

## Graded assignment 4: Prenominal adjective order in English

### 1. Study questions for Wulff (2003)

1. Characterize the main objective(s) of Wulff (2003)?
2. What, according to Wulff, are the most severe shortcomings of previous studies?
3. Can you compute the proportional reduction of error in percent for this table?

length relation	order: $x y$	order: $y x$	Totals
adjective $x >$ adjective $y$	40	30	70
adjective $x <$ adjective $y$	30	50	80
Totals	70	80	150

4. If you needed not to worry about technicalities (corpora, programming, etc.) Can you imagine an alternative corpus-based approach to determining  $SEM_{CLOSE}$ ?
5. Can you think of an improvement of the measure of  $IND_{COMP}$ ?
6. In what way does Wulff investigate interactions between the variables governing prenominal adjective order as referred to on p. 246?
7. Which objectives of scientific inquiry – description, explanation, prediction – does Wulff pursue and how successful is she in their pursuit?

### 2. Pseudocode assignment

In the <files> folder of this course, there are four files representing the SGML format of the British National Corpus. Write pseudocode and note down function names to

- generate case-insensitive concordances of two words that are tagged as adjectives (<w AJ .>) followed by a word tagged as a noun (use <w N .>) in those files;
- recover from the adjectives in each pair their lengths in characters;
- check whether there is a short-before long effect in the data;

and submit it to Albert at <[aventayolboada@ucsb.edu](mailto:aventayolboada@ucsb.edu)> by 07 March 2023, 08:00 PST.