

## An Analysis of Collocations and Semantic Prosody in Thai Political News Headlines in the Bangkok Post

NAREETHIP NITSAISOOK  
*Faculty of Humanities and Social Science*  
*Burapha University*  
*nareethip@gmail.com*

UBON DHANESSCHAIYAKUPA (corresponding author)  
*Department of Western Languages*  
*Faculty of Humanities and Social Science*  
*Burapha University*  
*ubdst@yahoo.com*

### ABSTRACT

*The purpose of this study was to investigate the types and characteristics of collocations and semantic prosody of the collocations in Thai political news headlines in the Bangkok Post. The collocations were analysed to determine their types and characteristics and the types of semantic prosody and to find out whether the types of semantic prosody were affected by the news' context. In this study, 148 front-page political news headlines from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 from the Bangkok Post newspaper were selected for data collection. As a result, there were 271 collocations appearing in the political news headlines. Lexical collocations were often found in the news headlines. Nouns, verbs and adjectives are content words that convey lexical meaning for telling news stories in headlines. For the types of semantic prosody, negative semantic prosody was frequently found in collocations to call attention from readers. A small number of collocations changed their collocational meanings when they appeared in the news context. Attitudes and perspectives of the writers directly affected the language use for news writing and convey different meanings. The study revealed that the political news writers of the Bangkok Post were inclined to use lexical collocations more than grammatical collocations and had negative views in writing political news headlines.*

*Keywords: Collocations, headline, political news, semantic prosody.*

### INTRODUCTION

People read newspapers daily so newspapers are a part of their daily lives. They read newspapers to get the latest news of events happening in their own country and abroad. People read only what interests them in the newspaper, so they skim through the headlines. Therefore, headlines have become a major source of information and the basis for how the story develops. Headlines can tell readers what the news is about and helps readers find what interests them at a glance.

Front-page headlines, in particular, play an important role in providing the most newsworthy stories of the day. They include a great deal of information within a limited space to call the reader's attention to the stories. However, in reading newspapers, readers do not only learn what is happening but also learn how to develop language skills and general knowledge (Dominick, 2002). In an English newspaper, a journalist usually uses expressive language, which is created by using a combination of certain words that do not necessarily come together in an adjacent

manner. It can be said that he or she uses collocations to write news headlines (Laumsupanimit, 1986).

As headlines appearing on the front-page in a newspaper are mostly related to political news (Witthayarath, 2002), language learners who study political news language should become aware of these reasons: first, during the political crisis era in Thailand, the Thai media are controlled by the government. Therefore, certain issues in the news are forbidden to be broadcasted and announced to the public. In addition, the media took a political stance and supported their favoured political party. They disseminated 'selective' information to be broadcasted in the news. Then, the information may or may not be facts because journalists work in different policies for their company. They can present the same facts in different stories so that the language used in political news can be in different styles with communicative intentions and attitudinal meanings (Supatthanasarungsan, 2013).

In order to understand messages delivered by the reporter, readers should be able to interpret collocated words to obtain underlined meanings in news headlines. Collocations are difficult to be used and understood because they are unpredictable and come in various collocated word forms. Collocation is important because of the way the words are combined in collocations and it is fundamental to all language use. Sinclair (1991) stated that some collocates of a word form a semantic class which can be characterised in terms of attitudinal meanings. Node words and collocates are related to semantic association and semantic prosody that is the functional choice which links meaning to purpose. Therefore, word collocations can convey positive, neutral and negative prosody. Hence, collocations used in news headlines in an English newspaper are worth studying.

In this study, the 'Bangkok Post' newspaper was selected as the source of political news headlines to study the use of collocations in political news headlines and their semantic prosody.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purposes of this study are as follows:

1. To explore the types and characteristics of collocations that appeared on the front page headlines of political news in the Bangkok Post.
2. To analyse semantic prosody of collocations on the front page headlines of political news in the Bangkok Post.
3. To find out the phenomenon of semantic prosody of collocations in the context.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study addresses three research questions:

1. What types and characteristics of collocations that appear on the front page headlines of political news in The Bangkok Post?
2. Which semantic prosody of collocations is reflected on the front page headlines of political news in The Bangkok Post?
3. Is there any phenomenon of semantic prosody of collocations in the context?

## DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

**Collocation** is the co-occurrences of words within a short space of each other in a text (Sinclair, 1991)

**Semantic Prosody** describes the way in which certain seemingly neutral words can be perceived with positive or negative meaning through frequent occurrences with particular collocations. It is a non-linguistic element which has an impact on communication (Sinclair, 1991).

**Political news** is a current event about a political concern, the management of government, parliament and senate. It can be about news about policy, national administration, and local government (Witthayarath, 2002).

**A headline** is a title of a news story, printed in large letters at the top of the story and appear in the front page to tell readers what a news article is about (Punyaratabandhu, 1998).

## COLLOCATIONS

Sinclair (1991) has defined collocation as the occurrence of two or more words within a short space of each other in a text. It is a regular combination of words that frequently co-occur. Moreover, Hoey (1991) has highlighted another aspect of collocation concept as: "Collocation has long been the name given to the relationship a lexical item has with items that appear with greater than random probability in its (textual) context" (Hoey 1991, pp.6-7). This means that collocation is a relationship of word or words that always come together. Words appear intentionally to a collocational combination.

The characteristics of collocation are unique in features as follows:

1. Collocations are frequent co-occurrences of items between which no word can be added. For example, in *'knife and fork'*, it is very unusual to add a word to this collocation such as knife, spoon and fork.

2. Collocations consist of components that cannot be replaced by a synonym or word of similar meaning. For example: John *makes a cake*; but not John *makes a pancake*.

Even though *a cake* or *a pancake* have similar meaning, they cannot replace each other, *makes a cake* is not a collocation but *makes a pancake* is a collocation. *Bake a cake* is the correct collocation.

3. Collocations are binomials that cannot be reversed. The order of the parts of a collocation is always fixed, for example, 'bread and butter', not 'butter and bread'.

4. Some collocations are predictable combinations. For example, if a person hears the collocation 'shrug...' then he or she automatically expects that 'shoulder' will follow. 'Shrug shoulder' is a predictable collocation which means 'to raise or draw up the shoulder'

Linguists classify collocations into similar categories. Benson and Ilson (1997) have classified types of collocations in light of the structure of words by focusing on types of nodes which are lexical and grammatical words.

## LEXICAL COLLOCATIONS

Benson and Ilson (1997) classified that lexical collocations normally do not contain prepositions, infinitives, or clauses. Lexical collocations are the combinations of the dominant words: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. There are 7 types of lexical collocations.

1. Verb (meaning creation/activation) + noun/pronoun (prepositional phrase): This type of collocation is also called fixed lexical combinations. There are examples of collocations with verb denoting creation: *come to an agreement, make an impression*

2. Verb (meaning eradication and/or nullification) + noun: These fixed lexical combinations are called EN collocations. EN collocation is the verb denoting some type of Eradication or Nullification. For example, withdraw *an offer, reject an appeal*.

3. Adjective + noun, noun + noun: Collocations of this type consist of an adjective + noun, such as *best regards*. In English, nouns are often used as adjectives such as *house arrest, jet engine, land reform*.

4. Noun + Verb: Collocations of this type consist of noun + verb; the function verb is to name an action characteristic of the person or a thing designated by the noun, such as alarms *go off* (ring, sound)

5. Noun 1 + (of) + noun 2: Collocations of this type consist of noun 1 + (of) + noun 2: collocations indicate the unit that is associated with a noun such as *a herd of buffalo, an article of clothing, an act of violence*, etc.

6. Adverb + adjective: Collocations of this type consist of adverb + adjective such as *hopelessly addicted*,

7. Verb + adverb: Collocations of this type consist of verb + adverb such as *argue heatedly, amuse thoroughly*.

## GRAMMATICAL COLLOCATIONS

Benson and Ilson (1997) also categorised grammatical collocations that combine a dominant word and a grammatical word or structure such as a preposition, to-infinitive, and that-clause. There are 8 types of grammatical collocations.

1. Noun + preposition: Collocations consist of noun + preposition combinations, such as *apathy towards, blockade against*.

2. Noun + to + infinitive: Collocations consist of nouns followed by to + infinitive. There are five syntactic patterns in which this construction appears frequently. The five syntactic patterns are:

1. It was a pleasure (a problem, a struggle) to do it.
2. They had the foresight (instruction, an obligation, permission, the right) to do it.
3. They felt a compulsion (an impulse, a need) to do it.
4. They made an attempt (an effort, a promise, a vow) to do it
5. He was a fool (a genius, an idiot) to do it.

3. Noun + that-clause: Collocations consist of noun + that-clause such as we *reach an agreement that she would represent us in court, he took an oath that he would do his duty*.

4. Preposition + noun: Collocations consist of preposition + noun such as *in advance, by accident, to somebody's advantage*.

5. Adjective + preposition: Collocations consist of adjective + preposition that occur in the predicate or phrasal verb. They were *angry at everyone -- angry at everyone*.

6. Adjective + (prepositional phrase) + to + infinitive: Collocations consist of predicate of adjective + (prepositional phrase) + to + infinitive such as *it was necessary (for him) to work*. Or *she (the girl) is ready to go*.

7. Adjective + that + clause: Collocations consist of adjective + that + clause such as *She was afraid that she would fail the exam; it was nice that he was able to come home for the holidays*.

8. Verb + direct object + to + indirect object: Collocations consist of verb + direct object + to + indirect object such as *he sent the book to his brother*.

## SEMANTIC PROSODY

Some collocates of a word forming a semantic class can be characterised in terms of attitudinal meaning which is referred to as *semantic prosody*. The term "semantic prosody" was borrowed from Firth (1957), who used it to refer to phonological colouring which spreads beyond semantic boundaries. Sinclair, (2004, p.34) has explained the features of semantic prosody in that "the initial choice of semantic prosody is the functional choice which links meaning to purpose; all subsequent choices within the lexical item relate back to the prosody".

Stubbs (1996) has made a significant contribution to the field of studying semantic prosody. Stubbs has defined semantic prosody as "a particular collocational phenomenon". In his framework of semantic prosody, Stubbs has highlighted the relationship between collocation and semantic prosody and emphasised that they are both subject to the co-selection of lexis.

According to Stubbs (1996), some words have a negative prosody, a few have a positive prosody, and many words are neutral. Thus, he has classified semantic prosody into three categories: negative prosody, neutral prosody and positive prosody.

Stubbs has proposed that if the collocates that a node word attracts are mostly of strong negative semantic characteristics, the node word bears a strong negative prosody. If the collocates are mainly positive words, then the node word is endowed with a positive prosody. If both positive and negative collocates exist in the context, the node word can be said to stand a neutral or mixed prosody. The critical words or phrases themselves have either a positive or a negative sense.

## DATA COLLECTION

All 365 front-page news headlines were taken from the 'Bangkok Post' newspaper which was the most popular English newspaper in Thailand, dating from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 as a population in this research. Only political news headlines were chosen from all 365 front page news headlines because political news mostly appeared on the front page in the newspaper. Thus, the political news headlines were selected to study and analysed by using the specific characteristics of political news in Thailand of Wittayarath (2002).

Furthermore, Hill (2000) stated that the first and most obvious reason why collocations are important is because of the way words are combined in collocations is fundamental to all language use. It is necessary to study the use of collocations and semantics of collocated words because collocations can convey positive, neutral, and negative meaning. The main concern in

language use is whether the news writer can use English to clearly convey the meaning of news to readers. This study investigates the effectiveness of communication between news readers and news writers.

In this study, there was 235 political news as the population, so the sample size consisted of 148 political news based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970)'s sample size calculation. From 148 headlines news, the researcher manually analysed the headlines and found 271 collocations by using the framework of Benson & Ilson (1997). These 271 collocations were analysed to determine the types and characteristics of collocations and semantic prosody in collocations.

## DATA ANALYSIS

This study manually analysed 271 collocations by using the framework of Benson & Ilson (1997). These 271 collocations were analysed to determine the types and characteristics of collocations and semantic prosody in collocations based on research questions. Thus, the procedure of data analysis in the study was divided into 2 main steps.

### COLLOCATION ANALYSIS

The type and characteristics of collocations were analysed by using the framework of Benson and Ilson (1997). The researcher analysed the types and characteristics of 271 collocations in front page political news headlines. Based on the framework of Benson and Ilson (1997), collocations are divided into 2 types: lexical collocations and grammatical collocations.

#### Lexical collocations

There are seven types of lexical collocations.

1. Verb (meaning creation and/or activation) + noun/ pronoun/ prepositional phrase
2. Verb (meaning eradication and/or nullification) + noun
3. Adjective + noun, noun + noun
4. Noun + verb
5. Noun 1 + (of) + noun 2
6. Adverb + adjective
7. Verb + adverb

#### Grammatical collocations

There are eight types of grammatical collocations.

1. Noun + preposition
2. Noun + to + infinitive
3. Noun + that-clause
4. Preposition + noun
5. Adjective + preposition
6. Adjective + (prepositional phrase) + to + infinitive
7. Adjective + that + clause
8. Verb + direct object + to + indirect object

## SEMANTIC PROSODY ANALYSIS

The semantic prosody of collocations in all headlines of political news on the front-page of 'Bangkok Post' was analysed by using the framework of Stubbs' (1996) semantic categorisation.

The analysis of semantic prosody of collocations was conducted by following three categories;

**Negative prosody:** if the collocates that a node word attracts are mostly of the strong negative semantic characteristics, the node word infers a strong negative prosody.

**Neutral prosody:** if both negative and positive collocates exist in the context, the node word can imply a neutral or mixed prosody.

**Positive prosody:** if the collocates are mainly positive words, the node word is inferred as a positive prosody.

The collocations analysis was determined for semantic prosody by using '*node word*' with collocated word type: negative, neutral and positive. Semantic prosody of each collocation was still the same or different when it appeared in the context

Thus, there were 2 steps of the semantic prosody analysis.

### Semantic prosody of collocations in collocational meaning

The collocation analysis focused on collocated words and described denoted meanings to identify the categories of semantic prosody: positive, neutral and negative.

### Semantic prosody of collocations in contextual meaning

The collocations were analyzed within all contexts of news headlines to study overall contextual meanings to identify the categories of semantic prosody: positive, neutral and negative.

Table 1  
Example of Semantic Prosody Analysis

	Headlines	Collocations	Collocational Meaning			Contextual Meaning			Explanation
			NP	NeuP	PP	NP	NeuP	PP	
1	Red shirts send signal to the boss	Send signal to the boss	✓			✓			"To send something to someone" has a neutral meaning, therefore the meaning of the headline is neutral. The red shirts send messages to former Prime minister Thaksin. The collocation does not change its meaning when used in context.
2	Regime faces early challenge	Face challenge	✓			✓			To face challenge means to deal with problems. It has a neutral meaning. When using as a verb of regime, it has a negative meaning. It suggests that the government under NCPO has difficulties in administration.

Remarks: NP stands for Negative prosody  
NeuP stands for Neutral prosody  
PP stands for Positive prosody

## DATA ANALYSIS VERIFICATION

Both collocation analysis and semantic prosody analysis were verified by three linguists. They were two English lecturers who specialised in linguistics and a native speaker who had done research in English teaching as a second language for years. These three authorities checked

whether they agreed or disagreed with the analysis result. The collocations and semantic prosody analysis verification were judged by two or three linguists who checked 'agree' to the types of collocations and the analysis was accepted. The percentage of reliability value was 94.11 in the analysis of collocations. The reliability value was 100 per cent in the analysis of semantic prosody because linguists' disagreements were not in the same headlines and collocations so they were not counted as unaccepted.

## RESULTS

The results were presented into three main parts according to the research questions: the analysis results of the types and characteristics of collocations found in the front-page headlines of political news, the analysis results of semantic prosody of collocations in the headlines and the phenomenon of semantic prosody of collocations in the context.

### THE TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF COLLOCATIONS APPEARING IN THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINES OF POLITICAL NEWS IN THE BANGKOK POST.

The results of the types of collocation were based on the framework of Benson and Ilson (1997). The number of collocations found was calculated in the percentage of the sample of each type of collocations. The findings of collocational analysis demonstrated that both lexical and grammatical collocations were used in the headlines. However, other types of collocations that were not proposed by Benson and Ilson (1997) were also found.

Out of 271 collocations, 203 were found to be lexical collocations (74.91%) which is the highest number of collocations and only 16 grammatical collocations (5.90%) appeared in the sample. In addition, there were other types of collocations found 52 collocations (19.19%) in the analysis. To answer the research questions the table below shows the analysis results of collocations.

Table 2  
*The Result of Types of Collocations Found in Political News Headlines*

	Type of collocations	Collocations	Percentage	
<b>1. Lexical Collocations</b> 74.91%	1.1. Verb (meaning creation/activation) + noun	23.27%	92	
	Verb+ preposition phrase	11.07%		
	1.2. Adjective + noun	7.74%, Noun +noun	22.87%	83
	1.3. Noun + Verb		15	
	1.4. Verb (meaning eradication/nullification) + noun		11	
	1.5. Verb + adverb		2	
<b>2. Grammatical Collocations</b> 5.90%	2.1. Noun+ Prep		11	
	2.2. Prep + noun		4	
	2.3. Verb + direct object + to + indirect object		1	
<b>3. Other types of collocations</b> 19.19%	3.1. Verb + Preposition		38	
	3.2. Verb +Noun +prep phrase		10	
	3.3. Verb + Noun clause		3	
	3.4. Verb + infinitive		1	
<b>Total</b>			<b>271</b>	
			<b>100</b>	

#### LEXICAL COLLOCATIONS

In this study, five structures of lexical collocations were found in the headlines. The collocations with the structure of 'verb (meaning creation/activation) + noun/pronoun/prepositional phrase' were found the most with the percentage of 33.94 or 92 collocations. Examples of collocations with verb (meaning 'create') + noun are: *sets goal* in the headline 'NRSA *sets* 20-month reform *goal*'

- *boost anti-trafficking push* in the headline 'Govt *boosts anti-trafficking push*'

#### GRAMMATICAL COLLOCATIONS

The structure of grammatical collocations rarely appeared in the political news headlines. The structure of 'noun + preposition' had the highest percentage of usage (4.05% or 11 collocations).

Examples of this type of collocations are: *fight for* in the headline 'Yingluck vows *fight for* justice'

- *envoy for* in the headline 'Govt scolds US *envoy for* Yingluck jibe'

#### OTHER TYPES OF COLLOCATIONS

There were four structures of collocations found in headlines. The structure of 'verb + preposition' was found the most with the percentage of 14.02 or 38 collocations. Examples of this type of collocations are in the headline 'Yingluck fails to *show at* NLA'

- *warns against* in the headline 'PM *warns* public *against* impeachment violence'

#### THE ANALYSIS RESULTS OF SEMANTIC PROSODY

The semantic prosody of the collocations was categorised into three groups: negative prosody, neutral prosody, and positive prosody. Each type of prosody was analysed on the basis of the collocational meaning and contextual meaning to see if the prosody in both meanings was still the same or different. The summary of the analysis results of semantic prosody is presented in table 3 below.

Table 3  
*The Results of Semantic Prosody Analysis in Collocational Meaning and Contextual Meaning*

	Negative prosody	Neutral prosody	Positive prosody	Total
<b>1. Collocational Meaning</b>				
Number	145	58	68	271
Percentage	53.51	21.40	25.09	100
<b>2. Contextual Meaning</b>				
Number	147	46	78	271
Percentage	54.24	16.98	28.78	100

#### COLLOCATIONAL MEANING

The results of the analysis indicated that 53.51% of collocations or 145 collocations had negative semantic prosody in collocational meaning.

Examples of negative prosody in collocational meaning are:

- *issues warning* in the headline ‘Army *issues warning* to CDC critics’
- *stir chaos* in the headline ‘Grenade strike aims to *stir chaos*, Prayut warns’.

Next, the results of the analysis showed that 21.40 % of the collocations or 58 collocations were found to have neutral semantic prosody in collocational meaning.

Examples of neutral prosody in collocational meaning are:

- *join his cabinet* in the headline ‘Prayut says no party politicians will *join his cabinet*’
- *lead drafting* in the headline ‘PM wants Meechai to *lead drafting*’

The analysis yielded that 25.09% of collocations or 68 collocations had positive semantic prosody in collocational meaning.

For example: *spur faith* in the headline ‘Impeach bids will *spur faith* in reform’

#### CONTEXTUAL MEANING

The results of the analysis indicated that 54.24% of collocations were found in this category. Examples of negative prosody in contextual meaning are:

- *face red payout rap* in the headline ‘Yingluck *face red payout rap*’
- *renews attack* in the headline ‘PM *renews attack* on regime critics’

Moreover, the analysis showed that 16.98% of collocation had neutral semantic prosody in contextual meaning. Examples of neutral prosody in contextual meaning are:

- *center stage* in the headline ‘Corruption fight takes *center stage*’
- *re-registering parties* in the headline ‘Pheu Thai welcomes idea of *re-registering parties*’.

Finally, the results of the analysis showed that 28.78 % of collocations had positive semantic prosody in contextual meaning. Examples of positive semantic prosody in contextual meaning are:

- *win seats* in the headline ‘63 ex-reform council members *win seats* on NRSA’
- *sets goal* in the headline ‘NRSA *sets* 20-month reform *goal*’.

To sum up, negative prosody of collocations were frequently reflected in both collocational meaning and contextual meaning in the headlines of political news.

#### THE PHENOMENON OF SEMANTIC PROSODY OF COLLOCATIONS IN THE CONTEXT

To answer question 3 of the study, each type of semantic prosody of collocations was also analysed whether the type of semantic prosody would be affected when it was used in different news contexts. The analysis yielded the following results.

Table 4:  
The Summary of the Phenomenon of Semantic Prosody of Collocations in the Context

Collocational meaning	Phenomenon	Contextual meaning	Amount	Percentage
NP	=	NP	138	50.92
NP	→	NeuP	-	-
NP	→	PP	7	2.58
NeuP	→	NP	7	2.58
NeuP	=	NeuP	47	17.34
NeuP	→	PP	4	1.48
PP	→	NP	3	1.11
PP	→	NeuP	-	-
PP	=	PP	65	23.99
<b>Total</b>			<b>271</b>	<b>100</b>

**Remarks:** The symbol ‘→’ means ‘change to’  
The symbol ‘=’ means ‘still the same’  
NP stands for Negative prosody  
NeuP stands for Neutral prosody  
PP stands for Positive prosody

1. For collocations with negative prosody, the result showed that 50.92% of collocations have negative prosody in both collocational meaning and contextual meaning.

For example: ‘*steals democracy*’ in the headline ‘Draft charter *steals democracy*’

This collocation ‘*steals democracy*’ has a negative collocational meaning and when it was in the headline, it means not to include democratic principles in the constitution. Thus, ‘*steals democracy*’ has a negative meaning in both collocational meaning and contextual meaning.

2. Negative semantic prosody in collocational meaning changed into positive semantic prosody in contextual meaning. The result showed that 2.58% of collocations were found in this meaning changing.

For example: ‘*extends Section44 net*’ in the headline ‘Prayut *extends Section44 net*’.

The collocation ‘*extends Section44 net*’ means to increase the scopes of using Section44. It has a negative collocational meaning but it has a positive contextual meaning because the PM had invoked his power to tackle illegal street crimes. This suggested that the PM has extended his use of Section44 to eradicate crimes. Section44 is the national order for protecting the national security, royal throne national economy and public administration, and it was issued by the NCPO.

3. Neutral semantic prosody in collocational meaning changed to be negative semantic prosody in contextual meaning. 2.58% of collocations were found to be in this category.

For example: ‘*face challenge*’ in the headline ‘Regime *faces early challenge*’.

This collocation ‘*face challenge*’ means to deal with problems. It has a neutral collocational meaning. When used as a verb of regime, it has a negative contextual meaning. It suggests that the government under NCPO had difficulties in administration.

4. Neutral semantic prosody in collocational meaning changed to be positive semantic prosody in contextual meaning. 1.48% of collocations were found to be in this category.

For example: ‘*acquits Noppadon*’ in the headline ‘Supreme Court *acquits Noppadon*’

To ‘*acquit*’ (somebody) means to decide and state officially in a court of law that somebody is not guilty of a crime. It has a neutral collocational meaning, but a positive contextual meaning. The Supreme Court officially stated that Noppadon was not guilty of a crime involving the Preah Vihear temple communicate with a Cambodian representative.

5. Positive semantic prosody in collocational meaning changed to negative semantic prosody in contextual meaning. This type of occurrence was rarely found, only 1.11% of collocations were found in this category.

For example: ‘*warns on political ‘fairness’*” in the headline ‘*US warns on political ‘fairness’*’

The collocation ‘*warns on political ‘fairness’*’ has a positive collocational meaning but it has a negative contextual meaning. The US diplomat has warned the Thai government on political justice.

## CONCLUSION

Lexical collocations appeared the most in headlines because of the principle of brevity and clarity in writing political news headlines. Nouns, verbs and adjectives in the structure of lexical collocations are content words which contain lexical meanings and give readers news story in the headlines. While function words are prepositions or auxiliary verbs that are included in the structure of grammatical collocations, they are for grammatical correctness and do not show the meanings in the headlines

In addition, negative semantic prosody of collocations always appears in both collocational meaning and contextual meaning in Thai political news headlines. People are primarily interested in bad news rather than good news, so negative news can easily call their attention. Journalists reported bad things which are more compelling than good news stories.

Finally, the type of semantic prosody changed to other types in low percentage. This condition is due to the fact that the political news writers of the Bangkok Post did not tend to make headlines ambiguous. However, attitude, belief, culture and personal perspective of the journalist and readers directly affected the meaning of news stories. Word choices, phrases and language used in political news for calling attention from readers also depends on the news reporters to reflect their attitude in different meanings. The readers' perspectives in political news might vary in different ways.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the interpretations of the findings in the present study, the following recommendations are pedagogical implications.

1. Teachers should assist students to develop their capacity of using collocations. Students should be taught to grasp the usage of collocations in English in both denotation and connotation meaning. Teachers should provide their students with exercises for practising using collocations in order to enhance their understanding of English collocations.

2. For semantic prosody, an English newspaper can be used as a reading material in class. Teachers should help students grasp the attitudinal meaning of writers when reading English texts. The attitude of journalists affects word choice in news writing that reflects positive or negative meaning in collocations. Students should be trained to identify semantic prosody created by the news writers to understand the message conveyed. The following recommendations are made for further investigations in the areas of English study and communication arts.

1. A future study should be conducted with other types of news headlines such as economic news or criminal news in order to obtain wider views about the use of collocations and semantic prosody.
2. The study comparing political news headlines in one English newspaper with another English newspaper on the same news headlines should be done to find out whether they have the same types of semantic prosody.

## REFERENCES

- Benson, M.E & Ilson, R. (1997). *The BBI Dictionary of English Word Combination*. 2nd ed. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Dominick, R.J. (2002). *The Dynamics of Mass Communication*. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Firth, J. (1957). *Modes of meaning*. In J. Firth (Ed.), *Papers in linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Hill, J. (2000). *Teaching collocation: Further development in the lexical approach* (pp.47-69). Hove: Language Teaching Publication
- Hoey, M. (1991). *Patterns of Lexis in Text*. Oxford. Oxford University Press.
- Krejcie, R.V. & Morgan, D.W. (1970). *Determining Sample Size for Research Activities*. Educational and Psychological Measurement.
- Laumsupanimit, S. (1986). *English in Newspaper*. Bangkok: Silapakorn University.
- Punyaratabandhu, B. (1998). *Reading for mass communication*. Bangkok: Kasetsart University.
- Sinclair, J. (1991). *Corpus Concordance Collocation*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- Sinclair, J. (2004). *How to use the corpora in language teaching*. Amsterdam: John Benjamin
- Stubbs, M. (1996). *Text and Corpus Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Supatthanarungsan, T. (2013). *The Role of Press in Thai Political crisis*. Retrieved February, 20, 2016. From <http://www.mediainsideout.net/local/2013/12/175>
- Witthayarath, S. (2002). *News Reporting: Principals and Technics*. Bangkok: Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.