**A Corpus-based Lexical Study of Iranian Medical Research Articles:**

**Developing a Medical Academic Word List**

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**Abstract**

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Corpus analysis and the study of academic word lists is a beneficial means of comparing one text with another, the works of one author with other authors, and studying texts in a specialized field. The purpose of the current corpus-based study was to explore the word frequency of research articles in the field of medical sciences and extract a discipline-specific word list in order to be used by students and researchers. For this purpose, 250 medical research articles written by Iranian authors were randomly selected from PubMed. Articles are selected from the those published between 2010 and 2019 in various fields of medical sciences. ANTCONC 3.3.8 software was used for data analysis and to obtain the discipline-specific word list. An attempt was made to specify the most frequent word families of the Academic Word List (AWL) in the medical sciences research article corpus, as well as to create a list of most frequent words used in this realm. Articles consisted of 1720000 words, with a frequency criterion higher than 40 times for selecting this list.

As a result, this research identified the widely used vocabulary with different structures and functions in medical fields. This study provides new perspectives for better understanding medical research articles related to specific fields as well as further research on figurative studies in academic and English writing for specific purposes. In addition, this research sheds light on how the intergration of the lexical approach with a corpus-based methodology in writing English articles for Specific Purposes can improve the way ESP is taught.

**Keywords:** *Academic Word List (AWL); corpus analysis; medical word list , English for specific purposes (ESP); word frequency*