voyage” are *embark, sail, undertake, complete,* and *last*. The findings demonstrate that there was only one verb collocate among the three synonyms which is the term “*embark*”. While “journey” and “voyage” share several verb collocates such as, *complete, undertake, chronicle, retrace, commence,* and *chart*, and only one verb, *harrow*, was shared between “trip” and “journey”.

For the semantic preference, a number of verb collocates, such as *embark, complete, chronicle, retrace, initiate,* and *chart*, are shared by these three very equivalent nouns. The three target nouns are near-synonyms based on their shared verb collocates, which contain three semantic preference themes: “Adventure or Exploration,” “Preparation, Organization, or Navigation,” and “History, Narrative, or Memory Reflection”, but are not interchangeable and cannot be employed in all situations.

**5.2.2.2 Adjective collocations** The first five most frequent adjective collocates of the word “trip” are *round, quick, frequent, overnight,* and *overseas*. The first five most frequent adjective collocates of the word “journey” are *long, personal, spiritual, incredible,* and *emotional*. The first five most frequent adjective collocates of the word “voyage” are *maiden, long, fantastic, final,* and *transatlantic*. The findings demonstrate that no adjectives can commonly collocate among all the chosen nouns "trip," "journey," and "voyage." It was unexpected that the terms "trip" and "journey" had only two adjective collocates, "*cross-country*" and "*two-day*," and that the only adjective collocate between the terms "trip" and "voyage" was "*extended*." However, the

adjective collocates "journey" and "voyage" include *long, arduous, epic, perilous, extraordinary, pleasant* and *magical*.

For the semantic preference, three themes are found throughout several adjectives that are frequently used to describe the three target nouns: "Duration or Timeframe," "Memorable, Significance, or Impact," and "Destination." The study validates the near-synonym status of "trip," "journey," and "voyage" due to their similar adjectives and semantic preferences.

### 5.3 Conclusion

The study aims to compare and contrast three synonyms (trip, journey, and voyage) based on their frequency, genres, and verb and adjective collocations. The primary sources of data include two online dictionaries; Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (OALD) and the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (LDOCE) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Analysis involves examining 100 concordance lines to assess frequency, distribution patterns, as well as verb and adjective collocations.

The findings revealed that the terms "trip", "journey", and "voyage" can be considered near-synonym, as they share a higher level of formality in written text type, with a consistently high frequency across the same genres. Moreover, the near-synonym status of "trip," "journey," and "voyage" is further supported by the results of verb and adjective collocates and semantic preference, as they share a number of collocates and semantic preferences but are not interchangeable in all contexts.

### 5.4 Recommendations for further research

Due to some limitations, this study specifically focuses on the similarities and differences among three synonymous terms: trip, journey, and voyage, focusing on their frequency, genres, and verb and adjective collocations. Several suggestions for further studies have been suggested according to the findings and recommendations of this study as follows:

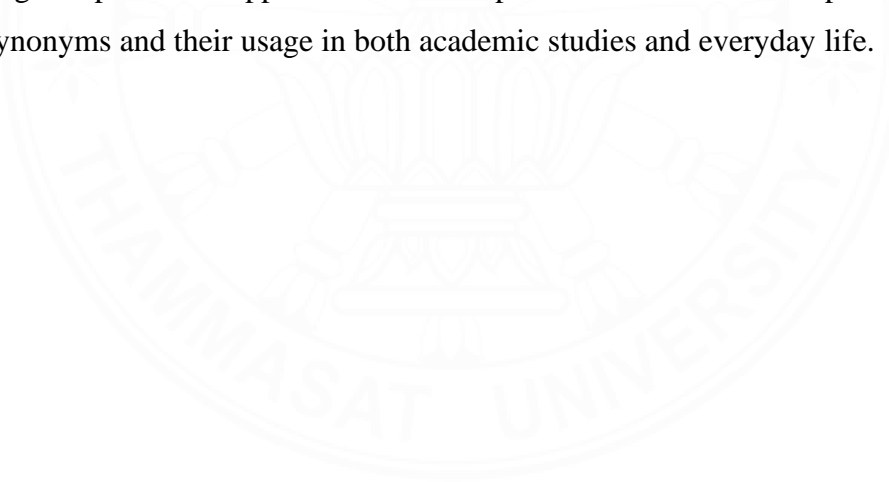
- 1) More concordance lines should be examined in future studies to improve the possibility of finding connections between the adjectives in various COCA registers.

2) Other well-known corpora, like the British National Corpus (BNC), should be used to compare the use of adjectives and verb collocations.

3) Analyzing the grammatical patterns of the synonyms “trip”, “journey”, and “voyage” can provide valuable insights regarding their co-occurring grammar and context.

### **5.5 Implications**

The study's findings support earlier studies by showing that near synonyms are more common in the English language than absolute synonyms. Despite having the same basic meaning, near-synonyms differ in certain ways and cannot be used interchangeably in all situations. The study's findings about the distinctions and similarities between synonyms can help teachers support the learning process. Teachers can encourage students to explore more comprehensive information about English synonyms, which may not be readily available in dictionaries but can be accessed through corpora. This approach aims to empower students with a deeper understanding of synonyms and their usage in both academic studies and everyday life.



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