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THE IMPORTANCE OF QUESTIONNAIRES IN CORPUS BUILDING PROCESS Fariza Maksutovna MUSAEVA

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KORPUS YARATISH JARAYONIDA SOʻROVNOMALARNING AHAMIYATI Fariza Maksutovna MUSAEVA

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ВАЖНОСТЬ ОПРОСНИКОВ В ПРОЦЕССЕ ПОСТРОЕНИЯ КОРПУСА Фариза Максутовна МУСАЕВА

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Abstract. Questionnaires are the most commonly used instruments in collecting data. This method is also accessible for doing research investigations. Questionnaires can also be a key factor in searching for a reliable source to build a corpus for specific purposes. Thus, specialists' aid is a prerequisite in searching for scientific articles, specialized books and web pages in the corpus compilation process. In order to realize this, required questions need to be prepared. In this procedure, studying practitioners' needs was the pivotal factor in conducting a survey using questionnaire. Taking their prevalence into account, it can be supposed that questionnaires are easy to create, design and use. However, it should be mentioned that in order to obtain expected results, the formation and sketching questionnaires requires time and careful consideration. This article presents the process of designing questionnaires based on certain criteria, the analysis of each developed question, and the active words that are used in the Oil and Gas industry taken from the practitioners have been input into the sketchengine.eu tool, useful webpages have been found. In this way, the size of the corpus has been enlarged. A developed online questionnaire has been surveyed among 331 practitioners, collected data has been analyzed, and further recommendations have been suggested.

Keywords: online questionnaires; research; conduct a survey; respondent; corpus compilation; formulating questions.

Annotatsiya. Soʻrovnomalar ma'lumotlarni toʻplashda eng koʻp qoʻllaniladigan vositalardir. Mazkur usuldan tadqiqot ishlarini olib borish uchun ham foydalanish mumkin. Shuningdek, soʻrovnomalar maxsus maqsadlar uchun korpus yaratishda ishonchli material izlash jarayonida asosiy omillardan biri hisoblanadi. Shunday qilib, korpus yaratish jarayonida ilmiy maqolalar, maxsus kitoblar va veb-sahifalarni qidirishda

mutaxassislarning yordami asosiy manba hisoblanadi. Buni amalga oshirish uchun maxsus savollarni tayyorlash kerak. Bunda amaliyotchimutaxasislarning ehtiyojlarini oʻrganish maqsadida soʻrovnoma oʻtkazish muhim vazifalardan biriga aylandi. Soʻrovnomalarning keng tarqalganligini hisobga olgan holda, ularni yaratish va ulardan foydalanish oson deb taxmin qilish mumkin. Ammo shuni ta'kidlash jozki, kutilgan natijalarga erishish uchun soʻrovnomalarni shakllantirish vaqt va sinchkovlik bilan koʻrib chiqishni talab qiladi. Mazkur maqolada korpus yaratishda ma'lum mezonlar asosida so'rovnomalarni ishlab chiqish jarayoni, har bir ishlab chiqilgan savolning tahlili va soʻrovnoma yordamida mutaxasislardan olingan neft va gaz sohasida faol ishlatiladigan soʻzlar sketchengine.eu ga kiritilib, ular yordamida mazkur sohadagi foydali vebsahifalarning linklari korpus hajmini kengaytirishda muhim ahamiyat kasb etganligi yoritib berilgan. Ishlab chiqilgan onlayn so'rovnomada jami 331 nafar mutaxassislar ishtirok etdi, olingan ma'lumotlar tahlil qilindi va qo'shimcha tavsiyalar berildi.

Kalit soʻzlar: onlayn soʻrovnomalar; tadqiqot; soʻrovnoma oʻtkazish; javob beruvchi; korpus yaratish; savollarni shakllantirish.

Аннотация. Опросники являются часто используемым инструментом сбора данных. Этот метод также доступен для проведения научных исследований. Опросники также могут быть ключевым фактором в поиске надежного источника для построения корпуса для специальных целей. Таким образом, в процессе составления корпуса необходима помощь специалистов в поиске научных статей, специализированных книг и веб-страниц. Для реализации этой работы необходимо подготовить специальные вопросы. Важным фактором в этом процессе было проведение опроса с целью изучения потребностей специалистов. Принимая во внимание распространенность опросников, можно предположить, что они просты в создании, дизайне и использовании. Однако следует отметить, что для получения ожидаемых результатов формирование и составление опросников требует времени и тщательного рассмотрения. В данной статье представлен процесс разработки опросников на основе определенных критериев, анализ каждого разработанного вопроса и составление списка активных слов, используемых в нефтегазовой отрасли, которые были написаны специалистами. Эти же слова были введены в sketchengine.eu, выявлены полезные веб-страницы, и таким образом размер корпуса был увеличен. В данном онлайн-опроснике участвовал 331 специалист, собранные данные были проанализированы и предложены дальнейшие рекомендации.

Ключевые слова: онлайн-опросник; исследование; проведение опросника; респондент; составление корпуса; формулировка вопросов.

Introduction. In recent years using questionnaires as a method of data collection has considerably increased (1, 4, 12, 13, 14). The development of new technological facilities and up-to-date equipment in the Oil and Gas sphere makes it more important that future specialists should be aware of specialized terminology used in this field. In this regard, practitioners' knowledge is requisite, and the effectiveness of this action can be realized by conducting a survey. The use of questionnaires enables to collect the data from a large group of people which can be functional in the research. It can be admitted that there are plenty of good sources which provide needed information. However, there can rarely be detailed issues in the field of study that lead to creating questionnaires or a certain purpose (4, 75).

Moreover, questionnaires are clues of reliability and validity in analysing items. They are a necessary instrument for collecting data for a thesis or dissertation (8, 3). It is a fact that recently interest has grown in implementing corpora and computer tools for language education. The collection of data compiled in a corpus makes it possible to provide ESP classes with effective teaching materials (14, 950). It is obvious that the initial step of corpus-building compilation is to collect some requisite materials as the launching process. One main unfavorable circumstance for ESP teachers in this procedure is the state of confusion about whether collected materials would suit the demand in a certain sphere. Thus, in corpus compilation process, specialists' aid is a prerequisite in searching for scientific articles, specialized books and web pages. So, to achieve this aim, carefully designed questions are needed to prepare. In this procedure, taking specialists' needs into account was pivotal to conducting a survey using a questionnaire. This paper gives information on how questionnaires had a considerable place in corpus-building practice and defined how questionnaires can be applicable in corpus formation. Examples of prepared questions illustrate the significance of online questionnaires in this research.

Literature review. Having a certain goal in creating research questions is one of the requirements in the questionnaires. Questions are formulated where a respondent is invited to yield answers. Inadequately developed research questions may result in poor research. Questions must be focused on obtaining clear data for further investigation (2, 79). So, getting productive results from respondents depends on specifying deliberate questions as they will direct researchers:

- to find crucial literature search;
- to make distinct decisions of research design;
- to find out the right collection of data and from whom;
- to make precise analysis of the data;
- to use the information in the specific field.

Based on certain criteria presented by Mildred L. Patten (8, 12) where some recommendations are given on how to create questionnaires in research, the primary stage in developing a questionnaire is planning and considering its merits and demerits of it. Furthermore, questionnaires have to be built according to established criteria that should be considered. The following criteria in making research questions are crucial for the study:

- Questions should be explicit and comprehensible, so the language needs to be prepared appropriately;
- Questions should be suitable to the plan of the study so the expected results can be received;
- There should be a link between questions. Irrelevant questions can be improbable to be accepted by respondents;
 - Questions should be done to make a contribution to knowledge;
- The size of questions should also be taken into account, too large sentences make readers get bored and lose the idea of what they need to answer.

Also, one of the key factors in questionnaire research is it needs to be reviewed by others (9, 105). The point is that one may skip some details which can be seen by others. So, two teachers (Tangirova Kamilla, PhD researcher of Warwick University, UK and Kadirbekova Durdona, PhD teacher of the Foreign Languages Department of the Branch of Russian State University of Oil and Gas (NRU) named after I.M. Gubkin in Tashkent city)

were asked to review the ready questionnaire, they expressed their ideas, some necessary items were added, some omitted. After careful consideration, a questionnaire was developed.

Research Methodology. A questionnaire for practitioners was devised with six questions. In general, 331 people participated in the questionnaire in the current research. The starting inquiry was to note the place of their work as the respondents' sites were from different parts of Uzbekistan. It was important to know how the Oil and Gas organizations are spread around our Republic.

- It was found out that the practitioners were from different Oil and Gas organizations in Uzbekistan, such as "Uzbekneftigas", Bukhara oil and gas refinery LLC, Gulistan oil and gas refinery LLC, Jizzack oil and gas refinery LLC, Navai oil and gas refinery LLC, GTL- Uzbekistan, Andijan oil and gas refinery LLC.
- The second question was about their working positions, where it was clear that there were people from various occupations related to the Oil and Gas field, such as an engineer, an economist, a technician, an operator, a labor assistant etc.
- The following question was to find out the most used active words that practitioners use in their everyday life. The purpose of having this data was to discover useful web pages, which then can be included in the sketchengine.eu tool to enlarge the Corpus of English for Oil and Gas (CEOG). There were a lot of keywords that practitioners use daily. However, after careful study, potentially useful keywords were identified (pressure 47 times, pump 33 times, valve 24 times, (Gas) condenser 21 times, compressor 21 times, reservoir 12 times, LNG 10 times). These words then were put into sketchengine.eu to see their frequency. This was accomplished using the Concordance function, and the word *pressure* was found 7,169 times. (See Table 1)

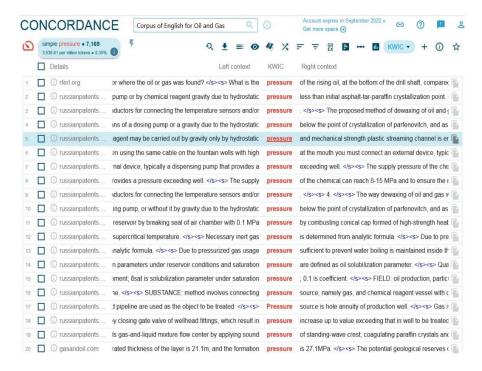


Table 1.

After using the Word Sketch function in the column *nouns modified* with pressure, it was identified that the most collated word with pressure is

dropped with 302 times (pressure drop) of usage (Table 2). Following this criteria, the other words (pump station, gate valve, compressor station, reservoir pressure, LNG facility) with their collocates were found. To expand the size of the corpus (CEOG), the keywords were input into sketchengine.eu, and in total, 546 webpages were identified (Table 3).

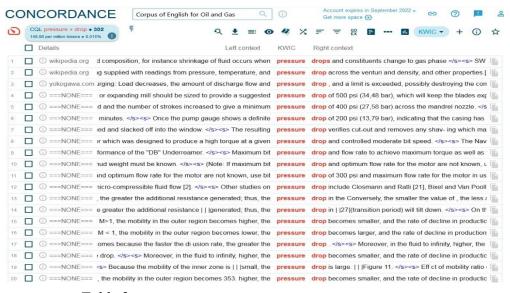


Table 2.

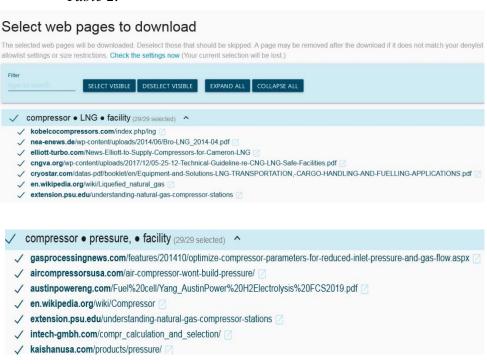
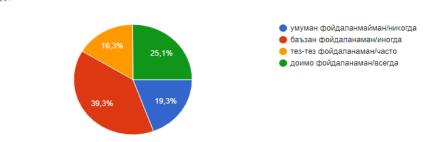


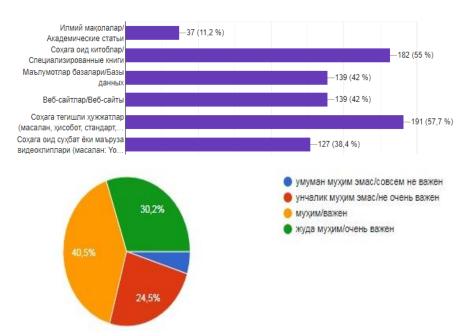
Table 3.

— To the question "How often do you use English-language sources in your occupation", those who use the sources *sometimes* took the highest point with 39.3%, the second place occupied 25.1% who utilize them *always*, practitioners who *never* use English-language sources showed 19.3%, the last place belonged to those who *often* employs the sources with

16.3%. This indicates that most practitioners apply English-language sources in their profession.



- In the process of corpus building one of the main tasks was to be familiar with the sources of the practitioners' interests. So, the next question was to select the different sources that are the most important in the field of Oil and Gas. Obtained results showed that the highest point took the documents related to the specialized area (for example, reports, standards, instructions, rules, and reference books) at 57.7 % and specialized books at 55 %, the next place with the 42 per cent occupied database and websites. The interest of the practitioners in the videos of professional conversations and lectures, and speeches by specialists in this field (for example, YouTube) showed 38.4 %. The least used source, with 11.2 %, was academic articles.
- While conducting a survey, it was also essential to identify the importance of English for Oil and Gas professionals. The received replies demonstrated that 40.5~% of practitioners' answers were important, 30.2~%

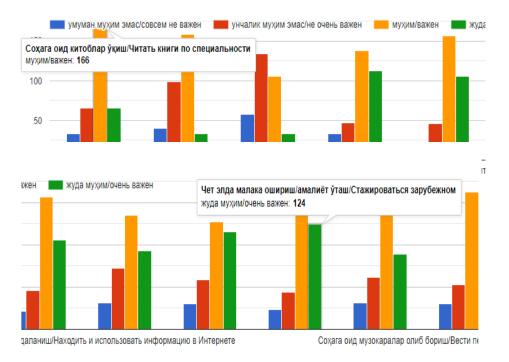


considered very important, 24.5 % not very important, and 4.8 % not important at all. After receiving the answers, it became clear that most practitioners confirmed the significance of the English language.

— The respondents were also asked to indicate the importance (*important*, *very important*, *not very important*, *not important at all*) of the English language in the listed aspects of activities for oil and gas specialists, such as:

- · to read books in their specialty
- to read scientific articles
- to write scientific articles
- to negotiate with foreign partners
- to find and use information related to the subject from the Internet
 - to apply and participate in international grants and projects
 - to participate in international conferences/talks/seminars
 - to go abroad for an internship
- to deal with instructions (read/follow/write) for Oil and Gas equipment
 - to negotiate for professional purposes
 - to participate in a foreign experience exchange program
- to communicate through official letters, e-mails and social networking platforms (for example: Facebook, LinkedIn)
 - to participate in scientific research projects
 - preparing and uploading professional data for websites

In all aspects, the practitioners' replies 'important' showed the highest point except 'to write scientific articles' and 'to read scientific articles' where the degree of importance 'not very important' and 'not important at all' were with the peak point and 'important' was on the second place. This reveals that they do not need to write articles. However, comparing all activities, two of them 'to read books in their specialty' and 'to negotiate for professional purposes' the word 'important' reached a trough of more than 160 people. Among the degrees of importance, the word 'very important' with the top reach belonged to 'to go abroad for an internship'.



words in the corpus. The Concordance function showed the usage of the word pressure 7,169 times. (See Table 1). In this way, the frequent usage of the other active words was also identified. Additionally, in the corpus compilation procedure, other sources (scientific articles, specialized books, webpages, documents etc.) were also needed to include. Determination of the useful keywords mentioned above guided searching for the right literature in the special field (Oil and Gas industry). Moreover, in the current research, as an ESP teacher of Oil and Gas, the importance of the English language and how often the practitioners employ the English-language sources were also vital to find out. Based on the received results, most practitioners apply English-language sources in their profession. In corpus building, it was crucial to determine which sources are most utilized by specialists. Participants' responses showed that the highest point took the documents related to the specialized area (for example, reports, standards, instructions, rules, and reference books) with 57.7 % and specialized books at 55 %. It became clear that the most focus should be on those very records. Studying the other inquiries closely, it was transparent that reading books in their speciality and negotiating for professional purposes reached a high position as well as going abroad for an internship was noted as very *important* by the respondents. This means there is a big demand both for the reading specialized books and exchanging information in this particular sphere. Thus, it can be concluded that explicit, well-prepared questions can lead a researcher to do further investigations, which make a contribution to the field of study. According to the questionnaire, expected results have been received, and this has been provided with the expansion of the corpus of Oil and Gas.

Conclusion/Recommendations. In the current modern revolutionary technological advances have played an important role in changing the priorities of modern researchers, and expanding the capabilities of traditional methods of selecting and researching required materials (13, 2). According to the statistics, the practitioners' interest in the English language in the Oil and Gas field shows the highest point, especially concerning specialized books, documents, getting information from websites, going abroad etc. Confidence in doing research in a specific direction has always been a lack for ESP teachers due to the fact that they are professional linguists in their sphere. Hence, reliance on appealing to the specialists in a particular field has become a useful tool in this work (12, 236). In this article this issue was settled by designing a questionnaire which served as a reliable basis. Received answers from practitioners who work in the Oil and Gas industry were helpful in the corpus building operation, and collected data was valuable proof in this research. It was really pleasant to realize that the role of the English language takes a dominant place after graduating the university, which pushes ESP teachers to direct learners to their vocational threshold.

It should also be mentioned that questionnaires can be applied not only in the corpus formation but also in gathering suitable materials for further studies, such as getting to know students' opinions about the conducted lesson, which can be useful for developing future lessons.

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