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*Corpus linguistics and creativity: corpus fairy tales*

*Ian M. Robinson*

*Abstract*

The advent of large electronic corpora has allowed linguists a better understanding of how a language is constructed and used. Corpus linguistics is often thought of as a way of investigating and then describing the use of language. It also offers the language learner a tool with which to be creative. Thus there is a clear way to combine technology and creativity.

This paper briefly examines the key points concerning corpus linguistics and looks at one of the main software tools used in this developing field of language research. The main research described here is the creation of a corpus involving the translated texts of the folk tales collected and retold by the brothers Grimm. 209 of their tales were used to form a corpus of almost 300 000 words. Related keywords and n-grams were extracted. These words and chunks of language were then played with by language learners to help create their own tales.

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