# Word Association and Word Games 

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#### Abstract

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## Introduction

Word association plays an important role in the analysis of the connections between words and concepts. It is suggested that by conducting a word association test (WAT), the ways that knowledge is structured in the brain can be revealed (Sinopalnikova, 2003). Read (1993) claimed that the results of the WAT in English on native and non-native speakers can vary significantly, with native speakers having relatively stable patterns of word associations and non-native speakers having more diverse and unstable patterns. The claim of McCarthy (1990) resonates with the claim by Read that the mental lexicon of native and non-native speakers can differ significantly. Read also proposed that some WAT responses by non-native speakers are based on the phonological links rather than the semantic links with the stimulus words (Read, 1993). Rothman (2009) further indicated that first language (L1) speakers respond to the WAT paradigmatically, unlike second language (L2) speakers that tend to give collocational associations. Moreover, it is claimed that associative tendencies are cultural-specific (Harrison, 2015), which means that the mental lexicon of people are related to the social environment and culture they are immersed in.

## Aims of the Experiment

This experiment aims to analyze the effect of different social environments of non-native speakers of English on their word associations.

## Methods of the Experiment

In the experiment, 30 non-native speakers of English aged 18 to 30 will be asked to tell the first word they can think of when they read the selected primes. Among the participants, 15 of them are Hong Kong people whilst 15 of them are non-Hong Kong people.

The 15 words that are chosen to be the primes are listed in Table 1. They are either simple English words or well-known landmarks or characters in the world and in popular culture. Hence, the participants should find it simple to identify the meaning of the words used in the experiment. The primes are placed in random sequences when displayed to the participants. There will be 5 nouns, 5 verbs and 5 adjectives selected for the experiment.

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Wuhan | Vote | White |
| Umbrella | Zoom | Corrupted |
| Government | Eat | Holy |
| Notre-Dame | Buy | Empty |
| Pooh | Stay | Widespread |

## Table 1

Among the primes, 4 words are selected based on some contemporary global issues, i.e. "Notre-Dame", "Wuhan", "stay" and "widespread", which are related to the fire of Notre-Dame, the Catholic cathedral in Paris, and COVID-19 respectively. The responses of these primes are expected to be similar among participants. Other than that, the prime "umbrella" is selected based on the political environment of Hong Kong, and it is expected that there will be differences in the responses from Hong Kong participants and non-Hong Kong participants. The remaining primes are relatively neutral, and it is expected to receive responses of a wide variety.

There is an attempt to investigate the hypotheses by Read and Harrison, that the responses of L2 speakers are more about phonological links than semantic links (Read, 1993), and that the mental lexicon of the respondents are affected by the culture and social environment (Harrison, 2015).

## Results and Discussion of the Experiment

## Results

## Results of the Word Association Experiment

(Please refer to Appendix B for the detailed experimental results)

Wuhan (Noun)


Figure 1

| WUHAN | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |


| Part-whole Relation | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Lexeme Level | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 2

Vote (Verb)


Figure 2

| VOTE | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 13 | 14 | 1 |

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| Implication | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 3

White (Adjective)


Figure 3

| WHITE | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Antonymy | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 1 | 3 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |


| Attributive Relation | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 4

Umbrella (Noun)


Figure 4

| UMBRELLA | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 14 | 15 | 1 |

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| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 5

Zoom (Verb)


Figure 5

| ZOOM | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |

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| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 9 | 11 | 1 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 6 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 15 |  |
| Total | 15 | 0 |  |

Table 6

Corrupted (Adjective)


Figure 6

| CORRUPTED | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Collocation | 5 | 9 |  |
| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |


| Attributive Relation | 10 | 6 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 7

Government (Noun)


Figure 7

| GOVERNMENT | Frequency | Rank of Frequency |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong |  |  |

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| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Collocation | 8 | 8 |  |
| Implication | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 4 | 3 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 15 |  |
| Total | 15 | 0 |  |

Table 8

## Eat (Verb)



Figure 8

| EAT | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Taxonomic Relation (Coordinate) | 1 | 2 |  |


| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 9

Holy (Adjective)


Figure 9

| HOLY | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |

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| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Collocation | 7 | 11 | 1 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Attributive Relation | 7 | 4 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 15 | 15 |
| Total |  |  |  |

Table 10

Notre-Dame (Noun)


Figure 10

| NOTRE-DAME | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Collocation | 13 | 8 | 2 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 7 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |


| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Lexeme Level | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 11

Buy (Verb)


Figure 11

| BUY | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Antonymy | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 13 | 11 | 1 |

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| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 12

Empty (Adjective)


Figure 12

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| EMPTY | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Antonymy | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 10 | 7 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Total | 15 |  |  |

Table 13

Pooh (Noun)


Figure 13

| Pooh | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |


| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 14

Stay (Verb)


Figure 14

| STAY | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Antonymy | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 14 | 14 | 1 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation | 0 | 0 |  |


| (Superordinate of Prime) |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 |  |
| Total | 15 | 15 |  |

Table 15

## Widespread (Adjective)



Figure 15

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| WIDESPREAD | Frequency |  | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Hong Kong | Non-Hong Kong |  |
| Synonymy | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Antonymy | 0 | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Implication | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation <br> (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate <br> of Prime) | 0 | 0 |  |
| Attributive Relation | 11 | 10 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 0 |  |
| Others | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Total | 15 |  |  |

Table 16

## Comparison of Syntactic Categories

| NOUNS | Frequency | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Synonymy | 0 |  |
| Antonymy | 0 |  |
| Incompatibility | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 97 | 1 |
| Implication | 4 | 6 |
| Taxonomic Relation (Superordinate of Prime) | 20 | 2 |
| Taxonomic Relation (Coordinate) | 5 | 5 |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate of Prime) | 7 | 4 |
| Attributive Relation | 4 | 6 |
| Part-whole Relation | 10 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 | 7 |
| Lexeme Level | 3 |  |
| Total | 150 |  |

Table 17

| VERBS | Frequency | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Synonymy | 2 | 5 |
| Antonymy | 8 | 3 |
| Incompatibility | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 126 | 1 |
| Implication | 1 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Superordinate of Prime) | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Coordinate) | 3 | 4 |


| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate of Prime) | 0 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Attributive Relation | 0 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 10 | 2 |
| Lexeme Level | 0 |  |
| Total | 150 |  |

Table 18

| ADJECTIVES | Frequency | Rank of Frequency |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Synonymy | 9 | 3 |
| Antonymy | 9 | 3 |
| Incompatibility | 0 |  |
| Collocation | 57 | 2 |
| Implication | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Superordinate of Prime) | 4 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Coordinate) | 0 |  |
| Taxonomic Relation (Subordinate of Prime) | 0 | 1 |
| Attributive Relation | 71 |  |
| Part-whole Relation | 0 |  |
| Functional Relation | 0 |  |
| Lexeme Level | 0 |  |
| Total | 150 |  |

Table 19

## Discussion

According to the experimental results, the vast majority of responses by the participants are having a semantic link with the prime, with only $0.67 \%$ of the total responses, i.e. 3 out of 450 responses, are having a phonological link. The finding contradicts with the claim by Read (1993) that non-native speakers tend to come up with words with phonological links to the stimulus words. However, the findings resonate with the argument by Harrison (2015) that the associative tendencies are cultural-specific. For instance, $80 \%$ of Hong Kong participants linked the term "umbrella" with the political movement in 2014 in Hong Kong, coming up with responses like "yellow", "movement", "revolution", etc., whilst the non-Hong Kong participants tended to come up with words related to occasions where umbrellas are used or its usage, such as "rain", "shade", "outing", etc..

It is worth noting that the noun and verb primes have the vast majority of responses from the participants by collocation association, which accounts for $64.7 \%$ and $84 \%$ respectively. Whilst that of adjectives is $38 \%$, much lower than the two other syntactic categories. Moreover, although the responses by participants of different places of origin may differ, a similar ratio of sense relations can be observed from the responses. For instance, with reference to the results of the prime "umbrella", there are $93 \%$ and $100 \%$ of Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong participants coming up with a response by collocation respectively, whilst the responses can be very different.

The experimental findings will be analyzed in detail in the following sections.

## Discussion on the Comparison of Syntactic Categories

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To commence with, in accordance with Tables 17 and 18, there are $64.7 \%$ and $84 \%$ of responses by collocation in the noun and verb categories respectively. The results resonate with the claim by Rothman (2009) that L2 speakers tend to provide responses of collocation associations. It is suggested that one of the reasons behind the significant proportion of responses by collocation in the syntactic categories of noun and verb is possibly due to the loose restrictions of the words that can be considered to have collocation associations. In contrast, the other sense relations, such as synonymy and antonymy, have a bold and clear definition. Hence, fewer words can align with the definition of these sense relations. For instance, in the noun term "umbrella", except the response of "song", the remaining $96.7 \%$ of responses are of collocation relation, such as "movement", "Rihanna" and "rain". In this case, except the word "song" that can be interpreted as a hypernym when "umbrella" is interpreted as a song instead of a tool, the other responses cannot align with the definitions of any of the sense relations except collocation. Thus, the loose definition of collocation association contributes to its abundance in the experimental results. The same conditions applied to the verb category. Therefore, it is proposed that the nature of the sense relation of collocation is the major reason behind its relatively high occurrence in the noun and verb syntactic categories.

The same situation does not apply in the case of the adjective category due to the nature of English adjectives. From the data collected, only $38 \%$ of responses from the adjective syntactic category are considered to have a collocation association with the prime. Instead, there is $47.3 \%$ of responses being considered as having an attributive relation with the prime, which is the sense relation with the highest frequency among prime adjectives. It is proposed that this is because English adjectives are words used to describe something, and when the response of the

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participants is an object or a noun that can be described by the prime adjective logically, the response will have an attributive relation with the prime, since the prime adjective is an attribute, i.e. feature, of the noun in the response. For instance, in the term "holy", responses such as "spirit" and "shit" are objects that are described by the prime adjective "holy". In this sense, "holy" becomes an attribute of "spirit" and "shit". Hence, they have an attributive relation with the prime. Thus, the uniqueness of adjectives has led to a much higher occurrence of responses of attributive relations in this syntactic category. Although attributive relation is more abundant than collocation association in the adjective syntactic category, collocation association is still the sense relation of the second-highest frequency due to its loose definition as mentioned above.

Next, in accordance with Table 17, there are $6.7 \%$ of responses that have a part-whole relation with the prime noun, in which there is none of this sense relation in the case for the verb and adjective syntactic categories. It is proposed that this is because it is possible for objects to be a part of another object or to include other objects inside. For instance, in the term "Wuhan", there are 4 respondents answering "China" and 2 respondents answering "Hubei". Wuhan is a city located in Hubei Province and a city located in China at the same time, so it possesses a part-whole relation with the responses "Hubei" and "China" as well. In this result, it indicates that this is a unique characteristic that nouns possess, as it is impossible for verbs and adjectives to have a part-whole relation with other words due to the nature of the syntactic categories.

Moreover, with reference to Table 17, there are 21.3\% of responses that have a taxonomic relation with the prime noun. The frequency of occurrence of this sense relation in the syntactic category of noun is far higher than that of verb and adjective, which have only fewer than $6.7 \%$ of responses with this sense relation. It is suggested that this phenomenon is caused by
the possibility of organization of nouns in a hierarchical structure. For example, in the term "Notre-Dame", responses such as "cathedral" and "university" are hypernyms of the prime noun, since Notre-Dame can be a cathedral and a university. The example demonstrates the possibility of organizing nouns in a hierarchical structure. Hence, this nature of nouns explains the results of the experiment. Since there is a relatively lower tendency for verbs and adjectives to be organized in a hierarchical structure, the occurrence of the sense relation of taxonomic relations tend to be significantly lower than that of the noun category.

Furthermore, in Table 18, there are $6.7 \%$ of responses that are with a functional relation with the prime verbs. In a functional relation, the verb is the function of the noun. For example, in the term "zoom", responses such as "camera" and "lens" are nouns that can be used to perform the function of "zoom". Hence, they have a functional relation with "zoom". Thus, the presence of a verb in a functional relation is important. Therefore, this explains the experimental results that functional relations only occur in the syntactic category of verb.

## Discussion on the Primes Related to Contemporary Global Issues

As mentioned above, the terms "Wuhan", "stay", "widespread" and "Notre-Dame" are related to COVID-19 and the fire of the Notre-Dame catholic cathedral in Paris, which are both global issues, and it is expected to receive similar answers from the respondents.

According to the experimental results, $70 \%$ of responses of "Wuhan" are words like "virus", "coronavirus", "COVID-19", etc.; $83.3 \%$ of responses of "stay" are words like "home", "healthy", "isolation", etc.; 73\% of responses of "widespread"are words like "virus", "pandemic", "disease", etc.; and 36.7\% of responses of "Notre-Dame" are words like "fire" and "burn".

The results of the words "Wuhan", "stay" and "widespread" align with the expected outcome. This may be related to the high frequency of occurrence of the related reports on COVID-19 around the world in early 2020. When stimulus words such as "Wuhan" and "stay" are told, the respondents immediately come up with other significant words related to the pandemic.

However, the results of "Notre-Dame" deviate from the expected outcome. Although there are $36.7 \%$ responses on the fire accident, some respondents provide answers about the building and its location instead, such as "Paris", "historical" and "religion". It is worth to note that there are $16.7 \%$ of respondents providing answers related to academic institutes, such as "university" and "school". This may be caused by the differences in understanding on the term "Notre-Dame" between the participants and me. The cause of the differences in understanding may be due to the different social and cultural environments between the participants and me, since the participants providing these answers are the non-Hong Kong participants. This will be further elaborated in the next section.

## Discussion on the Primes Related to Specific Social and Cultural Environments

The term "umbrella" is explicitly included to test the relationship between the mental lexicon and the social and cultural environment. According to the results, $43 \%$ of responses are words related to the Umbrella Movement in 2014 in Hong Kong, such as "movement", "revolution" and "yellow". Among the Hong Kong participants, $86.7 \%$ of responses are related to the social movement. Meanwhile, the non-Hong Kong participants only provide words related to the function of umbrella and its usage, such as "rain" and "shade". Hence, the findings align with the expected results.

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Other than "umbrella", the effect of social and cultural differences can also be reflected in "white" and "Notre-Dame" to a small extent. Although these two terms are not designed for testing the relationship between the mental lexicon and the social and cultural environment, the results obtained demonstrate some answers that require certain cultural-specific background information to understand. For instance, there are 13\% of Hong Kong respondents answering "attack" when they heard the word "white". It is assumed that they may be referring to the 2019 Yuen Long Attack that happened on 21 July 2019 in Hong Kong. In this sense, the term "white" indicates the attackers who were dressing in white in the event. Other than that, there are $26.7 \%$ of non-Hong Kong respondents answering "university" or "school" when they heard the word "Notre-Dame". After asking for some clarifications and conducting some research, it is suggested that the "Notre-Dame" the respondents are referring to is The University of Notre-Dame Australia instead of the Catholic cathedral in Paris. Since understanding the social environment and certain cultures is a prerequisite before it is possible to understand the meanings of "white" and "Notre-Dame" in the above cases, it is said that these interpretations are cultural-specific. Hence, the experimental results resonate with the claim by Harrison (2015) that the mental lexicon of people is related to the cultural and social environment they are immersed in.

## Creation of Word Games

Two word games are created based on the primes in the experiment and the responses of the participants.

## Introduction of Word Game 1: The Guessing Race

(Please refer to Appendix D for detailed game description)

| Genre of Game: | English Learning for Non-Native English Speakers and Entertainment |
| :--- | :--- |
| Target Players: | Teenagers aged between 10 to 15 |
| Number of Players: | 2 |
| Setting: | 1x Container of All Game Materials <br> 2x Chess <br> 10x Yellow Card (Related Words) <br> 10x White Card (Answers) <br> 10x Red Card (Explicit Hints, i.e. Lexeme Level Similar Pronunciation) <br> 1x Chess Board |

Table 20
The Guessing Race is designed to strengthen the English proficiency of the players. Some related words will be provided to the players and they are given one chance to guess what the answer is in every turn. The player who can reach the end faster will be the winner of the game. The purpose of designing this game as a competition between two teens is to encourage them to try to link the related words provided to them together and come up with a proposed answer to the question, so that their skills of word association related to syntactic categories can be drastically improved. Moreover, the competition makes the game more interesting and attractive, since the competition can be a motivation for the player to participate in this game. It is suggested that this game can strengthen the participants' word association to the selected words.

## Introduction of Word Game 2: "Who is the Traitor" Game

(Please refer to Appendix D for detailed game description)

| Genre of Game: | English Learning for Non-Native English Speakers and Entertainment |
| :--- | :--- |
| Target Players: | Teenagers aged between 10 to 25 |


| Number of Players: | $5-10$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Setting: | 1x Container of All Game Materials <br> 50 x White Cards (Each with 2 hints, 10 cards for 1 prime, good side) <br> 20x White Cards (Each with 2 hints, 10 cards for 1 prime, traitor side) <br> $7 x$ Yellow Cards (Answers) |

Table 21
"Who is the Traitor" Game is designed to strengthen the English proficiency of teenagers as well. The players will be divided into two teams, one on the good side and one on the bad side. They will be given hints on their prime but not the answer. The good side has to find out the traitors to win, and the traitor side has to find out the answer of the good side to win. It is suggested that by including English learning materials and related things in collective games involving many teenagers, they can enhance their English proficiency and play with their peers at the same time. Moreover, as only hints are provided to every player, they have to also guess their primes during the game so that they can easily identify their teammates and win the game together. Each player will be given 30 seconds to speak out to give hints to the others, and the others will listen and also speak out when it is their turn. The players will decide on a player to be voted out. If the good side voted all people from the traitor side out, then the good side wins; if the traitor side can guess the prime of the good side accurately, then the traitor side wins. The hints of each player will be different, although they may be on the same side, so as to increase the difficulty of the game and to make the game more interesting.

## Conclusion

This paper investigates the relationship between mental lexicon, the age and place of origin and the social and cultural environment among non-native L2 English speakers, and found out that the social and cultural environment impact on the mental lexicon of a person. Moreover,
two word games are created based on the experimental results so as to facilitate the enhancement of the English proficiency of non-native L2 English speakers and arouse their interests in learning English.

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Appendix A
Background Information of Participants

| Participant | Age | Gender | Occupation | Place of Residence | Place of Origin |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Participant 1 | 20 | Male | Student | Australia | Hong Kong |
| Participant 2 | 19 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 3 | 18 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 4 | 21 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 5 | 22 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 6 | 18 | Male | Student | Mainland China | Hong Kong |
| Participant 7 | 18 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 8 | 20 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 9 | 20 | Female | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 12 | 19 | Female | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 13 | 20 | Female | Student | United Kingdom | Hong Kong |
| Pantipant 10 | 20 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| 19 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |


| Participant 14 | 20 | Female | Student | United States | Macao |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Participant 15 | 18 | Male | Student | Australia | Malaysia |
| Participant 16 | 18 | Female | Student | Australia | Vietnam |
| Participant 17 | 19 | Female | Student | Australia | Malaysia |
| Participant 18 | 19 | Female | Student | Australia | Malaysia |
| Participant 19 | 25 | Male | N/A | Singapore | Singapore |
| Participant 20 | 20 | Female | Student | Australia | South Korea |
| Participant 21 | 19 | Male | Student | Australia | Japan |
| Participant 22 | 19 | Female | Student | Australia | Malaysia |
| Participant 23 | 19 | Female | Student | Malaysia | Malaysia |
| Participant 24 | 19 | Male | Student | Australia | Malaysia |
| Participant 25 | 20 | Male | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 26 | 21 | Male | Student | United States | Mainland China |
| Participant 27 | 21 | Male | Student | United States | Macao |
| Participant 28 | 19 | Female | Student | Hong Kong | Hong Kong |
| Participant 29 | 22 | Male | Student | Mainland China | Mainland China |

WORD ASSOCIATION AND WORD GAMES

| Participant 30 | 24 | Female | Student | Mainland China | Mainland China |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Appendix B

## Responses of Participants by Respondent and by Selected Phrase

In this appendix, the selected phrases for the experiment will be listed in Part A, which consists of 15 English words, with 5 nouns, 5 verbs and 5 adjectives respectively.

Then, the responses of the participants will be displayed in Part B, and the answers are shown by respondents, which means that each set of answers of the same respondent will be shown in the same table. Hence, there will be 30 tables, since one respondent's answer will be in one table.

Other than that, the responses of the participants will also be displayed in Part C, but the answers are shown by responses, which means that the answers for each selected phrase will be shown in the same table. Hence, there will be 15 tables, since one selected word's answers will be grouped in one table.

Lastly, the unrepeated list of responses by the participants will be recorded in Part D for easier and more convenient analysis. There will be 5 tables here, since one table will be drawn for one prime and its answers. The sense relations related to the respondents' answers will also be specified in this section.

## Part A - The Selected Phrases

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Wuhan | Vote | White |
| Umbrella | Zoom | Corrupted |
| Government | Eat | Holy |
| Notre-Dame | Buy | Empty |
| Pooh | Stay | Widespread |

Remarks:
Since there may be a relationship between the words "corrupted" and "government", the sequence of words are shifted to "corrupted" $\rightarrow$ "eat" $\rightarrow$ "holy" $\rightarrow$ "government" when the word association experiment is conducted, so as to minimize the effect of possibly correlated words. Please refer to the PowerPoint used for the experiment attached below.

However, as to make the recording and analysis easier, the sequence of the words remains as shown in the above table after I collected the results with the new sequence, so that the nouns, verbs and adjectives can form three separate columns.

## Part B - The Responses of Participants by Respondent

## Participant 1

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Democracy | Black |
| Movement | Lens | Police |
| Carrie | Rice | Jesus |
| Fire | Discount | Soul |
| Xi | Home | Disease |

Participant 2

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Election | Paper |
| Raining | In | WHO |
| Rubbish | Rice | Catholic |
| Historical | Computer | Room |
| Disneyland | Home | Population |

Participant 3

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Suffrage | Attack |
| Yellow | Big | China |
| Carrie | $1.5-$ million | Mary |
| Fire | Sell | Zero |
| Christopher | Home | Pandemic |

## Participant 4

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| China | Freedom | Plain |
| Movement | Big | Money |
| Authority | Fat | Pure |
| Religion | Product | Full |
| Yellow | Move | Serious |

Participant 5

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Election | Black |
| Revolution | Big | Government |
| HK | Sleep | Spirit |
| Fire | Pay | Chairs |
| China | Home | Disease |

Participant 6

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Woman | HK | Nothing |
| Outing | Small | Power |
| HK | Hungry | Blessing |
| School | Food | Lonely |
| China | Home | Crowd |

## Participant 7

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| COVID-19 | Carrie | Pure |
| Yellow | Camera | Zamasu |
| Corrupted | Food | Sacred |
| Paris | Sell | Space |
| China | Healthy | Disease |

## Participant 8

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bat | Legitimacy | Purity |
| Revolution | In | Government |
| Violence | Fat | Spirit |
| Hunchback | Consumption | Clean |
| Authority | Isolation | Pandemic |

Participant 9

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | Election | Snow |
| Rain | In | Government |
| Rubbish | Happy | Bible |
| Paris | Money | Blank |
| Cute | Home | Popular |

## Participant 10

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Disqualify | People |
| Yellow | Camera | Police |
| Corrupted | Food | Shit |
| Paris | Food | House |
| Yellow | Home | News |

## Participant 11

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Election | Black |
| Rain | Camera | Government |
| Power | Drink | Shit |
| Damn | Shopping | Full |
| Disney | Go | Pandemic |

Participant 12

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Election | Horse |
| Yellow | In | Money |
| Carrie | Hamburger | Shit |
| Damn | Bag | Box |
| Christopher | Home | Virus |

## Participant 13

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | Legislation | Color |
| Song | In | Data |
| Officials | Yummy | Shit |
| Fire | Money | Room |
| Xi | Home | Pandemic |

Participant 14

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | America | Snow-White |
| Yellow | Camera | Trump |
| Washington | Hamburger | Shit |
| Fire | Costco | Garbage-collector |
| Christopher | Home | Coronavirus |

Participant 15

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | Election | Caucasian |
| Rihanna | Big | Malaysia |
| Australia | Food | Jesus |
| Burn | Shopping | Street |
| Christopher | Zedd | Virus |

## Participant 16

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | Election | Colonization |
| Rain | Camera | Economy |
| Power | Food | Jesus |
| University | Sell | Sad |
| Honey | Home | Contagious |

Participant 17

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | Egalitarian | Color |
| Rain | Camera | Money |
| Politics | Food | Jesus |
| University | Shopping | Hollow |
| Honey | Home | Infection |

Participant 18

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Scam | Pure |
| Rain | Big | Bad |
| Najib | Yummy | Jesus |
| Paris | Money | Lonely |
| Disney | Blackpink | Large |

## Participant 19

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| China | Election | Pure |
| Shade | Big | Bad |
| Bills | Hungry | Set-apart |
| Cathedral | Money | Nothing |
| Bear | Present | Pandemic |

Participant 20

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | President | People |
| Rain | Lens | Religion |
| Country | Food | God |
| University | Card | Bin |
| Honey | Home | Virus |

## Participant 21

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| China | President | Color |
| Rain | In | Society |
| Corrupt | Food | Pure |
| University | Sell | Glass |
| Honey | Home | Virus |

## Participant 22

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| China | Elect | Black |
| Rain | Big | Government |
| Leader | Food | Clean |
| History | Grocery | Cup |
| Honey | Home | Coverage |

Participant 23

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | PM | Bird |
| Rain | Big | System |
| Bad | Food | Shit |
| Church | Food | Vase |
| Honey | Home | Pandemic |

Participant 24

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Corrupt | Priviledge |
| Rihanna | Camera | Malaysia |
| Authority | Dinner | Christian |
| Cathedral | Takeaway | Library |
| Cartoon | Home | Trend |

## Participant 25

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Election | Black |
| Movement | In | Force |
| Useless | Food | Christ |
| Fire | Sell | Boxes |
| Disney | Home | Virus |

Participant 26

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Duck-neck | President | Color |
| Sun | Big | Politics |
| Army | Drink | Bible |
| Museum | BestBuy | Void |
| Bear | Home | Virus |

Participant 27

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| COVID-19 | Election | Black |
| Yellow | Big | China |
| Sucks | Drink | Spirit |
| Fire | Sell | Full |
| Xi | Home | Pandemic |

## Participant 28

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Coronavirus | Democracy | Attack |
| Revolution | Camera | Government |
| Bad | Food | Jesus |
| Fire | Masks | Street |
| Xi | Home | Virus |

Participant 29

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hubei | Election | Funeral |
| Rain | In | Money |
| China | Hungry | Temple |
| Fire | Taobao | Wuhan |
| Cute | Home | Coronavirus |

Participant 30

| Nouns | Verbs | Adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Hubei | Referendum | Funeral |
| Rain | Big | Bribe |
| China | Food | God |
| Fire | Taobao | Nothing |
| Christopher | Home | Coronavirus |

Part C - The Responses of Participants by Selected Phrase
Term 1 - Wuhan

| Virus | Virus | Virus | Virus | Virus |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | Virus | Virus | Virus | Virus |
| Virus | Coronavirus | Coronavirus | Coronavirus | Coronavirus |
| Coronavirus | Coronavirus | Coronavirus | Coronavirus | COVID-19 |
| COVID-19 | China | China | China | China |
| Hubei | Hubei | Bat | Woman | Duck-neck |

Term 2 - Vote

| Election | Election | Election | Election | Election |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Election | Election | Election | Election | Election |
| Election | Elect | President | President | President |
| Democracy | Democracy | Suffrage | Freedom | Egalitarian |
| Legitimacy | Legislation | Referendum | America | HK |
| Scam | PM | Corrupt | Disqualify | Carrie |

Term 3 - White

| Black | Black | Black | Black | Black |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Black | Color | Color | Color | Color |
| Pure | Pure | Purity | Funeral | Funeral |
| Attack | Attack | Snow-White | Oppression | People |
| People | Caucasian | Colonization | Priviledge | Snow |
| Plain | Paper | Bird | Horse | Nothing |

Term 4 - Umbrella

| Rain | Rain | Rain | Rain | Rain |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Rain | Rain | Rain | Rain | Rain |
| Rain | Raining | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Movement | Movement |
| Movement | Revolution | Revolution | Revolution | Rihanna |
| Rihanna | Song | Sun | Shade | Outing |

Term 5 - Zoom

| Big | Big | Big | Big | Big |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Big | Big | Big | Big | Big |
| In | In | In | In | In |
| In | In | In | In | Camera |
| Camera | Camera | Camera | Camera | Camera |
| Camera | Camera | Lens | Lens | Small |

Term 6 - Corrupted

| Government | Government | Government | Government | Government |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Government | Money | Money | Money | Money |
| China | China | Malaysia | Malaysia | Police |
| Police | Bad | Bad | Bribe | Power |
| Politics | Economy | Society | Data | Trump |
| System | Force | WHO | Zamasu | Religion |

Term 7 - Government

| Carrie | Carrie | Carrie | Corrupted | Corrupted |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Corrupt | Power | Power | Bad | Bad |
| Rubbish | Rubbish | Authority | Authority | HK |
| HK | China | China | Australia | Country |
| Najib | Washington | Politics | Leader | Officials |
| Bills | Useless | Violence | Army | Sucks |

Term 8 - Eat

| Food | Food | Food | Food | Food |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Food | Food | Food | Food | Food |
| Food | Food | Drink | Drink | Drink |
| Hungry | Hungry | Hungry | Yummy | Yummy |
| Hamburger | Hamburger | Rice | Rice | Fat |
| Fat | Dinner | Happy | Sleep | 1.5-million |

Term 9 - Holy

| Jesus | Jesus | Jesus | Jesus | Jesus |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jesus | Shit | Shit | Shit | Shit |
| Shit | Shit | Spirit | Spirit | Spirit |
| God | God | Bible | Bible | Pure |
| Pure | Christ | Mary | Catholic | Set-apart |
| Blessing | Sacred | Christian | Clean | Temple |

Term 10 - Notre-Dame

| Fire | Fire | Fire | Fire | Fire |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Fire | Fire | Fire | Fire | Fire |
| Paris | Paris | Paris | Paris | University |
| University | University | University | Cathedral | Cathedral |
| Damn | Damn | Historical | History | Church |
| Religion | School | Museum | Burn | Hunchback |

## Term 11 - Buy

| Sell | Sell | Sell | Sell | Sell |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Sell | Money | Money | Money | Money |
| Shopping | Shopping | Shopping | Food | Food |
| Food | Taobao | Taobao | BestBuy | Costco |
| Product | Computer | Consumption | Card | Pay |
| Takeaway | Discount | Bag | Grocery | Masks |

Term 12 - Empty

| Full | Full | Full | Lonely | Lonely |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Street | Street | Room | Room | Nothing |
| Nothing | Blank | Sad | Zero | Bin |
| Garbage-collect <br> or | Glass | Clean | Box | Boxes |
| Library | Void | Cup | Hollow | Space |
| Wuhan | Chairs | Vase | House | Soul |

## Term 13 - Pooh

| Honey | Honey | Honey | Honey | Honey |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Honey | Christopher | Christopher | Christopher | Christopher |
| Christopher | Xi | Xi | Xi | Xi |
| Disney | Disney | Disney | Disneyland | China |
| China | China | Bear | Bear | Yellow |
| Yellow | Cute | Cute | Cartoon | Authority |

Term 14 - Stay

| Home | Home | Home | Home | Home |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Home | Home | Home | Home | Home |
| Home | Home | Home | Home | Home |
| Home | Home | Home | Home | Home |
| Home | Home | Home | Present | Move |
| Healthy | Isolation | Go | Zedd | Blackpink |

Term 15 - Widespread

| Pandemic | Pandemic | Pandemic | Pandemic | Pandemic |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pandemic | Pandemic | Virus | Virus | Virus |
| Virus | Virus | Virus | Virus | Coronavirus |
| Coronavirus | Coronavirus | Disease | Disease | Disease |
| Infection | Serious | Crowd | Population | Large |
| Coverage | Popular | Contagious | News | Trend |

Part D - The Unrepeated Lists of the Responses of Participants by Selected Phrase

## WUHAN

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Virus | 11 | Collocation |
| Coronavirus | 8 | Collocation |
| China | 4 | Part-whole Relation |
| COVID-19 | 2 | Collocation |
| Hubei | 2 | Part-whole Relation |
| Bat | 1 | Collocation |
| Woman | 1 | Lexeme Level |
| Duck-neck | 1 | Collocation |
|  | 30 |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |

## VOTE

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Election | 11 | Collocation |
| President | 3 | Collocation |
| Democracy | 2 | Collocation |
| Elect | 1 | Collocation |
| Suffrage | 1 | Synonymy |
| Freedom | 1 | Implication |
| Egalitarian | 1 | Collocation |
| Legitimacy | 1 | Collocation |
| Legislation | 1 | Collocation |
| Referendum | 1 | Synonymy |
| America | 1 | Collocation |
| HK | 1 | Collocation |
| Scam | 1 | Collocation |
| PM | 1 | Collocation |
| Corrupt | 1 | Collocation |
| Disqualify | 1 | Collocation |
| Carrie | Collocation |  |
| TOTAL | 10 |  |

## WHITE

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Black | 6 | Antonymy |
| Color | 4 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Pure | 2 | Collocation |
| Funeral | 2 | Collocation |
| Attack | 2 | Collocation |
| People | 2 | Attributive Relation |
| Purity | 1 | Collocation |
| Caucasian | 1 | Synonymy |
| Colonization | 1 | Collocation |
| Priviledge | 1 | Collocation |
| Oppression | 1 | Collocation |
| Snow | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Snow-White | 1 | Collocation |
| Plain | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Paper | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Bird | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Horse | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Nothing | 30 |  |
|  | 1 |  |
| TOTAL | 2 |  |

UMBRELLA

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Rain | 11 | Collocation |
| Yellow | 6 | Collocation |
| Movement | 3 | Collocation |
| Revolution | 3 | Collocation |
| Rihanna | 2 | Collocation |
| Raining | 1 | Collocation |
| Song | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Sun | 1 | Collocation |
| Shade | 1 | Collocation |
| Outing | 1 | Collocation |
|  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

WORD ASSOCIATION AND WORD GAMES

## ZOOM

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Big | 10 | Collocation |
| In | 9 | Collocation |
| Camera | 8 | Functional Relation |
| Lens | 2 | Functional Relation |
| Small | 1 | Collocation |
|  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

CORRUPTED

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Government | 6 | Attributive Relation |
| Money | 4 | Collocation |
| China | 2 | Collocation |
| Malaysia | 2 | Collocation |
| Police | 2 | Attributive Relation |
| Bad | 2 | Collocation |
| Bribe | 1 | Collocation |
| Power | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Politics | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Economy | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Society | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Data | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Trump | 1 | Collocation |
| System | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Force | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| WHO | 1 | Collocation |
| Zamasu | 1 | Collocation |
| Religion | 30 | Attributive Relation |
|  | 1 |  |
| TOTAL | 2 |  |
|  |  | 1 |

## GOVERNMENT

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Carrie | 3 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hyponymy) |
| Corrupted | 2 | Collocation |
| Power | 2 | Collocation |
| Bad | 2 | Collocation |
| Rubbish | 2 | Collocation |
| Authority | 2 | Attributive Relation |
| HK | 2 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| China | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Corrupt | 1 | Collocation |
| Australia | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Country | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Colitics | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hyponymy) |
| Leader | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Officials | 1 | Collocation |
| Waxhington | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hyponymy |
| Collocation |  |  |


| Violence | 1 | Collocation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Army | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hyponymy) |
| Sucks | 1 | Collocation |
|  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

## EAT

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Food | 12 | Collocation |
| Drink | 3 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Coordinate) |
| Hungry | 3 | Collocation |
| Yummy | 2 | Collocation |
| Hamburger | 2 | Collocation |
| Rice | 2 | Collocation |
| Fat | 2 | Collocation |
| Dinner | 1 | Collocation |
| Happy | 1 | Collocation |
| Sleep | 1 | Collocation |
| 1.5-million | 1 | Collocation |
|  | 30 |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |

## HOLY

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Jesus | 6 | Collocation |
| Shit | 6 | Attributive Relation |
| Spirit | 3 | Attributive Relation |
| God | 2 | Collocation |
| Bible | 2 | Attributive Relation |
| Pure | 2 | Collocation |
| Catholic | 1 | Collocation |
| Christian | 1 | Collocation |
| Christ | 1 | Collocation |
| Mary | 1 | Collocation |
| Set-apart | 1 | Collocation |
| Blessing | 1 | Collocation |
| Sacred | 1 | Synonymy |
| Clean | 1 | Collocation |
| Temple | 1 | Collocation |
|  | 30 |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |

## NOTRE-DAME

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Fire | 10 | Collocation |
| Paris | 4 | Part-whole Relation |
| University | 4 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Cathedral | 2 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Damn | 2 | Lexeme Level |
| Historical | 1 | Collocation |
| History | 1 | Collocation |
| Church | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Religion | 1 | Collocation |
| School | 1 | Collocation |
| Museum | 1 | Collocation |
| Burn | 1 | Collocation |
| Hunchback | 30 | Collocation |
|  | TOTAL |  |

## BUY

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Sell | 6 | Antonymy |
| Money | 4 | Collocation |
| Shopping | 3 | Collocation |
| Food | 3 | Collocation |
| Taobao | 2 | Collocation |
| BestBuy | 1 | Collocation |
| Costco | 1 | Collocation |
| Product | 1 | Collocation |
| Computer | 1 | Collocation |
| Consumption | 1 | Collocation |
| Card | 1 | Collocation |
| Pay | 1 | Collocation |
| Takeaway | 1 | Collocation |
| Discount | 1 | Collocation |
| Bag | 1 | Collocation |
| Grocery | 1 | Collocation |
| Masks | 1 | Collocation |
|  | 30 |  |
| TOTAL | 1 |  |

## EMPTY

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Full | 3 | Antonymy |
| Lonely | 2 | Synonymy |
| Street | 2 | Attributive Relation |
| Room | 2 | Attributive Relation |
| Nothing | 2 | Synonymy |
| Blank | 1 | Synonymy |
| Sad | 1 | Collocation |
| Zero | 1 | Collocation |
| Bin | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Garbage-collector | 1 | Collocation |
| Glass | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Clean | 1 | Collocation |
| Box | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Boxes | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Library | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Void | 1 | Synonymy |
| Cup | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Hollow | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Space | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Wuhan | 1 | Collocation |
| Chairs | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Vase | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| House | 1 | Attributive Relation |


| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Soul | 1 | Attributive Relation |
|  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

POOH

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Honey | 6 | Collocation |
| Christopher | 5 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Coordinate) |
| Xi | 4 | Collocation |
| Disney | 3 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| China | 3 | Collocation |
| Bear | 2 | Implication |
| Yellow | 2 | Implication |
| Cute | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Cartoon | 1 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
| Authority | 1 | Collocation |
| Disneyland | 30 | Taxonomic Relation <br> (Hypernymy) |
|  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 2 |  |

WORD ASSOCIATION AND WORD GAMES

## STAY

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Home | 23 | Collocation |
| Present | 1 | Collocation |
| Move | 1 | Antonymy |
| Healthy | 1 | Collocation |
| Isolation | 1 | Collocation |
| Go | 1 | Antonymy |
| Zedd | 1 | Collocation |
| Blackpink | 1 | Collocation |
|  | 30 |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |

WIDESPREAD

| Response | Frequency | Sense Relations |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Pandemic | 7 | Attributive Relation |
| Virus | 7 | Attributive Relation |
| Coronavirus | 3 | Attributive Relation |
| Disease | 3 | Attributive Relation |
| Infection | 1 | Collocation |
| Serious | 1 | Collocation |
| Crowd | 1 | Collocation |
| Population | 1 | Collocation |
| Large | 1 | Collocation |
| Coverage | 1 | Collocation |
| Popular | 1 | Collocation |
| Contagious | 1 | Synonymy |
| News | 1 | Attributive Relation |
| Trend | 1 | Collocation |
|  | 30 |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Appendix C

## The Presentation File for the Questions

Attached please find the Google Slides link for the presentation that is used for reference for the participants of this experiment. The file is basically an introduction and guide to the project for the participants of this experiment.

It also assists the participants to answer the questions, since the 15 selected words are typed in the file and the participants can read the words through the screen-sharing function of Skype.

Google Slides Link:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Yjxx-IlxCA60a-d9dS7SGsKEhRZf6xXKVFQh3dhvwQ
w/edit?usp=sharing

## Appendix D

Detailed Descriptions of the Word Games

Part A - The First Word Game: The Guessing Race

| Basic Information of The Guessing Race |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Genre of Game: | English Learning for Non-Native English Speakers and Entertainment |
| Target Players: | Teenagers aged between 10 to 15 |
| Number of Players: | 2 |
| Setting: | 1x Container of All Game Materials <br> 2x Chess |
| 10x Yellow Card (Related Words) |  |
| Purpose: | 10x White Card (Answers) <br> 1x Red Card (Explicit Hints, i.e. Lexeme Level Similar Pronunciation) |
|  | The Guessing Race is designed to strengthen the English proficiency of <br> the players. Some related words will be provided to the players and they <br> are given one chance to guess what the answer is in every turn. The <br> player who can reach the end faster will be the winner of the game. The <br> purpose of designing this game as a competition between two teens is to <br> encourage them to try to link the related words provided to them <br> together and come up with a proposed answer to the question, so that <br> their skills of word association related to syntactic categories can be <br> drastically improved. Moreover, the competition makes the game more <br> interesting and attractive, since the competition can be a motivation for <br> the player to participate in this game. It is suggested that this game can <br> strengthen the participants' word association to the selected words. |


| Procedures of Playing The Guessing Race |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Step 1 | Play "Rock Paper Scissors" to decide the turn of the participants. The winner will <br> play in the first turn. Hence, the winner will be Player A and the other will be <br> Player 2. |
| Step 2 | Player 1 picks a yellow card and will be given a minute to read the few related <br> words on the card. <br> If Player 1 guesses correctly, then he/she can move on to the next box on the chess <br> board. If he guesses wrongly, then he/she will remain at the original position. |
| Step 3 | If Player 1 guesses correctly, then Player 2 picks another yellow card and guesses <br> the word related to his/her card. <br> If Player 1 guesses wrongly, then Player 2 will take Player 1's card and guess. <br> No matter in which scenario, as long as Player 2 guesses correctly then he/she <br> moves on to the next box, or else he/she remains at the original position. <br> When a player fails to guess the word on the card, then he/she passes the card to the <br> next player. |
| Step 3 | When both of the players guess the word wrongly, then they can grab the red card <br> for some tips. The one who can guess correctly will move on to the next box. |
| Step 4 | The player who gets to the last box faster will be the winner of the game. |

Tools for the Game:





## Remarks:

1. The first row of cards indicates the front side of the cards, and the second row of cards indicates the back side of the cards.
2. The white set of cards are answers, the yellow set of cards are hints, and the red set of cards are explicit hints.
3. There are in total 10 sets of cards, which are named from SET A to SET J respectively.

Part B - The Second Word Game: "Who is the Traitor" Game

| Basic Information of "Who is the Traitor" Game |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Genre of Game: | English Learning for Non-Native English Speakers and Entertainment |
| Target Players: | Teenagers aged between 10 to 25 |
| Number of Players: | $5-10$ |
| Setting: | 1x Container of All Game Materials <br> 50 x White Cards (Each with 2 hints, 10 cards for 1 prime, good side) <br> 20x White Cards (Each with 2 hints, 10 cards for 1 prime, traitor side) <br> 7 x Yellow Cards (Answers) |
| Purpose: | "Who is the Traitor" Game is designed to strengthen the English <br> proficiency of teenagers as well. The players will be divided into two <br> teams, one on the good side and one on the bad side. They will be given <br> hints on their prime but not the answer. The good side has to find out the <br> traitors to win, and the traitor side has to find out the answer of the good <br> side to win. It is suggested that by including English learning materials <br> and related things in collective games involving many teenagers, they <br> can enhance their English proficiency and play with their peers at the <br> same time. Moreover, as only hints are provided to every player, they <br> have to also guess their primes during the game so that they can easily <br> identify their teammates and win the game together. Each player will be <br> given 30 seconds to speak out to give hints to the others, and the others <br> will listen and also speak out when it is their turn. The players will <br> decide on a player to be voted out. If the good side voted all people from <br> the traitor side out, then the good side wins; if the traitor side can guess <br> the prime of the good side accurately, then the traitor side wins. The <br> hints of each player will be different, although they may be on the same |
| side, so as to increase the difficulty of the game and to make the game |  |
| more interesting. |  |


| Procedures of Playing "Who is the Traitor" Game |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Step 1 | All participants of this game will sit together forming a circle. |
| Step 2 | The first player describes his/her word after he/she looks at his/her prime, then after <br> him/her, the next person will do the same, until everyone has described their <br> primes. |
| Step 3 | After all descriptions, all players will discuss freely on who is the traitor and who is <br> on the good side. After 3 minutes of discussion, they will vote to kill one person in <br> the game. If a good person dies, then nothing happens and the game continues. If <br> the traitor dies, then nothing happens as well unless all traitors are dead. |
| Step 3 | After the voting session, everybody will describe their primes again. The <br> procedures will continue once again until Round 4, which is the last round. If all <br> traitors are killed with four rounds, then the good side wins; if none of the traitors <br> are killed or not all traitors are killed, then the traitor side wins. |
| All members of the winning side will be awarded 10 marks. |  |$|$| Step 4 |
| :--- |
| After Round 4 after the announcement of the winning side, all participants are <br> required to guess their primes. <br> If they can guess accurately, then 10 marks will be awarded. <br> If they fail to guess correctly, then 5 marks will be deducted. |

Tools for the Game:


| SETA |
| :--- |
| HINT: |
| JESUS |
| PURE |
|  |
|  |



| SET A |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| TEMPLE |
| SPIRIT |
|  |
|  |



| SET B |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| RAIN |
| TOOL |
|  |
|  |


| SET B |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| SHADE |
| COVER |
|  |
|  |



| SET B |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| RAIN |
| SONG |
|  |
|  |


| SET B |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| RAINING |
| SHADE |
|  |
|  |


| SET B |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| RAINING |
| REVOLUTION |
|  |
|  |


| SETB |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| RIHANNA |
| RAIN |
|  |
|  |


| SET B |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| WET |
| COVER |
|  |
|  |


| SETC |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| BLACK |
| COLOR |
|  |
|  |



| SETC |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| COLOR |
| PURITY |
|  |
|  |



| SETC |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| COLOR |
| LIGHT |
|  |
|  |



| SETD |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| FULL |
| NOTHING |
|  |
|  |


| SET D |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| STREET |
| QUIET |
|  |
|  |



| SET D |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| LONELY |
| SAD |
|  |
|  |


| SETD |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| FEELING |
| FULL |
|  |
|  |


| SETD |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| BOX |
| BLANK |
|  |
|  |


| SETD |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| SPACE |
| BLANK |
|  |
|  |


| SETD |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| VOID |
| BIN |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| PARIS |
| CATHOLIC |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| HOLY |
| CATHEDRAL |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| HISTORY |
| MUSEUM |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| RELIGION |
| HUNCHBACK |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| PARIS |
| DAMN |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :--- |
| HINT: |
| JESUS |
| PURE |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| SONG |
| BEAUTIFUL |
|  |
|  |



| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| FIRE |
| PARIS |
|  |
|  |


| SETE |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| FIRE |
| CHURCH |
|  |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
|  |
| HINT: |
| GOVERNMEN |
| T |
| MONEY |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| MONEY |
| BRIBE |
|  |
|  |



| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| USB |
| POLITICS |
|  |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| ECONOMY |
| MONEY |
|  |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| SYSTEM |
| POWER |
|  |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| BAD |
| BRIBE |
|  |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| MONEY |
| SOCIETY |
|  |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| POWER |
| DATA |
|  |


| SETF |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| POLITICS |
| BAD |
|  |
|  |


| SETG |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| CORRUPTED |
| POWER |
|  |
|  |



| SET G |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| POWER |
| CORRUPT |
|  |
|  |



| SET G |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| CORRUPTED |
| BAD |
|  |


| SETG |
| :---: |
| HINT: |
| RUBBISH |
| POLITICS |
|  |
|  |

~End of Semester-End Written Project~

