

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the modification of nouns by bare past participles in the pre- and post-head positions and uses authentic examples from the written component of *The British National Corpus*. The aim is to describe the possibility of corpus excerption of this construction and to qualitatively compare participles in both positions using examples with context.

In the first step, a simple search query was entered to retrieve bare past participles in the postnominal position with the result of 21,437 concordance lines which were then manually filtered. The resulting 14,529 lines were used to obtain a random sample of 400 lines which was again manually filtered. The resulting Sample 1 of 247 lines was described quantitatively in terms of the left and right context of the noun phrase and in terms of the head nouns. Sample 1 contained 118 unique participles, from which 10 were randomly selected for a qualitative description (Sample 2; 70 concordance lines per position, 140 lines in total).

Sample 2 was then described in terms of the presence or absence of determiners, in terms of the types of definiteness, reference and restrictivity. An interesting feature is the presence of quantifiers, and the generally implied quantificational meaning of the construction. Semantics and the possibility to occur in the prenominal position were also followed across the sample.

## **Key words**

Bare past participle, premodification, postmodification, pre-head position, post-head position, reference, restrictivity, determiners, quantifiers, semantics