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# Analysis of Collocations and Semantic Preferences of English Synonyms ‘Critical, Serious and Crucial’: A Corpus Based Approach

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## Abstract

*The purpose of this research is to explore three English synonyms, namely critical, serious, and crucial, with a particular focus on meanings, degrees of formality, collocations, and semantic preferences. Two dictionaries, namely the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary and the Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary online, as well as the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), were utilized as sources of information for the purpose of this research. It was shown that the two synonyms that are critical and crucial share the same core meaning and semantic preferences. However, the word serious is still distinct from the other two in terms of its particular meanings, degrees of formality, collocations, and semantic preferences. Because of this, the three words cannot be used interchangeably in any situation without causing confusion.*

**Keywords:** English Synonym, Collocation, Semantic Preferences, COCA

## Introduction

The improper use of substitutes is one of the most typical challenges that language students face when attempting to expand their vocabularies. Students typically gain an understanding of the concept that synonyms are lexical approximations that are capable of being used indiscriminately. In point of fact, the vast majority of English synonyms are likely to be what are known as ‘near synonyms,’ which are characterized by relatively minor variations in meaning and connotations that are rooted in specific situations. It is not possible to interchange the use of two terms that are considered to be near-synonyms because these words have some of the same fundamental definitions but ‘differ in minor or peripheral characteristics’ (Chung, 2011). Moreover, English plays a significant part in the communication of today. This is one reason why the English language is so important. English is the language most commonly used for international communication. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are just some of the skills that need to be learned and developed for a learner to successfully acquire and understand a language. In addition to the four fundamental skills, Schmitt (2000) emphasizes the significance of lexical knowledge by claiming that it ‘is central to communicative competence and to the acquisition of a second language.’ In other words, lexical knowledge is extremely important. However, because one of the most significant benefits of using corpus software is to evaluate authentic language, it is possible for the user to receive assistance when selecting appropriate synonyms when using corpus software. There are a lot of studies and articles that use corpus software like the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) to investigate the similarities and differences among three different words that are considered to be synonyms.

However, the differences between the synonyms critical, serious, and crucial have not yet been made abundantly explicit.

Consequently, the purpose of this research is to determine the similarities and distinctions between critical and serious in terms of meanings, degrees of formality, and noun collocations by utilizing two English dictionaries in addition to the COCA corpus.

### Research Objectives

- To examine the similarities and differences of the synonyms critical, serious and crucial in term of collocations and the level of formality.
- To investigate how critical, serious and crucial are distributed in different genres.

### Literature Review

#### Corpus Linguistics

According to [O’Keeffe et al. \(2007\)](#), the term ‘corpus’ refers to a principled compilation of written and spoken writings that are recorded on a computer. The plural form of the term is ‘corpora’. According to [Biber et al. \(1998\)](#), the information gleaned from a collection may be put to either qualitative or quantitative use for research purposes. One is able to examine the frequency as well as the number of repetitions of a term by using software called corpus (qualitative analysis). In addition, concordance lines offer enlightening information regarding the application of a particular term throughout a collection or in specific situations (quantitative analysis). Concordances, wordlists, keyword analysis, and cluster analysis are just some of the useful functions that can be found on a corpus, according to [O’Keeffe et al. \(2007\)](#), who also note that there are many functions on a corpus that are advantageous for linguistic study. For instance, concordancing can present the user with instances of how the term is used in real-world contexts, allowing for the learner to gain knowledge by investigating the patterns. In addition to that, the word frequency counts can display a collection of terms that appear quite frequently. When cataloguing essential terminology, you’ll find that this function is very helpful. ‘the description and explication of the essence, structure, and use of language and languages and with particular subjects such as language

acquisition, variation, and change’ are the primary focuses of corpus linguistics ([Kennedy, 2014](#)). The incorporation of corpus linguistics into language instruction and study can be beneficial in a variety of ways. The production of corpus-based dictionaries, the development of more authentic resources for use in ELT classrooms, and the representation of learner language are just some instances ([Mukherjee, 2006](#)). In addition, [O’Keeffe and Farr \(2003\)](#) argue that instructors should be familiar with corpus linguistics and have the ability to operate corpus software because the majority of materials used in classrooms today are founded on corpora. Wordsmith Tools, Sketch Engine, the British National Corpus (BNC), and the Corpus of Contemporary American English are just some of the many corpora tools that can be found on the internet and all of them offer a variety of useful advantages (COCA).

#### Corpus of Contemporary American English

Because it includes more than one billion words of data that has been updated, the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) is used in this research. Furthermore, [Davies \(2010\)](#) asserts that ‘The Corpus of Contemporary American English is the first major collection of any language to be genre-balanced’. It includes writing from eight different types of media, including fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, scholarly writings, subtitles for television shows and movies, blogs, and online sites. According to [Kayaoglu \(2013\)](#), the COCA corpus is considered to be an abundant and helpful source for the instructors when they are producing resources for the students, as well as providing instances of language that is used by the students. Concerning the difference between synonyms and near-synonyms, [Hwunhsookkasem \(2018\)](#) ensures that the COCA dataset can be used to make the distinction. The morphological patterns, semantic preference, semantic prosody collocations, degree of formality can all be investigated with the help of the tools that come packaged with the COCA dataset.

#### Collocation

Collocations will now be discussed. When it comes to learning and becoming proficient in English, ‘collocation’ is considered to be one of

the most important components. However, [Yang \(2016\)](#) mentioned that learning English conjunction is not a simple task for people who are learning English as a second or foreign language. In addition to that, it appears to be difficult for the instructors. The Longman Dictionary describes collocation as ‘the manner in which some words are often used together, or a particular combination of words used in this fashion’. This definition can also refer to a specific combination of words. Another explanation of collocation can be found in the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, which describes it as ‘a combination of words in a language that appears very often and more frequently than would happen by coincidence’. Collocation was described by [Sinclair \(1991\)](#) as ‘items that appear geographically together or have increased possibilities of being referenced together’. This definition pertains to the field of linguistics. The results of a research conducted by [Demir \(2017\)](#) on the application of English lexical collocations in writing by native English writers and non-native English writers indicated that ‘there are substantial differences between the two groups of disparities in the use of lexical collocations between native and non-native writers’.

Collocation is defined as ‘a combination of terms in a language that occurs very often and more frequently than would happen by coincidence’, as stated by the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary Online. To put it another way, collocation refers to the practice of combining terms that are frequently used together. Collocation is essential because it makes people’s speech sound more natural and more like that of native speakers. Take, for instance, the statement ‘Dog and bark collocate substantially; cat and bark are not likely to do so...’ ([O’Keeffe et al., 2007](#))

According to [Hill \(2000\)](#), there are two different kinds of collocations, which are referred to as powerful and feeble. A good illustration of powerful conjunction is butter that has gone rancid. This is due to the fact that the term butter is almost always found together with the word rotten. The term good, for example, can co-occur with many words, such as good boy, good book, and good job. This is contrast to collocations that are not very strong.

On the other hand, [Tribble and Jones \(1990\)](#) stated that collocation behaviors play significant parts in

helping learners differentiate between the utilization of synonyms. According to [Partington \(1998\)](#), a combination of words that are similar in meaning but still dissimilar in word collocates is considered to be a near-synonym. This is the reason why this is the case (in [Jafarpour et al., 2013](#)). A variety of collocations each point to a unique setting between the node and the collocations themselves ([Stubbs, 1996](#)). [Sinclair \(1991\)](#) suggested that comparing and contrasting information about near-synonyms only in dictionaries is not sufficient. Instead, consulting concordance tools within a corpus program will help differentiate prominent characteristics in detail.

### **The Role of Formality**

One of the effective parameters for distinguishing between near-synonyms and synonyms is the manner of the text. When two words have a meaning that is very close to or almost exactly the same, there is a propensity for one of the words to be identified with a context that is either more formal or less formal than the other word ([Phoocharoensil, 2010](#)). According to the online version of the Cambridge Dictionary, formal language is utilized when dealing with significant circumstances or strangers, whereas informal language is utilized when dealing with routine circumstances or known individuals. In addition, formal language is typically affiliated with written writing, whereas informal language is more likely to be found in spoken communication. According to the online version of the Cambridge Dictionary, the following collection offers various instances of official and informal synonyms.

### **Methodology**

The purposes of this study were to examine the similarities and differences of the synonyms critical, serious and crucial in term of collocations and the level of formality and to investigate how critical, serious and crucial are distributed in different genres. The researcher will utilize the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary as the primary source for the information on the chosen synonyms. It is the most extensive British English dictionary published by Oxford University Press and Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. This dictionary is specifically designed for individuals who are not native speakers.

In addition, the researcher employed the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) to gather data. COCA stands for the Corpus of Contemporary American English, which is the most extensive collection of written and spoken American English texts. Users possess the capability to utilize it and have unrestricted entry to it. It encompasses about 450 million words collected from 1990 to the present. COCA encompasses five distinct genres: spoken language, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic resources. These diverse genres provide learners with valuable opportunities to compare information.

The study conducted exploratory research by using concordance lines from COCA to investigate three synonymous words: critical, serious and crucial. This study originates with comparing and contrasting the resemblances and differences in implications of the synonyms critical, serious and crucial utilizing the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 9th edition and Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary.

The data used throughout the process of assessing meaning consisted of the provided definitions and example sentences. Subsequently, the researcher applied the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) to examine the levels of formality and noun collocations. The researcher analyzed a cumulative of 60 concordance lines, with 20 lines dedicated to each synonym. The objective of this study is to examine the shared significance of being 'perceptible or comprehensible with ease'. Hence, other connotations of the 3 synonymous terms were omitted from this investigation.

In order to examine the level of formality, the researcher tallied the overall instances of the specific words in several genres, including blogs, online pages, TV and movie subtitles, spoken language, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic publications. Furthermore, the average frequency per million of the three synonymous words by category. The horizontal chart displays the frequency of the searched words per million words in each genre. In order to examine noun collocations, the researcher compiled a list of nouns that commonly occur together with the target words. Once the nouns that appear together with the target

words were identified according to their frequency, the top 20 nouns that most frequently co-occur with the target synonym were categorized based on their semantic similarity.

### Results

The results are provided based on definitions, collocations, and the level of formality, in that order. In order to examine the definitions of the selected synonyms, the 9th edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary online were consulted. The research issues pertaining to noun collocations and levels of formality were analyzed using data derived from COCA. The distribution of the three synonymous words critical, serious and crucial across different genres is provided in three sections, organized according to keyword analysis.

### Definition from the Dictionaries

The meaning and senses of critical, serious and crucial were derived from two internet dictionaries in order to provide fundamental information about this term. Below is a table displaying the definitions of the word critical, serious and crucial from two internet dictionaries which were the 9th edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary online.

**Table 1 Comparison of the Definitions of the Term Critical, Serious and Crucial from Two Online Dictionaries**

Target word	Definition from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary	Definition from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary online
Critical	(a) saying what you think is bad about somebody/something	(a) saying that someone or something is bad or wrong
Serious	(a) bad or dangerous (b) thinking about things in a careful and sensible way; not silly	(a) severe in effect; bad (b) needing or deserving your complete attention
Crucial	(a) extremely important because it will affect other things	(a) extremely important or necessary

### Degree of Formality

In order to examine the various levels of formality associated with the target words, the researcher analyzed the frequency of each synonym in eight different genres: academic writings (ACAD), magazines (MAG), webpages (WEB),

blogs, newspapers (NEWS), spoken language, fiction (FIC), and TV/movie subtitles (TV/M). The study solely considers the number of occurrences that operate as an adjective, as a single word might serve multiple parts of speech.

**Table 2 Degree of Formality of the Synonym Critical, Serious and Crucial**

Critical			Serious			Crucial		
Genre	Frequency	Per million	Genre	Frequency	Per million	Genre	Frequency	Per million
academic texts	7,965	66.49	spoken	19,963	158.27	academic texts	7,966	66.50
magazines	5,338	42.33	TV and movie subtitles	19,015	148.47	magazines	5,339	42.34
newspapers	4,142	34.02	magazines	15,493	122.87	newspapers	4,142	34.02
webpages	3,508	28.23	blogs	15,700	122.07	webpages	3,508	28.23
blogs	3,151	24.50	webpages	14,842	119.45	blogs	3,152	24.51
spoken	2,504	19.85	newspapers	14,158	116.30	spoken	2,505	19.86
fiction	890	7.52	academic texts	12,697	105.99	fiction	892	7.54
TV and movie subtitles	748	5.84	fiction	10,426	88.12	TV and movie subtitles	748	5.84
Total	28,246		Total	122,294		Total	28,252	

Table 2 shows the total frequency of the three adjective synonyms. Overall, serious has the highest raw frequency (122,294 tokens), followed by crucial (28,252 tokens) and critical (28,246 tokens), respectively. The word critical occurs the most in academic text genre (7,965 times), followed by magazines (5,338 times), newspapers (4,142 times), webpages (3,508 times), blogs (3,151 times), spoken (2,504 times), and fiction (890 times). It is clear that

critical occurs the least in tv & movie subtitles genre with the with the frequency of merely 748 times.

### Noun Collocations

The 20 most frequent collocates that follow the synonymous adjectives critical, serious, and crucial were selected from the COCA corpus. The results are displayed in the following manner:

**Table 3 Noun Collocates of Critical, Serious and Crucial**

Rank	Critical			Serious			Crucial		
	Noun Collocates	f	MI Score	Noun collocates	f	MI Score	Noun Collocates	f	MI Score
1	thinking	4,207	6.97	problem	7,250	3.87	role	1,428	5.09
2	issue	1,843	3.04	injury	2,380	5.31	moment	523	3.22
3	role	1,661	3.86	threat	1,807	4.42	element	461	4.67
4	mass	1,475	5.84	crime	1,426	3.68	step	393	3.51
5	skill	1,377	4.28	illness	1,341	5.38	factor	376	3.74
6	condition	1,228	3.87	consequence	1,226	4.50	difference	354	3.07
7	point	1,221	2.02	trouble	1,219	3.67	success	347	3.79
8	analysis	962	3.60	concern	1,190	3.44	component	246	4.53
9	success	937	3.78	charge	885	3.21	aspect	217	3.90
10	factor	910	3.56	damage	883	3.89	vote	205	3.00



11	component	760	4.71	challenge	830	3.08	importance	188	4.01
12	theory	683	3.36	consideration	733	4.55	distinction	144	4.79
13	element	655	3.73	doubt	582	3.76	understanding	143	3.11
14	infrastructure	588	5.23	offense	496	3.77	survival	98	3.95
15	review	582	2.26	accident	467	3.17	swing	94	4.26
16	importance	495	3.96	violation	428	3.99	insight	75	3.41
17	acclaim	456	8.58	allegation	415	4.28	juncture	74	7.29
18	perspective	392	3.25	complication	407	5.19	ingredient	70	3.58
19	literacy	390	5.22	harm	394	4.17	timing	51	3.61
20	aspect	360	3.18	infection	364	3.49	turning	47	4.99

Table 3 displays the 20 most frequently occurring words that are closely associated with the term critical, serious, and crucial. The most frequently occurring rank with critical is occupied by the word ‘thinking’, which is commonly utilized as a noun collocation and appears 4,207 times in the concordance lines. The second rank is ‘issue’ based on its occurrence, which amounts to 1,843 instances. The third rank is occupied by a ‘role’ that appears 1,661 times. The most frequent noun collocations of the word serious are ‘problem’, ‘injury’, and ‘threat’. The word ‘problem’ is the most regularly used rank with the term serious, appearing 7,250 times in the concordance lines. The second rank is determined by the frequency of its occurrence, with a total of 2380 incidents, and is classified as ‘injury’. A ‘threat’ that occurs 1807 times holds the third position. The noun collocation that most commonly occurs with the adjective crucial is ‘role’, which appears 1,428 times in the concordance lines. The second position is occupied by the term ‘moment’ with a frequency of 523 occurrences. The third rank is denoted as ‘element’ and appears a total of 461 times.

The nouns that have a strong collocational relationship with the adjectives critical, serious, and crucial, as defined by a minimum MI value of  $\geq 2$ , which represents the degree of statistical significance for collocational association, are presented in Table 3. Given their closely related fundamental meanings, the three target adjectives naturally share certain noun collocates. This appears to validate that the chosen words are synonymous with each other. Table 3 indicates that some nouns commonly appear alongside the words critical and crucial, such as role, factor, component, element, and aspect. Nevertheless, it is necessary to analyze the corpus-based data

presented in Table 3 with caution when working with frequently occurring word combinations. It should be noted that this study has a limitation in that only the top-20 nouns were considered in the extraction of collocations. Therefore, there may be other nouns that can also occur together with the three target adjectives, but they are not included in the lists above due to their low frequency or mutual information (MI) score in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). For example, the combination of words ‘critical decision’ appears 582 times in COCA, but it was not chosen because its frequency does not rank among the top 20. On the other hand, the phrase ‘serious issue’ is used frequently in COCA (2,615 times), but its Mutual Information (MI) score of 2.87 led to its exclusion from the list of collocations. It is important to mention that although certain common nouns, such as ‘stories’, can indeed be used together with the target words, such as critical stories, serious stories, and crucial stories, these less strong combinations were not included in the list. This is because they are not as challenging for learners and therefore not considered to be pedagogically beneficial (Hill, 2000).

### Collocation and Semantic Preferences

Below are the reported findings of the analysis, which focus on the collocations and semantic preference of the adjective synonyms critical, serious, and crucial.

### The Emerging Themes of Critical

After conducting a comprehensive examination of the noun collocates of the word critical, four main themes were identified, as shown in Table 4. The first theme, Cognitive, encompasses concepts such as

thinking, issue, role, analysis, factor, theory, element, and perspective, as demonstrated in (1). The second theme, Quantitative, consists of noun collocates that have similar meanings, such as mass, skill, point, component, infrastructure, literacy, and aspect, as illustrated in (2). Two distinguishing themes of the adjective critical are worth emphasizing: Environmental, which encompasses aspects such as condition, evaluation, and significance (as exemplified in (3)), and Outcome, which encompasses achievements and recognition (as exemplified in (4)).

**Table 4 Type of Preferences for the Four Themes of the Search Word *Critical***

No	Semantic Preference	Noun Collocates
1	Cognitive	thinking, issue, role, analysis, factor, theory, element, perspective
2	Quantitative	mass, skill, point, component, infrastructure, literacy, aspect
3	Environmental	condition, review, importance
4	Outcome	success, acclaim

- 1) ...negatively correlated with their cognitive abilities, such as *critical thinking* and creativity
- 2) ...in the State of the Union. What are some of the *critical points* that... that he emphasized in a...
- 3) the focus on the value of productivity and health benefits... The second part of this thesis, through a *critical review*...
- 4) Beginning of Everything was published in 2012 and won great *critical acclaim*. She is currently developing the screenplay for the...

### The Emerging Themes of Serious

Table 5 displays five themes that have been ascribed to the noun collocates of the word serious after a thorough investigation. The initial topic, Security, includes notions such as threat, consequence, trouble, damage, offense, accident, complication, and harm, as exemplified in (5). The second subject, Legal, comprises noun collocates that share comparable meanings, such as crime, charge, violation, and allegation, as depicted in (6). There are three main themes that distinguish the adjective serious and are worth highlighting. The first theme is Health, which includes aspects such

as injury, illness, and infection as shown in example (7). The second theme is Uncertainty, which includes doubt and concern as shown in example (8). The third theme is Strategic Thinking, which involves problem, challenge, and consideration, as shown in example (9).

**Table 5 Type of Preferences for the Four Themes of the Search Word *Serious***

No	Semantic Preference	Noun Collocates
1	Security	threat, consequence, trouble, damage, offense, accident, complication, harm
2	Legal	crime, charge, violation, allegation
3	Health	injury, illness, infection
4	Uncertainty	doubt, concern
5	Strategic Thinking	problem, challenge, consideration

- 5) ...are ultimately doomed to win the legal battle. Losing the legal battle will have *serious consequences* to the Church as we are seeing in Canada...
- 6) ...of his life. It would expose him to what in the UK is a *serious crime*. In other words freedom of speech is non-existent under American' law
- 7) ...some situational caveats people do not have the right to kill or deliberately inflict *serious injury* on themselves. And the reason is that people are moving away from the...
- 8) ... Senator, and we need all the conservative senators we can get. I have *serious doubts* about his immigration reform ideas. Personally, any candidate who wants to give...
- 9) ...her brother in the 1980s and somehow got away with that, so she had *serious problems* already. UAB should be on the hook, though, since the whole

### The Emerging Themes of Crucial

Table 6 illustrates that one of the themes associated with the term crucial overlaps with those that define critical. This theme is referred to as Cognitive, including thinking, issue, role, analysis, factor, theory, element, perspective, difference, understanding, and insight as seen in (1) and (5),

Outcome encompasses concepts such as success and acclaim, as seen in (12) and (4).

The themes that warrant particular attention are Functional, encompassing role, step, component, aspect, factor, element, importance, distinction, juncture, and ingredient as exemplified in (10), Chronological, incorporating moment, timing, and turning as exemplified in (11). Additionally, there is Outcome, which includes success as evident in (12), Decision-Making, which includes vote as evident in (13), and cognitive, which includes difference, understanding, and insight as evident in (14).

**Table 6 Type of Preferences for the Four Themes of the Search Word *Crucial***

No	Semantic Preference	Noun Collocates
1	Functional	role, step, component, aspect, factor, element, importance, distinction, juncture, ingredient
2	Chronological	moment, timing, turning
3	Outcome	success
4	Decision-Making	vote
5	Cognitive	difference, understanding, insight

- 10) ...of course. The voting was just for show. But ritual plays a *crucial role* for China’s communist regime, and right after the vote the...
- 11) ...time with few people around -- whom would you prefer to be with in this *crucial moment*? For family people the answer can be easy, it is the family...
- 12) ...
- 13) President George W. Bush. Democrats contend that Ralph Nader’s presence took away some *crucial votes* from their candidate, Al Gore. # While there have been no notable.
- 14) ...expect other architects to speak out about that. However, you miss a *crucial difference*. We have state boards that do nothing but regulate and police and certify.

**Conclusions**

The study explores the meanings of critical, serious, and crucial, using two dictionaries and COCA corpus software. The three terms can be

understood in multiple interpretations, such as being bad or wrong, being serious or dangerous, or being extremely important. Despite their shared meanings, they are not interchangeable in all contexts. The Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary defines critical as saying bad things about someone or something, serious as careful thinking, and crucial as extremely important or necessary. However, the tone or emphasis of a speaker or writer may determine which nuances are preferred, bringing distinct nuance to different settings.

The study examines the meanings of critical, serious, and crucial in various contexts. Critical is often associated with a higher degree of importance and urgency, while serious conveys a sense of importance but does not necessarily indicate the same amount of urgency or severity. Critical emphasizes the utmost importance and necessity of something, while serious emphasizes the need for thorough study or a point of crisis.

Critical is used in situations that call for precision, evaluation, or judgment, such as analysis, medicine, and decision-making. It is also commonly used interchangeably with critical and crucial in some situations. Critical conveys the greatest degree of formality, predominantly used in written genres, while serious is mostly associated with informal language. The study also examines noun collocations, finding that critical and crucial are frequently associated with a range of nouns, including ‘factor, success, aspect, component, role, and element.’ However, the adjective serious does not have any noun collocations that it shares, and when it does appear with its noun collocations, it is related with a negative meaning. The word critical is commonly associated with four distinct semantic preferences: Cognitive, Quantitative, Environmental, And Outcome. The Cognitive group has the highest number of noun collocations, while ‘serious’ is associated with five categories of noun collocations. The word serious is closely linked to negative or destructive connotations, while the term crucial is linked to five distinct groups of semantic choices.

The study examines the similarities and distinctions between three synonyms: critical, serious, and crucial in terms of meaning, formality, and noun collocation. The results show that critical



and serious share the same meaning when referring to ‘a sense of importance’, but serious cannot be used interchangeably due to varying levels of formality and semantic preferences. Future research should explore the three synonyms in additional dimensions, such as regional variations and syntactic structures, and analyze them with more concordance lines. Additionally, as for the implication of the study teachers should provide students with actual language samples from corpus data to help them understand the differences between synonyms and develop more effective instructional materials. This will help second language learners become more conscious of the fact that most synonyms are similar and cannot be used interchangeably. Additionally, teachers can provide students with additional information not found in dictionaries, such as concordance lines.

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