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Abstract. The given research focuses on a statistical analysis of English compounds in the scientific texts with a special emphasis on the parts of speech and the cohesion of the constituents. In order to conduct the research in question, we have analysed the books “The Power of Management Capital” (2008) which belongs to the Exact Science and “Tort Law” (2008) which concerns the Humanities. We have analysed each tenth page of the above-mentioned books. The treatment of the data was done with the help of statistical methods.

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Abstract. This study is based on the methodology, suggested in the research by G. Altmann, S. Naumann, I.-I. Popescu (Naumann et al. 2012). It is used in our research for the analysis of the proportions and distribution of three parts of speech (nouns, adjectives and verbs) in the data-base, consisting of ten long poems by A.S. Pushkin, the great Russian poet.

The proportions of adjectives and verbs against nouns show the type of the author’s poetic visualization of the world (static or dynamic) and the intensity of such description in general.

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Abstract. A commentary on the article “Large-scale evidence of dependency length minimization in 37 languages” by Futrell, Mahowald & Gibson (PNAS 2015 112 (33) 10336-10341).
Abstract. In the recent issue of PNAS, Futrell et al. claim that their study of 37 languages gives the first large scale cross-language evidence for Dependency Length Minimization, which is an overstatement that ignores similar previous researches. In addition, this study seems to pay no attention to factors like the uniformity of genres, which weakens the validity of the argument that DLM is universal. Another problem is that this study sets the baseline random language as projective, which fails to truly uncover the difference between natural language and random language, since projectivity is an important feature of many natural languages. Finally, the paper contends an “apparent relationship between head finality and dependency length” despite the lack of an explicit statistical comparison, which renders this conclusion rather hasty and improper.

Richard Futrell, Kyle Mahowald, and Edward Gibson
Response to Liu, Xu, and Liang (2015) and Ferrer-i-Cancho and Gómez-Rodríguez (2015) on Dependency Length Minimization

Abstract. We address recent criticisms (Liu et al., 2015; Ferrer-i-Cancho and Gómez-Rodríguez, 2015) of our work on empirical evidence of dependency length minimization across languages (Futrell et al., 2015). First, we acknowledge error in failing to acknowledge Liu (2008)'s previous work on corpora of 20 languages with similar aims. A correction will appear in PNAS. Nevertheless, we argue that our work provides novel, strong evidence for dependency length minimization as a universal quantitative property of languages, beyond this previous work, because it provides baselines which focus on word order preferences. Second, we argue that our choices of baselines were appropriate because they control for alternative theories.

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