

Abstract

Nashahta, Terra B A. *The Comparison between the Headwords in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and in the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.*

This study was conducted to investigate the differences between the headwords in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th edition* (OALD8) and in the *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th edition* (MWCD11). This study aims to find out the headwords which are found in one dictionary, but not in the other, and identify the reasons why there are differences in the headwords of two dictionaries. The comparison of the number of pages for each letter in the dictionaries show that the entries for the letter S presents the highest difference, i.e. OALD8 has 216 pages, while MWCD11 has 178 pages. To make the analysis more focused, the writer takes a sample consisting the first 30 headwords which are only found in one dictionary but not in the other. To determine the frequencies of the usage of each headword, the writer uses the corpus called Glowbe, which is the corpus consist of 1.9 billion words in total. The result shows that from the 30 unique headwords in the OALD8, 19 headwords are frequent in UK, 5 headwords are frequent in US, 2 headwords are frequent in Canada, and one headword is frequent in each of the following countries: India, Bangladesh and Nigeria. On the other hand, from the 30 unique headwords in the MWCD11, 10 headwords are frequent in US, 5 headwords are frequent in UK, 2 headwords are frequent in Canada, and one headword is frequent in each of the following countries: Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ireland, Philippines, Malaysia and India. The differences are also due to the use of simple words, compounds, complex words, and proper names. There are more simple words in the MWCD11 than in OALD8, because MWCD11 is offer the history of word in that dictionary. There are more compounds in the OALD8 than in the MWCD11, because OALD8 is for learners. The differences in the number of complex words and proper names are not significant. The proper name which is found in the OALD8 is a trademark. However, the proper names which are found in the MWCD11 are people's name, name of ethnic group, festival, language and trademark.

Keywords: *Simple word, Compound, Complex word, Country, Proper name, Headwords, OALD8, MWCD11.*