

THE USE OF NOUN “WORK” AND ITS THREE NEAR SYNONYMS IN CORPUS OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ENGLISH (COCA)

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at classifying the frequency of the use of noun *work* and its three near synonyms *i.e. job, assignment, and task*, expounding the collocational structure, and identifying the types of meaning of those nouns found in COCA. The documentation method and note-taking technique were applied to collect the data while theory proposed by Benson et al. (1986), Huddelston & Pullum (2005), and Leech (1974) were used to analyze the data. This study shows that noun *work, assignment, and task* are mostly used in academic texts while noun *job* is mostly used in TV/movie subtitles. In terms of collocational structure, noun *task* becomes the most flexible word because it can co-occur with 33 lexical verbs while noun *job* becomes the least flexible word because it can only co-occur with 18 lexical verbs. Furthermore, there are only two grammatical functions identified *i.e. noun as subject and noun as object*. In the matter of the type of meaning, noun *work* and its three near synonyms have two types of meaning known as conceptual and collocative meanings.

Keywords: noun, synonym, collocation, meaning, COCA

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengklasifikasikan frekuensi dari penggunaan kata benda work and tiga sinonim terdekatnya yaitu job, assignment, dan task, menjelaskan secara terperinci struktur kolokasi, dan mengidentifikasi tipe-tipe makna dari kata-kata benda tersebut yang ditemukan di COCA. Metode dokumentasi dan teknik pencatatan diterapkan dalam pengumpulan data sedangkan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Benson dkk. (1986), Huddelston & Pullum (2005), dan Leech (1974) digunakan untuk menganalisa data. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kata benda work, assignment, dan task paling sering digunakan dalam teks-teks akademik sementara kata benda job paling sering digunakan di TV/takarir. Dalam hal struktur kolokasi, kata benda task menjadi kata yang paling fleksibel karena dapat berdampingan dengan 33 kata kerja leksikal sementara itu, kata benda job menjadi kata yang paling tidak fleksibel karena hanya dapat berdampingan dengan 18 kata kerja leksikal. Selanjutnya, hanya terdapat 2 fungsi gramatikal yang teridentifikasi, yaitu kata benda sebagai subjek dan kata benda sebagai objek. Dalam hal tipe makna, kata benda work dan tiga sinonim terdekatnya hanya memiliki 2 tipe makna, yaitu makna konseptual dan makna kolokatif.

Kata kunci: kata benda, sinonim, kolokasi, makna, COCA

I. INTRODUCTION

Language has a crucial role in every human's life. It is used as a means of communication. Humans use it to express their feelings, ideas, and opinions. There are approximately 7,000 languages around the world that the linguists agree with and English is one of them (Pereltsvaig, 2020).

No matter what and how language is used by humans to communicate each other, the communication can be said successful if the listener/reader understands what the speaker/writer means. Based on that, meaning is considered as a main key in successful communication. In linguistics, the study of meaning is called semantics.

Semantics, as a branch of micro-linguistics, does not only discuss about the meaning of a phrase and a sentence, but it also discusses about the meaning of a word. A word of any languages, including English, might have a similar meaning to the other word. This is called as synonym, one of semantics relationships at word level.

Synonym is an interesting topic to be discussed because it relates to the phenomenon that occurs in the society, especially in terms of communication. Many people often use synonymous words to express the same thing in order to make what they say or write more varies. Unfortunately, many people are still confused about how synonyms are used. They assume that a word can replace the certain word in a sentence because it has similar meaning to that word. That is not completely true. It actually depends on some contexts.

Looking at the parts of speech in English, the misuse of synonym does not only happen to verb, but it usually happens to noun as well. It is because noun is an essential part of speech that cannot be separated from written or spoken communication. The example of the synonymous nouns that are usually misused can be seen in the words *chance* and

opportunity. Both of those words are considered as synonymous noun but the word *opportunity* is more acceptable in formal context or situation than the word *chance* (Jarunwaraphan & Mallikamas, 2020).

The misunderstanding in communication can also occur because the speaker/writer does not understand the collocational structure of the synonym. The incorrect collocational structure of the synonym can cause a phrase or a sentence sound unnatural. Furthermore, it can generate a different meaning from what the speaker/writer really would like to convey. The lack understanding of the collocational structure of the synonym might be experienced by many people for some reasons. One of those is because the frequency of the use of it, whether in the spoken or written communication, is low. It makes them unfamiliar with it.

The misunderstanding in communication that is caused by the misuse of the synonym might happen due to the limited resources that can be used by people to learn about the synonym. Looking back in some years ago, many people used offline or conventional dictionaries to search the meaning of word in which the difference of synonymous words are not provided. Nowadays, along with the advances of the technology, people prefer to use online corpus or dictionaries in terms of improving their understanding of synonym. It is because they can provide the difference of synonymous words based on the frequency and collocational structures. One of the popular corpus is Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

Based on the phenomenon that explained above, this study is important to be conducted in order to give people more understanding about the use of the synonym so that they can use those words properly in written or spoken communication and the misunderstanding can be avoided.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

English has a large number of noun. Among the large number of noun in English, the noun *work* and its synonyms such as *job*, *assignment*, and *task* were used as primary data in this study. Those words were chosen because they are categorized as top 500-frequently-used words according to COCA. These primary data that were analyzed are in the form of written text that were sourced from a data source known as Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).

COCA is a large and balanced English corpus created by Brigham Young University's corpus linguistics professor Mark Davies in 2008. The words in COCA can be categorized into eight genres namely fiction, spoken, popular magazines, newspapers, academic texts, TV/movie subtitles, blogs, and any other web pages. Among those eight genres, five of them *i.e.* academic texts, web pages, blogs, magazines, and newspapers are categorized as formal contexts while the rest are categorized as informal contexts. This

corpus can be accessed on <http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>.

In terms of collecting the data from COCA, documentation method and note-taking technique were applied in this study. In order to analyze the data, quantitative and qualitative method were chosen. Furthermore, quantitative method was used to calculate the data and qualitative method was used to explain it descriptively. In addition to that, this study focuses on classifying the frequency of the use of noun *work* and its three near synonyms in eight genres in COCA, expounding the collocational structure of those nouns (limited to the verbs that collocates with those nouns) by using theory of collocation by Benson et al. (1986), moreover, the grammatical functions of noun *work* and its three near synonyms were also identified by using theory of grammar by Huddelston & Pullum (2005), and theory of meaning by Leech (1974) were used to identify the type of meaning of noun *work* and its synonyms in COCA.

III. DISCUSSION

3.1 The Frequency of the Use of Noun “Work” and Its Three Near Synonyms in COCA

Genre	Noun			
	Work	Job	Assignment	Task
BLOG	64,465	47,353	1,134	6,264
WEB	66,681	42,828	1,903	8,088
TV/M	46,795	54,380	2,111	2,150
SPOK	38,752	46,054	1,141	3,832
FIC	42,278	28,560	1,705	3,780
MAG	64,186	32,195	1,277	7,584
NEWS	53,615	44,264	1,627	6,547
ACAD	79,444	17,124	3,484	21,389
Total	456,216	312,758	14,382	59,634

Table 3.1 The Frequency of the Use of Noun “Work and Its Three Near Synonyms in COCA

Table 3.1 shows that noun *work* has the highest frequency among its other three synonyms. As seen on the table above, noun *work* appeared 456,216 times in overall. On

the other side, there is noun *job* which appeared 312,758 times and it makes that word as the second-most-used word among the other three synonyms. Furthermore,

noun *job* is followed by noun *task* which appeared 59,634 times in all genres. Last, there is noun *assignment* that becomes the least-used word because of its appearance in all genres is only 14,382 times. This result simply indicates that noun *work* is more general to be used than noun *job*, *assignment*, and *task*.

As a word that has the highest frequency among its three synonyms, noun *work* is mostly used in academic texts. It is proven by its use that is about 79,444 times, as shown by table 3.1. Meanwhile, web pages become the second genre where noun *work* is mostly used. Noun *work* appeared 66,681 times on that genre. In the next order, there are blogs and magazines that become the third and fourth genres where noun *work* is mostly used. Noun *work* appeared 64,465 times on blogs and 64,186 in magazines. In the newspapers, noun *work* appeared 53,615 times and it makes newspapers as the fifth genre where noun *work* is mostly used. For the last three genres, noun *work* appeared 46,795 times in TV/movie subtitles, 42,278 times in fiction, and 38,752 in spoken genre.

Based on the result that is explained above, it is known that noun *work* is tend to be used in the formal contexts, especially in academic texts and on web pages. On the other side, noun *work* is least used in informal contexts, especially in spoken.

Noun *job* that is considered as the second-most-used word among the other three synonyms shows different result if its use is looked based on its genres. The highest frequency of the use of noun *job* was identified in TV/ movie subtitles which is categorized as one of informal contexts in COCA. It appeared 54,380 times. Meanwhile, the second genre where noun *job* is mostly used is blogs. Noun *job* appeared 47,353 times on that genre. Spoken and newspapers are in the third and fourth positions where noun *job* is mostly used. In spoken, noun *job* appeared 46,054 times while in the newspapers, it appeared 44,264 times. Web pages that is categorized

as formal context in COCA become the fifth genre where noun *job* is mostly used. It appeared 42,828 times on that genre. For the sixth and seventh positions are filled by two genres that is known as magazines and fiction. Noun *job* appeared 32,195 times in magazines and 28,560 in the newspapers. Surprisingly, academic texts that is categorized as formal context in COCA become the genre where noun *job* is least used. It only appeared 17,124 times. This is different from the result of noun *work* that shows the highest frequency of that word appeared in academic texts.

In the next position, there is noun *task* that has the highest frequency as well. It appeared 59,634 times in overall. It means that noun *task* becomes the third-most-used word after noun *work* and *job*. As seen in table 3.1, the highest frequency of the use of noun *task* was identified in academic texts. It appeared 21,389 times. The second and third genres where noun *task* is mostly used are web pages and magazines. Sequentially, it appeared 8,088 times and 7,584 times. Meanwhile, newspapers and blogs become the fourth and fifth genres where noun *task* is mostly used. In the newspapers, noun *task* appeared 6,547 times while on blogs, that noun appeared 6,264 times. For the last three genres where noun *task* is mostly used are spoken, fiction, and TV/movie subtitles. It appeared 3,832 times in spoken, 3,780 times in fiction, and 2,150 times in TV/movie subtitles. This result is the same as the result of noun *work* in terms of where both of those nouns are mostly used and least used. The highest frequency of the use of noun *task* and *work* were identified in academic texts and blogs which are categorized as formal context meanwhile the lowest frequency of these nouns were identified in informal contexts, but in different genres. Noun *task* is least used in TV/movie subtitles while noun *work* is least used in spoken genre.

As shown in table 3.1, it is known that noun *assignment* becomes a word that

has the lowest frequency among the other three synonyms. Overall, noun *assignment* appeared 14,382 times. The highest frequency of its use was identified in academic texts. It appeared 3,484 times in that genre. In the second position, noun *assignment* is mostly used in TV/movie subtitles, the genre that is considered as informal context. Noun *assignment* appeared 2,111 times in that kind of genre. Furthermore, web pages and fiction are the third and fourth genres where noun *assignment* is mostly used. It appeared 1,903 times on web pages and 1,705 times in fiction. These genres are followed by the other genre named newspapers as the fifth genre where noun *assignment* is mostly used. Noun *assignment* appeared 1,627 times in the newspapers. And the last three genres where noun *assignment* is mostly used are magazines, spoken, and blogs. Sequentially, noun *assignment* appeared 1,277 times in magazines, 1,141 times in spoken, and 1,134 times on blogs. This

result shows the sameness about a genre where noun *assignment* and noun *work* are mostly used. Both synonymous nouns are mostly used in academic texts that is categorized as formal context. Besides the sameness, there is a difference between noun *assignment* and noun *work* in terms of the genre where those nouns are least used. For the noun *assignment*, its least use is on blogs, a genre that is categorized as formal context. Meanwhile, noun *work* is least used in spoken, a genre that is considered as informal context.

3.2 The Collocational Structure of Noun “Work” and Its Three Near Synonyms in COCA

In the matter of supporting the explanation of the collocational structure, the types of words that are used before and after the synonymous nouns *work*, *job*, *assignment*, and *task* in COCA are presented first in the form of table and explained descriptively.

Types of Words	Noun			
	Work	Job	Assignment	Task
Possessives	34	31	21	5
Articles	35	59	57	80
Demonstratives	1	8	14	12
Distributives	0	0	2	1
Quantifiers	17	0	0	2
Cardinal Numbers	0	2	0	1
Ordinal Numbers	0	3	6	2
Past Participles	4	2	3	5
Present Participles	2	3	2	3
Adjectives	19	26	24	34
Nouns	4	2	4	0
Genitives	7	0	4	0
Adverbs	1	1	0	1
Verbs	49	55	44	41

Table 3.2 The Types of Word that are Used Before Noun “Work” and Its Three Near Synonyms in COCA

As seen in table 3.2, there are 14 types of words that are used before the synonymous nouns *work*, *job*, *assignment*, and *task* in COCA. articles become the type of words that is mostly used before the

synonymous nouns *work*, *job*, *assignment*, and *task* in COCA compared to thirteen other types of words that had also been identified. Overall, the use of the articles before those synonymous nouns is 231

times. More specifically, its use is divided into 80 times before noun *task*, 59 times before noun *job*, 57 times before noun *assignment*, and 35 times before noun *work*.

The second type of words that is mostly used before the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment*, and *task* in COCA is verbs. Overall, its use before those synonymous nouns is about 189 times. In more detailed, this type of words appeared 55 times before noun *job*, 49 times before noun *work*, 44 times before noun *assignment*, and 41 times before noun *task*.

The third type of words that is mostly used before the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment*, and *task* in COCA is adjectives. This type of words appeared 103 times in overall. More specifically, adjectives appeared 34 times before noun *task*, 26 times before noun *job*, 24 times before noun *assignment*, and 19 times before noun *work*.

In addition to the types of words that are mostly used before the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment*, and *task* in COCA as explained in the paragraphs above, there are also three types of words that are least used before those synonymous nouns. These three types of words are distributives, cardinal numbers, and

adverbs. In terms of their use before the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment*, and *task* in COCA, these types of words have the same frequency. Overall, they all appeared 3 times.

As seen in the table 3.3, even though each of these three types of words have the same frequency, but the spread of their use is different. For the distributives, its use before noun *assignment* appeared twice and its use before noun *task* only appeared once. While, its use before noun *work* and *job* was not identified. This result is different from the spread of the use of cardinal numbers. The use of cardinal numbers appeared twice before noun *job* and only once before noun *task*. Meanwhile, its use before noun *work* and *assignment* was not identified.

As the last type of words that is least used before those synonymous nouns, the use of adverbs only appeared once before noun *work, job*, and *task*. Meanwhile the use of adverbs before noun *assignment* was not identified.

Besides the types of words that are used before the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment*, and *task* in COCA, there are five types of words used after those synonymous nouns presented in the following table.

Types of Words	Noun			
	Work	Job	Assignment	Task
Prepositional Phrases	31	19	16	16
Relative Clauses	12	12	15	20
To-infinitives	10	8	5	6
Adverbs	0	1	0	3
Verbs	5	1	3	1

Table.3.3 The Types of Word that are Used After Noun “Work” and Its Three Near Synonyms in COCA

Table 3.3 shows that prepositional phrases become the type of words that is mostly used after the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment*, and *task* in COCA. The use of this type of words after those synonymous

nouns is about 82 times in overall. The spread of its use appeared 31 times after noun *work*, 19 times after noun *job*, and 16 times after nouns *assignment* and *task*.

The second type of words that is mostly used after the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment, and task* in COCA is relative clauses. Overall, relative clauses appeared 59 times after those synonymous nouns. More specifically, it appeared 15 times after noun *task*, 15 times after noun *assignment*, 12 times after nouns *work* and *job*.

The third type of words that is mostly used after the synonymous noun *work, job, assignment, and task* in COCA is *to*-infinitives. In total, the use of *to*-infinitives after those synonymous nouns is 29 times. In more detailed, the use of *to*-infinitives appeared 10 times after noun *work*, 8 times after noun *job*, 6 times after noun *task*, and 5 times after noun *assignment*.

Meanwhile, verbs become the fourth type of words that is mostly used after the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment, and task* in COCA. Its use appeared 10 times in total. In detail, the use

of verbs appeared 5 times after noun *work*, 3 times after noun *assignment*, and it only appeared once after noun *job* and *task*.

The last type of words that become the least used word after the synonymous nouns *work, job, assignment, and task* in COCA is adverbs. The use of adverbs mostly appeared 3 times after noun *task* and only once after noun *job*. Meanwhile, the use of adverbs was not identified after noun *work* and *assignment*.

3.2.1 Verbs that Collocates of Noun “Work” in COCA

Based on the base form, there are totally 32 verbs that are used before noun *work* and only six verbs that are used after that noun. Moreover, these verbs are divided into two groups known as stative and dynamic verbs. Here is the table about the list of verbs that collocate with noun *work*, including the sentence patterns.

Placement of Verbs	Verbs	Sentence Pattern
Verbs + <i>Work</i>	<u>Stative verbs:</u> <i>want, love, understand, remember, know, have, need, remain, require, let, keep (up), get.</i>	1. S+V+O 2. S+V+O+A 3. S+V+O+C
	<u>Dynamic verbs:</u> <i>complete, start, do, evaluate, finish, continue, sell, present, design, rush, ease, take, read, mention, credit, plan, aid, find, explain.</i>	4. A+S+V+O
<i>Work</i> + Verbs	<u>Stative verbs:</u> <i>believe, remain, focus (on)</i>	1. S+V+O 2. S+V+C 3. S+V+A 4. S+V+O _i +O _d

Table 3.4 Verbs that Collocate with Noun “Work” Found in COCA and the Sentence Patterns

Table 3.4 shows more specifically that there are 12 stative verbs and 20 dynamic verbs that are followed by noun *work*. Furthermore, there are four patterns of the sentences where verbs that are followed by noun *work* identified. Here is a few of the analysis:

Data 1

The medical investigators completed their arduous work.

Data 1 shows that noun *work* is a part of a simple noun phrase where that noun becomes the head while possessive determiner *their* and adjective *arduous* become the pre-modifier. The adjective *arduous* that modifies noun *work* indicates that noun can be used to refer to something that requires physical or mental effort. That adjective describe noun *work* as something difficult to achieve/do.

Data 1 consists of three sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *the medical investigators*, a verb that is represented by *completed*, and an object that is represented by a simple noun phrase *their arduous work*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 1, a verb *completed* which its base form is *complete* collocates with noun phrase *their arduous work*. In addition to that, a verb *completed* categorized as a dynamic verb because it describes a continued or progressive action rather than a state or condition.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *work*, the sentence pattern of data 1 is S + V + O. This indicates noun *work* that functions as head in the noun phrase *their arduous work* acts as an object because it receives the action of the verb *completed*.

Data 2

In 1998, the artist started the beautiful work that he thought would be his masterpiece.

Data 2 shows that noun *work* is a part of a complex noun phrase where that noun becomes the head, article *the* and adjective *beautiful* become the pre-modifier, and relative clause *that they thought would be their greatest achievement* becomes the post-modifier. The adjective *beautiful* that modifies noun *work* indicates that noun can be used to refer to something that has quality of beauty or pleasing sense.

Data 2 consists of four sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *the artist*, a verb that is represented by *started*, an object that is represented by a complex noun phrase *the beautiful work that he thought would be his masterpiece*, and adverb of time that is represented by *in 1998*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 2, a verb *started* which its base form is *start* collocates with noun phrase *the beautiful work that he thought would be his masterpiece*. In addition to that, a verb *started* is categorized as a dynamic verb because it describes a continued or progressive action rather than a state or condition. In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *work*, the sentence pattern of data 2 is A + S + V + O.

This indicates noun *work* that functions as head in the noun phrase *the beautiful work that he thought would be his masterpiece* acts as an object because it receives the action of the verb *started*.

Different from verbs that are followed by noun *work*, there are only three stative verbs and three dynamic verbs that follow noun *work*. In this types of lexical collocation, there are four patterns of the sentences where noun *work* that is followed by verbs identified. Here is one of the analysis:

Data 3

Your freelance work remains your first priority.

Data 3 shows that noun *work* is a part of a simple noun phrase where that noun becomes the head while possessive *your* and adjective *freelance* become the pre-modifier. The adjective *freelance* that modifies noun *work* indicates that noun can be used to refer to activity that needs to be done to earn money.

Data 3 consists of three sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *your freelance work*, a verb that is represented by *remains*, and a compliment that is represented by a noun phrase *your first priority*. As one of the

elements that builds up the data 3, a verb *remains* which its base form is *remain* follows a simple noun phrase *your freelance work*. In addition to that, a verb *remains* is categorized as a stative verb because it has undefined duration and denotes states or conditions which are unchanging or static.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *work*, the sentence pattern of data 3 is S + V + C. This indicates that noun *work* that functions as head in the noun phrase *your freelance work* acts as a subject because it is an agent that express the verb *remains*.

3.2.2 Verbs that Collocates of Noun “Job” in COCA

Placement of Verbs	Verbs	Sentence Pattern
Verbs + Job	<u>Stative verbs:</u> <i>have, get, lose, keep. Need</i>	1. S +V O 2. S+V+O+A 3. S+A+V+O
	<u>Dynamic verbs:</u> <i>threaten, find, fill, snag, do, finish, take (over), blow, accept, apply (for), land, offer, quit, walk</i>	4. S+V+O _d +O _i
Job + Verbs	<u>Stative verbs:</u> <i>define</i>	1. S+V+O
	<u>Dynamic verbs:</u> -	

Table 3.5 Verbs that Collocate with Noun “Job” Found in COCA and the Sentence Pattern

As seen in table 3.5, there are totally 19 verbs that are used before noun *job* if it is counted based on the base form of the verbs. Meanwhile, there is only one verb identified after that noun. Moreover, these verbs that are used before noun *job* are divided into two groups known as stative and dynamic verbs while the only verb that is used after noun *job* is categorized as stative verb.

Table 3.5 shows more specifically that there are four stative verbs and fourteen

dynamic verbs that are followed by noun *job*. Meanwhile, no verbs were identified following noun *job*. In the aspect of sentence pattern, there are four patterns of the sentences where verbs that are followed by noun *job* identified. Here is a few of the analysis:

Data 4

*You have a well-paid **job** that gives you a weekly paycheck.*

Data 4 shows that noun *job* is a part of a complex noun phrase where that noun becomes the head, article *a* and adjective *well-paid* become the pre-modifier, and relative clause *that gives you a weekly paycheck* becomes the post-modifier. The adjective *well-paid* indicates that noun is used to refer to an occupation or something that needs to be done to earn money.

Data 4 consists of three sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *you*, a verb that is represented by *have*, and an object that is represented by a complex noun phrase *a well-paid job that gives you a weekly paycheck*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 4, a verb *have* that collocates with the noun phrase *a well-paid job that gives you a weekly paycheck* is categorized as a stative verb because it has undefined duration and denotes states or conditions which are unchanging or static. Specifically, that verb relates to a possession which becomes the characteristics of stative verb.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *job*, the sentence pattern of data 4 is S + V + O. This indicates noun *job* that functions as head in the noun phrase *a well-paid job that gives you a weekly paycheck* acts as an object because it relates to the verb *have* that states possession.

Data 5

Scott Kidd has gotten a full-time job with benefits at the firm where he was temping.

Data 5 shows that noun *job* is a part of a complex noun phrase where that noun becomes the head, article *a* and an adjective *full-time* becomes the pre-modifier, and prepositional phrase *with benefits* becomes the post-modifier. The adjective *full-time* indicates that noun is used to refer to an

occupation or something needs to be done to earn money.

Data 5 consists of four sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by a proper noun *Scott Kidd*, a verb that is represented by *has gotten*, an object that is represented by a complex noun phrase *a full-time job with benefits*, and adverb of place that is represented by *at the firm where he was temping*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 5, a verb *gotten* which its base form is *get* collocates with noun phrase *a full-time job with benefits*. In addition to that, a verb *gotten* is categorized as a stative verb because it has undefined duration and denotes states or conditions which are unchanging or static. Specifically, that verb relates to a possession which becomes the characteristics of stative verb.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *job*, the sentence pattern of data 5 is S + V + O + A. This indicates noun *job* that functions as head in the noun phrase *a full-time job with benefits* acts as an object because it relates to the verb *gotten* that states possession.

In terms of verbs that follows noun *job*, there are only one stative verb identified. In this types of lexical collocation, there is one sentence pattern where noun *job* that is followed by a verb identified. Here is the analysis:

Data 6

The job of the Fed chairman defined what was really getting going.

Data 6 shows that noun *job* is a part of a complex noun phrase where that noun functions as the head, article *the* functions as the pre-modifier, and prepositional phrase *of the Fed chairman*.

Data 6 consists of three sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *the job of the Fed chairman*, a verb that is represented by *defined*, and an object that is represented by a noun clause

what was really getting going. As one of the elements that builds up the data 6, a verb *defined* which its base form is *define* follows a complex noun phrase *the job of the Fed chairman*. In addition to that, a verb '*defined*' is categorized as a stative verb because it has undefined duration and denotes states or conditions which are unchanging or static.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *job*, the sentence pattern of data 6 is S + V + O. This indicates noun *job* that functions as head in the noun phrase *the job of the Fed chairman*

acts as a subject because it is the agent that expresses the verb *defined*.

3.2.3 Verbs that Collocates of Noun "Assignment" in COCA

Overall, there are 25 verbs that are used before noun *assignment* and only three verbs that are used after that noun. Moreover, these verbs are divided into two groups known as stative and dynamic verbs. Here is the table about the list of verbs that collocate with noun *assignment*, including the sentence patterns.

Placement of Verbs	Verbs	Sentence Pattern
Verbs + Assignment	<u>Stative verbs:</u> <i>have, resemble, prefer, get</i>	1. S+V+O 2. S+V+O+A 3. S+V+O+C
	<u>Dynamic verbs:</u> <i>request, give, make, use, land, refuse, accept, transfer, take, volunteer, copied (out), fail, pass (off), complete, share, look (at), finish, go (over), do, ask (for), plan</i>	4. S+A+V+O 5. S+V+ O _d +O _i 6. A+S+V+O
Assignment + Verbs	<u>Stative verbs:</u> <i>require</i>	1. S+V+O
	<u>Dynamic verbs:</u> <i>turn (out), come (after).</i>	2. S+V+C

Table 3.6 Verbs that Collocate with Noun "Assignment" Found in COCA and the Sentence Patterns

Table 3.6 shows that there are totally four stative verbs and 21 dynamic verbs in terms of verbs that are followed by noun *assignment*. Meanwhile, there are six patterns of the sentences where verbs that are followed by noun *assignment* identified. Here is a few of the analysis:

Data 7

The students prefer the written assignment.

Data 7 shows that noun *assignment* is a part of a simple noun phrase where that noun becomes the head while article *the* and a past participle *written* that functions as an adjective becomes the pre-modifier. The word *written* that modifies noun *assignment* indicates that noun is used to refer to academics.

Data 7 consists of three sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *the students*, a verb that is represented by *prefer*, and an object that is represented by a simple noun phrase *the written assignment*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 7, a verb *prefer* collocates with noun phrase *the written assignment*. In addition to that, a verb *prefer* is categorized as a stative verb because it has undefined duration and denotes states or conditions which are unchanging or static.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *assignment*, the sentence pattern of data 7 is S + V + O. This indicates noun *assignment* that functions as head in the noun phrase *the written assignment* acts as an object because it relates to the verb *prefer* that states feeling and emotions.

Data 8

*So many students blindly copied out another student's **assignment**.*

Data 8 shows that noun *assignment* is a part of a simple noun phrase where that noun becomes the head. Meanwhile, the pre-modifier is built up with adjective *another* and genitive *student's*. The genitive *student's* that modifies noun *assignment* indicates that noun can be used to refer to academics.

Data 8 consists of four sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *so many students*, an adverb of manner that is represented by *blindly*, a verb that is represented by *copied (out)*, an object that is represented by a simple noun

phrase *another student's assignment*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 8, a verb *copied (out)* which its base form is *copy (out)* collocates with noun phrase *another student's assignment*. In addition to that, a verb *copied (out)* is categorized as a dynamic verb because it describes a continued or progressive action rather than a state or condition.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *assignment*, the sentence pattern of data 8 is S + A + V + O. This indicates noun *assignment* that functions as head in the noun phrase *another student's assignment* acts as an object because it receives the action of the verb *copied (out)*.

In terms of verbs that follow noun *assignment*, there are only one stative verb and two dynamic verbs identified. In this types of lexical collocation, there are two patterns of the sentences where noun *assignment* that is followed by verbs identified. Here is the analysis

Data 9

His assignment in the coal fields turned out to be the perfect opportunity for him.

Data 9 shows that noun *assignment* is a part of a complex noun phrase where that noun becomes the head and possessive adjective *his* becomes the pre-modifier, while prepositional phrase *in the coal fields* becomes the post-modifier.

Data 9 consists of three sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *his*, a verb that is represented by *turned (out)*, and a compliment that is represented by a noun phrase *the perfect opportunity for him*. As one of the elements that build up the data 9, a verb *turned (out)* which its base form is *turn* follows a simple noun phrase *his assignment*. In addition to that, a verb *turned (out)* is categorized as a dynamic verb because it describes a continued or

progressive action rather than a state or condition.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *assignment*, the sentence pattern of data 9 is S + V + C. This indicates noun *assignment* that functions as head in the noun phrase *his assignment* acts as a subject because it is an agent that does the action of verb *turned (out)*.

3.2.4 Verbs that Collocates of Noun “Task” in COCA

If it is counted based on the base form of the verbs, there are 33 verbs that are used before noun *task* and only one verb that is used after noun *task*. All of those verbs are grouped into stative and dynamic verbs. In terms of verbs that are followed by noun *task*, there are three stative verbs and 30 verbs while in terms of verbs that follow noun *task*, the only one verb that was identified is a dynamic noun. Here is the table about the list of verbs that collocate with noun *task*, including the sentence patterns.

Placement of Verbs	Verbs	Sentence Pattern
Verbs + <i>Task</i>	<u>Stative verbs:</u> <i>hate, recall, get</i>	1. S+V+O 2. S+V+O+A 3. S+V+O+C
	<u>Dynamic verbs:</u> <i>usurp, use, leave, repeat, pursue, tackle, render, do, associate, undertake, subdivide, distribute, face, accept, assign, simplify, complete, perform, knock (off), create, find, complicate, settle (down), select, attend, make, attend, give</i>	4. S+A+V+O 5. S+V+O _d +O _i 6. A+S+V+O
<i>Task</i> + Verbs	<u>Stative verbs:</u>	1. A+S+V +O
	<u>Dynamic verbs:</u> <i>covers</i>	

Table 3.7 Verbs that Collocate with Noun “Task” Found in COCA and the Sentence Patterns

Table 3.7 shows further that there are six patterns of the sentences where verbs that are followed by noun *task* identified. Here is a few of the analysis:

Data 10

They hate a complicated task to carry out.

Data 10 shows that noun *task* is a part of a complex noun phrase where that noun becomes the head. Article *the* and a past participle *complicated* that functions as adjective are used as pre-modifier while *to*-infinitive phrase *to carry out* is used as

post-modifier. The word *complicated* that modifies noun *task* indicates that noun is used to refer to something that can be done or achieved by involving much physical or mental effort.

Data 10 consists of three sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *they*, a verb that is represented by *hate*, and an object that is represented by a complex noun phrase *a complicated task to carry out*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 32, a verb *hate* that collocates with that complex noun phrase is categorized as a stative verb because it has undefined duration and denotes states or conditions which are unchanging or static.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *task*, the sentence pattern of data 10 is S + V + O. This indicates noun *task* that functions as head in the noun phrase *a complicated task to carry out* acts as an object because it relates to the verb *hate* that states feeling and emotion.

Data 11

Everybody diligently tackled the laborious task.

Data 11 shows that noun *task* is a part of a simple noun phrase where that noun becomes the head while article *the* and adjective *laborious* become the pre-modifier. The adjective *laborious* that modifies noun *task* indicates that noun is used to refer to something that can be done or achieved by involving much physical or mental effort.

Data 11 consists of four sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *everybody*, an adverb of manner that is represented by *diligently*, a verb that is represented by *tackled*, an object that is represented by a simple noun phrase *the laborious task*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 11, a verb *tackled* which its base form is *tackle*

collocates with noun phrase *the laborious task*. In addition to that, a verb *tackled* is categorized as a dynamic verb because it describes a continued or progressive action rather than a state or condition.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *task*, the sentence pattern of data 11 is S + A + V + O. This indicates noun *task* that functions as head in the noun phrase *the laborious task* acts as an object because it receives the action of the verb *tackled*.

On the other side, there is only one sentence pattern where verb that follows noun *task* identified, as shown by the following analysis:

Data 12

Sometimes, the task in hand covers both bases.

Data 12 shows that noun *task* is a part of a complex noun phrase where that noun becomes the head while article *the* becomes the pre-modifier and prepositional phrase *in hand* becomes the post-modifier.

Data 12 consists of four sentence elements that are known as a subject that is represented by *the task in hand*, a verb that is represented by *covers*, an object that is represented by a noun phrase *both bases*, and an adverb that is represented by *sometimes*. As one of the elements that builds up the data 12, a verb *covers* which its base form is *cover* follow a simple noun phrase *the task in hand*. In addition to that, a verb *covers* is categorized as a dynamic verb because it describes a continued or progressive action rather than a state or condition.

In terms of identifying the grammatical functions of noun *task*, the sentence pattern of data 12 is A + S + V + O. This indicates noun *task* that functions as head in the noun phrase *the task in hand* acts as a subject because it is the agent that does the action of verb *covers*.

3.3 The Types of Meaning of Noun “Work” and Its Three Near Synonyms Found in COCA

This sub-chapter is focused on identifying the types of meaning of the synonymous nouns *work*, *job*, *assignment*, and *task* found in COCA based on the theory proposed by Leech (1974). According to Leech (1974), meaning is divided into seven types known as conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

3.3.1 The Types of Meaning of Noun “Work” Found in COCA

There are three sentences in COCA were chosen randomly to be analyzed in order to identify the types of meaning of noun *work*. Here is the analysis:

Data 13

‘After London’ may also be accounted as the work of fiction.

Based on the data 13, noun *work* is identified in the form of complex noun phrase which is article *the* function as pre-modifier, noun *work* functions as the head, and prepositional phrase *of fiction* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the types of meaning, noun *work* in data 13 has a conceptual meaning which means it is used to refer to something that is produced by a writer, painter, songwriter, etc. who requires creativity. It is supported by the prepositional phrase *of fiction* that follows noun *work* relates to the arts.

Data 14

I am really swamped at work right now.

Based on the data 14, it is known that noun *work* follows the preposition *at*. In terms of identifying the type of meaning, it indicates that noun *work* in data 14 has a conceptual meaning which means noun *work* is used to refer to someone’s place of employment.

Data 15

For some guys, all the hard work that they do is appreciated.

Based on the data 15, it is known that noun *work* is identified in a complex noun phrase which is quantifier *all*, article *the* and adjective *hard* functions as the pre-modifier while noun *work* functions as the head and relative clause *that they do* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *work* in the data 15 has a collocative meaning. It is proved by the noun *work* follows the adjective *hard*. Literally, adjective *hard* means *solid, firm or done with a great endurance*. In this case, *hard work* relates to an activity that involves physical or mental effort to achieve a desired result.

3.3.2 The Types of Meaning of Noun “Job” Found in COCA

Three sentences in COCA were chosen randomly to be analyzed in order to identify the types of meaning of noun *work*. Here is the analysis:

Data 16

I just need a regular job that is not life-threatening and pays my bills.

Based on the data 16, it is known that noun *job* is identified in a complex noun phrase which is article *a* and adjective

regular function as the pre-modifier, noun *job* functions as the head, and relative clause *that is not life-threatening and pays my bills* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *job* in data 16 has a collocative meaning. It is proven by noun *job* that follows adjective *regular*. Literally, adjective *regular* means *happening every hour, every week, etc. that relates to the same amount of time in between*. In this case, *a regular job* relates to something that is usually done to earn money. It is supported as well by the additional information that is stated in the prepositional phrase.

Data 17

*The **job** of the sound designer is to illuminate that soul.*

Based on the data 17, it is known that noun *job* is identified in the form of a complex noun phrase which is the article *the* functions as the pre-modifier, noun *job* functions as the head, and the prepositional phrase *of the sound designer* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *job* in data 17 has a conceptual meaning which means noun *job* is used to refer to a specific duty or role. It is supported by *to*-infinitive phrase *to illuminate that soul* that becomes the complement in the data 17.

Data 18

*You don't need **a nose job**.*

Based on the data 18, it is known that noun *job* is identified in the form of a simple phrase which is article *a* and noun *nose* functions as the pre-modifier while noun *job* functions as the head.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *job* in data 18 has a collocative meaning. It is proven by the

noun *job* that follows noun *nose*. In this case, *a nose job* relates to something that needs to be improved or fixed.

3.3.3 The Types of Meaning of Noun “Assignment” Found in COCA

In order to identify the types of meaning of noun *assignment* in COCA, three sentences chosen randomly in COCA were analyzed. Here is the analysis:

Data 19

The French soldiers were transferred to a high-profile assignment in the southern province.

Based on the data 19, it is known that noun *assignment* is identified in the form of a complex noun phrase which is article *a* and adjective *high-profile* function as the pre-modifier, noun *assignment* functions as the head, and prepositional phrase *in the southern province* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *assignment* in data 19 has a collocative meaning. It is proven by noun *assignment* follows adjective *high-profile*. That adjective modifies noun *assignment* as something secret and important needs to be done. In this case, *a high-profile assignment in the southern province* relates to a piece of work that someone is asked to do as part of their job.

Data 20

Mitchell Reiss set himself a research assignment that many of the students at Washington College would envy.

Based on the data 20, it is known that noun *assignment* is identified in the form of a complex noun phrase which is article *a* and noun *research* function as the

pre-modifier, noun *assignment* functions as the head, and relative clause *that many of the students at Washington College would envy* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *assignment* in data 20 has a collocative meaning. It is proven by noun *assignment* that follows noun *research*. Literally, noun *research* relates to studies. Due to that, noun *assignment* in data 20 relates to something that is done by the students as the part of their studies.

Data 21

Her first assignment was to get a work permit in Tehran.

Based on the data 21, noun *assignment* is identified in the form of a simple noun phrase which is the possessive adjective *her* and ordinal number *first* functions as the pre-modifier while noun *assignment* functions as the head.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *assignment* in data 21 has a conceptual meaning which means noun *assignment* is used to refer to something that is assigned to someone.

3.3.4 The Types of Meaning of Noun “Task” Found in COCA

There are three sentences found in COCA were chosen randomly to be analyzed in order to identify the type of meaning of noun *task*. Here is the analysis:

Data 22

Hanna Heath has been hired to perform an exacting task.

Based on the data 22, it is known that noun *task* is identified in the form of a simple noun phrase which is article *an* and present participle *exacting* that is used as adjective function as the pre-modifier while noun *task* functions as the head.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *task* in data 22 has a collocative meaning. It is proven by noun *task* follows adjective *exacting*. Literally, adjective *exacting* means *making great demands on someone’s skill or attention*. In this case, *an exacting task* is used to refer to something difficult and annoying that must be done.

Data 23

It will be a necessary task for a machine to pass the Turing test.

Based on the data 23, it is known that noun *task* is identified in the form of a complex noun phrase which is article *a* and adjective *necessary* function as the pre-modifier, noun *task* functions as the head, and prepositional phrase *for a machine* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *task* in data 23 has a collocative meaning. It is proven by noun *task* follows adjective *necessary*. Literally, adjective *necessary* means *required to be done*. In this case, *a necessary task* is used to refer to something that have to be done, especially within a certain time

Data 24

As a result, the task of shipping and dismantling has barely begun.

Based on the data 24, it is known that noun *task* is identified in the form of a complex noun phrase which is article *the* function as the pre-modifier, noun *task* functions as the head, and prepositional phrase *of shipping and dismantling* functions as the post-modifier.

In terms of identifying the type of meaning, noun *task* in data 24 has a conceptual meaning which means noun *task* is used to refer to a piece of work that has to be done. Noun *task* tends to refer to a piece of work is proved by the prepositional

phrase of *shipping and dismantling* in data 24.

IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that the use of the synonymous nouns *work*, *job*, *assignment*, and *task* across the eight genres found in COCA has different frequency. Overall, the use of noun *work* has the highest frequency. It appeared 456,216 times. It is sequentially followed by noun *job* that appeared 312,758 times and noun *task* that appeared 59,634 times. Meanwhile, noun *assignment* has the lowest frequency compared to its other three synonyms. It appeared 14,382 times.

In addition to that, it can be known that three out of four those synonymous nouns that are discussed in this study tend to be mostly used in academic texts which is categorized as one of the formal contexts in COCA. Those synonymous nouns are noun *work* that appeared 79,449 times, noun *assignment* that appeared 3,484 times, and noun *task* that appeared 21,389 times in that genre. Meanwhile, noun *job* tends to be mostly used in TV/movie subtitles which is categorized as informal context in COCA. It appeared 54,380 in that genre.

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In terms of the collocational structure of the synonymous nouns *work*, *job*, *assignment*, and *task* found in COCA, there are two types of lexical collocation discussed in this study namely verb that is followed by noun and noun that is followed by verb. In the first type, verb that is followed by noun, noun *task* becomes the most flexible word because it is identified following 33 verbs while noun *job* becomes the least flexible word because it is identified only following 19 verbs. In the second types, noun that is followed by verb, noun *work* becomes the most flexible word because it is identified followed by six verbs while noun *job* and *task* becomes the least flexible word because they are identified followed by only one verb.

Based on that collocational structure, there are only two grammatical functions identified. Those are noun function as a subject and an object. It means that the synonymous nouns *work*, *job*, *assignment*, and *task* can act as an agent who performs the action or a patient who receives the action.

In regard to the type of meaning of noun *work* and its three near synonyms, there are only two types of meaning that is identified in COCA. Those types are known as conceptual and collocative meanings.