

# A Comparative Analysis of Impressed by and Impressed With in Two Corpora

Namkil Kang  
Far East University, South Korea

**Abstract**—The main purpose of this paper is to demonstrate that *impressed by* and *impressed with* are low similarity synonyms. A major point to note is that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show different patterns in all genres of the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>). It is interesting to note that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show the same pattern in the misc. genre of the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>), but they show a different pattern in six genres. It is significant that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show a high degree of similarity in the misc. genre, but do not show it in the academic genre. The COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>) shows that only 13.63% of forty-four nouns are collocations of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*. Similarly, the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>) indicates that *impressed by Mr.* and *impressed by arguments* are the most frequently used types in the UK. The BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>) further shows that *impressed with home* and *impressed with Mr.* are the most preferred collocations in the UK. Finally, the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>) shows that only 2.5% of forty nouns are the collocation of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*.

**Index Terms**—BNC, COCA, *impressed by*, *impressed with*

## I. INTRODUCTION

As Murphy (2016, 2019) points out, *impressed by* and *impressed with* are used synonymously:

(1) Impressed with/impressed by something/somebody

I am very **impressed with** (or) **by** her English. (Murphy 2019, p.260)

As argued by Kang (2021), the Corpus of Contemporary American English and the British National Corpus are representative corpora that are used heavily in English learning. The main goal of this paper is to demonstrate that *impressed by* and *impressed with* are low similarity synonyms in the two corpora. As a tool to achieve this goal, we adopt the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>) and BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>). First, we consider the extent to which *impressed by* and *impressed with* are co-related with each other in the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>) and BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>). Second, we observe which type is the preferred one for Americans and for British speakers. Third, we investigate similarities between *impressed by* and *impressed with* in terms of the Euclidean distance. Finally, we investigate the collocations of *impressed by* and *impressed with*, and look into similarities between both types using the NetMiner software package. This paper is organized as follows. In section II, we show that *impressed by* and *impressed with* display different patterns in eight genres. In section II, we argue that *impressed by* is the furthest type from *impressed with* in the blog genre, whereas *impressed by* is the nearest to *impressed with* in the newspaper genre. In section III, we maintain that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show the same pattern in the misc. genre, but show a different pattern in six other genres. In section III, we maintain that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show a low degree of similarity in the academic genre, but show a high degree of similarity in the misc. genre. In section IV, we contend that *impressed by Mr.* and *impressed with Mr.* are the most preferred types in America. In addition to this, we show that in the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>), 13.63% are collocations of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*. In section V, we argue that *impressed by Mr.* and *impressed by arguments* are the most frequently used types in the UK. We further argue that *impressed with home* and *impressed with Mr.* are the most preferred types in the UK. Finally, we show that in the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>), 2.5% are the collocations of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*.

## II. A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE COCA

### A. The Frequency of Impressed by and Impressed with in the COCA

In this section, we aim to compare *impressed by* and *impressed with* in eight genres. Table 1 shows the frequency of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>):

TABLE 1  
FREQUENCY OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE COCA

GENRE	ALL	BLOG	WEB	TV/MOVIE	SPOKEN	FICTION	MAGAZINE	NEWS	ACADEMIC
Impressed by	3,885	606	541	227	367	551	710	528	355
Impressed with	4,669	943	781	427	550	341	672	737	218

Table 1 clearly indicates that *impressed with* is widely preferred over *impressed by* by Americans. The overall frequency of *impressed with* is 4,669 tokens, whereas that of *impressed by* is 3,885 tokens. This in turn suggests that Americans prefer using *impressed with* rather than *impressed by*. It is thus reasonable to hypothesize that *impressed with* is favored over *impressed by* in America. Table 1 clearly shows that *impressed by* is the most commonly used in the magazine genre, whereas *impressed with* is the most widely used in the blog genre. An interesting feature of *impressed by* and *impressed with* is that they show different rankings in the magazine and blog genres. It must be noted, however, that the frequency of *impressed by* is much higher than that of *impressed with* in the magazine genre. This in turn shows that *impressed by* is preferred over *impressed with* by American journalists. Conversely, the frequency of *impressed with* is much higher than that of *impressed by* in the blog genre. This indicates that *impressed with* is preferable to *impressed by* in the blog genre.

It would be worth mentioning that *impressed by* is the second most widely used type in the blog genre, whereas *impressed with* is the second most widely used type in the web genre. Thus, they do not show the same features in their ranking in the blog and web genres, thus showing no similarity in these genres. It should be pointed out that *impressed with* is used more frequently than *impressed by* in the web genre. This amounts to saying that *impressed with* is preferable to *impressed by* in the web genre.

It is worthwhile pointing out that *impressed by* is the third most widely used type in the fiction genre, whereas *impressed with* is the third most widely used type in the newspaper genre. Thus, they do not show the same features in their ranking in the fiction and newspaper genres, thus showing a low degree of similarity in two genres. It is important to note that *impressed by* is used more frequently than *impressed with* in the fiction genre. Simply put, *impressed by* is widely preferred over *impressed with* by American writers. It is also worth noting that *impressed with* is used more widely than *impressed by* in the newspaper genre. This in turn suggests that American journalists favor *impressed with* over *impressed by* in their articles.

It is interesting to note that *impressed by* is the fourth most widely used type in the web genre, whereas *impressed with* is the fourth most widely used type in the magazine genre. Again, they both show a rather different feature in their ranking in the web and magazine genres, thus implying that both types are low similarity synonyms.

It is significant to note that *impressed by* is the fifth most widely used type in the newspaper genre, whereas *impressed by* is the fifth most widely used type in the spoken genre. Again, both types do not show the same features in their ranking in the newspaper genre and the spoken genre. It is important to point out that *impressed with* is used more commonly than *impressed by* in the spoken genre. We take this as indicating that Americans favor *impressed with* over *impressed by* in daily conversation.

It is interesting to note that *impressed by* is the sixth most widely used type in the spoken genre, whereas *impressed with* is the sixth most widely used type in the TV/movie genre. Again, both types have a different feature in their ranking in the spoken genre and the TV/movie genre, thus implying that both are low similarity synonyms. Additionally, it must be pointed out that *impressed with* is used more widely than *impressed by* in the TV/movie genre. This in turn shows that American celebrities prefer using *impressed with* rather than using *impressed by*.

It is worthwhile noting that *impressed by* is the seventh most widely used type in the academic genre, whereas *impressed with* is the seventh most widely used type in the fiction genre. Again, both types have a rather different feature on their ranking in the academic genre and the fiction genre. This in turn indicates that they both show a low degree of similarity in two genres. It should be pointed out that *impressed by* is used more widely than *impressed with* in the academic genre. This indicates that *impressed by* is widely preferred over *impressed with* in the academic genre.

Finally, *impressed by* is the eighth most widely used type in the TV/movie genre, whereas *impressed with* is the eighth most widely used type in the academic genre. Again, both types do not have the same feature in their ranking, indicating that they both show a low degree of similarity in two genres. To sum up, *impressed by* and *impressed with* show different patterns in all genres, which in turn implies that they both are low similarity synonyms.

Now let us turn to the use of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in eight genres:

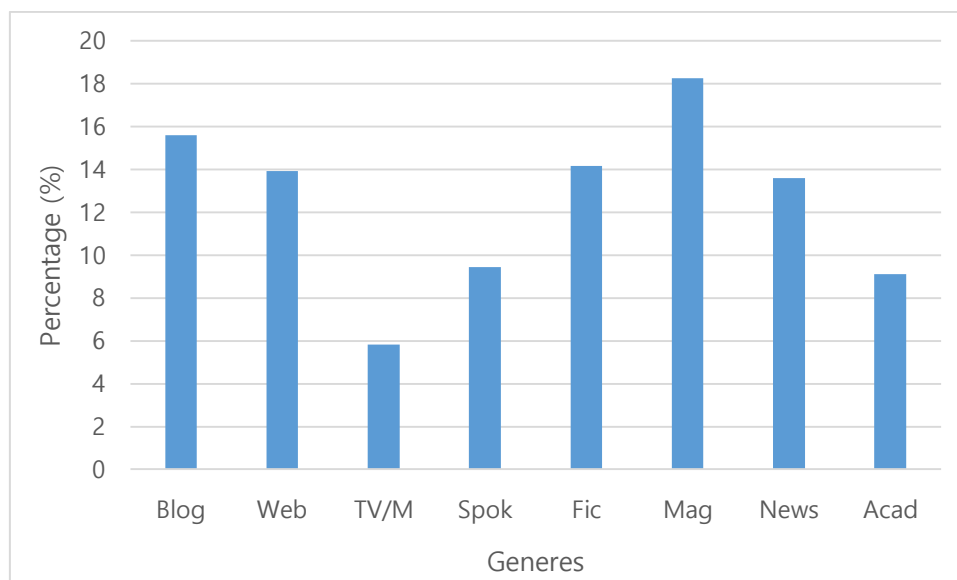


Figure 1. Percentage of the Use of Impressed by

It is important to note that the magazine genre is the most influenced by *impressed by*, followed in descending order by the blog genre, the fiction genre, the web genre, the newspaper genre, the spoken genre, the academic genre, and the TV/movie genre.

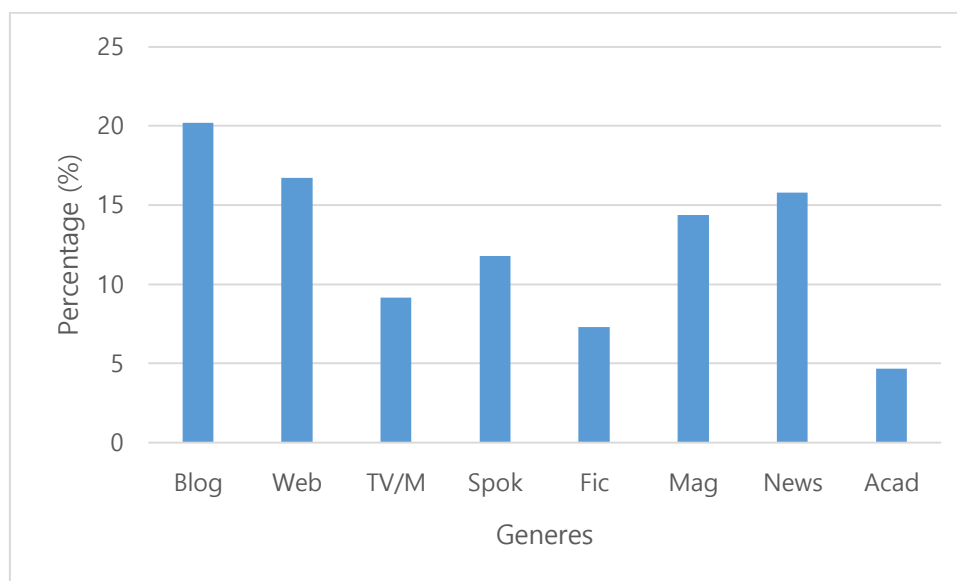


Figure 2. Percentage of the Use of Impressed With

It is significant to note that the blog genre is the most influenced by *impressed with*, followed in descending order by the web genre, the newspaper genre, the magazine genre, the spoken genre, the TV/movie genre, the fiction genre, and the academic genre.

#### B. The Euclidean Distance

In this section, we aim to consider similarities between *impressed by* and *impressed with* in eight genres. We adopt the following Euclidean distance:

(2) The Euclidean distance:

$$d(p, q) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (p_i - q_i)^2}$$

Note that a lower figure indicates greater similarity.

TABLE 2  
EUCLIDEAN DISTANCE BETWEEN IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH

Genre	Blog	Web	TV/Movie	Spoken	Fiction	Magazine	News	Academic
Percentage of impressed by	15.59	13.92	5.84	9.44	14.18	18.27	13.59	9.13
Percentage of impressed with	20.19	16.72	9.14	11.77	7.3	14.39	15.78	4.66
Euclidean distance	4.6	2.8	3.3	2.33	6.88	3.88	2.19	4.47

Interestingly, *impressed by* is the furthest type from *impressed with* in the blog genre. It is interesting to point out, on the other hand, that *impressed by* is the nearest to *impressed with* in the newspaper genre. More specifically, the figure of the Euclidean distance in the newspaper genre is 2.19, which is the lowest. That is to say, they show a high degree of similarity in the newspaper genre. Additionally, the figure in the spoken genre is 2.33, which is the second lowest. This in turn implies that both types show close similarities in the spoken genre. We thus conclude that the Euclidean distance provides a similarity index regarding the extent to which both types are co-related with each other.

### III. A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE BNC

#### A. The Frequency of *Impressed by* and *Impressed with* in the BNC

In this section, we provide the genre frequency of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>). Table 3 shows the frequency of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in seven genres:

TABLE 3  
FREQUENCY OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE BNC

GENRE	ALL	SPOKEN	FICTION	MAGAZINE	NEWSPAPER	NON-ACADEMIC	ACADEMIC	MISC.
Impressed by	749	30	110	80	110	112	84	223
Impressed with	377	44	39	56	69	43	23	103

Table 3 clearly shows that *impressed by* is used more frequently than *impressed with* in the UK. More specifically, the overall frequency of *impressed by* is 749 tokens, whereas that of *impressed with* is 377 tokens. This in turn suggests that *impressed by* is preferable to *impressed with* in the UK. It is thus reasonable to hypothesize that the British prefer using *impressed by* rather than using *impressed with*.

It is important to note that *impressed by* and *impressed with* are the most preferred types in the misc. genre. They both have the same features on their ranking in the misc. genre, thus showing a high degree of similarity in the misc. genre. It should be noted, however, that the British favor *impressed by* over *impressed with* in the misc. genre.

It is worthwhile pointing out that *impressed by* is the second most widely used type in the non-academic genre, whereas *impressed with* is the second most widely used type in the newspaper genre. Thus, they both show a rather different feature in terms of their ranking in the non-academic genre and the newspaper genre, hence a low degree of similarity in two genres. It should be pointed out that *impressed by* is favored over *impressed with* in the non-academic genre and the newspaper genre. This in turn implies that the British public as well as British journalists prefer using *impressed by* rather than using *impressed with*.

It is noteworthy that *impressed by* is the third most widely used type in the fiction and newspaper genres, whereas *impressed with* is the third most widely used type in the magazine genre. Again, both types show a different feature when it comes to their ranking in the fiction, newspaper, and magazine genres, thus showing a low degree of similarity in three genres. It must be noted that *impressed by* is preferable to *impressed with* in the fiction genre. This in turn shows that British writers prefer using *impressed by* rather than *impressed with*. Likewise, *impressed by* is favored over *impressed with* in the magazine genre. This comes from the fact that *impressed by* is used more frequently than *impressed with* in the magazine genre.

It is worth pointing out that *impressed with* is the fourth most widely used type in the spoken genre, but there is no rank-four in the case of *impressed by*. Thus, both types show a different feature in their ranking, thus showing no high similarity. It must be pointed out that *impressed with* is used more frequently than *impressed by* in the spoken genre. This in turn implies that the British prefer using *impressed with* rather than *impressed by* in daily conversation.

It is interesting to point out that *impressed by* is the fifth most widely used type in the academic genre, whereas *impressed with* is the fifth most widely used type in the non-academic genre. Again, the two types do not have the same features in their ranking in the academic and non-academic genres, thus implying that they are low similarity synonyms. It should be pointed out, on the other hand, that *impressed by* is preferable to *impressed with* in the academic genre.

It is interesting to note that *impressed by* is the sixth most widely used type in the magazine genre, whereas *impressed with* is the sixth most widely used type in the fiction genre. Again, both types show a different feature in terms of their ranking in two genres, thus showing a low degree of similarity.

Finally, it is worth noting that *impressed by* is the seventh most widely used type in the spoken genre, whereas *impressed with* is the seventh most widely used type in the academic genre. Again, they both show a rather different

feature in their ranking in two genres, hence a low degree of similarity in two genres. To sum up, *impressed by* and *impressed with* show the same pattern in the misc. genre, but a different pattern in the other genres.

Now, let us turn to the use of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in seven genres:

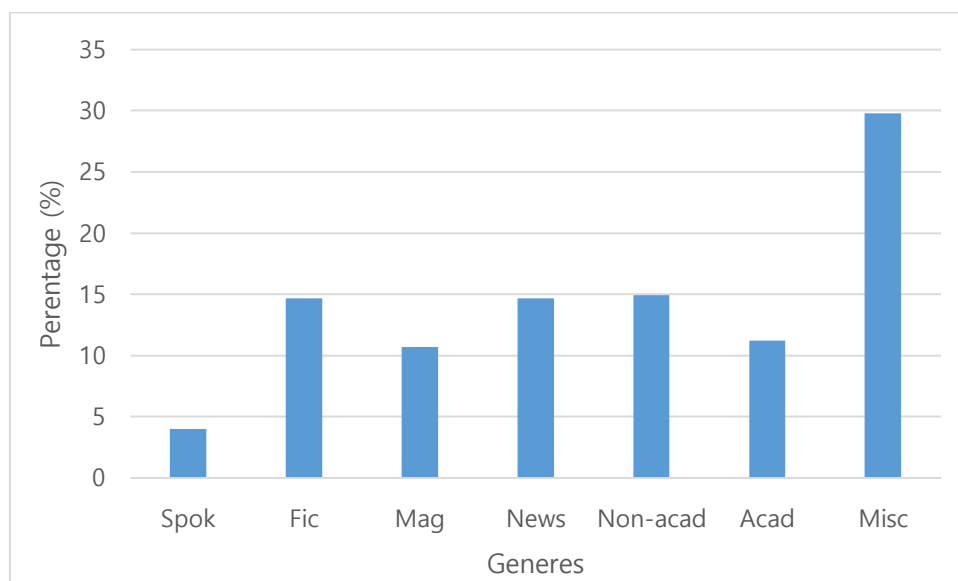


Figure 3. Use of Impressed by in Seven Genres

It is worth noting that the misc. genre is the most influenced by *impressed by*, followed in descending order by the non-academic genre, the newspaper genre (the fiction genre), the academic genre, the magazine genre, and the spoken genre.

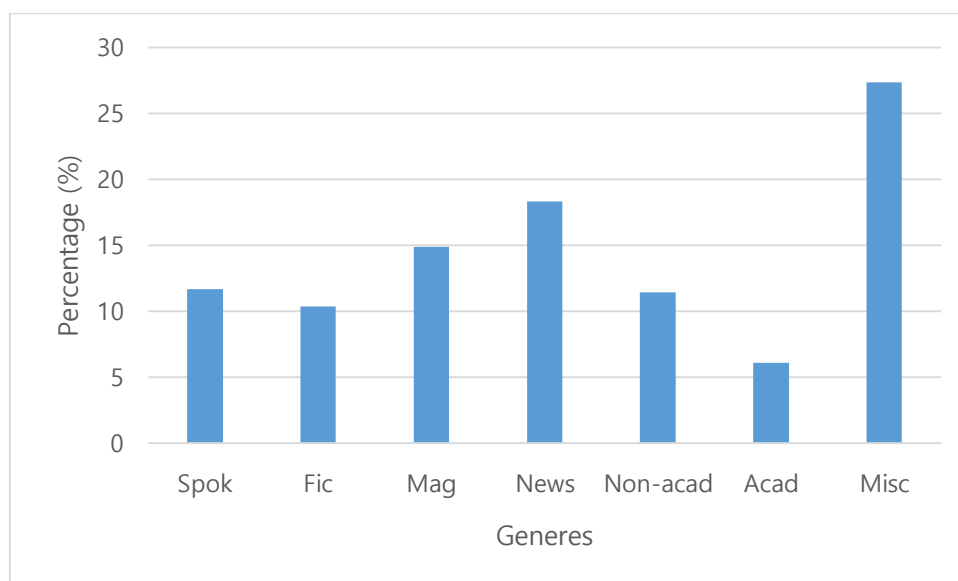


Figure 4. Use of Impressed With in Seven Genres

It is worth pointing out that the misc. genre is the most influenced by *impressed with*, followed by the newspaper genre, the magazine genre, the spoken genre, the non-academic genre, the fiction genre, and the academic genre, in that order.

#### B. The Euclidean Distance

In this section, we examine similarities between *impressed by* and *impressed with* in seven genres. Note that a lower figure indicates more similarity:

TABLE 4  
EUCLIDEAN DISTANCE BETWEEN IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH

Genre	Spoken	Fiction	Magazine	News	Non-academic	Academic	Misc.
Percentage of impressed by	4	14.68	10.68	14.68	14.95	11.21	29.77
Percentage of impressed with	11.67	10.34	14.85	18.30	11.4	6.1	27.32
Euclidean distance	7.67	4.34	4.17	3.62	3.55	5.11	2.45

It is interesting to point out that *impressed by* is the furthest type from *impressed with* in the spoken genre. It is also interesting to note, on the other hand, that *impressed by* is the closest type from *impressed with* in the misc. genre. More specifically, the Euclidean distance in the misc. genre is 2.45, which is the lowest. This in turn implies that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show a high degree of similarity in the misc. genre. Interestingly, the Euclidean distance in the non-academic genre is 3.55, which is the second-lowest. This in turn suggests that both types show close similarities. On the other hand, the Euclidean distance in the academic genre is 5.11, which is the second-highest. This in turn shows that both types show a low degree of similarity in the academic genre. We thus conclude that *impressed by* is the nearest to *impressed with* in the misc. genre.

#### IV. A COLLOCATION ANALYSIS OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE COCA

In this section, we compare the frequency of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>). We examine similarities between *impressed by* and *impressed with*. Table 5 shows the frequency of the collocations of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>):

TABLE 5  
COLLOCATIONS OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE COCA

Number	Collocation of impressed by	Frequency	Collocation of impressed with	Frequency
1	Impressed by Mr.	9	Impressed with Mr.	14
2	Impressed by people	8	Impressed with people	11
3	Impressed by Ms.	3	Impressed with Dr.	5
4	Impressed by deacon	3	Impressed with president	4
5	Impressed by power	3	Impressed with arguments	2
6	Impressed by president	3	Impressed with Apple	2
7	Impressed by things	3	Impressed with CFW	2
8	Impressed by celebrities	2	Impressed with money	2
9	Impressed by argumentum	2	Impressed with coach	2
10	Impressed by arguments	2	Impressed with evidence	2
11	Impressed by coincidences	2	Impressed with GOV	2
12	Impressed by money	2	Impressed with athletes	2
13	Impressed by evidence	2	Impressed with students	2
14	Impressed by designer	2	Impressed with premier	1
15	Impressed by design	2	Impressed with portfolios	1
16	Impressed by father	2	Impressed with performances	1
17	Impressed by nature	2	Impressed with artillery	1
18	Impressed by quality	2	Impressed with frame	1
19	Impressed by Trump	2	Impressed with flair	1
20	Impressed by work	2	Impressed with firms	1
21	Impressed by outliers	1	Impressed with films	1
22	Impressed by number	1	Impressed with fight	1
23	Impressed by novels	1	Impressed with pass	1
24	Impressed by neoconservatives	1	Impressed with parenthood	1
25	Impressed by mystery	1	Impressed with paradise	1

It is significant to note that *impressed by Mr.* is the most frequently used type in America (9 tokens). This in turn suggests that *impressed by Mr.* is the most preferred type in America. As illustrated in Table 5, *impressed by Mr.* is the most preferred by Americans, followed in descending order by *impressed by people*, *impressed by Ms.*, *impressed by deacon*, *impressed by power*, *impressed by president*, and *impressed by things*. It is interesting to point out that *impressed by people* is the second most widely used type in America. It is also interesting to note that *impressed by celebrities* is the third most widely used type in America. The COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>) shows, on the other hand, that *impressed with Mr.* is the most widely used type in America. This in turn indicates that *impressed with Mr.* is the most preferred type in America. As alluded to in Table 5, *impressed with Mr.* is the most preferred by Americans, followed in descending order by *impressed with people*, *impressed with Dr.*, *impressed with president*, *impressed with arguments*, and *impressed with Apple*. Most importantly, *impressed by Mr.* and *impressed with Mr.* are the most preferred types in America. It is worth pointing out that *impressed by people* and *impressed with people* are the second most widely used types in America. On the other hand, *impressed by evidence* is the eighth most widely used type in America, whereas *impressed with evidence* is the fifth most widely used type.

Finally, *impressed by arguments* is the eighth most widely used type in America, whereas *impressed with arguments* is the fifth most widely used type.

Now, let us pay attention to the similarities between *impressed by* and *impressed with*. Figure 5 shows the visualization of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>):

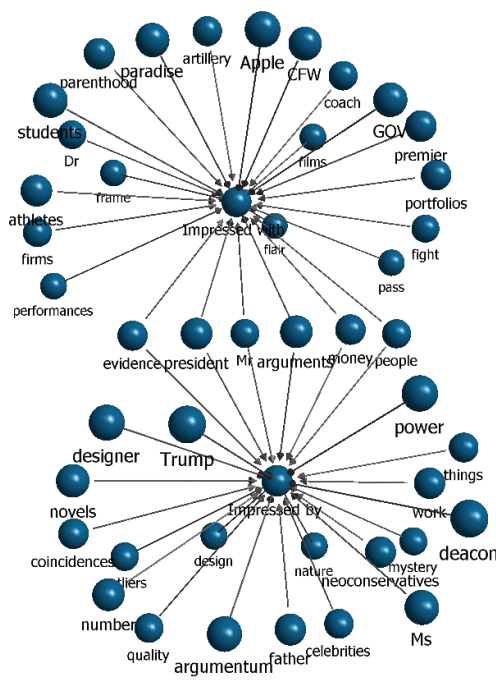


Figure 5. Visualization of Impressed by and Impressed With

As indicated in Figure 5, forty-four nouns are linked to the types *impressed by* and *impressed with*, respectively. To be more specific, six of forty-four nouns are linked to both *impressed by* and *impressed with*, whereas the other nouns are not. The six nouns linked to both are *evidence*, *president*, *Mr.*, *arguments*, *money*, and *people*, and these nouns are the collocations of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*. Simply put, 13.63% are the collocations of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*. It can thus be inferred that *impressed by* and *impressed with* are low similarity synonyms.

#### V. A COLLOCATION ANALYSIS OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE BNC

In this section, we examine the collocations of *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>). We investigate similarities between *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>):



TABLE 6  
COLLOCATIONS OF IMPRESSED BY AND IMPRESSED WITH IN THE BNC

Number	Collocation of impressed by	Frequency	Collocation of impressed with	Frequency
1	Impressed by Mr.	2	Impressed with home	2
2	Impressed by arguments	2	Impressed with Mr.	2
3	Impressed by aggression	1	Impressed with Miss	1
4	Impressed by accounts	1	Impressed with stars	1
5	Impressed by writers	1	Impressed with Sir	1
6	Impressed by waterfalls	1	Impressed with recognition	1
7	Impressed by unity	1	Impressed with proprietor	1
8	Impressed by staffing	1	Impressed with obscurity	1
9	Impressed by senator	1	Impressed with hell	1
10	Impressed by results	1	Impressed with goalkeeper	1
11	Impressed by professor	1	Impressed with discounts	1
12	Impressed by politicians	1	Impressed with considerations	1
13	Impressed by policemen	1	Impressed with club	1
14	Impressed by plumes	1	Impressed with chairman	1
15	Impressed by pictures	1	Impressed with book	1
16	Impressed by people	1	Impressed with admiration	1
17	Impressed by Mr.	1		
18	Impressed by Lovat	1		
19	Impressed by king	1		
20	Impressed by Italian	1		
21	Impressed by humanity	1		
22	Impressed by horses	1		
23	Impressed by high-powered	1		
24	Impressed by guff	1		
25	Impressed by grandeur	1		

Table 6 clearly indicates that *impressed by Mr.* and *impressed by arguments* are the most frequently used types in the UK. This in turn shows that they are the most preferred types in the UK. It is noteworthy that *impressed by senator* is the third most widely used type in the UK. It is also worth noting that *impressed by politicians* is the third most widely used type in the UK. It is interesting to point out, on the other hand, that *impressed with home* and *impressed with Mr.* are the most preferred types in the UK. More importantly, *impressed by Mr.* is the third most widely used type in the UK, whereas *impressed with Mr.* is the most preferred type in the UK.

Now, let us consider similarities between *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>):

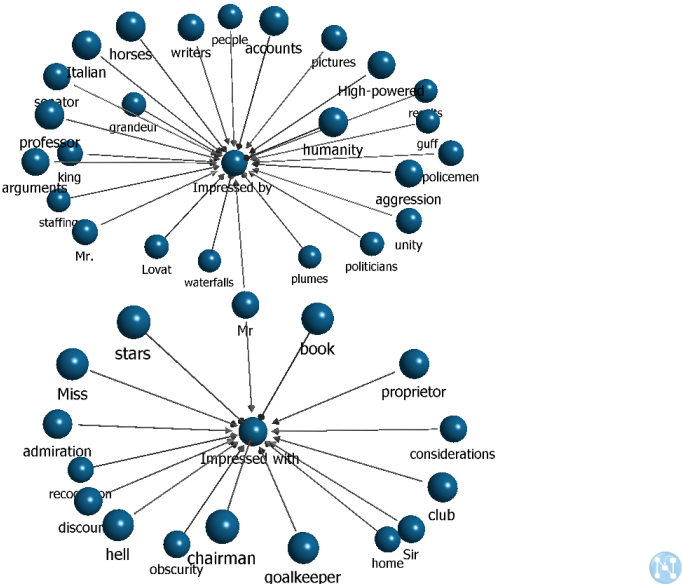


Figure 6. Visualization of Impressed by and Impressed With in the BNC

Figure 6 shows that forty nouns are linked to *impressed by* and *impressed with*, respectively. Most importantly, one of forty nouns is linked to both *impressed by* and *impressed with* in the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>). Only the noun *Mr.* is the collocation of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*. That is to say, only 2.5% are the collocation of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*. From all of this, it can be inferred that *impressed by* and *impressed with* are low similarity synonyms.



## VI. CONCLUSION

To sum up, we have demonstrated that *impressed by* and *impressed with* are low similarity synonyms. In section II, we have shown that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show different patterns in eight genres. We have also argued that *impressed by* is the furthest type from *impressed with* in the blog genre. We have further argued that *impressed by* is the nearest to *impressed with* in the newspaper genre. In section III, we have maintained that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show the same pattern in the misc. genre, but show a different pattern in six other genres. In section III, we have also maintained that *impressed by* and *impressed with* show a low degree of similarity in the academic genre, but show a high degree of similarity in the misc. genre. In section IV, we have contended that *impressed by Mr.* and *impressed with Mr.* are the most preferred types in America. In addition to this, we have shown that in the COCA (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca>), 13.63% are the collocations of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*. In section V, we have argued that *impressed by Mr.* and *impressed by arguments* are the most frequently used types in the UK. We have further argued that *impressed with home* and *impressed with Mr.* are the most preferred types in the UK. Finally, we have shown that in the BNC (10, December 2021. Online <https://corpus.byu.edu/bnc>), 2.5% are the collocation of both *impressed by* and *impressed with*.

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**Namkil Kang** was born in Chungbuk, South Korea on 27, August, 1964. He received a BA degree (English Language and Literature) at Chungbuk National University in South Korea in 1988. He received an MA degree (English Linguistics) at Sogang University in South Korea in 1990. He received an MPhil degree (Linguistics) at the University of Oxford in 1998. Finally, he received a Ph.D. degree (Linguistics) at the University of Oxford in 2000.

He has been with Far East University in South Korea since 2002. He is a professor at Far East University in South Korea. He is working on syntax, corpus linguistics, and English education at this moment. He has published about 85 articles and three books. He is a recent ex-chairman of the Joongwon Linguistic Society of South Korea and a vice-chairman of the Jungang English Language and Literature Association of South Korea.