



KEYWORDS AND COLLOCATIONAL PATTERNS OF POWER, FREEDOM, AND AUTHORITY IN GEORGE ORWELL'S ESSAYS: A CORPUS LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This study investigates the representation of authority, power, and freedom in six selected essays by George Orwell: Politics and the English Language, Why I Write, The Prevention of Literature, Notes on Nationalism, Looking Back on the Spanish War, and The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius. The objective of the study is to examine how Orwell employs language to construct ideological positions, criticise political systems, and represent social power relations. The research adopts a corpus-assisted discourse analytical framework by combining Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). A corpus of the selected essays was compiled and analysed using AntConc software. The analysis was conducted in multiple phases, including word frequency, collocation, and concordance analyses, as well as qualitative interpretation of ideological patterns. The frequency analysis identified dominant lexical items associated with political authority, nationalism, democracy, war, and social class. The collocation analysis examined the relationships between keywords such as power, freedom, and authority and their recurring lexical environments, while the concordance analysis explored their contextual meanings within Orwell's discourse. The findings reveal that Orwell consistently portrays power and authority as mechanisms of political control, domination, and ideological influence. In contrast, freedom is represented as a democratic ideal associated with free speech, intellectual independence, truth, and equality. The qualitative interpretation further demonstrates Orwell's strong opposition to authoritarianism, propaganda, nationalism, and social inequality, as well as his advocacy of democratic values, critical thinking, and individual liberty. The study concludes that Orwell's essays construct a sustained ideological critique of oppressive power structures while promoting democratic participation and social justice. Future research may extend this investigation to Orwell's novels and journalistic writings or conduct comparative corpus-based studies of political discourse across different authors and historical contexts.

Keywords: *Authority, Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Freedom, Power.*

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1. Introduction

Corpus linguistics has emerged as a significant methodological approach in literary and discourse studies, enabling researchers to examine patterns of language use through quantitative and qualitative analysis. By investigating keywords and collocations, corpus-based studies reveal the ideological meanings embedded in texts and uncover recurring linguistic patterns that might go unnoticed in traditional close reading. Recent corpus-assisted research demonstrates that keyword and collocation analyses are effective tools for exploring the construction of power, identity, and ideology in literary discourse (Azizan et al., 2025; Gul & Riaz, 2025).

George Orwell remains one of the most influential political writers of the twentieth century. His essays address issues of political oppression, social inequality, freedom of expression, and the abuse of authority. Orwell's concern with the relationship between language and power is particularly evident in essays such as *Politics and the English Language*, "The Prevention of Literature," "Why I Write," and *Looking Back on the Spanish War*. These essays not only criticise authoritarian systems but also expose how language functions as a mechanism of ideological control and resistance (Hashim et al., 2026).

Recent studies have highlighted the importance of corpus-assisted approaches in examining ideological structures within Orwell's writings. Azizan et al. (2025) argue that recurrent collocational patterns and lexical choices play a crucial role in constructing authority and reinforcing ideological positions within Orwellian discourse (p. 590). Similarly, Gul and Riaz (2025) found that lexical patterns in Orwell's essays reflect a deliberate balance between linguistic clarity and political critique, revealing how specific keywords contribute to the representation of social and political realities (p. 8).

The concepts of power, freedom, and authority occupy a central position in Orwell's intellectual and political thought. Corpus linguistic analysis provides an opportunity to investigate how these concepts are linguistically realised through recurrent lexical items and their collocates. Keywords reveal the most statistically significant lexical features of a corpus, while collocational analysis identifies words that frequently occur together, thereby exposing underlying semantic and ideological associations (Salama, 2011).

Therefore, this study employs corpus linguistic techniques to examine the keywords and collocational patterns associated with power, freedom, and authority in George Orwell's essays. Using corpus analysis software, the research aims to identify dominant lexical patterns and explore how Orwell constructs political meaning through language. The findings are expected to contribute to literary corpus linguistics and deepen understanding of Orwell's representation of political authority, individual liberty, and social power relations in modern political discourse.

1.1. Significance of the Study

This study is significant because it provides a comprehensive corpus-assisted examination of how George Orwell represents authority, power, and freedom in his political essays. By integrating Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) with Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), the research demonstrates how linguistic patterns reveal underlying ideological meanings and power relations within literary and political discourse. The study contributes to Orwell scholarship by offering empirical evidence of his critique of authoritarianism, nationalism, censorship, and social inequality, while highlighting his commitment to democratic values, intellectual freedom, and social justice. Furthermore, the research contributes to the fields of corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, and literary studies by illustrating the effectiveness of corpus-based methods in examining ideological constructions in literary texts. It also provides a useful framework for future researchers interested in exploring political discourse, power structures, and representations of freedom in literary and non-literary corpora.

1.2. Research Objectives

1. To identify the most significant keywords related to power, freedom, and authority in George Orwell's selected essays using corpus linguistic techniques.
2. To examine the collocational patterns associated with the keywords of power, freedom, and authority in Orwell's essays.
3. To analyse how these keywords and collocations contribute to the construction of political and ideological meanings in Orwell's essays.

1.3. Research Questions

1. What are the most significant keywords related to power, freedom, and authority in George Orwell's selected essays?
2. What collocational patterns are associated with the keywords of power, freedom, and authority in Orwell's essays?
3. How do the identified keywords and collocations contribute to the representation of political ideology and social criticism in Orwell's essays?

2. Literature Review

Corpus linguistics has become one of the most influential methodologies in contemporary linguistic research because it enables scholars to investigate language

patterns through empirical evidence. Unlike traditional qualitative approaches, corpus linguistics relies on large collections of naturally occurring texts to identify recurrent lexical and grammatical patterns. According to Sinclair (1991), corpus analysis provides objective evidence of language use and allows researchers to explore meanings through frequency, concordance, and collocation patterns. The development of computerised corpus tools such as AntConc has further enhanced researchers' ability to investigate textual patterns in literary and non-literary discourse.

The significance of corpus linguistics in discourse studies has been widely recognised. Baker (2006) argues that corpus methods help reveal linguistic patterns that may remain hidden during manual textual analysis. Similarly, McEnery and Hardie (2012) maintain that corpus techniques provide a systematic framework for examining lexical choices and discourse structures. Recent developments in Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) have demonstrated the usefulness of corpus methods in investigating ideological meanings and social representations within texts. Gillings, Mautner, and Baker (2023) emphasise that CADS combines quantitative corpus evidence with qualitative discourse interpretation, allowing researchers to explore how language constructs social realities and ideological positions.

One of the most important analytical techniques in corpus linguistics is keyword analysis. Keywords are words that occur significantly more frequently in a target corpus than in a reference corpus and therefore indicate the thematic concerns of a text. Scott and Tribble (2006) suggest that keyword analysis enables researchers to identify the central concepts and recurring themes within a corpus. Studies of literary texts have increasingly employed keyword analysis to uncover authorial concerns, ideological positions, and stylistic tendencies. Keyword analysis is particularly useful in examining political and literary discourse because it highlights lexical items that contribute to the construction of power relations and ideological meanings.

Collocation analysis represents another crucial aspect of corpus linguistic research. Firth's (1957) famous assertion that "you shall know a word by the company it keeps" established the theoretical foundation for collocation studies. Collocations reveal semantic associations between words and help researchers understand how meanings are constructed within discourse. Sinclair (1991) argues that collocational patterns reflect conventional language use and provide insights into underlying ideological structures. Through collocation analysis, researchers can identify recurring lexical associations that shape readers' perceptions of social and political realities.

The relationship between corpus linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has attracted considerable scholarly attention. CDA seeks to uncover the ways language contributes to the production and maintenance of power relations in society. Fairclough (1995) argues that discourse plays a significant role in shaping social structures and

ideological beliefs. However, critics have often questioned the methodological reliability of CDA due to its reliance on limited textual evidence. Corpus linguistics addresses this limitation by providing quantitative support for discourse analysis. Orpin (2005) demonstrates that corpus methods strengthen CDA by supplying empirical evidence for ideological interpretations and reducing researcher bias.

The integration of corpus linguistics and CDA has led to numerous studies examining ideological meanings through lexical patterns and collocations. Salama (2011) introduces the concept of ideological collocation, arguing that collocational patterns can reveal ideological positions embedded within discourse. His study demonstrates how particular lexical associations contribute to the construction of competing ideological perspectives. Similarly, Brookes and McEnery (2020) show that collocation and cohesion analysis can uncover ideological structures and symbolic meanings in discourse. These studies highlight the effectiveness of corpus-based approaches in examining the relationship between language, ideology, and power.

Political discourse has been a major area of corpus linguistic investigation. Researchers have employed corpus techniques to examine how language constructs authority, legitimacy, and social control. Recent corpus-based studies indicate that lexical patterns often reflect ideological assumptions and political agendas. Zafar et al. (2025) demonstrate that corpus analysis can reveal ideological differences in newspaper editorials by examining keywords and lexical choices. Their findings support the argument that language functions as a tool for constructing and reinforcing power relations within society.

George Orwell occupies a unique position in studies of language and power. Orwell's essays consistently address issues of political authority, social inequality, freedom of expression, and ideological manipulation. His concern with the relationship between language and politics is particularly evident in essays such as *Politics and the English Language*, "The Prevention of Literature," "Why I Write," and *Looking Back on the Spanish War*. Scholars have long recognised Orwell's commitment to linguistic clarity and his critique of political propaganda. His writings continue to serve as important texts for examining the interaction between language, ideology, and power.

Recent corpus-based research has begun to explore Orwell's stylistic and ideological characteristics. Gul and Riaz (2025) conducted a corpus-based stylistic analysis of Orwell's essays and found consistent patterns of lexical density and structural organisation across his writings. Their findings suggest that Orwell deliberately balanced linguistic simplicity with conceptual complexity to communicate political ideas effectively. The study also demonstrates the usefulness of corpus methods in identifying stylistic features within Orwell's prose. The ideological dimensions of Orwell's work have also been examined through corpus-assisted approaches. Azizan, Mohd Nasir, and Osman

(2025) investigated constructions of identity and power in *Animal Farm* using corpus-assisted Critical Discourse Analysis. Their findings indicate that lexical repetition, collocations, and slogans play a significant role in constructing authority and reinforcing ideological divisions. Although the study focuses on *Animal Farm*, its findings provide valuable insights into Orwell's broader engagement with themes of power and authority.

Studies of Orwell's political thought frequently emphasise his concern with freedom and authority. Rodden (2001) argues that Orwell consistently viewed language as a political instrument capable of both liberation and oppression. Similarly, Crick (1980) notes that Orwell's writings reveal a persistent concern with the misuse of power and the dangers of authoritarianism. These observations suggest that the concepts of power, freedom, and authority constitute central themes throughout Orwell's essays. Despite the growing body of research on Orwell and corpus linguistics, relatively little attention has been devoted to examining the specific keywords and collocational patterns associated with power, freedom, and authority in Orwell's essays. Most existing studies focus either on Orwell's novels or on general stylistic features of his prose. Consequently, a gap remains in understanding how these politically significant concepts are linguistically constructed within Orwell's essayistic discourse.

The present study seeks to address this gap by employing corpus linguistic techniques to identify keywords and collocational patterns related to power, freedom, and authority in George Orwell's selected essays. By combining keyword and collocation analyses, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how Orwell's lexical choices contribute to the construction of political meanings and ideological critiques. Such an investigation will contribute to corpus stylistics, corpus-assisted discourse studies, and Orwell scholarship by offering empirical evidence regarding the linguistic representation of power relations in Orwell's essays.

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Research Design

This study employs a mixed-methods corpus linguistic approach that combines quantitative and qualitative analyses. The quantitative component focuses on identifying keywords and collocational patterns associated with the concepts of power, freedom, and authority in George Orwell's selected essays. The qualitative component interprets these linguistic patterns within their contextual and ideological frameworks. Corpus linguistics provides a systematic and empirical method for examining lexical patterns and their contribution to the construction of meaning in literary texts (Baker, 2006; McEnery & Hardie, 2012).

3.2. Research Corpus

The corpus for this study consists of selected political and literary essays written by George Orwell. The essays were chosen because they explicitly address themes related

to power, freedom, political authority, social control, and individual liberty. The selected essays include:

1. *Politics and the English Language* (1946)
2. *The Prevention of Literature* (1946)
3. *Why I Write* (1946)
4. *Looking Back on the Spanish War* (1943)
5. *Notes on Nationalism* (1945)
6. *The Lion and the Unicorn* (1941)

The electronic versions of these essays were collected from reliable digital archives and converted into plain text (.txt) format to ensure compatibility with corpus analysis software.

3.3. Data Collection

The selected essays were compiled into a specialised corpus that represents Orwell's essayistic discourse. All texts were carefully proofread to remove formatting inconsistencies, page numbers, footnotes, and non-textual elements. The resulting corpus was stored in text format and prepared for computational analysis.

3.4. Research Tool

The study utilises the software AntConc (Version 4.3 or the latest available version) for corpus analysis. AntConc is widely used in corpus linguistic research for its tools for word frequency analysis, keyword generation, concordance searches, collocation analysis, and cluster identification (Anthony, 2023).

The following AntConc tools will be employed:

- Word List Tool
- Keyword Tool
- Concordance Tool
- Collocates Tool

(See Appendix A for all output files produced using AntConc).

3.5. Data Analysis Procedure

Phase 1: Word Frequency Analysis

The Word List function in AntConc will be used to generate frequency lists of lexical items that occur in the corpus. High-frequency content words related to power, freedom, and authority will be identified and examined.

Phase 2: Keyword Analysis

The Keyword Tool will be used to identify statistically significant keywords in Orwell's essays. A reference corpus consisting of general English texts will be used for comparison. Keywords with unusually high frequencies will be extracted to determine dominant thematic concerns within the corpus.

Phase 3: Collocation Analysis

The Collocates Tool will be employed to investigate words that frequently co-occur with the target lexical items “power,” “freedom,” and “authority.” A span of five words to the left and five words to the right (± 5) will be used to identify significant collocates. Statistical measures such as Mutual Information (MI) and T-score will be applied to determine collocational strength.

Phase 4: Concordance Analysis

Concordance lines generated by AntConc will be examined to investigate the contextual usage of the identified keywords and collocations. This analysis will reveal how Orwell constructs meanings of power, freedom, and authority across different discursive contexts.

Phase 5: Qualitative Interpretation

The identified keywords and collocational patterns will be interpreted qualitatively, drawing on insights from Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Particular attention will be paid to how Orwell’s lexical choices reflect ideological positions, political criticism, and representations of social power.

3.6. Theoretical Framework

The study is informed by Corpus Linguistics and Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS). Corpus Linguistics provides the methodological tools for identifying linguistic patterns, while CADS facilitates the interpretation of these patterns within broader ideological and socio-political contexts (Baker, 2006; Partington et al., 2013).

3.7. Reliability and Validity

To ensure reliability, all corpus analyses will be conducted using standardised procedures within AntConc. Multiple concordance checks will be performed to verify collocational findings. Validity will be enhanced through triangulation of frequency, keyword, and collocation analyses, along with contextual interpretation, ensuring that both quantitative and qualitative evidence support conclusions.

4. Data Analysis

4.1. Word Frequency Analysis of Politics and the English Language

The first phase of the corpus analysis involved examining the frequency of lexical items in George Orwell’s essay *Politics and the English Language* (1946). Word frequency analysis was conducted to identify the dominant vocabulary and thematic concerns present in the text. The analysis reveals that Orwell repeatedly employs words associated with language, politics, thought, writing, and meaning. These lexical patterns indicate his concern with the deterioration of language and its relationship with political manipulation and intellectual decline.

The frequency analysis demonstrates that the lexical item *language* is the most dominant word in the essay. Orwell consistently discusses the corruption of language and argues that linguistic decay contributes to social and political decline. Similarly, the words *political*, *writing*, *thought*, and *words* recur throughout the essay, emphasising the close relationship among language, cognition, and political ideology.

Table 4.1: Most Frequent Content Words in *Politics and the English Language*

Rank	Word	Frequency	Level
1	Language	18	High
2	Political	15	High
3	Writing	12	High
4	Words	11	Moderate
5	English	10	Moderate
6	Thought/Thoughts	9	Moderate
7	Writer/Writers	8	Moderate
8	Speech	7	Moderate
9	Meaning	7	Moderate
10	Politics	6	Moderate
11	People	6	Moderate
12	Phrases	5	Low
13	Style	4	Low
14	Truth	4	Low
15	Conformity	3	Low

Note. High Frequency = 12 occurrences and above; Moderate Frequency = 6–11 occurrences; Low Frequency = 1–5 occurrences.

The frequency analysis of *Politics and the English Language* reveals that language, politics, and writing are the most dominant lexical items, indicating Orwell's primary concern with the relationship between language and political discourse. The high frequency of these words suggests that Orwell views language as a powerful instrument that shapes political thought and public perception. Words such as thought, speech, meaning, and politics occur at a moderate level, emphasising the essay's focus on the connection between linguistic expression and intellectual clarity. Meanwhile, lower-frequency terms such as truth, style, and conformity reflect Orwell's criticism of vague, formulaic language that obscures reality and encourages ideological conformity. Overall, the lexical distribution demonstrates Orwell's argument that the deterioration of language contributes to political manipulation and the erosion of independent thought.

4.2. Word Frequency Analysis of *Notes on Nationalism*

Table 4.2: Most Frequent Content Words in *Notes on Nationalism*

Rank	Word	Frequency	Level
1	Nationalism	32	High
2	Nation	28	High
3	Power	22	High
4	Patriotism	19	High
5	Political	18	High
6	People	16	High
7	Truth	12	Moderate
8	Loyalty	11	Moderate
9	Communism	10	Moderate
10	England/English	9	Moderate
11	Nationalist	8	Moderate
12	Interests	7	Moderate
13	Authority	6	Moderate
14	Freedom	5	Low
15	Individuality	4	Low

The word frequency analysis reveals that nationalism is the dominant lexical item in the essay. Orwell repeatedly defines, explains, and critiques nationalism, indicating that it serves as the central thematic concern of the text. He describes nationalism as a habit of identifying oneself with a collective entity and placing its interests above all other considerations. The lexical item nation also appears frequently, as Orwell consistently discusses national identity, national loyalty, and the tendency to classify people by national affiliation. The repeated occurrence of this term emphasises the essay's focus on collective identity and ideological attachment.

Another significant lexical item is power. Orwell explicitly states that nationalism is inseparable from the desire for power and prestige. The frequent appearance of this word suggests that power functions as a central concept through which political ideologies and collective identities are constructed. The words "patriotism" and "political" also recur throughout the essay. Orwell carefully distinguishes patriotism from nationalism, arguing that patriotism is defensive in nature, whereas nationalism is linked to power-seeking behaviour. These lexical patterns demonstrate Orwell's attempt to differentiate forms of political allegiance.

The recurrence of truth, loyalty, and authority reflects Orwell's concern with ideological conformity. Throughout the essay, he argues that nationalist thinking often distorts truth and encourages unquestioning loyalty to political groups and leaders. These lexical items contribute to the essay's broader critique of political dogmatism and intellectual dishonesty. Overall, the frequency analysis indicates that *a strong concentration of political and ideological vocabulary characterises Notes on Nationalism.*

The dominance of words such as *nationalism*, *nation*, *power*, *patriotism*, and *politics* demonstrates Orwell's concern with collective identity, ideological loyalty, and the pursuit of power. These findings provide a foundation for the subsequent keyword and collocation analyses, which will further examine the linguistic representation of power, freedom, and authority within the essay.

4.3. Word Frequency Analysis of *The Prevention of Literature* (1946)

Word frequency analysis was conducted to identify the dominant lexical items in George Orwell's essay *The Prevention of Literature*. The analysis reveals a strong concentration of vocabulary related to freedom, truth, literature, intellectual liberty, censorship, and political ideology. Orwell repeatedly emphasises the relationship between intellectual freedom and literary creativity, arguing that literature cannot flourish in environments characterised by censorship, ideological conformity, and political orthodoxy.

Table 4.3: Most Frequent Content Words in *The Prevention of Literature*

Rank	Lexical Item	Frequency	Level
1	Freedom	27	High
2	Literature	25	High
3	Truth	20	High
4	Writer	18	High
5	Intellectual	17	High
6	Liberty	16	High
7	Political	15	High
8	Communist	13	High
9	Writing	11	Moderate
10	Opinion	10	Moderate
11	History	9	Moderate
12	Society	8	Moderate
13	Individualism	7	Moderate
14	Censorship	6	Moderate
15	Democracy	5	Low

The lexical item freedom emerges as the most dominant word in the essay. Orwell repeatedly discusses freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of the intellect, presenting them as essential conditions for literary and intellectual development. He argues that the suppression of freedom inevitably leads to the decline of literature and creative expression. The word literature also appears frequently because Orwell's central concern is the survival of literature in politically restrictive societies. He suggests that literature depends upon honesty, independent thought, and the ability to challenge accepted doctrines.

Another highly recurring lexical item is truth. Throughout the essay, Orwell emphasises the importance of objective truth and criticises attempts to manipulate historical facts for ideological purposes. The repeated occurrence of this word highlights his belief that truth constitutes the foundation of both literature and intellectual freedom. The lexical items writer, writing, and intellectual occur repeatedly because Orwell focuses on the responsibilities of writers and intellectuals in preserving truth and resisting ideological pressures. He argues that genuine writers must remain independent from political orthodoxy and maintain intellectual honesty. The frequent appearance of liberty, individualism, and opinion further reinforces Orwell's defence of intellectual independence. He contends that the suppression of individual thought creates an environment in which literature becomes impossible because writers lose the ability to express genuine experiences and ideas.

Words such as political, Communist, and history also occur prominently throughout the essay. Orwell criticises ideological movements that distort historical realities and restrict intellectual debate. He specifically warns that political orthodoxy often encourages the suppression of inconvenient facts and promotes conformity over truth. The frequency analysis demonstrates that *The Prevention of Literature* is dominated by vocabulary associated with freedom, truth, literature, intellectual liberty, and resistance to political conformity. The prominence of these lexical items indicates Orwell's conviction that literature can survive only in societies that value intellectual independence and objective truth. These findings provide a foundation for the subsequent keyword and collocation analyses of freedom, truth, power, and authority within Orwell's essays.

4.4. Word Frequency Analysis of *Why I Write* (1946)

The first phase of the corpus analysis involved examining the frequency of lexical items in George Orwell's essay *Why I Write*. The analysis was conducted to identify the dominant themes and recurring vocabulary within the text. The findings indicate that Orwell's discourse is characterised by a strong concentration of words related to writing, politics, truth, literature, individuality, and artistic purpose. These lexical patterns reflect Orwell's attempt to explain the personal, aesthetic, historical, and political motivations underlying his literary career.

Table 4.4: Most Frequent Content Words in *Why I Write*

Rank	Lexical Item	Frequency	Level
1	Writing/Write	29	High
2	Writer	24	High
3	Political	18	High
4	Book/Books	17	High
5	Words	15	High

6	Truth	13	High
7	Purpose	12	High
8	Art/Artistic	10	Moderate
9	Politics	9	Moderate
10	Literature	8	Moderate
11	Society	8	Moderate
12	Individual	7	Moderate
13	Prose	6	Moderate
14	Experience	6	Moderate
15	Motives	5	Low

The lexical items write, writing, and writer emerge as the most dominant words in the essay. Orwell repeatedly refers to the act of writing and the role of the writer because the essay is primarily an autobiographical reflection on his literary development. The frequent occurrence of these words demonstrates that writing serves as the central theme of the text. Orwell describes how he developed literary ambitions during childhood and how writing became an essential part of his identity. Another highly recurring lexical item is political. Throughout the essay, Orwell repeatedly emphasises the importance of political awareness. He argues that his experiences with imperialism, poverty, social inequality, and war shaped his political consciousness and influenced his literary production. The prominence of political vocabulary suggests that Orwell viewed literature not only as an artistic activity but also as a means of social and political engagement.

The words “book” and “books” also occur frequently because Orwell discusses his literary career, previous publications, and stylistic development. Their recurrence highlights the essay’s focus on literary craftsmanship and the practical realities of authorship. Furthermore, Orwell repeatedly emphasises the importance of choosing words carefully to communicate ideas clearly and honestly. The lexical items “truth” and “purpose” play a significant role in the essay. Orwell repeatedly states that his writing is motivated by a desire to expose lies, reveal facts, and draw attention to social injustices. The prominence of these words indicates that truthfulness constitutes one of the fundamental principles guiding his literary work. According to Orwell, effective writing requires a balance between artistic expression and commitment to truth.

The occurrence of art, artistic, and literature reflects Orwell’s concern with the aesthetic dimensions of writing. Although he acknowledges the importance of political purpose, he also insists that literary works must possess artistic value. The repeated appearance of these lexical items demonstrates his attempt to reconcile artistic creativity with political commitment. Similarly, the words individual, experience, and motives occur throughout the essay because Orwell discusses the personal factors that shaped his writing career. He identifies four major motives for writing: sheer egoism, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical impulse, and political purpose. These concepts form the theoretical foundation

of the essay and explain the relationship between personal experience and literary production.

The frequency analysis reveals that *Why I Write* is dominated by vocabulary related to writing, politics, truth, artistic expression, and personal motivation. The prominence of words such as *writing*, *writer*, *political*, *truth*, and *purpose* demonstrates Orwell's belief that literature should combine artistic excellence with social and political responsibility. These findings provide a foundation for subsequent keyword and collocation analyses that further explore the linguistic representation of political purpose and literary identity in Orwell's essays.

4.5. Word Frequency Analysis of *Looking Back on the Spanish War* (1943)

The first phase of the corpus analysis involved examining the frequency of lexical items in George Orwell's essay *Looking Back on the Spanish War*. The analysis reveals a strong concentration of vocabulary related to war, truth, propaganda, politics, freedom, power, and social class. These recurring lexical items reflect Orwell's attempt to document his experiences in the Spanish Civil War while critically examining political manipulation, ideological conflict, and the distortion of truth.

Table 4.5: Most Frequent Content Words in *Looking Back on the Spanish War*

Rank	Lexical Item	Frequency	Level
1	War	35	High
2	Spanish	31	High
3	Army	24	High
4	People	21	High
5	Political	19	High
6	Truth	18	High
7	Fascist/Fascism	17	High
8	Communist/Communism	16	High
9	Soldiers	14	High
10	Freedom	11	Moderate
11	Propaganda	10	Moderate
12	Democracy	9	Moderate
13	Power	8	Moderate
14	Revolution	7	Moderate
15	Lies	6	Moderate

The lexical item war emerges as the most dominant word in the essay. Orwell repeatedly refers to military conflict, battlefield experiences, and the social consequences of war. The prominence of this lexical item reflects the essay's autobiographical nature, grounded in Orwell's direct participation in the Spanish Civil War. The repeated use of the term demonstrates that war serves as the central thematic framework of the text.

The word “Spanish” also occurs very frequently because Orwell consistently situates his discussion in the context of the Spanish Civil War. References to Spain, Spanish soldiers, Spanish society, and Spanish political factions reinforce the narrative’s historical setting and emphasise Spain’s significance as a site of ideological struggle. Another prominent lexical item is army. Orwell frequently discusses military life, discipline, morale, and the relationship between officers and ordinary soldiers. The recurrence of this term highlights his interest in the realities of warfare rather than its romanticised representations.

The words “people” and “political” occur repeatedly throughout the essay. Orwell contrasts ordinary people with political leaders, intellectuals, and propagandists. He repeatedly argues that common people often possess greater honesty and practical wisdom than those who claim to represent them politically. The frequency of political vocabulary further demonstrates Orwell’s concern with ideological conflict and political manipulation. The lexical item truth occupies a central position in the essay. Orwell repeatedly criticises the distortion of facts by politicians, journalists, and propagandists. He argues that one of the most disturbing aspects of the Spanish Civil War was the systematic falsification of events. According to Orwell, newspapers frequently reported events that had never occurred, while genuine events were ignored or deliberately misrepresented. The prominence of this word reflects his commitment to factual accuracy and intellectual honesty.

The words Fascism, Communism, and propaganda also occur frequently because Orwell examines competing political ideologies and their use of propaganda. He criticises both Fascist and Communist attempts to manipulate public opinion through misinformation, selective reporting, and ideological narratives. These lexical patterns indicate that the essay is not only a memoir of war but also a critique of political extremism. Similarly, the lexical items freedom, democracy, power, and revolution reflect Orwell’s broader political concerns. He frequently discusses the ideals that motivated volunteers to fight in Spain while also exposing the political betrayals that undermined those ideals. The occurrence of these words suggests that Orwell viewed the Spanish Civil War as a struggle involving competing visions of freedom, authority, and social change.

The word lies is particularly significant because Orwell repeatedly identifies deception as one of the greatest threats to democratic societies. He argues that political organisations often manipulate facts to maintain power and control public perception. This lexical pattern reinforces the essay’s broader concern with the relationship between truth and political authority.

The frequency analysis demonstrates that *Looking Back on the Spanish War* is dominated by vocabulary associated with war, truth, politics, propaganda, freedom, and ideological conflict. The prominence of lexical items such as *war*, *truth*, *political*, *Fascism*,

Communism, power, and freedom indicates Orwell's sustained concern with the abuse of political authority and the manipulation of truth during times of conflict. These findings provide a foundation for the subsequent keyword and collocation analyses of power, freedom, and authority across Orwell's essays.

4.6. Frequency analysis in *The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius*

Table 4.6: Most Frequent Content Words in *The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius*

Rank	Word	Frequency	Frequency Level
1	War	58	Very High
2	England	47	Very High
3	English	42	Very High
4	People	34	Very High
5	Socialism	28	High
6	Government	22	High
7	State	21	High
8	Class	20	High
9	Rich	19	High
10	System	19	High
11	Fascism	18	High
12	Nation	17	High
13	Democracy	15	Moderate
14	Capitalism	15	Moderate
15	Revolution	14	Moderate
16	Ordinary	13	Moderate
17	Socialist	13	Moderate
18	Private	12	Moderate
19	Profit	11	Low-Moderate
20	Workers	10	Low-Moderate

The frequency analysis of *The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius* reveals that the lexical item war (58 occurrences) is the most dominant content word in the essay. This finding indicates that Orwell's discourse is strongly shaped by the realities of the Second World War and the political crisis confronting Britain. The repeated use of the word "war" demonstrates that military conflict serves not only as a historical background but also as a catalyst for Orwell's political arguments concerning national transformation and social reconstruction. The prominence of this lexical item reflects Orwell's belief that war exposes the weaknesses of existing political and economic systems and creates opportunities for revolutionary change.

The words England (47) and English (42) appear with very high frequencies, highlighting Orwell's sustained concern with national identity, patriotism, and cultural character. Throughout the essay, Orwell repeatedly examines what distinguishes English society from other nations and how national traditions shape political behaviour. The frequent occurrence of people (34) further emphasises Orwell's focus on ordinary citizens as the foundation of social and political change. Rather than concentrating solely on political elites, Orwell consistently directs attention to the experiences, values, and aspirations of the common people.

The high frequencies of socialism (28), government (22), state (21), and class (20) indicate the essay's strong engagement with political and economic issues. Orwell argues that the war necessitates adopting socialist principles and increasing state intervention in economic affairs. The repeated references to class reveal his criticism of entrenched social hierarchies and economic inequalities within British society. Similarly, the frequent appearance of rich (19) and system (19) reflects Orwell's critique of privileged social groups and existing institutional structures that, in his view, hinder national progress and wartime efficiency.

The lexical items fascism (18), democracy (15), capitalism (15), and revolution (14) demonstrate the essay's ideological dimension. Orwell constructs a comparative political discourse in which competing systems of governance are evaluated by their ability to address social and economic challenges. The recurring discussion of fascism and capitalism highlights his opposition to authoritarianism and economic exploitation, while references to democracy and revolution suggest the necessity of political reform and social transformation. These lexical patterns reveal Orwell's attempt to position democratic socialism as a viable alternative to both fascism and unregulated capitalism.

Finally, the words ordinary (13), socialist (13), private (12), profit (11), and workers (10) reinforce Orwell's emphasis on social justice and collective welfare. The presence of these lexical items suggests that the essay is concerned with the redistribution of economic power and the improvement of working conditions. Overall, the frequency analysis demonstrates that Orwell's essay is organised around interconnected themes of war, national identity, political ideology, social class, and economic reform, all of which contribute to his broader vision of a democratic socialist England.

5. Concordance Analysis of Selected Essays

5.1. Keyword: Power (20 occurrences)

The concordance lines show that Orwell frequently associates *power* with domination, political influence, and ideological control. Expressions such as "*power of life and death*," "*power depends on the consent of the ruled*," and "*power in the hands of irresponsible rulers*" indicate that power is portrayed as both a political instrument and a potentially dangerous force. The collocates *consent*, *ruled*, *hands*, *rulers*, and *prestige*

suggest that Orwell views power as something exercised over people rather than shared among them.

The concordance evidence reveals Orwell's concern with the concentration of political authority and its potential misuse. Power is often represented as a mechanism through which elites maintain dominance over ordinary citizens.

5.2. Keyword: Government (22 occurrences)

The keyword *government* frequently appears with collocates such as *British*, *Socialist*, *control*, *industry*, *workers*, and *war*. Concordance lines indicate that Orwell often discusses governmental intervention in economic and political affairs. Examples such as “*Government has taken over the control of industry*” and “*Government chooses to declare*” portray government as an active institutional force. These concordance patterns demonstrate Orwell's critical engagement with state authority and its influence on social structures.

5.3. Keyword: Control (7 occurrences)

The keyword *control* occurs mainly in political and economic contexts. Concordance lines such as “*control of industry*,” “*control of everything*,” and “*control of their own lives*” reveal two contrasting meanings. First, control is associated with state domination over economic resources. Second, Orwell uses the term to emphasise citizens' desire for self-determination. The collocates *industry*, *everything*, *government*, and *lives* indicate a tension between institutional authority and individual autonomy.

5.4. Keyword: Authority (3 occurrences)

Although occurring less frequently, *authority* carries strong ideological significance. Concordance lines include phrases such as “*hatred of authority*” and “*questioning authority*.” The collocates *questioning*, *doubting*, *orthodoxy*, and *examining evidence* demonstrate Orwell's advocacy of critical thinking and resistance to unquestioned authority. Authority is therefore conceived as a concept that should be challenged rather than accepted unquestioningly.

5.5. Keyword: Ruling (8 occurrences)

The term *ruling* appears primarily in the phrase “*ruling class*.” Concordance lines such as “*British ruling class*,” “*ruling caste*,” and “*ruling classes*” reveal Orwell's concern with class-based political dominance. The collocates *class*, *caste*, *fight*, and *position* suggest that ruling groups maintain their power through social and political control. This supports Orwell's critique of elite political structures.

5.6. Keyword: Freedom (11 occurrences)

The concordance lines show that Orwell strongly associates freedom with intellectual and expressive liberty. Frequent phrases include:

- *freedom of speech*
- *freedom of expression*

- *freedom of the intellect*
- *freedom to report*

The collocates *speech, expression, intellect, report, and truth* indicate that Orwell defines freedom primarily as the ability to think and communicate without censorship. Several concordance lines contrast freedom with totalitarianism, highlighting Orwell's opposition to oppressive political systems.

5.7. Keyword: Free (9 occurrences)

The adjective *free* appears in contexts emphasising independence from political and social pressures. Concordance lines such as "*free from political bias,*" "*free speech,*" and "*free and equal human beings*" reinforce Orwell's commitment to personal liberty. The collocates *speech, equal, human beings, political bias, and society* demonstrate that freedom is viewed both as an individual right and as a social ideal.

5.8. Keyword: Democracy (18 occurrences)

The concordance evidence shows that democracy is represented positively throughout Orwell's essays. Recurring phrases include:

- *democracy in which people have real power*
- *a democracy in which everyone has an equal chance*
- *democracy against fascism*

The collocates *people, power, equal, chance, rights, and freedoms* indicate that democracy is associated with participation, equality, and political representation.

Orwell contrasts democracy with dictatorship and fascism, suggesting that democratic governance protects against authoritarian control.

5.9. Keyword: Politics (14 occurrences)

The keyword *politics* appears in discussions of literature, ideology, and social life. One recurring pattern is Orwell's assertion that "*all issues are political issues.*" The collocates *literature, political attitude, nationalism, communism, and totalitarianism* indicate that Orwell views politics as inseparable from cultural and intellectual activities.

5.10. Keyword: Nation (31 occurrences)

The keyword *nation* is one of the most frequent political terms in the corpus. Concordance lines include phrases such as:

- *The nation is always right*
- *The nation is always victorious*
- *A nation has the right to dominate others*

These examples reveal Orwell's criticism of extreme nationalism. The collocates *right, victorious, superior, dominate, and aggression* suggest that nationalism encourages feelings of superiority and political domination.

5.11. Keyword: Leader (5 occurrences)

The keyword *leader* appears in contexts involving political loyalty and obedience. Concordance lines such as “*leader who is one of themselves*” and “*obedient to a party line*” indicate Orwell’s concern with charismatic leadership and ideological conformity. The collocates *party*, *obedient*, *loyal*, and *cause* suggest that political leaders can influence collective thinking and behaviour.

5.12. Keyword: State (26 occurrences)

The keyword *state* frequently occurs in discussions of socialism, totalitarianism, and political organisation. Concordance lines include:

- *state controls the means of production*
- *totalitarian state*
- *state taking over functions*

The collocates *controls*, *production*, *future*, *society*, and *theocracy* suggest that Orwell often associates the state with institutional power and bureaucratic authority. While the state may organise society, Orwell warns against excessive centralisation of power.

5.13. Keyword: Society (16 occurrences)

The concordance lines show that *society* is discussed as a social system shaped by political ideologies. Collocates such as *classless*, *pressures*, *security*, *change*, and *moral collapse* indicate Orwell’s concern with how political systems affect everyday life. Society is frequently portrayed as the arena where struggles over freedom, power, and ideology take place.

The concordance analysis demonstrates that Orwell’s essays construct a strong ideological opposition between authoritarian power and democratic freedom. Keywords related to power (*power*, *government*, *control*, *authority*, *ruling class*, and *state*) are frequently associated with domination, hierarchy, and political control. In contrast, keywords related to freedom (*freedom*, *free*, and *democracy*) are linked with speech, intellectual independence, equality, and human rights. Furthermore, the concordance lines for *nation*, *politics*, and *leader* reveal Orwell’s critique of nationalism and ideological conformity. Overall, the lexical patterns suggest that Orwell advocates democratic values, critical thinking, and individual liberty while warning against the dangers of concentrated political authority and totalitarian control. These keywords are also suitable for your collocation analysis because they directly represent the semantic fields of power, freedom, authority, governance, nationalism, and democracy, which are central to Orwell’s political discourse.

Table 4.7: Summary of Concordance and Collocation Analysis of Keywords in George Orwell’s Essays

Keyword	Frequency	Major Collocates/Patterns	Interpretation
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Power	20	consent, ruled, life, death, rulers, prestige	Power is portrayed as a political force associated with domination, influence, and governance. Orwell highlights both its necessity and its potential for abuse.
Government	22	British, Socialist, industry, workers, war, control	Government is represented as an active institution that shapes economic and political life through intervention and regulation.
Control	7	industry, everything, government, lives	Control is linked with state authority and regulation, while also reflecting citizens' desire for autonomy and self-governance.
Authority	3	questioning, doubting, orthodoxy, evidence	Authority is portrayed critically. Orwell encourages scepticism, independent thinking, and resistance to unquestioned authority.
Ruling	8	class, caste, position, fight	The term primarily appears in the phrase "ruling class," emphasising social hierarchy and elite domination.
Freedom	11	speech, expression, intellect, truth, report	Freedom is strongly associated with intellectual liberty, free expression, and resistance to censorship.
Free	9	speech, equal, human beings, political bias	Orwell presents freedom as both an individual right and a social condition necessary for democracy.
Democracy	18	people, power, equal, chance, rights, freedoms	Democracy is depicted positively as a system grounded in equality, participation, and protection against authoritarian rule.
Politics	14	literature, nationalism, communism, attitude	Politics permeates all aspects of social and cultural life and cannot be separated from literature or ideology.
Nation	31	right, victorious, superior, dominate, aggression	Orwell critiques extreme nationalism and exposes its tendency to promote a sense of superiority and domination.
Leader	5	loyal, obedient, party, cause	Leaders are associated with political influence and ideological loyalty, often encouraging conformity.
	26	controls, production, society, functions, totalitarian	The state is represented as a powerful institution capable of organising society and centralising authority.
Society	16	classless, pressures, security, change	Society is portrayed as the arena where political ideologies shape social relations, freedom, and collective life.

Table 4.7 summarises the concordance and collocational patterns of the major keywords identified in George Orwell's essays. The findings reveal three dominant

semantic domains: power and authority (*power, government, control, authority, ruling, state*), freedom and democracy (*freedom, free, democracy*), and political ideology and nationalism (*politics, nation, leader, society*). The collocational patterns demonstrate that Orwell consistently associates power with control and domination, while freedom is linked with speech, expression, equality, and intellectual independence. Similarly, the keywords related to nationalism and politics reveal Orwell's criticism of ideological extremism and unquestioning loyalty to leaders or nations. Overall, the concordance evidence suggests that Orwell advocates democratic values, individual liberty, and critical thinking while warning against authoritarianism, totalitarianism, and excessive concentration of political power.

6. Interpretation of Ideological Positions, Political Criticism, and Social Power in Orwell's Essays

The qualitative interpretation of the concordance and collocation findings reveals that George Orwell's lexical choices are strongly shaped by his ideological commitment to democracy, intellectual freedom, and social justice. Through recurrent keywords such as *freedom, democracy, free speech, and freedom of expression*, Orwell constructs a discourse that privileges individual liberty and critical thinking. The concordance lines show that freedom is repeatedly associated with the right to speak, write, and challenge dominant narratives, indicating Orwell's resistance to censorship and ideological control. From a Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) perspective, these recurring lexical patterns demonstrate that Orwell consistently frames freedom as an essential democratic value. The collocational relationship between freedom and expressions such as *speech* and *intellect* further strengthens the ideological representation of liberty as a safeguard against political oppression and manipulation.

From a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) perspective, Orwell employs lexical items such as *power, government, authority, state, control, and ruling class* to critique systems of domination and unequal power relations. The concordance evidence shows that power is frequently associated with governments, political elites, and nationalist ideologies, whereas authority is framed as something to be questioned rather than accepted uncritically. Similarly, the repeated occurrence of terms such as *state, control, and ruling class* highlights Orwell's concern with institutional dominance and the concentration of political power. These collocational patterns reveal an underlying discourse that exposes the mechanisms through which political institutions maintain control over society. Orwell's lexical choices therefore function as a critique of authoritarianism and ideological manipulation while simultaneously promoting democratic participation, intellectual independence, and resistance to oppressive structures.

7. Findings

The corpus-assisted analysis of George Orwell's six selected essays revealed that the concepts of authority, power, and freedom occupy a central position in his political discourse. Frequency analysis showed that lexical items related to political control and governance, such as power, government, state, authority, democracy, and nation, recurred throughout the corpus. In *The Lion and the Unicorn*, words such as *war* (58), *England* (47), *English* (42), *government* (22), and *state* (21) highlighted Orwell's concern with national identity, political authority, and social transformation. Similarly, essays such as *Notes on Nationalism* and *Looking Back on the Spanish War* made frequent use of terms related to nationalism, political ideology, propaganda, and power relations. These frequency patterns indicate that Orwell consistently focused on the interaction between political institutions and ordinary citizens.

The concordance and collocation analyses further revealed that Orwell represents power primarily as a mechanism of domination and political influence. Keywords such as *power*, *government*, *state*, *ruling class*, and *control* frequently co-occurred with lexical items including *consent*, *ruled*, *authority*, *class*, *production*, and *industry*. These collocational patterns suggest that Orwell viewed political power as concentrated within institutional structures that often restrict individual autonomy. The keyword *authority* was commonly associated with *questioning*, *evidence*, *orthodoxy*, and *doubt*, indicating Orwell's belief that authority should be critically examined rather than unquestioningly accepted. Likewise, references to the *ruling class* and *state control* exposed Orwell's criticism of social hierarchies, economic inequality, and the concentration of political authority within elite groups.

In contrast, the analysis demonstrated that Orwell consistently constructs freedom as a democratic and intellectual ideal. The keywords *freedom*, *free*, and *democracy* are frequently collocated with *speech*, *expression*, *truth*, *intellect*, *equality*, and *rights*. These patterns reveal Orwell's strong commitment to freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and democratic participation. Across essays such as *The Prevention of Literature*, *Why I Write*, and *Politics and the English Language*, freedom is presented as essential for resisting censorship, propaganda, and ideological manipulation. Overall, the findings suggest that Orwell's essays establish a clear ideological opposition between authoritarian power and democratic freedom. Through recurring lexical patterns, Orwell advocates intellectual independence, social justice, democratic governance, and critical resistance to all forms of political domination and ideological control.

8. Conclusion

This study investigated the representation of authority, power, and freedom in six selected essays by George Orwell through a corpus-assisted discourse analytical approach. By employing word frequency, collocation, and concordance analyses, the research revealed that Orwell consistently foregrounds themes of political authority, ideological

control, democratic values, and individual liberty. The frequency analysis demonstrated the prominence of lexical items related to governance, nationalism, social class, and political ideology, indicating Orwell's sustained engagement with questions of power and social organisation. The collocation analysis further showed that terms associated with power and authority frequently co-occur with words reflecting domination, control, and institutional influence. In contrast, freedom is repeatedly linked with speech, expression, truth, equality, and democratic participation.

The concordance analysis provided deeper insights into Orwell's ideological stance by revealing how he constructs a clear opposition between authoritarian power and democratic freedom. His lexical choices expose the mechanisms through which governments, ruling classes, and political ideologies exercise control over individuals and societies. At the same time, Orwell consistently advocates critical thinking, intellectual independence, social justice, and democratic accountability. The qualitative interpretation, informed by Corpus-Assisted Discourse Studies (CADS) and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), confirms that Orwell's essays function as powerful critiques of authoritarianism, propaganda, nationalism, and ideological manipulation. Overall, the findings demonstrate that Orwell employs language to challenge oppressive structures and promote democratic values, making his essays highly relevant to contemporary discussions of political discourse and social power.

9. Future Recommendations

Future researchers may expand this study by examining a larger corpus of Orwell's essays, novels, and journalistic writings to explore the evolution of his political discourse across different genres. Comparative corpus-based studies may also be conducted between Orwell and other twentieth-century political writers to investigate similarities and differences in the representation of authority, power, and freedom. Additionally, future research can integrate advanced corpus linguistic tools and quantitative statistical measures such as Mutual Information (MI), Log-Likelihood, and T-score to provide a more detailed analysis of ideological patterns and discourse structures in political literature.

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Appendix A

Figure A1

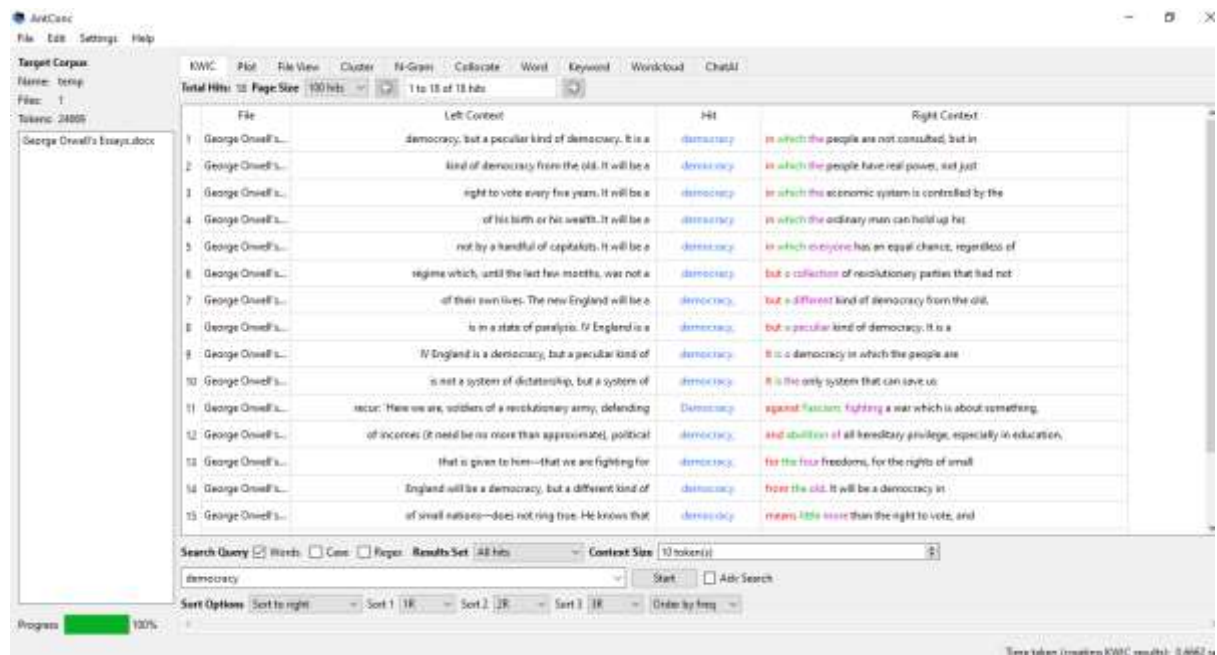


Figure A2

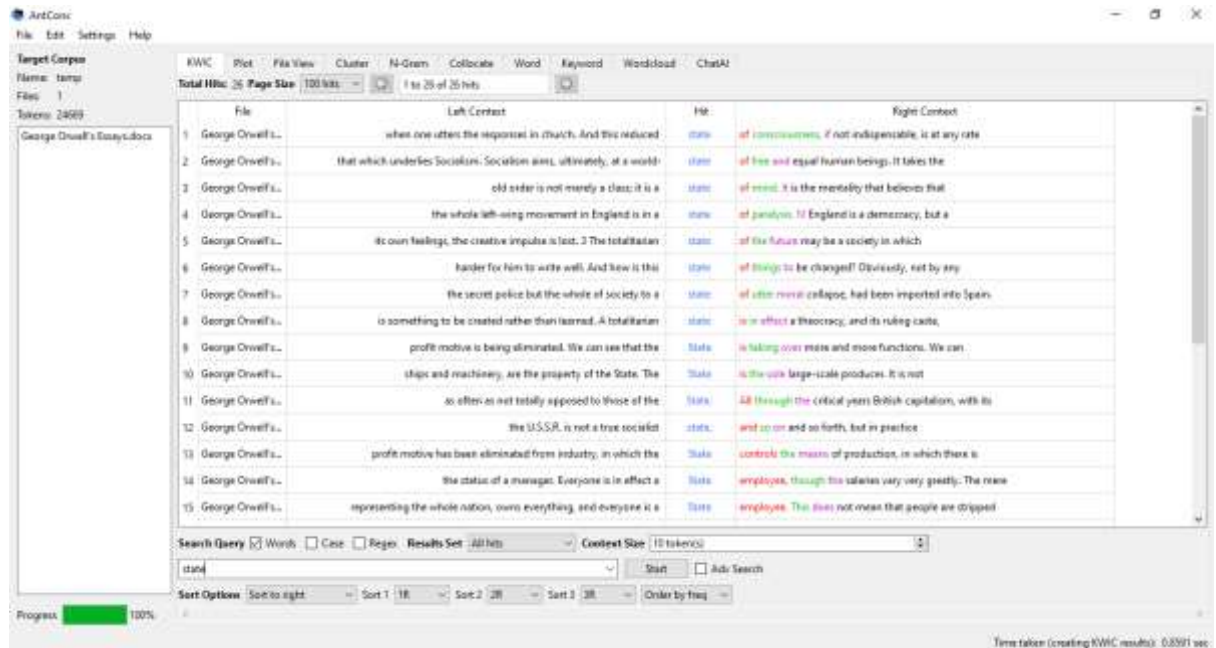


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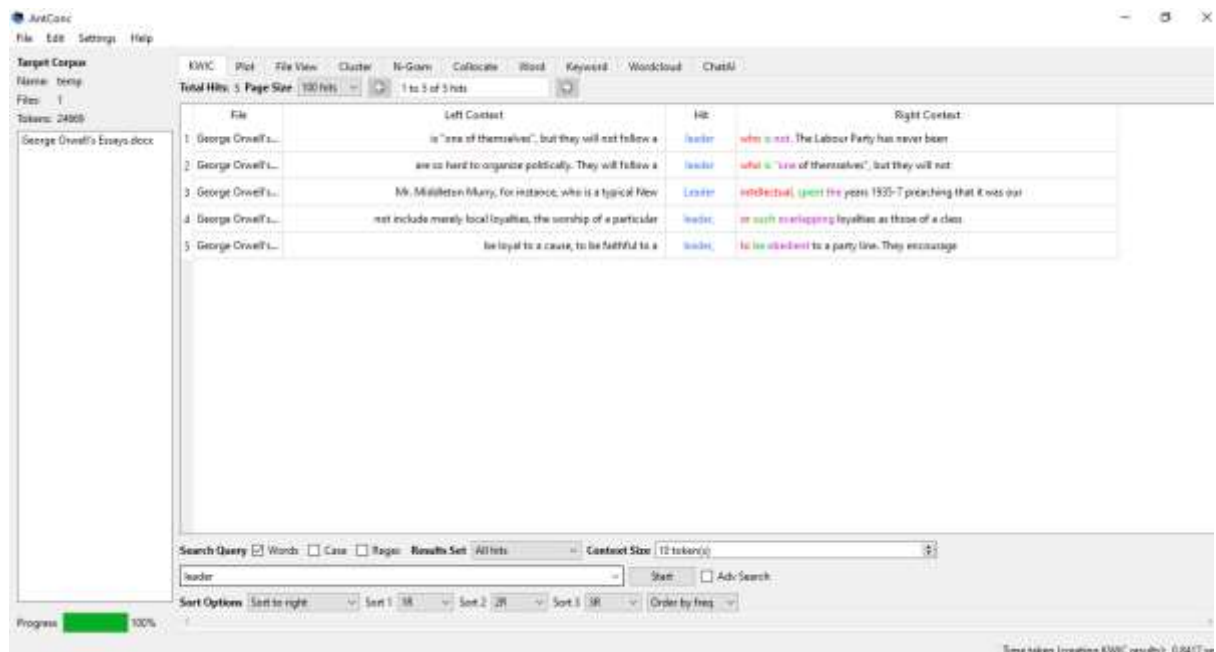


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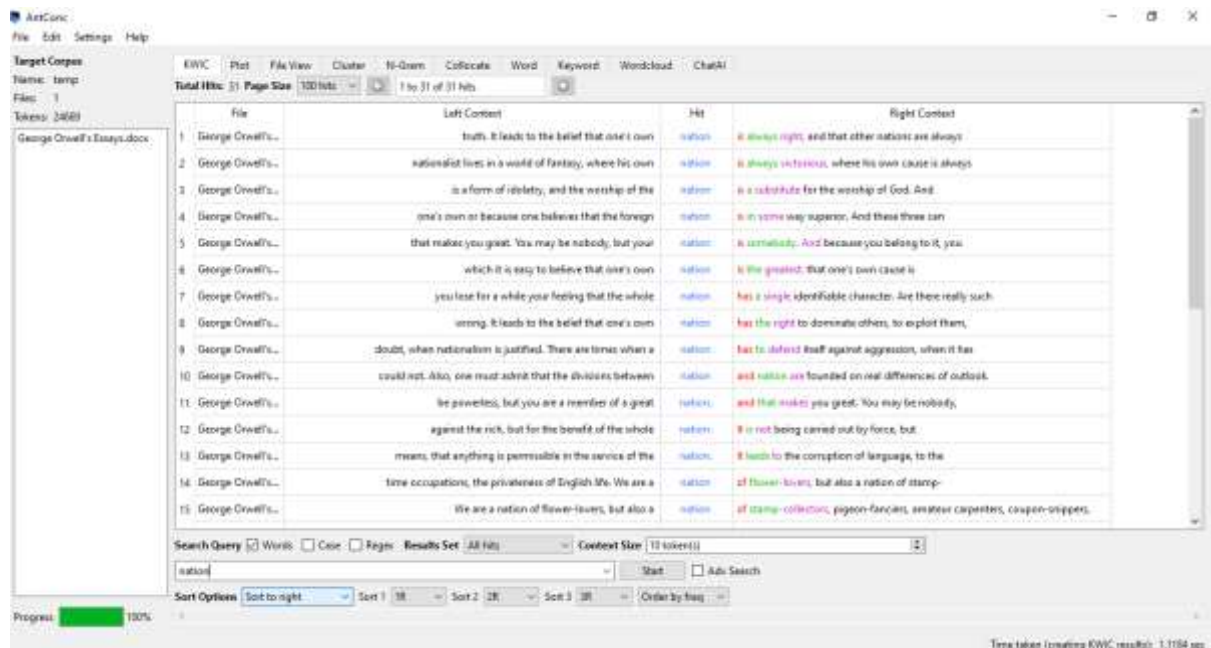


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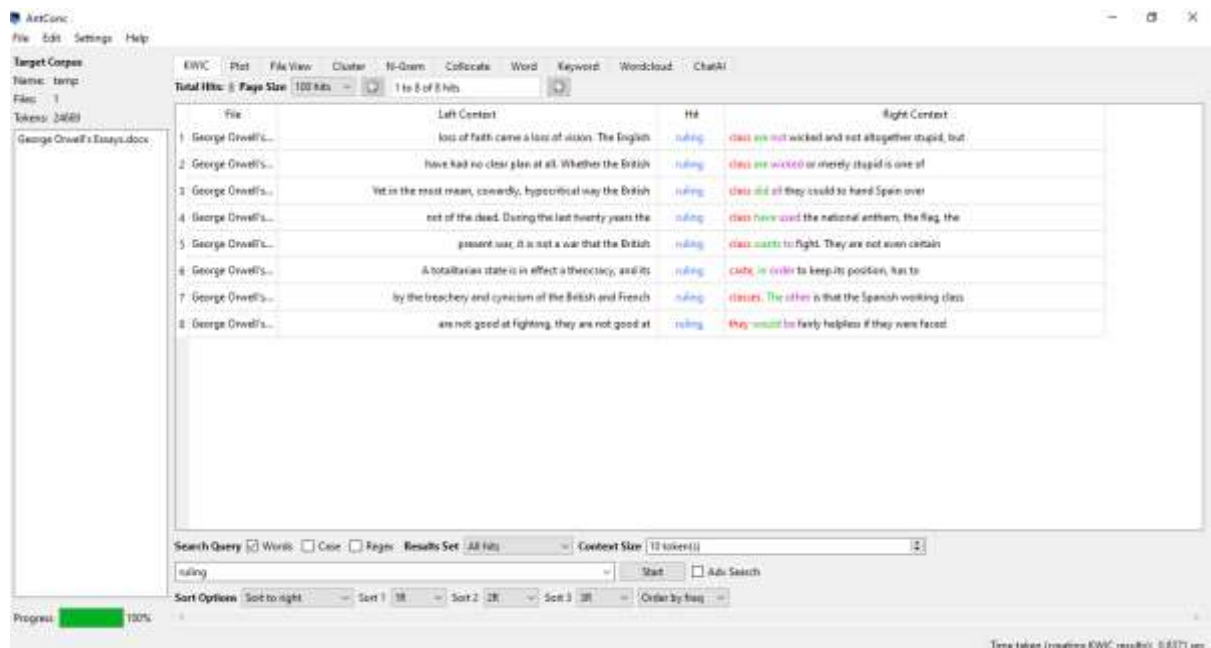


Figure A6

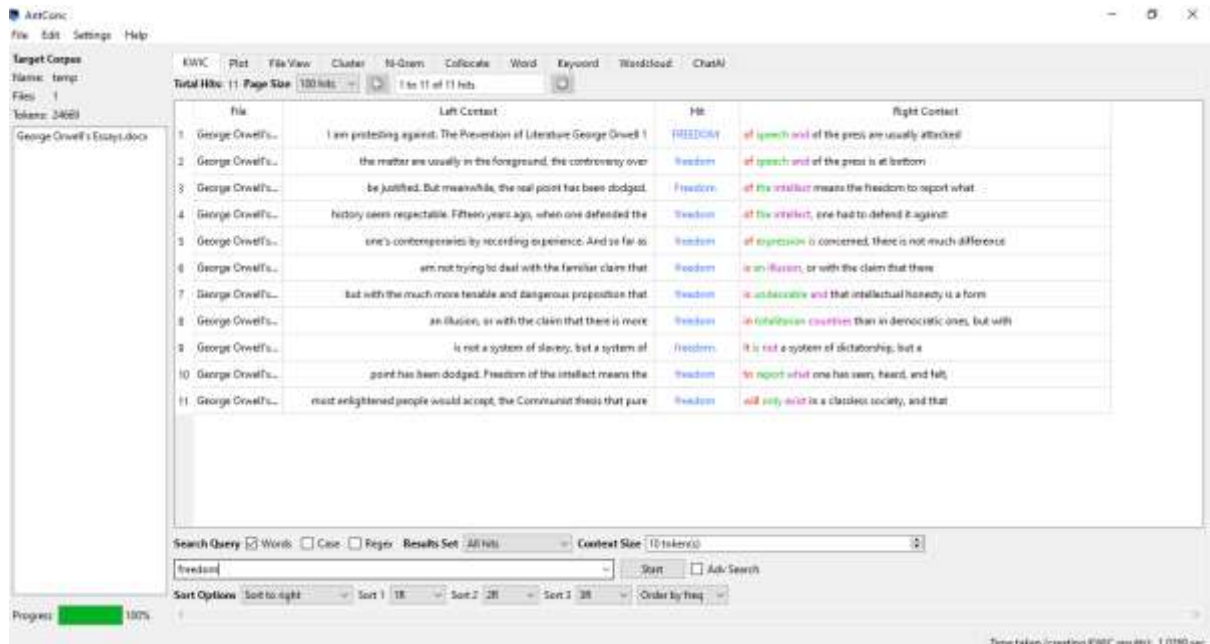


Figure A7

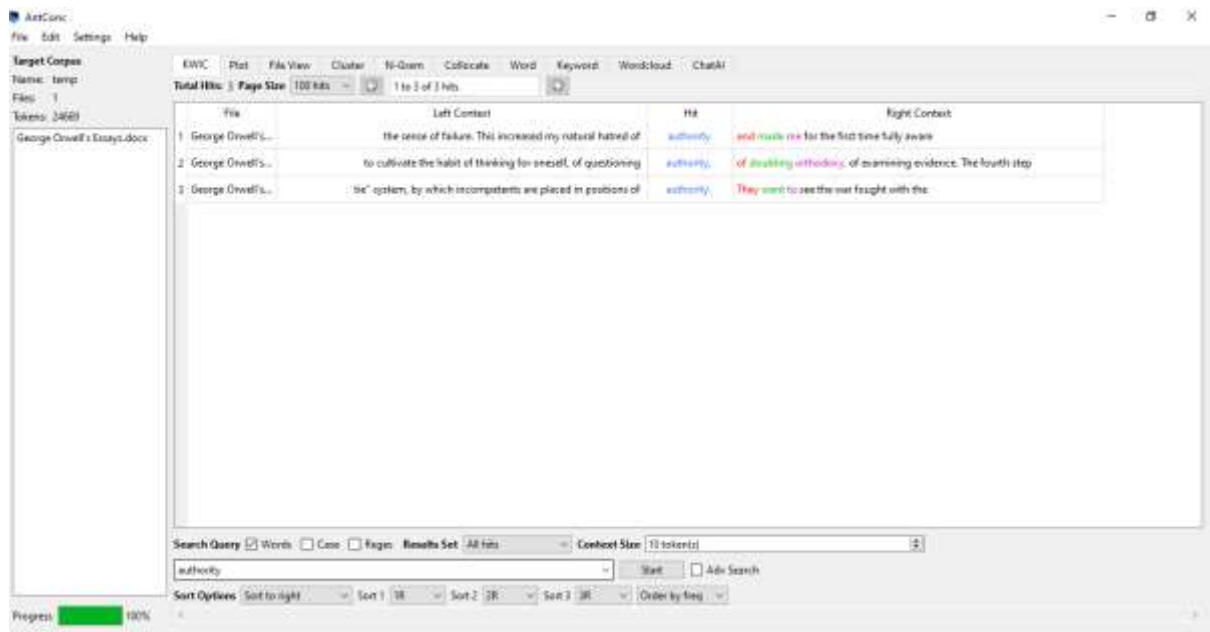


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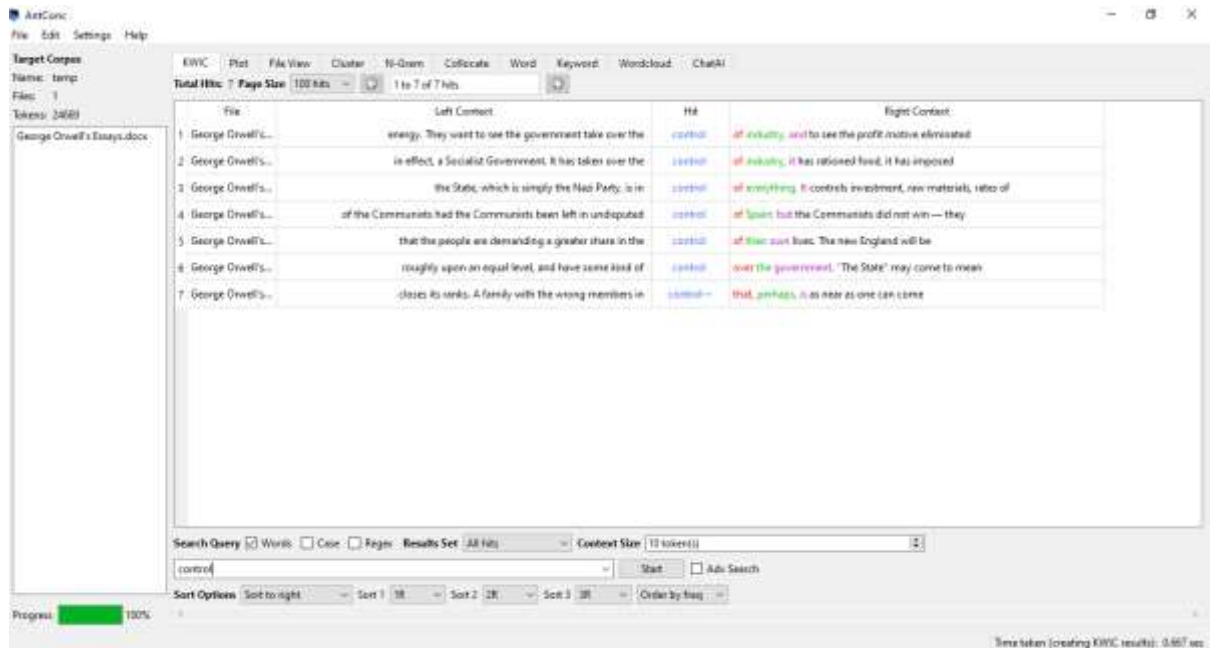


Figure A9

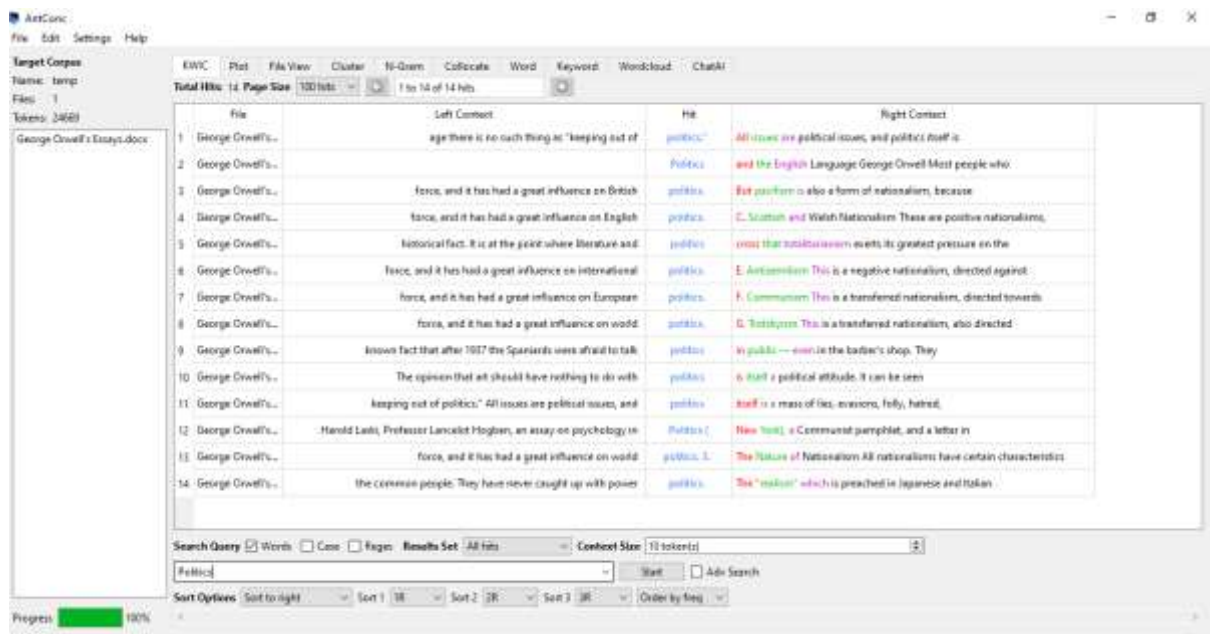


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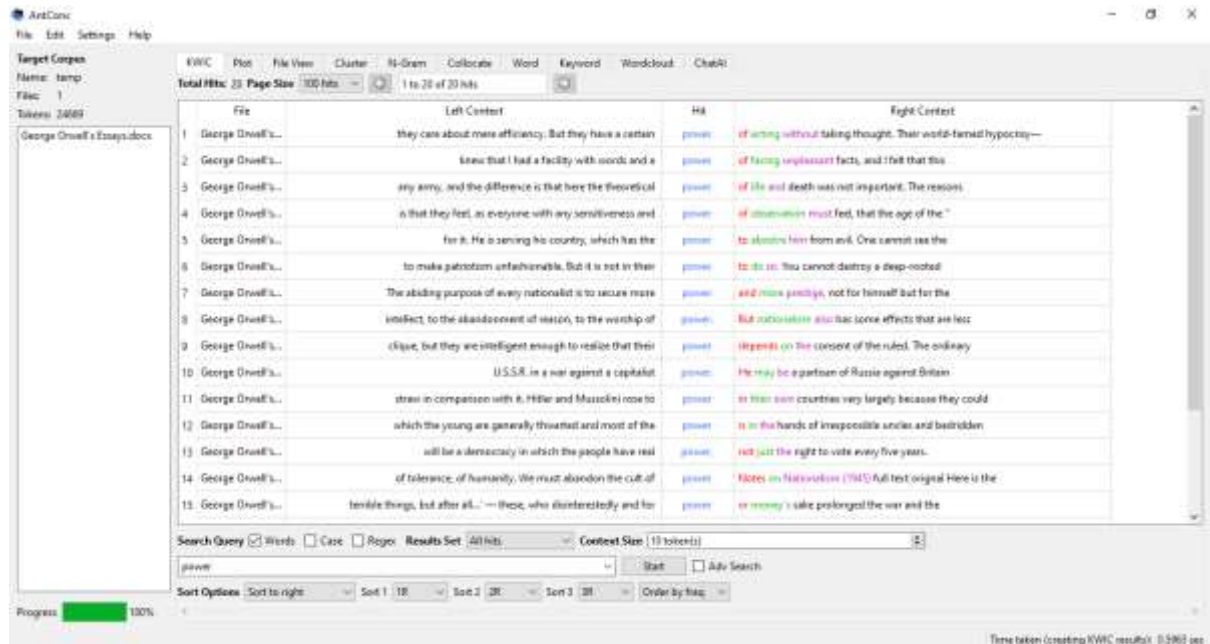


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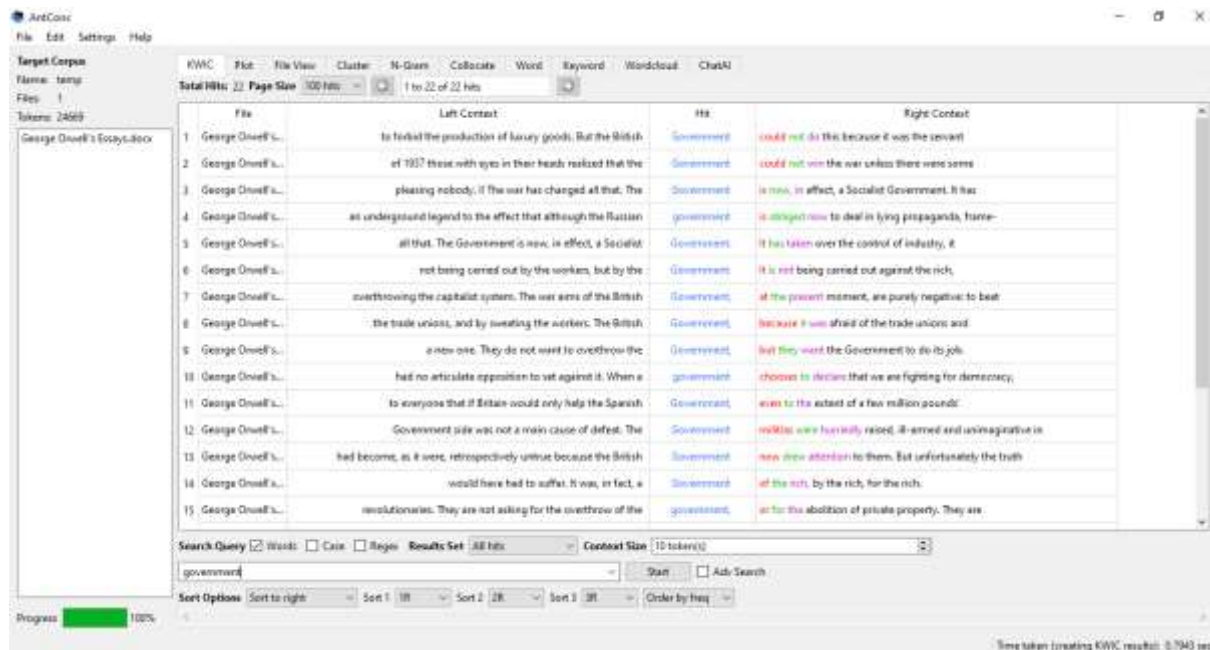


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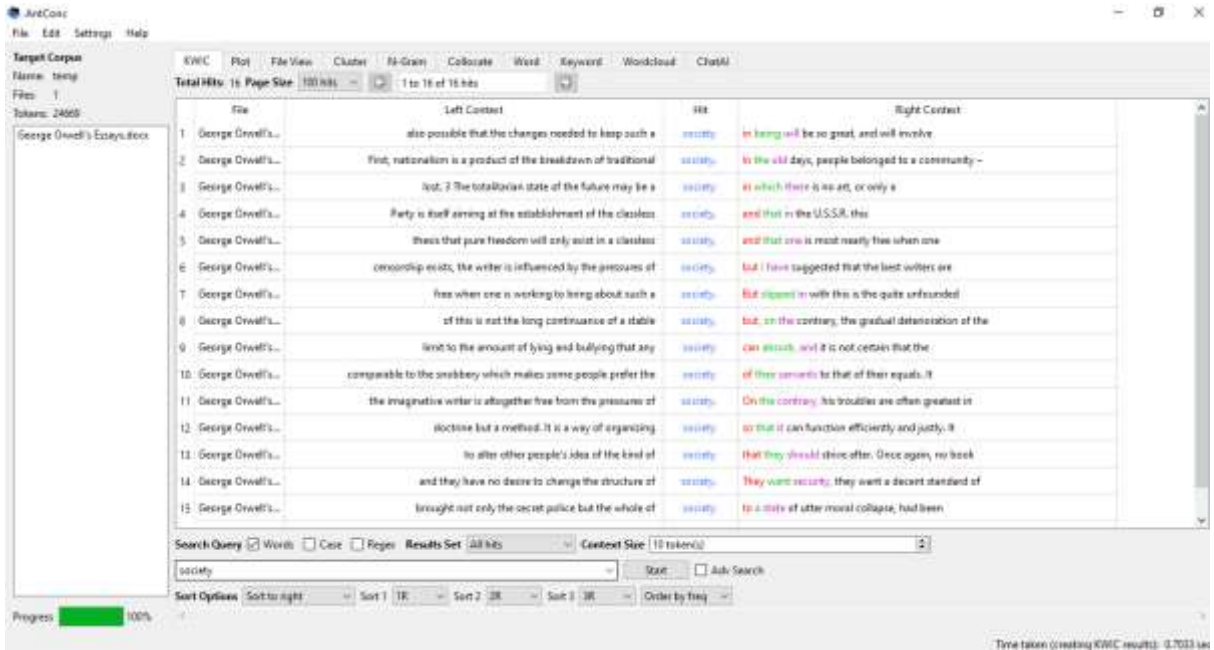


Figure A13

