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Supporting the internationalization of Brazilian research: combining EAP tutor training and academic writing autonomy

25 February 2021

How it all began

February 2018

- Tavares Pinto (UNESP)
- FAPESP 6-month fellowship at Surrey
- Frankenberg-Garcia (Surrey)

May 2018

- Frankenberg-Garcia (Surrey)
- Santander Staff Mobility Award to UFRGS
- Sarmento (UFRGS)

June 2018

- British Council Collaboration Call
- Tavares Pinto (UNESP)
- Sarmento (UFRGS)
- Frankenberg-Garcia (Surrey)

The opportunity

British Council UK-Brazil collaboration call

- Projects aimed at improving the teaching of English in Brazilian secondary & higher education

Brazilian team

- Languages without Borders programme at
  - Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)
  - São Paulo State University (UNESP)

UK partner

- ColloCaid project at University of Surrey

- Common interests
  - Corpus Linguistics
  - Academic Writing

General Context

- Publishing in English can help researchers disseminate their work more widely
  - Most read and cited research papers are in English
- But many researchers across the world have difficulties writing up their research in English
- They would benefit from academic English writing support

The Brazilian situation

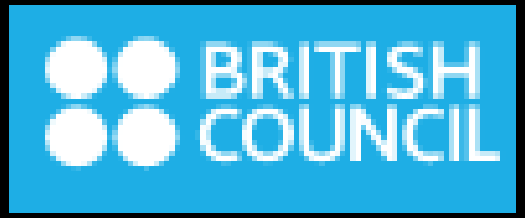
- Portuguese-speaking country, Portuguese used at universities
- English taught in schools, but not always to a satisfactory level
  - Some researchers have very low proficiency in English
- Few researchers have the opportunity to work or study in English-medium institutions
  - Little exposure to academic English
- Academic English support available at universities
  - But taught mostly by undergraduates studying languages
    - Fullbright language assistants
  - Can help researchers with grammar and general English questions
  - Tutors have no experience of specialized subjects
  - Let alone experience of high-level research writing

The plan

- Support L2 English research writing in Brazil
- Combine support for researchers and English tutors at the same time
  - Collaborative learning
  - Corpus linguistics materials & tools to foster autonomy

- Four workshops
  - UFRGS, April & June 2019
  - UNESP, April & June 2019

Funding Awarded!



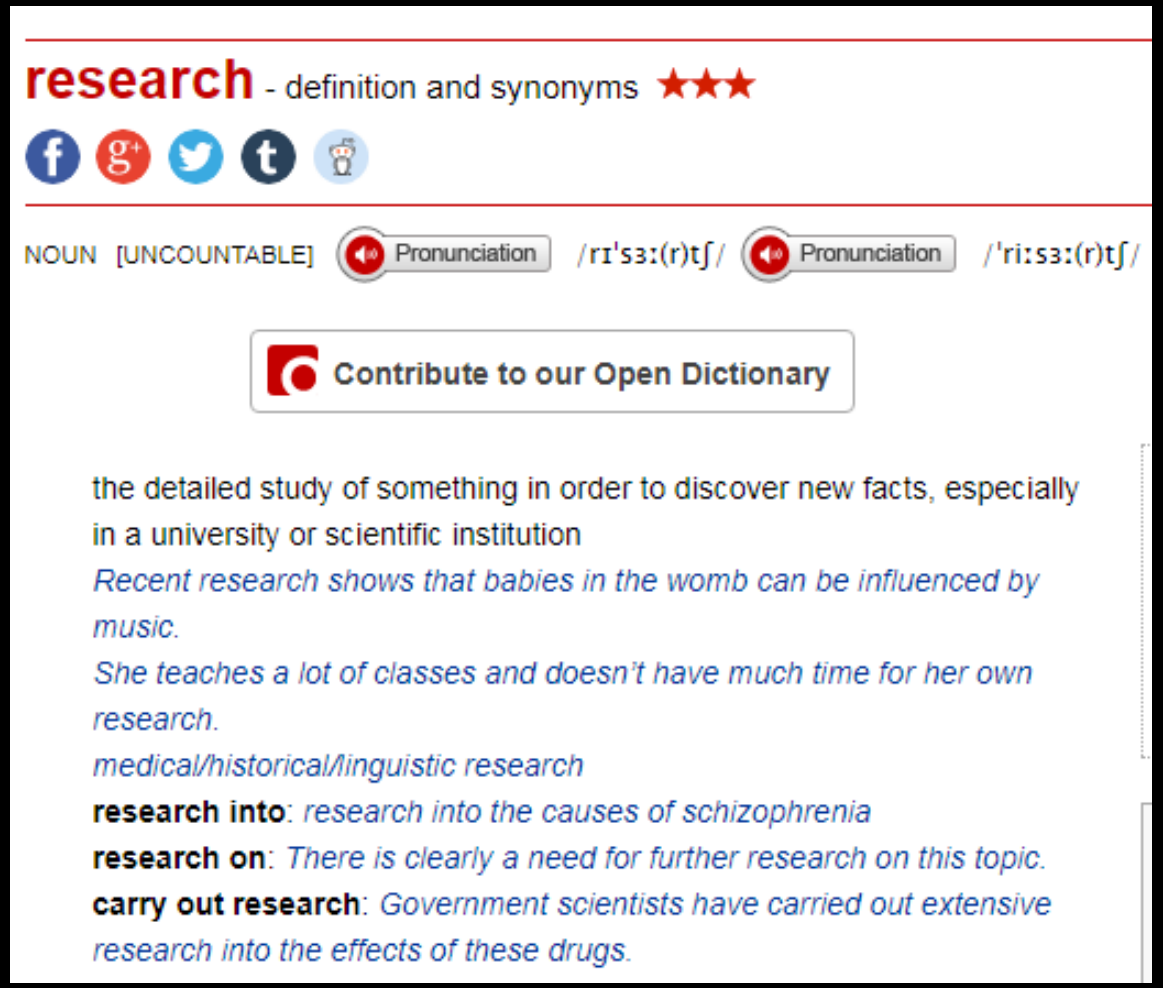
Planning

- Discuss Brazilian situation
- Observe EAP classes @Surrey
- Prepare workshop

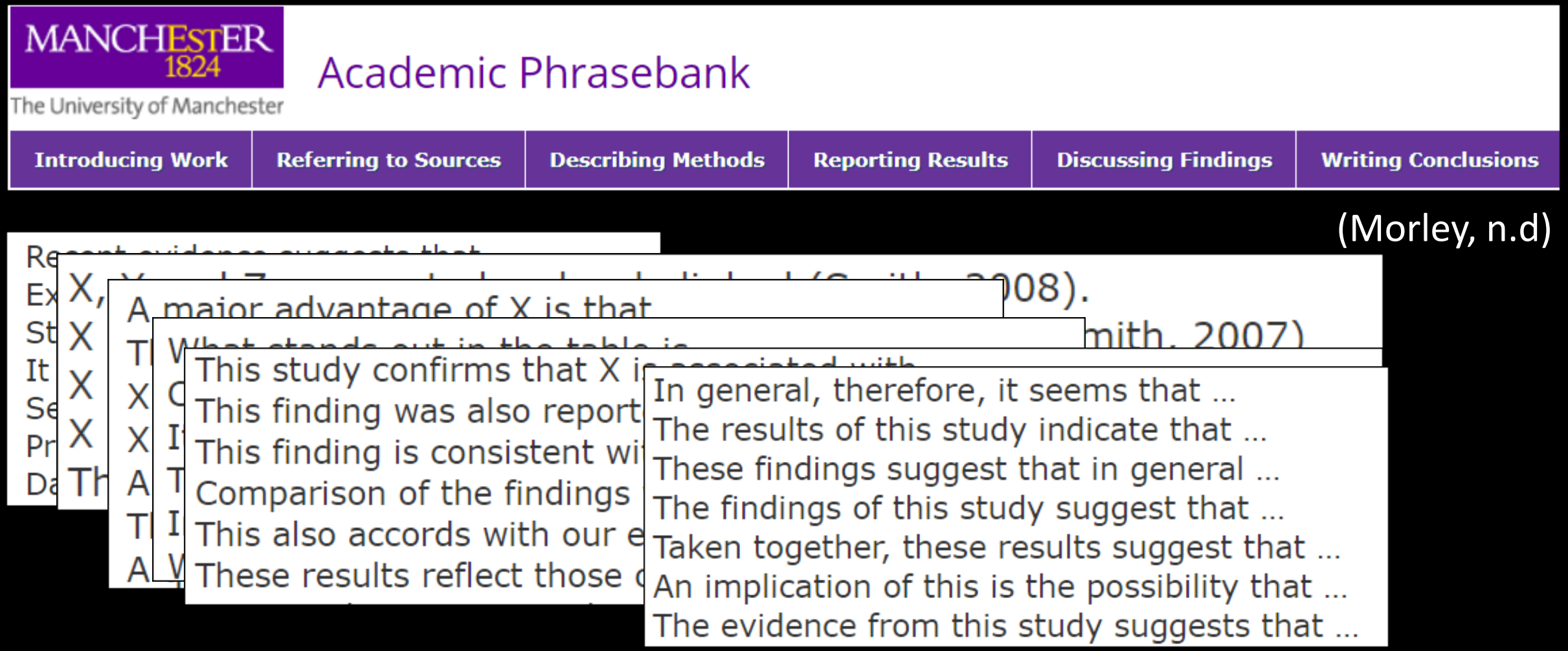
Workshop materials: dictionaries

- Dictionaries used mostly for definitions, translations and games
  (Frankenberg-Garcia 2020)
- Corpus-based dictionaries can help writers with phraseology, syntactic patterns and collocation
  (Frankenberg-Garcia 2015)
- How to use dictionaries when writing

Macmillan English Dictionary Online



Workshop materials: academic phrases



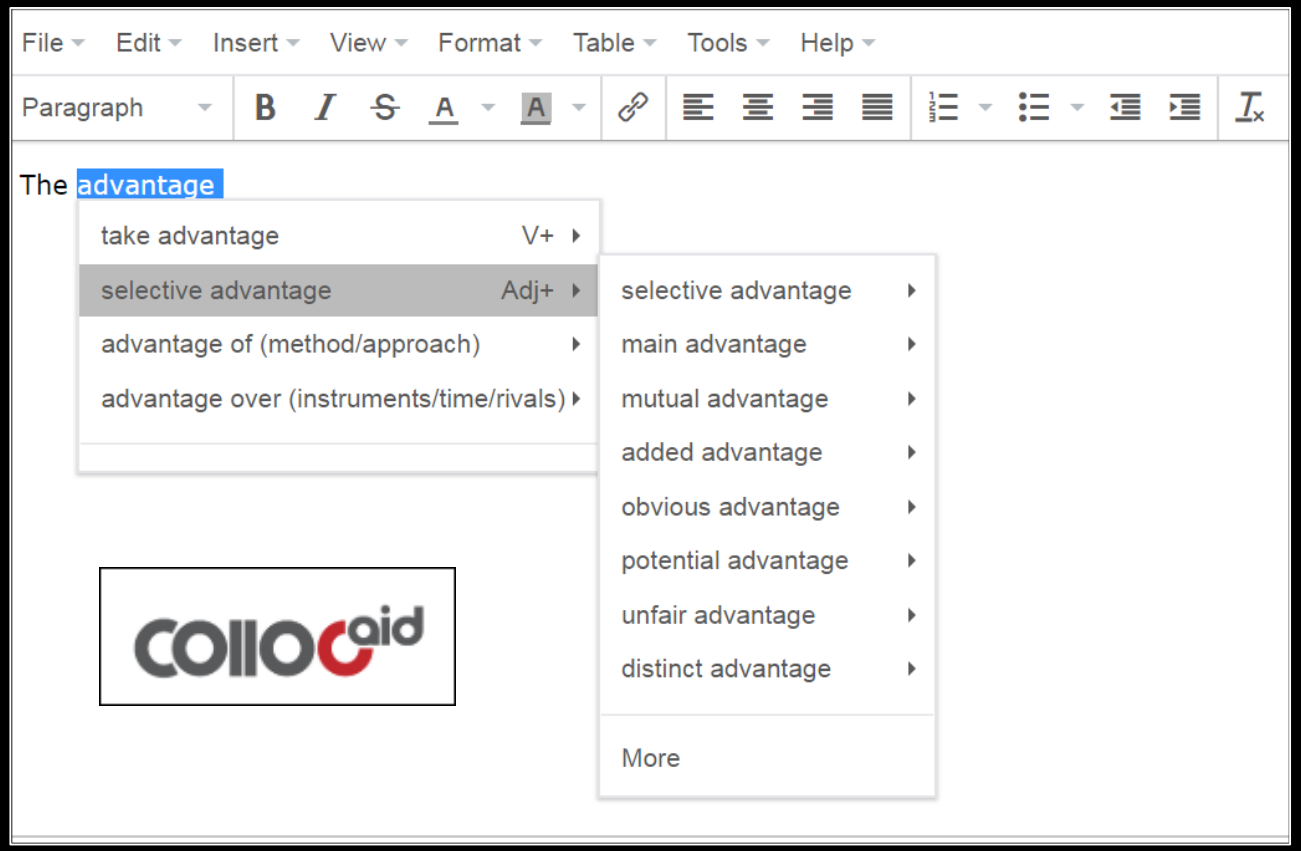
(Morley, n.d)

Workshop materials: collocations

Tavares Pinto et al. (2021) study of Brazilian publications

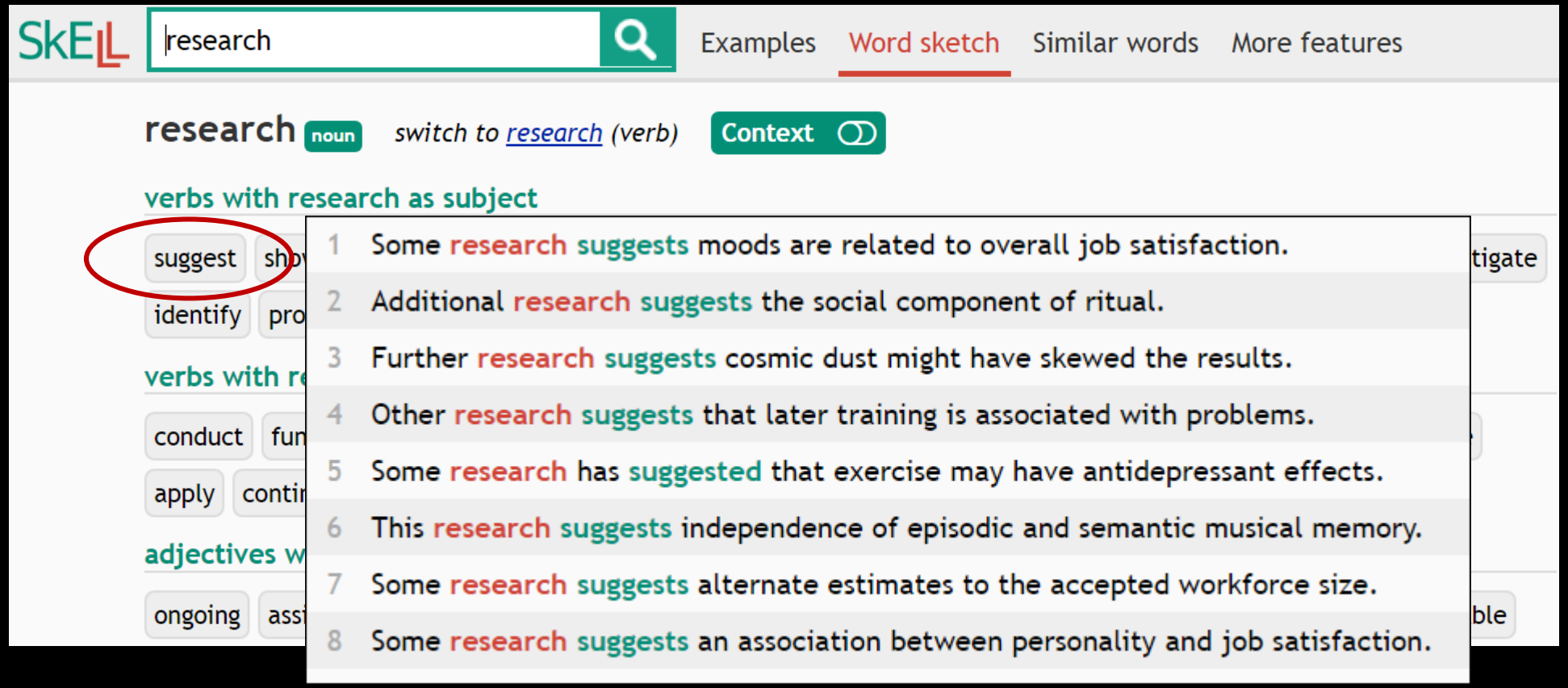
- Less varied repertoire of academic collocations
- Atypical collocation priorities
  - + This study corroborates
  - - This study supports
- Avoid certain L1-congruent collocations
  - empirical study
  - estudo empírico (PT)

www.collocaid .uk (Frankenberg-Garcia et al. 2019)



Workshop materials: corpora

- SkELL (Baisa & Suchomel 2014)



Workshop materials: corpora

Kilgarriff et al. (2014)

- English Web 15
- DIY corpora of discipline-specific target publications
- Term extraction
- Terms in context

All this without extensive corpus linguistics training!

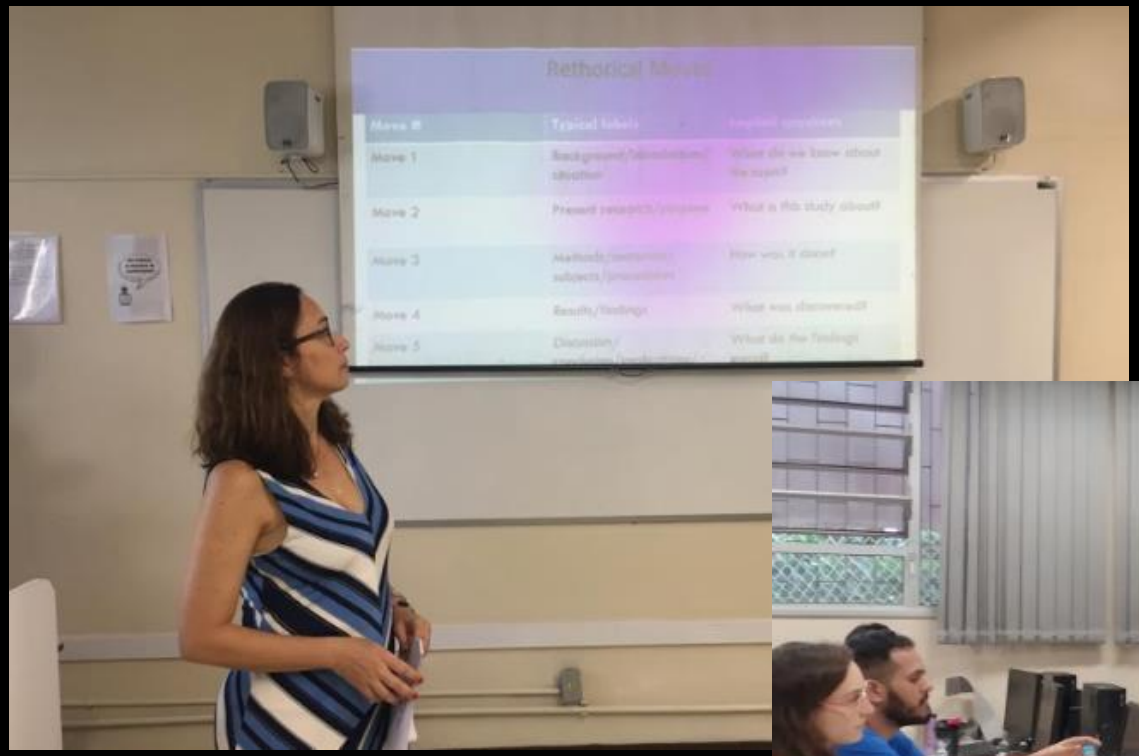
Workshop materials: DIY corpora

Workshop materials: DIY corpora

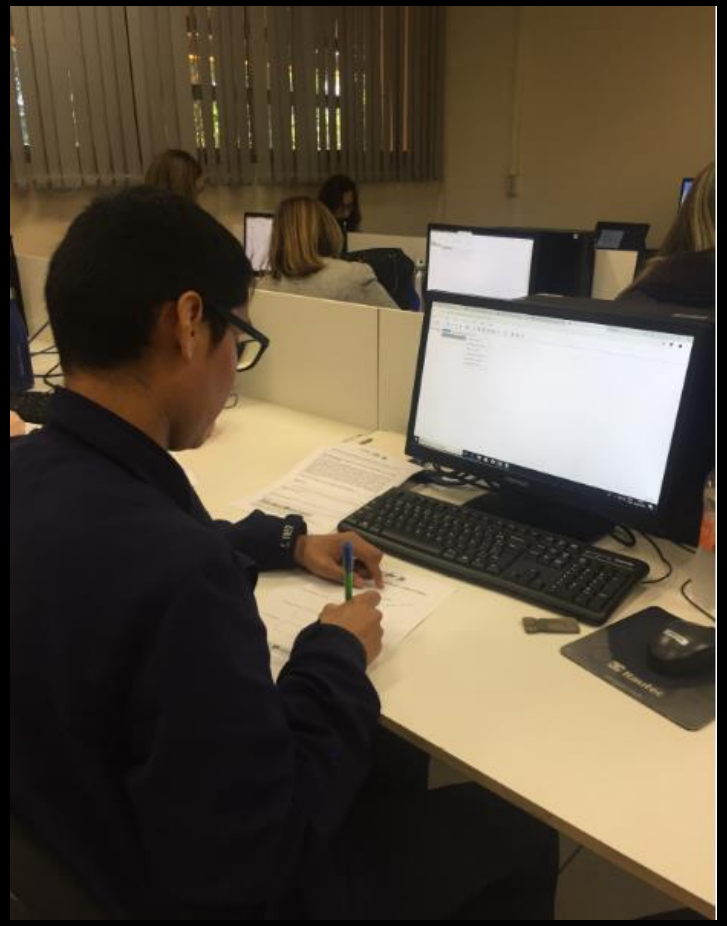
ished drivers of carcinogenesis in COPD include	oxidative	stress	and sustained chronic inflammation. </s><s> Mitocho
o processes and recent evidence links increased	oxidative	stress	in COPD patients to mitochondrial damage. </s><s>
rial damage in COPD patients leads to increased	oxidative	stress	and chronic inflammation, thereby increasing the risk
><s> Dysfunctional mitochondria are a source of	oxidative	stress	and inflammasome activation. </s><s> In COPD, the
N | F. </s><s> NG KEE KWONG ET AL. </s> <s>	Oxidative	stress	and inflammation as the link between COPD and car
nd carcinogenesis Multiple mechanisms, such as	oxidative	stress	, chronic inflammation and genetic factors, have beer
reviewed elsewhere [44– 46]. </s><s> Of those,	oxidative	stress	and sustained chronic inflammation are well-establish
s> However, COPD patients have an increase in	oxidative	stress	compared with non-COPD smokers. </s><s> The air
onsmokers [57]. </s><s> The effect of increased	oxidative	stress	on carcinogenesis may also be mediated by the indu
ing molecules [58]. </s><s> As well as increased	oxidative	stress	, cell senescence is also known to be induced by mito
ntext, mitophagy has a positive role in controlling	oxidative	stress	and inflammation. </s><s> Damaged mitochondria ar
t currently known. </s><s> Mitophagy Increased	oxidative	stress	Pink1/Parkin Pink1/Parkin pathway disrupted Cancer
ve pulmonary disease (COPD) lead to increased	oxidative	stress	and inflammation, drivers of carcinogenesis. </s><s>
e incidence of lung cancer in COPD by reducing	oxidative	stress	. </s><s> This will require the development of animal
ished drivers of carcinogenesis in COPD include	oxidative	stress	and sustained chronic inflammation. </s><s> Dysfunc
e NLRP3 inflammasome. </s><s> The increased	oxidative	stress	in COPD patients has been linked to mitochondrial dy
a-related pathways which contribute to increased	oxidative	stress	and chronic inflammation in COPD and lung cancer a
><s> Bhattacharyya S, Saha J. </s><s> Tumour,	oxidative	stress	and host T cell response: cementing the dominance.
onnell RA, et al. Expression of genes involved in	oxidative	stress	responses in airway epithelial cells of smokers with c
, Nogal A, Molina-Pinelo S, et al. Identification of	oxidative	stress	related proteins as biomarkers for lung cancer and ch

Delivering: warm up

Delivering: presentation

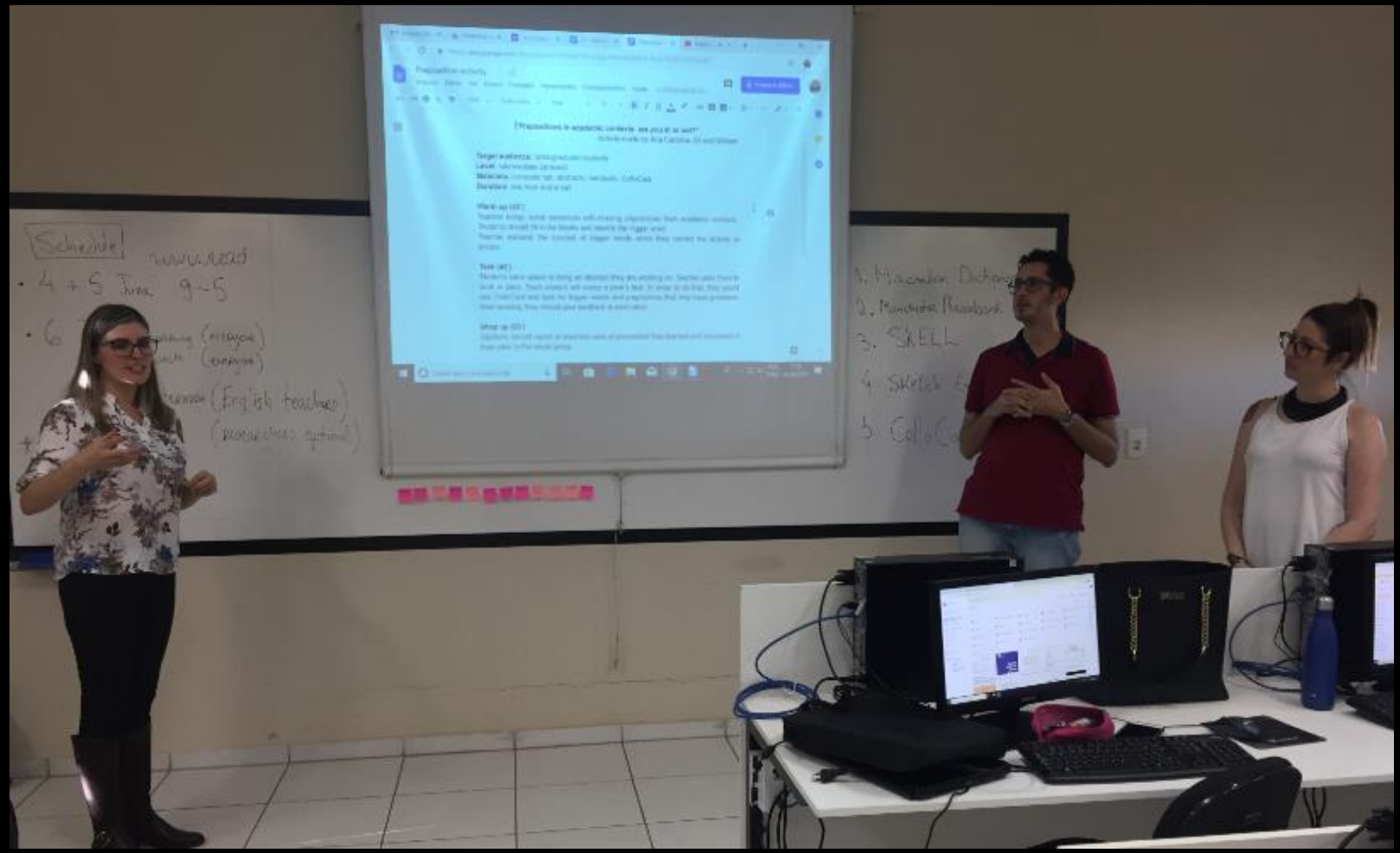


Delivering: guided exercises



Delivering: collaborative writing

Delivering: shared insights



Analysis: participants

- 272 applications from 30 higher education institutions
  - Despite late advertising
- 125 participants
  - Limited places, classrooms full (>30)
- A few participants travelled from other states or commuted very long distances
- 52 English tutors (B2 level and above)
- 63 researchers from Astronomy to Zoology (B1 level and above)
  - 52.4% PhD students
  - 25% lecturers/professors
  - 22.2% Master’s students

Analysis: English tutors

- Level of English of a few was lower than that of some researchers
- A few tutors had too little experience of teaching
  - Less proficient/experienced teachers paired up with more proficient/experienced colleagues
- In future:
  - Give preference to more experienced teachers
  - Plan more time for teaching how to teach with corpora

Analysis: researchers

- Many lecturers/professors were too busy for 3-day workshop
- Lecturers/professors working on actual papers for publication were the most engaged
- A few postgraduate students were in too early stages of their work
- In future:
  - Reduce workshop days or plan less intensive programme
  - Give priority to researchers working on a paper for publication

Analysis: end-of-workshop questionnaires

- Expectations about the workshop
  - 100% exceeded or met
- Workshop materials (1 – 5 scale)
  - 4.72 (researchers)
  - 4.85 (English tutors)
- Likelihood to recommend to colleagues (1 – 5 scale)
  - 4.94 (researchers)
  - 4.96 (teachers)

Analysis: one year later

Fewer respondents (26.9% tutors & 47.3% researchers)

- 92.9% of English teachers used some or all of the tools in their teaching
- 36.7% of researchers managed to publish internationally
- 33.3% of researchers working on a paper

Analysis: one year later comments

Anonymous English teacher

The tools are now part of my bag of tricks for teaching, which means that every now and then I go and use those tools whenever I need real-life examples of English to find patterns I could teach my students, or even answer their questions regarding grammar. It's easy, fast and I can draw many conclusions just from observing the patterns. I also encourage my students to use those tools for independent learning, especially SkELL, which is more user friendly.

Analysis: one year later publications

remote sensing

MDPI

Article

An Incongruence-Based Anomaly Detection Strategy for Analyzing Water Pollution in Images from Remote Sensing

Maurício Araújo Dias [1,*], Erivaldo Antônio da Silva [2], Samara Calçado de Azevedo [3], Wallace Casaca [4], Thiago Statella [5] and Rogério Galante Negri [6]

Resources

Academic Phrasebank http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/

ColloCaid http://www.collocaid.uk/

Macmillan English Dictionary https://www.macmillandictionary.com/

SkELL https://www.sketchengine.eu/skell/

Sketch Engine https://www.sketchengine.eu/

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Acknowledgements

- British Council UK-Brazil collaboration funding
- Sketch Engine
- Language without Borders
- Santander Universities