

The thesis deals with study of synonyms and the possible ways distinguishing between them on the basis of data from The British National Corpus.

Firstly, theoretical part defines the term semantic relations and meaning and then focuses on synonymy. Different approaches to synonymy are presented and there is also a list of types of synonymy according to each approach. This part is the base for the theoretical part as it introduces the main idea – the meaning of the word in context.

The practical part studies the synonymous set of verbs suppose – assume – presume. We used the material from The British National Corpus and the program Word Net which also uses data from BNC. This part focuses on aspects in which these synonyms may differ. It deals with frequency, grammatical features and collocations (subject or object). The conclusion of this paper sums up the results from the research and thus offers us more concrete knowledge of using these synonyms.