2 Immediate context analysis: distinguishing meanings by studying usage

Patrick Hanks

1 Introduction

The first part of this paper is a short personal and anecdotal record of my earliest experience of doing corpus analysis with John Sinclair. Before moving to Birmingham in June 1983 I had spent ten years editing the first edition of Collins English Dictionary (CED), a task in which introspection played a large part, and then three years studying lexical semantics at the University of Essex. I was dissatisfied with what I felt was excessive reliance on introspection in CED. Accordingly, I had collected and transcribed a small corpus of spoken business English, as a foundation for two ELT textbooks published by Cambridge University Press. However, I had no idea what lay in store for me at Birmingham. The first part of the paper recollects ‘the shock of the new’.

The main part of the paper consists of a commentary on a sorted classification of concordance for the word lap and its inflections in the British National Corpus, the concordance lines being presented in the Appendix. The idea was to examine how well Sinclair’s teachings stand up, after 17 years, to analysis of a word in a much larger corpus, and whether the original Birmingham corpus of 7.3 million words is to be regarded as representative or idiosyncratic, in the light of a much larger body of evidence collected with the avowed intention of being ‘representative’.

In addition, I also consider a general issue in corpus analysis: how far can the immediate context of a word in use be used to determine its meaning? Sinclair has said, ‘Every distinction in meaning is associated with a distinction in form.’ Is this true? What counts as a distinction in meaning? What counts as a distinction in form? What is the nature of the association?

2 First exposure to corpus evidence

New recruits to the COBUILD team in the early 1980s – including project managers – were sat down with a concordance or two from the Birmingham Corpus (it had just achieved 7.3 million words, which seemed vast in those days), and invited to discuss their observations with Professor Sinclair. What were the words doing? What useful generalisations could a lexicographer make in the light of the evidence?

My baptism in corpus lexicography took place in letter L. We looked together at the word lap and its inflections. ‘There’s not much here about cats lapping up milk,’ I
grumbled. ‘I’m more impressed by all those full stops and commas,’ retorted John. I
looked again.

Half an hour later, I knew that things would never be the same. The excitement of
using Jem Clear’s concordancing program to see array after array of patterns of
language in use, some more delicate than others, previously unreported patterns, and
patterns that were far more salient than predicted by any dictionary or grammar, was
comparable to opening a chalet door on a winter’s morning and seeing the sun glinting
on fresh snow all around. I couldn’t wait to get stuck in.

By the end of the morning, I felt I had formulated a completely new theory of
language. Being a master of the silent method in language teaching, John Sinclair
allowed me to believe that I had done this all on my own, although I now realise that it
would be nearer the truth to say that I was responding to the first of many Sinclairean
insights into the nature of language.

To the best of my recollection, we made the following observations:

1. *lap* is used much more frequently to denote the part of the body that you only have
when you are sitting down (‘sit on my lap’; ‘his hands clasped in his lap’) than in any
of the competing senses (‘the fastest lap’; ‘the final lap’; ‘the sound of little waves
lapping against the sea wall’; ‘cats lapping up milk’ etc)

2. When it is used in this ‘bodypart’ sense, it typically occurs with a possessive
determiner as part of an adjunct in clause-final position (‘in her lap’; ‘on his lap’).

3. Lexicosyntactic patterns offer typical but not error-proof clues to meaning. For
example ‘The cat was lapping up the milk as if it had not been fed for days’ contrasts
with ‘It was a lie, but millions of newspaper readers lapped it up’. The lemma *lap up*
contrasts with the lemma *lap*, but here *lap up* is subdivided into a literal and a
figurative sense, distinguished by who is doing the lapping.

4. Conventional phraseology in natural language is not unduly respectful of logic,
although its users may be. We noted that ‘the last lap of a journey’ plays on the ‘once
round the track’ sense, although in fact it normally refers to linear progress. This
perfectly conventional phrase is a case of a circle functioning as a metaphor for a
line. However, it is by no means clear that English speakers think of it as a metaphor
at all.

3 ‘Lap’ revisited

In the course of writing this paper, I revisited the lemma *lap*, using evidence from the
British National Corpus (BNC), a corpus of 100 million words of contemporary English
text collected as a balanced and representative sample of modern English. There are
1820 citations for *lap*, *laps*, *lapped*, *lapping*, *lappings* in the BNC. I took a randomly selected sample of 600 lines and sorted them into different sense categories, using syntactic and collocational criteria. The results are given in the Appendix. True to Sinclair’s principles (Sinclair 1991), I classified all uses of the word in the sample, not merely selected uses which happened to suit my purpose.

In summary, the uses of *lap* can be grouped into six main lexisosyntactic categories:

1 **Noun**
   - **Structure:** lexisosyntactic norm: in/on [POSSDET] *lap* (300 lines; 50%).
   - **Meaning:** “the flat area of the body of a seated person between the waist and the knee”
   - **Example:** ‘Come and sit on my lap, Margaret.’

2 **Noun**
   - **Structure:** lexisosyntactic norms: [NUMERAL] *lap* (s); *lap* [NUMERAL]; on… [ORDINAL] *lap* (172 lines; 28.66%).
   - **Meaning:** “a circuit of a racetrack”
   - **Examples:** Gary Jess set the pace for eight of the 12 laps
     Prost went out of the race on lap 26
     On the first lap, the Italian veteran was edged into fifth place

3 **Verb**
   - **Structure:** lexisosyntactic norm: [PERSON*] *lap* [PERSON*] (6 lines; 1%).
   - **Meaning:** “[PERSON*], when in a leading position in a race, completes an extra circuit of the track so as to overtake [PERSON*], who is at the back of the race”
   - **Example:** Erik Comas closed in but spun when trying to lap Gilbert Scott

3.1 **Verb**
   - **Structure:** lexisosyntactic norm: [PERSON] *lap* [CIRCUIT] (6 lines; 1%).
   - **Meaning:** “[PERSON] go (drive, run, . . .) once round [CIRCUIT]”
   - **Example:** They have lapped the 14-mile Nurburgring circuit

4 **Verb**
   - **Structure:** lexisosyntactic norm: [WATER/WAVES] *lap* [ADVERBIAL_OF_PLACE] / [PLACE] be lapped by [WAVES] (52 lines; 8.66%, including verbal adjective and verbal noun).
   - **Meaning:** “[WATER] wash against [PLACE] with a gentle rippling sound”
   - **Example:** the sound of little waves lapping against the seashore

5 **Verb**
   - **Structure:** lexisosyntactic norm: [CREATURE] *lap* up [LIQUID] (5 lines; 0.83%).
   - **Meaning:** “[CREATURE] take up [LIQUID] with the tongue in order to drink”
Immediate context analysis

Example: Soon the three [dogs] were gratefully lapping up cold, life-restoring liquid

6 Verb
Structure: lexicosyntactic norm: [PERSON] lap up [INFORMATION / PRAISE / PLEASURE / EXPERIENCE / BOOK / WRITER] (21 lines; 3.5%).
Meaning: “[PERSON] accept [INFORMATION / PLEASURE / EXPERIENCE PRAISE / BOOK / WRITER] eagerly and with obvious pleasure”
Example: Twelve young boys and girls clustered around him to lap up his words of wisdom

Each category is associated, not only with a word class (part of speech) but also with a lexicosyntactic norm. At a more delicate level, phraseological norms may be observed, often with special idiomatic meanings. As the term implies, norms are patterns of ordinary usage, not necessary conditions for correct usage. They are themes upon which endless grammatical and semantic variations are possible, given the creativity of human language use.

These six norms account for 92.65% of all uses of lap. What about the remaining 7.35%?

14 lines (2.33%) represent a technical term in sedimentology, all from the same text. It would require a specialist corpus of sedimentological texts to resolve the question whether this use is conventional (within its domain) or idiosyncratic.

A further 17 lines (2.8%) are names, acronyms, and other items which have nothing to do with the words under discussion. These are classified as mere noise. Gill’s Lap is a place name in Sussex; Phar Lap was a famous racehorse of the 1930s – so famous, indeed, that a software company is named after it; Chek Lap Kok is an island in Hong Kong, the site of a new airport. LAP is also an acronym for a political party somewhere.

Finally, 12 lines (2%) are unclassified. Four (possibly five) of these represent uses in romantic fiction or soft pornography, but the uses are too diverse to allow a norm to be postulated. A specialist corpus of this genre might reveal the emergence of a norm; alternatively, it might reveal that writing in this genre is mannered and imprecise. Three of the lines involve technical terms in domains as diverse as mechanical engineering and guitar strings. And one of the lines (‘her hands pulling anxiously at the lap of her dress’), ironically enough, represents the ancient meaning which the OED gives as the first sense under homograph 1: ‘a part (of a garment or the like) either hanging down or projecting so as to admit of being folded over; a flap; lappet.’

3.1 Lexical sets

In the above summary, words in capital letters and square brackets stand for lexical sets (paradigmatic groups of words sharing some semantic component, which select roughly the same meaning of the target word). Norms of usage are also sometimes exploited to
create special meanings, particularly ad-hoc metaphors. It is important to distinguish between norms and exploitations, and to identify norms clearly as prototypes of conventional usage, associated with prototypical meanings. Associated with some or all of the categories are a variety of conventional, though rare, idiomatic expressions such as ‘in the lap of the gods’ and ‘on the last lap of our journey’.

3.2 A checklist?

The syntactic patterns identified here look remarkably like a checklist. But Fillmore (1975) argued cogently against simplistic checklist theories of meaning. Can these two viewpoints be reconciled? One way of doing so might be to argue that the categories listed here are indeed a checklist, but not of meanings: they constitute instead a checklist of prototypical norms of usage, associated with norms of belief and meaning, which speakers and writers draw on to create new meanings.

3.3 Validity of analysis of general corpora

Thus, the general observations made in 1983 with the 7.3 million word Birmingham corpus and reflected in the Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary are confirmed by the much larger BNC. This is encouraging: it encourages us to believe, with all due caution, that these corpora really are telling us something about the conventional usage of modern English, not merely about the particular texts in the corpus. There has been a great deal of debate about whether a corpus can really be representative, and sceptics have said, ‘Ah, collect a different corpus and you will get different facts.’ But it is clear from comparative analyses such as this that the differences pale into insignificance compared with the similarities. The value of the larger corpus lies partly in the fact that it increases the confidence of our observations, presents evidence for additional facts about rare words and rare senses, and makes possible a much more delicate analysis of collocation and phraseology.

This may all seem obvious enough, but its value is reinforced when we consult general dictionaries not based on a corpus. Webster’s New World Dictionary, for example, one of the most widely admired (and widely purchased) American popular dictionaries, gives as sense 1 of lap: ‘[Now Rare] the loose lower part of a garment, which may be doubled or folded over; skirt of a coat or gown’, and as sense 2: ‘the front part of the skirt when it is held up to form a hollow place in which things can be carried’. Corpus analysis is necessary, if only as a corrective to the notion that such dictionaries, influenced as they are by historical principles and a focus on unusual usage, give a true account of modern English. But of course corpus analysis can yield a wealth of additional, more delicate information.
3.4 Predictability

This kind of corpus analysis, then, enables us to make predictions – disconfirmable predictions, not self-fulfilling prophecies – about what to expect in unseen texts. And if our analysis is good, it will provide overt criteria for distinguishing one sense from another. This kind of painstaking corpus analysis is worthwhile partly because of its predictive power. It would be possible, though expensive, to draw up a list of lexicosyntactic norms for each word in the language, and to associate a ‘meaning’ (or, rather, a list of legitimate inferences) with each one.

So we can predict that the next random sample of 600 uses of *lap* in general modern English will have the following characteristics at least:

1. Approximately 50% of all occurrences of the lemma will be for the "seated body part" sense. Nearly all of these will be uses of the singular noun *lap* in an adverbia l in clause-final position. Among them will be a small number of idiomatic uses with special meanings (‘dump something in someone’s lap’; ‘something fell into somebody’s lap’; ‘in the lap of the gods’; ‘in the lap of luxury’).

2. If the new, unseen corpus contains a similar proportion of newspaper sports reports, then about 30% of all occurrences of the lemma *lap* will denote a single circuit of a race track, and will very often be in collocation with an ordinal or cardinal numeral. If the proportion of sports reporting is smaller, this percentage will be smaller.

3. Verb uses will be much rarer than noun uses.

4. Sentences in which a person laps another person will be rare (only about 1% of all uses of *lap*). If found, the meaning will probably (but not certainly) be that the two people are in a race and that person one, in a leading position, has driven or run all the way round the track so as to overtake person two, who is at the back of the race. There will also be uses of this sense in which a person or competitor ‘laps’ the circuit (i.e. drives or runs round it), rather than lapping another competitor. This sense is absent from most dictionaries.

5. The “animal taking up liquid with the tongue” sense of *lap up* will be less common than the conventionalised metaphor in which a PERSON laps up information, praise, pleasure, a pleasurable experience, or some other stimulus. Sinclair might say that this should be regarded as an established literal sense in its own right, but I prefer to believe that, to count as a paid-up member of the English-speaking community, you must associate the image of a person lapping up information or praise with the image of a cat lapping up milk, and know that the former is a conventionalised metaphor.
4 How reliable is immediate-context analysis?

4.1 Sufficiency and probability

It would be convenient if transitive use with animate subject and animate object were a sufficient condition to select sense 3 of lap, but unfortunately natural language does not work like that. As so often, there are exceptions. Line 574 (‘Merciless, he lapped her’), for example, involves one person lapping another, but it has nothing to do with motor racing or athletics. This example might seem at first glance to give the lie to Sinclair’s axiom that ‘every distinction in meaning is associated with a distinction in form’. What is the distinction in form here? The immediate context of 574 is syntactically identical to that of, say, 475 (‘as well as lapping her two female rivals’), but the meaning is very different.

Here is another example of the need for extensive detailed work in establishing relevant criteria for immediate-context analysis. Occurrence as part of a clause-final adverbial is not a sufficient condition for distinguishing sense 1 from sense 2, because (unfortunately) there are many clause final adverbials in sense 2 as well as sense 1. The presence or absence of a cardinal or ordinal numeral in the immediate context is a more effective distinguisher. If present, it points with a very high degree of probability to sense 2. The same is true of the plural form laps: laps (plural) are common parlance in reports of motor races and athletics, but unusual in speaking of body parts.

Unsupported clues, then, are suggestive but not conclusive. Multiple clues may add up to conclusiveness.

The word ‘fall’ in collocation with ‘POSSDET lap’ raises the likelihood that we are in the presence of the idiom ‘It fell into his lap’ = ‘He obtained it easily’. But then we find:

249 It fell on my legs and lap through the skylight, a lovely slow silver moon.

This is not really metaphorical, although it is not centrally conventional either.

4.2 Anaphora resolution

It is worth mentioning in passing that anaphors need to be resolved before we can classify with confidence, and an essential preliminary for effective natural language processing by machine. In 249 above, it is necessary to know that ‘it’ refers to moonlight, for analysis to proceed.

Another example:

487 for there it was again, grey and dank, lapping at wooden pilings that lined its banks
To understand this clause correctly and to be sure that it is not a metaphor, we need to establish that ‘it’ refers to a river. Or:

520 Look around, there’s a whole sea of it lapping at us everywhere we walk, sit, eat, and pray!

Here, ‘it’ is human greed. Unless we know this, accurate classification is impossible. If ‘it’ had turned out to be mud, we might have classified 520 as a norm, not an exploitation.

4.3 Mutual support

In actual text, immediate-context clues are not unsupported. They are supported by other clues, including the wider collocates. With 574 we find ‘long animal cry’, ‘bra’, ‘damp lace’, ‘coverlet’, ‘sensation’ and ‘Oh God’. Whereas 475 has the wider collocates ‘race’, ‘overtook’, ‘Championships’, and ‘qualifying time’. Thus, even though this is a rare case where the immediate lexicosyntactic context is ambiguous, the wider context is not.

Then there is the matter of the title of the work. Line 475 is from an athletics report in a newspaper; line 574 is from a work of fiction entitled *Hunter’s Harem*. These facts alone raise certain expectations in the reader.

Genuine ambiguities, then, do not occur. Even ambiguities in the immediate context are rare. They are the exception that prove the rule – for rules there undoubtedly are. Prediction on the basis of immediate-context analysis must nevertheless be approached with caution in the present stage of our knowledge. Careful corpus analysis can greatly improve the probability of our predictions (i.e. the identification of meaning from the immediate context, but a research project is needed which will be very precise about the relevant lexicosyntactic criteria, which must for the time being at least be regarded as probabilities, not certainties. We are a long way from being able to make such predictions with absolute certainty, and indeed there appear to be principled reasons why certainty is impossible. Language, after all, is an analogical system, and mathematical precision may be an inappropriate goal.

4.4 Exploitations of norms

Sense 4 typically involves waves washing gently against a shore. This use occurs in a surprisingly wide variety of syntactic patterns, while in addition metaphorical exploitations (‘a sea of cloud lapping at our feet’, ‘a sea of greed lapping at us’, ‘the carpet lapped at the glass’, ‘melancholy lapping at the lids of her eyes’ etc) are almost as common as the central, conventional meaning. This is unusual.

About 97% of uses of lap are conventional, leaving about 3% which are unconventional in various ways.
At its simplest, one particular inflection or syntactic pattern may be perfectly grammatical but rare. Thus, for example, 95% of uses of lap in sense 1 are singular; the plural inflection is perfectly grammatical, but rare. Other departures from the norm are more dramatic and more interesting. For example, ‘the lap of the valley’ (line 300) is clearly a metaphor. Valleys don’t have laps. In line 223, the word is used literally within an extended metaphor, involving a metaphorical rather than a literal search.

223 Delia Sutherland searched her lap for the offers, the arguments, the good sense

Even though the word lap here is being used in the most literal sense, it could almost be classified as an exploitation (e.g. of ‘she looked down at her lap’), not least because it is so unusual to find lap used as the direct object of a transitive verb.

4.5 Literal and metaphorical meaning

The same form of words (e.g. ‘the last lap’) can be both literal and metaphorical. Compare:

327 he span off the rain-soaked track on the last lap [literal]
370 The only thing that kept me going on the last lap of the journey was the rhythm of my steps. [Conventional metaphor, metaphoricity signalled by ‘of the journey’]
371 We met together at the station and took the train on the last lap to Cambridge. [Conventional metaphor, metaphoricity less explicitly signalled]

Both conventionality and metaphoricity are multilayered. Bolinger’s description of a dictionary as ‘a nosegay of faded metaphors’ reminds us that there are also unfaded metaphors – fresh metaphors – which do not get into a dictionary.

Sometimes it is hard to say explicitly what aspect of the context is relevant. Quite a lot of inferencing can be called for to assign a meaning to an idiomatic expression. Consider the following dialogue (the wider context of line 468):

‘What are you reading?’
‘Rereading Anna Karenina.’
‘Oh well, that should keep you going for a little while.’
‘You bet.’
‘Funny, I find I’m rereading more books now. Going through my old favourites. Must be entering the last lap.’
‘Don’t be morbid, Charles.’

The context is clearly not motor-racing or athletics, so this must be an exploitation. So far, so good. But what does it mean, and how do we know? In the story (Simon Brett’s Murder Unlimited 1984), leading up to this fragment of conversation, the participants
are on a journey, so perhaps Charles is using the expression ‘the last lap’ in its conventional idiomatic sense: the final stage of a journey. This is plausible but wrong. It does not fit with the immediate context. How would reading books be relevant to the final stage of a journey? This point can be clarified if we look at the contexts in which ‘the last lap’ does mean the final stage of a journey, where the journey, distance, or destination is mentioned explicitly: ‘of the journey’, ‘to Cambridge’, ‘a one-kilometre walk’. In contrast to these uses, ‘the last lap’ in 468 almost certainly refers to the final stage of a life approaching its end. This is not made explicit in the immediate context, but it is hinted at strongly in the response ‘Don’t be morbid’.

5 Conclusions

Sinclair’s observations and the Birmingham 7.3 million word corpus are confirmed by the BNC, which provides a much larger set of data for more extensive analysis. By a wide definition of ‘form’ and a loose definition of ‘associated’, it is true that every distinction in meaning is associated with a distinction in form. And even by a narrow definition of ‘form’ (i.e. immediate context), the axiom is true as long as care is taken to identify relevant lexicosyntactic criteria and ignore noise.

The association between meaning and form is by no means straightforward, however. Although quite strong predictions can be made about meanings on the basis of immediate-context analysis, they must, in the present state of our knowledge, be regarded as probabilistic, not certain. A painstaking and systematic corpus-based analysis of the relevant lexicosyntactic criteria for meaning distinctions would be expensive but would greatly improve the ability of computational linguists to process meanings in texts.

It is not clear that competing meanings of a word should be regarded as a checklist of fully formed, competing interpretations in any cognitively realistic sense. But perhaps a dictionary-like checklist does form part of our mental inventory when we construct utterances and participate in discourse: an inventory of prototypes to be exploited, not of meanings to be fired up mindlessly.

References


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Appendix: Exhaustive analysis of BNC citations for lap

1 BODYPART WHEN SITTING DOWN

NOUN; SYNTACTIC NORM: in/on POSSDET lap EOC

1  BODYPART WHEN SITTING DOWN

Appendix: Exhaustive analysis of BNC citations for lap
64 TimAss nervousness by fidgeting with the handbag in her lap. "But what investigation? What's happened

65 ShMker the stool near the fire. She put the last in his lap. "Hold it between your knees," she hissed

67 RBride it for you." She smoothed her napkin across her lap. "It's a nervous thing I have."

68 MBride lt for you." She smoothed her napkin across her lap. "I thought we ought to meet today because

70 Miracl ble and vulnerable. She dropped her hands to her lap. "Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but I prefer t

71 Winter he was twisting her hands tightly together in her lap. "My mother was an innocent young country l

74 SpinJe She dropped her gaze to the bundle in her lap. "She must have gone somewhere, Mr Skipton

75 Heroes cry. The others crowd round. John looks at his lap. "Thank you, all of you," he says. "Th

79 DelSut he arms of the chair, folded my hands away in my lap. "Well, people do, don't they? Men."

80 MaskOf m of her hand then she was being pulled on to his lap. "Your heart," he marvelled softly. His

82 Indigo utt and looked down at his hands, clasped in her lap. ) "Now we have to shoot again," she said

83 Fallen ... bloody Hun and they 's s s it on his lap..."

84 PriArr "Belinda picked unseeingly at her fingers in her lap. "I knew about the affair before he did

85 MEnemy f itzAlan 's eyes. Isabel 's hands clench ed in her lap. "My lord said that he 'd brought you f

86 Spring lo caught hold of it and twisted it down into her lap. "Perhaps it is time we discussed the r

87 Aromat the ground and your hands resting loosely in your lap."

88 TOnion her lips ajar, she attends to sunsets in her lap."

89 MumMsk bese pashas waiting for ladies to settle in their laps."

90 TLBaby sat down, unfolded her napkin and put it on her lap. "Nothing," said Fiona, finally

92 Heroes bed. He lifts John 's head and cradles it in his lap. "In public, Harry. Remember

93 Deadly then came directly to Jamieson and jumped on his lap. "No. He... I haven't seen him.

94 WallGm money, she placed his hand firmly back in his own lap. "Not in public, Harry. Remember

95 Oyster nt calmness at his side, her hands fold ed in her lap. "Not in public, Harry. Remember

96 SonsMo door. "I am seeing the king and will not sit on his bus he and kneel in his lap."

97 Pearly ade. She was sitting with her sketch book on her lap."

98 Shrine forth on the bed and now the tears fell on her lap. "Would you like me to fetch you s

99 PChali Agrippa and, lithe as a dancer, sprang into his lap. Agrippa stroked it carefully. (You know,

100 GoldGl . Nothing moved. He laid the shotgun across his lap. A heavy squall drove up the meadow, bowing

101 Gorbal came to in a taxi, my painful head on a woman 's lap. As we came in, she brought her head close

102 RedCou nd girl, who were regarding the open book on her lap."

103 RichBy ng for the hearth became too heavy to have on her lap. "Come on in, said Wilkie. So she stood up

104 stillL ie said ? She shifted her string bag in her rigid lap."

105 TbFore right with their hands clenched together in their laps. "I am seeing the king and will not sit on his bus he and kneel in his lap."

106 LadYKi d smiled as she saw her sitting on her husband 's lap."

107 Tortoi d the plaster. "I hate to say this, Mr/NP. Kopek

108 TooFar riting left-handedly on a notepad balanced on her lap."

109 dreams and overturned the plate so that it landed on his lap. Mushrooms bounced about the plank floor. H

110 Truths e portmanteau. Cornelius had his suitcase on his lap."

111 MouthR l I decided that it was time for me to sit on his lap."

112 LadyK printed on the nearest armchair, cradling across her lap."

113 FollyC bout, he took her hand and guided it down to his lap."

114 21

115 21
Blood was rocking herself, her arms folded in her lap. She felt desolate. "Being Irish I

DngrLd t Johnstone took the package and placed it on her lap. She looked at Sarah's face with troubled eyes. "There go the family jewels," thought Agger as he looked at the crowd noise hushed. The stewardess tried to comfort her, but the rest of you and the pushchair can fit in the car seat. Tiny called his poor little princess. "At the cemetery I

Partic "She sat quietly for a little, her hands in her lap. She said it was a routine enquiry and the p

Tapedd sat down on the sofa and folded her hands in her lap. She was wretchedly conscious of Rohan's watch and thecentre of it was a plastic mould in which the big cat climbed stiffly down off the de

Conduc gnes, just sat with her hands primly in her lap. The stewardess tried to comfort her, but the rest of you and the pushchair can fit in the car seat. Tiny called his poor little princess. "At the cemetery I

Crimsn firmly clasping her old-fashioned handbag and her shahla st animal that had a habit of nuzzling people's laps."

Device oken Mill. One of the twins had had a bad sit on her lap. She moved a little but I couldn't have care

Sates Beach, her head dropped and tears fell into her lap. She was wretchedly conscious of Rohan's watch and thecentre of it was a plastic mould in which the big cat climbed stiffly down off the de

BadDm hands were released, and he dropped them to his lap. She was wretchedly conscious of Rohan's watch and thecentre of it was a plastic mould in which the big cat climbed stiffly down off the de

StPetr the creamy Aran knitting grew perceptibly on her lap. What she told me about vegetable growing me

FlyinA acket in its path and floated them onto X's lap. X had definitely known better days.

moneyartment-store Santa she shuffled the kids on her lap: the kids, they did their shift, and I was tre

Vitic " She sat quietly for a little, her hands in her lap. Then she said: "He left me 80,000. Did y

shahLa last animal that had a habit of nuzzling people's laps. There go the family jewels, thought Agger as he looked at the crowd noise hushed. The stewardess tried to comfort her, but the rest of you and the pushchair can fit in the car seat. Tiny called his poor little princess. "At the cemetery I

5Gates Beach, her head dropped and tears fell into her lap. She was wretchedly conscious of Rohan's watch and thecentre of it was a plastic mould in which the big cat climbed stiffly down off the de

TimHis e slipped off their load, and hold them in their laps. The night god, who takes over when the da

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Tapedd sat down on the sofa and folded her hands in her lap. She was wretchedly conscious of Rohan's watch and thecentre of it was a plastic mould in which the big cat climbed stiffly down off the de

TSpice ! You went nuts when Amy caught you sitting on my lap _ " . PP A

FlyinA acket in its path and floated them onto X's lap. X had definitely known better days.

money money money money. " She flattened the spread comfortably on her lap; the Hitchcock exhibit in which the birds of

Crimsn firmly clasping her old-fashioned handbag and her shahla st animal that had a habit of nuzzling people's laps."

PapFac . Gloria said, "Come over here now, lay in my lap. Suck your thumb, there's a love. " PP A

Lively sat quite still, with his hands clenched in his lap. She was biting her lip and looking at the c

nightsale . She flattened the spread comfortably on her lap; the Hitchcock exhibit in which the birds of

DngrLd t Johnstone took the package and placed it on her lap. She looked at Sarah's face with troubled e

Scapeg conscience. " He lifted the cat off his lap and stood up. <p.136> Going already? "<p.136> "No."

CrowRd , "I moaned. KYAG. I put the folder down in my lap and put my forehead on the folder. <p.225> "

FalcoA the age of 2 on departure if they travel on your lap and share a bedroom with two others. Some co

AwrBig that, " he said, and she fell sideways onto his lap and shut her eyes against the whirling room,

Scapeg conscience. "<p.136> He lifted the cat off his lap and stood up. <p.136> Going already? "<p.136> "No."

TSpice! You went nuts when Amy caught you sitting on my lap _ " . PP A

Waking ll and saw the huge man placing a box on Matta's lap - a game, with something like a worm carved

DbSpel broom first, and then settled the bucket in her lap. Burnha her stands a child, who nurses a pet bird on her lap, and after a moment's concentration, began

ChuKuo is hint, Fei Yen straightened the p'i p 'a in her lap and, after a moment's concentration, began

FlooWa ge and Matthew, Ruth O'Dell, with Lili an on her lap and Danny at her feet _ and Maudie Judge, wi
269 SeReedy ther 's presence , but the rocking , cud dling and lap play which had been so expressly forb idden
263 LdAppS ,000 baby car seats are being recalled a mid fears lap belt guides could break . Seat makers  Klippan
212 BestMn . " .PP Samantha jerked a thick black ca t off her lap and trailed listlessly via the kitchen to the
271 CommKg ilippa 's face just as she had done to h er little lap dog . " And the duke wore it , prefer ring it
265 PilotB  was still within the cockpit , restrain ed by his lap harness . The emergency services were  in atte
268 CLivnA 0 , from Elliot Fine Fabrics . Lime brok en-stripe lap rug from Colefax & Fowler , as be fore . R
213 PDarkn troduction . Your only mistake was that the small lap dog Deveril carried was either overlo oked or
217 Hermet e . Just relax . " She cradled Ari 's head in her lap and gave in to the overwhelming sensa
219 Matild k on her lap . It was necessary to rest it on the lap panting in a bewildered fashion . He gave a
224 BuddSb o start talking blood had started to dri p into my lap from my nose as a result of Charlie chucking
225 BuddSb o start talking blood had started to dri p into my lap from my nose as a result of Charlie chucking
228 Meddlr damp coats and tried to find dry patches  on their laps on which to rest their notebooks . <p_31> Se
240 Catlor te effect . For the cat , in search of a  friendly lap on which to sit , makes a bee-line fo r this i
225 moneyy w whether anybody included her . She 'd sat on my lap
229 MbNews Angeles . .PP And he rested sleeping Renee on his lap
230 LatchK  melodramatically , and put it down firm ly in her lap before he had any further ideas . " Y eah , I
231 Matt166Q kitten , who thinks nothing of leaping o n to your lap at mealtimes , digging her claws into  your le
232 PchMaA s . While her husband threw up violently  into the lap of the Japanese Prime Minister and th e world
233 WomArC child surrounded by the warmth and comfo rt of the lap of the " big woman " is a memory of t hings pa
235 MeddIr damp coats and tried to find dry patches on their laps on which to rest their notebooks . <p_31> Se
237 Branch n French honours and laid them in my elder son 's lap
241 MistTm t . Perhaps he was ill . Sammy was sitti ng on his lap panting in a bewildered fashion . He gave a
243 LadyKi her nose loudly . <p_233> Placing the doll on her lap she pulled the legs off . Kate knew everywher
245 Creedd t down on the top step and settled the c at in his lap so that he could examine her injured tail . I
246 Meddlr damp coats and tried to find dry patches  on their laps on which to rest their notebooks . <p_31> Se
247 WhatIt compartment _ napkins tucked into shirt collars , laps spread with paper bags . The code of agreeme
248 C1wnPB " Misow ." The person with the cushion on their lap then has to stroke them on the head and say "
251 Meddlr damp coats and tried to find dry patches on their laps on which to rest their notebooks . <p_31> Se
252 QueBab e grazes made her wince . He put the flask on her lap to free both his hands for the cleaning , and
253 TstDth overs . " <p_63> The hands clasped loosely in his lap
254 Meddlr damp coats and tried to find dry patches on their laps on which to rest their notebooks . <p_31> Se
255 FunbrA n travel go free , but must travel on an  adult 's lap unless there is a free seat available  . On al
256 HCIHoA  seat on the aircraft and must sit on a parent 's lap unless there is an unoccupied seat availab
257 Unsuit _121> " Yes , she particularly likes to lie on my lap when I 'm wearing it , " said Sophia , examin
258 Lucker else . He looks blunted . His hands fall  into his lap when he attempts light gestures . His  head wo
259 AmPrin , beginning with the beautiful hands lyi ng in her lap which had visibly never done a stroke  of work
260 AmPrin better by dabbing at the debris on Mrs Darrell 's lap with a damask napkin , made them worse . .PP
266 CnstNac passenger in the family Sierra and was wearing a lap seat belt like the one on the left , when the
267 FlyinA d . Forward seat belts each comprised a two-piece lap strap , fastened by a buckle , and an inertia
268 CLivnA 0 , from Elliot Fine Fabrics . Lime brok en-stripe lap rug from Colefax &amp; Fowler , as before . R
269 SReedy ther 's presence , but the rocking , cud dling and lap play which had been so expressly forbidden _

AS MODIFIER: lap belt, lap box, lap strap, lap rug

263 LDapp ,000 baby car seats are being recalled amid fears lap belt guides could break . Seat makers Klippan
264 GuitaB a resonator on the top and pedals . He also has a lap box which his father built for him , and that
266 CnstNac passenger in the family Sierra and was wearing a lap seat belt like the one on the left , when the
267 FlyinA d . Forward seat belts each comprised a two-piece lap strap , fastened by a buckle , and an inertia
268 CLivnA 0 , from Elliot Fine Fabrics . Lime brok en-stripe lap rug from Colefax &amp; Fowler , as before . R
269 SReedy ther 's presence , but the rocking , cud dling and lap play which had been so expressly forbidden _

AS MODIFIER: lap dog

270 Mgall priest , and not your messenger boy , your little lap dog ! In these matters I will say what I beli
271 Commkkg ilippa 's face just as she had done to her little lap dog . " And the duke wore it , preferring it
272 DogToA TV DOGS <DL> <DT> 1 . <DD> <LI> Ethel Skinner 's lap dog <DT> 2 . <DD> <LI> The Hart to Hart dog <p_127> PDarkn troduction . Your only mistake was that the small lap dog Deveril carried was either overlooked or

23

PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: living in the lap of luxury

PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: in the lap of the gods

Exploitations

2 ONCE ROUND A TRACK

NOUN; SYNTACTIC NORMS: NUMERAL[ORDINAL/CARDINAL] lap; on lap NUMERAL[CARDINAL]
As the race headed towards the final 10 laps, he was in second place, but under serious
threat from teammate Schumacher. If Schumacher got really close in the final laps, he would have gone flat out and to hell with
his reputation. Heavy rain stopped everyone after 18 laps, so it was back to go for a second start.

The angry flaring box on his gasoline-soaked lap, spun on his heel and walked quickly away in
the final round at Thruxton next week to
finish either first, or second plus the fastest lap,
the Italian veteran was edged into fifth place,
the double retirement with electrical prob-

Leis into the lead at the Curva Do Sol on the opening lap, leaving Mansell in close pursuit ahead of S
as though he had a point to prove. On the first lap,
the Italian veteran was edged into fifth place,
attacked, had Senna got really close in the final laps, he would have gone flat out and to hell with
his reputation. Heavy rain stopped everyone after 18 laps, so it was back to go for a second start.

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the final round at Thruxton next week to
finish either first, or second plus the fastest lap,
great all day and I was really relaxed until six laps from the end . .PP " But after that , I suff

FFormul e race in South Africa and the car went sick four laps from the end ; he had Monaco in his gift , t

LgLeis was quick and I was willing to hold about until 10 laps from the finish when I thought the engine so

FFormul e been to break the magical seven-minute mark in 1975 , and that very little had been done

CnNeF tone tonight . . . Nigel Mansell was in a scorching form when he had his fastest lap in the opening qualifying session . .PP The fas

AAeis seven place after he had spun off on the final lap in the rain . .PP Only seven cars were classi

EBFINA very odd posture for driving , they set off for 5 laps from these amazing cars . .PP Next up , two

AutocC eir way through the back-markers on lap 15 . Four laps later, Senna took the opportunity to close

FFormul a, stranding him behind Depailler , and then two laps later , when he was trying to overtake Depa

DCLeis s at Donington , was forced to call it a day four laps later . .PP Rugby Union : Quins rally best

LDLeis ia team broke clear on the circuit and with three laps left they were joined by Norwegian Ole Simen

LeLeis in 1936 . .PP A women 's race over one lap looks set for a local victory by British cham

DALeis 7sec adrift of Mansell 's record pole lap of 1--15.703 on the 2.687-mile track at an av

BfLeis , it 's not over yet , is it ? . .PP The fastest lap of 118.085mph by Tracy in his Chevrolet-power

FFormul e an assent of the Whistlefield on each of the four laps of Rosneath . .PP Stag

Naleis r after he had spun off on the final lap in the rain . .PP The old order may not hav

FFormul e race in South Africa and the car went sick four laps from the end ; he had Monaco in his gift , t

Jardies Hardy , who ran the fastest intermediate lap in the Northern relay championships at Derby

BfLeis , struggling with oversteer , recorded a quickest lap of 1--17.591 , 1.8sec slower . That was still

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Immediate context analysis

460 EsquiD ol 's Escort XRi 's under his instruction , three laps with him driving and five laps in a single-s
461 NonSca Most of us set ourselves personal targets : four laps within six minutes , for example . As time w
462 NMExpD ns , these ugly ducklings have started the second lap with their feathers unruffled and their rhythm
463 living If it is 2/3km around a running track , how many laps would a runner have to make to do 12km ? <pa
464 Formul at only those drivers who had completed the first lap would be allowed to re-start . At the time

Idiomatic Phrases

PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: DET lap of honour
465 Cristi ust a Union Jack into my hand and I set off on my lap of honour , the first British sprinter to win
466 MbSpor aped over one arm , revels in the applause on his lap of honour </ct> <h1> CRACKERS ! </h1> .PP BRI
467 WildJu sroom . Harbury was doing what Holly would call a lap of honour , circling the room saying goodbyes

PHRASEOLOGICAL NORM: the last lap [of a journey]
468 Mnpro ugh my old favourites . Must be entering the last lap . " <p_152> " Don't be morbid , Charles
469 NestOe the tarry , fishy air . The tide was in ; water lapped against the harbour wall . She came to a b
470 HighJy 14> The only thing that kept me going on the last lap of the journey was the rhythm of my steps . I
471 ClimbA , on the snowfields of the col du Midi . The last lap was a one kilometre walk up the gently inclin

3 DRIVE OR RUN ROUND A CIRCUIT; OVERTAKE SOMEONE WHO IS ON A PREVIOUS LAP

VERB TRANSITIVE; SYNTACTIC NORMS: [DRIVER/COMPETITOR] lap [DRIVER/COMPETITOR]; [DRIVER/COMPETITOR] lap [CIRCUIT]
473 Formul ical mistake , which put Niki on Tambay 's tail . Lapping Laffite , Tambay got back easily , but N
474 AutoCA pion Erik Comas closed in but spun when trying to lap Andrew Gilbert Scott . Comas recovered , alth
475 NaLeis s run with the intermediate boys , and as well as lapping her two female rivals Matthew overtook tw
476 DiLeis been tested all over the world . <p_10> They have lapped the 14-mile Nurburgring circuit 40 seconds
477 BcLeis n his Westfield , but when the pair came round to lap the Metro class for the first time , Porter f
478 TaSpor o Ardiles and Ricky Villa , just weeks after they lapped the River Plate Stadium in Buenos Aires as

4 WATER

VERB; SYNTACTIC NORM: [WATER] lap [ADVERBIAL OF PLACE]
479 NTabgB e way of low tide . <BLOCKQUOTE> .PP The water lapped about their feet , and they went back to t
480 WCycle lily he went to sleep to the sound of little waves lapping against the sea-wall . <page=85> <h1> CHA
481 Hudist q the tarry , fishy air . The tide was in ; water lapped against the harbour wall . She came to a b
482 PalAcS e there . I sit on a rock and listen to the water lap and the boys whistle as they pull their tin b
483 Attenb it hummocks its way closer to the sea . The waves lap around it , the deepening water lifts its bod
484 Coffin river and stood there at the opening , the water lapping at his feet . <p_89> Behind him Place and
485 BirdWa e way of coast guard stations , it once had waves lapping at its doorstep . But , over the last hun
486 TalesM tops of my thighs when I got in ; cooler now , it lapped at the dome of my stomach . Two flannels ,
487 CommKg there it [the river] was again , grey and dank , lapping at wooden pilings that lined its banks .
488 PalAcS something . There is just the sound of the water lapping gently at the prow , the occasional laugh
489 Heathn e on . <ch> Forty-Six </h1> <p_179> The bathwater lapped gently up around her neck as she slid deep
490 DTrick tumult of adversarial currents , the turbid water lapping high at the trunks of willows and alders
491 LastEn omed , hung with mist , and below them lake water lapped on the flattened shingle . The smell of wa
492 ClimbBr nd around the great buttresses above , lake-water lapping on the shingle shore where I was standing
493 FlooWa ked against the stone wall and the freezing water lapped over his boots . He remained like that for
494 AdamPa m the spears ; and , stumbling , she felt the sea lap round her ankles . <p_52> The spears followed
495 MidKng elt glass . The tide was high but on the turn , lapping sluggishly against the rocks at the river
496 UnPass air . .PP There was a silence . The turquoise sea lapped softly at the hot white sands . .PP Tony s
The dying ripples of its massive tidal wave lapped up the English Channel, and the volcanic
SYNTACTIC NORM: [PLACE] be lapped by [WAVES]

beaches are to be found in the south and east, lapped by gentle clear waters and warm sea breeze

CitalA di Jesolo and Caorle, with miles of golden sand lapped by the warm waters of the Adriatic. To th

VERBAL ADJECTIVE

Brooch girls build a sand-elephant beyond the sun-danced lapping blue of the Indian Ocean. The girls chat

VERBAL NOUN

Brooch was gone. She was naked, and inanimate textiles lapped her skin. She was naked, and inanimate

VERB TRANSITIVE (literal)

VERB WITH ADVERBIAL OF PLACE: METAPHORS AND OTHER EXPLOITATIONS

VERB TRANSITIVE: METAPHORS AND OTHER EXPLOITATIONS

Hermet ome a star shape in the water. It [the water] is lapping, lapping, stroking your breasts, your

VERB INTRANSITIVE: EXPLOITATION

ANIMAL DRINKING

VERB; SYNTACTIC NORM: [CREATURE] lap (up) [LIQUID]
6 PERSON ABSORBING (AND ENJOYING) INFORMATION, PRAISE, etc

VERB; SYNTACTIC NORM: [PERSON] lap up [INFORMATION/BOOK/WRITER/PLEASURE/PRAISE/EXPERIENCE – PLEASURABLE]

Books are already so popular with the media that they will lap her up. It is a fun glitzy read, and I hope Papers roundwise false letters and die of laughter as he lapped them up. Probably she had some old typing

Spice rawling out of the woodwork, eyes like saucers, lapping it all up. It makes me so angry _ any on

TSPrie and the later Yeats; and I discovered that they lapped this up as if slaking a mental thirst. In

Hunter writes an essay on how can elaisfrom thereby it, he lapped her, PP-60510er, Grischler's Rhynis tee

Levernow Alex, who is single and lives in London, is lapping up Buddymania from signing sessions outsi

GoodFB liers. _p_17> If you enjoy a whodunnit, you'll lap up Janet Laurence's Hotel Morgue (Macmillan

CntNeF r and now five month old Teka is fighting fit and lapping up all the attention. PP Teka has tried

House r way. Le

KylieM married. Any viewers on both sides of the globe lap every sugary second to the dream story-

ManEnd elve young boys and girls clustered around him to lap up his words of wisdom. _page=246> _p_246> *

SoundA t, technical matters aside, the whole thing was lapped up keenly by the crowd. Rumoured appearan

MaFeat hout even waiting to be asked _ what 's up? _ he laps up the attention. Prompting some to suggest

SEDIMENTOLOGY TERM

Sediment set thickness when they begin to "float" on the lap, a process aided by the diamond-impregnated

Sediment sample, a hacksaw will produce a face ready for lapping. The surface need not be perfectly flat

The section is then returned to the Precision Lapping Machine with paraffin oil and 600F grit a

Sediment etres thick and lapped flat or polished, using a lapping compound with paraffin oil lubricant. _p

Sediment time is not critical. For critical work, final lapping is done with 0.25 µm diamond paste

Sediment also has the advantage of freeing the precision lapping machine for preparing successive batches

Sediment ion stages. With a properly maintained precision lapping machine, it should easily be possible to

Sediment is accomplished on a precision free abrasive flat lapping machine ( F1g/NP. 4.5b ). The slices are

Sediment face, truing <reg> and conditioning of the lead lap must be done frequently, and care taken to e

Sediment during this process. After washing and change of lap paper, polishing is continued with 1 µmicron; m diamond paste

Sediment as lubricant. _p_87> One or more faces are then lapped smooth either by hand or by an automatic l

Sediment piled to the first face, which is mounted on the lapped surface of the slide. The assembly is the

Sediment G THE CUT FACE</h4> _p_102> Sawn faces should be lapped to at least 600F Carborundum stage. For g

UNCLASSIFIED

Butter s, her inflamed stirrings of the senses _ all be lapped away. A louder shout than usual took her

Limage as so swiftly melted into the next as a tiny wave lapped up cold, life-restoring liquid from a sm

Hunter writhed in an agony of pleasure. Mercilessly, he lapped her, sucked her, grazed her with his tee

Father he street, open his trousers and feel her tongue lap him and her lips close on him. But the moment

Irelnd tuesque elderly lady in curly grey hair, several laps of necklaces and a sweeping gown that may ha

ChuKuo own bitterly, her hands pulling anxiously at the lap of her dress, then stood angrily. _p_228> *

Butter robe around his undried nakedness, relishing the lap of texture on wet skin. The candles were all

Indigo ed. From beyond the reef the big fish swam in to lap, the monsters the islanders most feared, th
Words in Context

9 NAMES and NOISE

EMysts and to fall into alignment with others was Gill 's Lap , high on Ashdown Forest . This was movingly
EMysts through the medium of sound . On visiting Gill 's Lap pine clump , it seemed to him that the sound
GtRace he training bill . <p_82> The colt was named Phar Lap , Sinhalese for " lightning ". He was gelded
GtRace > What was established beyond doubt was that Phar Lap , winner of thirty-seven of his fifty-one rac
GmpGO gh C/C ++ 386 compiler and mdb debugger and Phar Lap Software Inc 's 386Link object linker , sourc
GtRace as not bothered . One slap from his whip and Phar Lap cruised into the lead again , winning by two
GtRace ke a move , and in a matter of a few strides Phar Lap had stormed up from last to first . Coming ro
GtRace 13--2 , and Reveille Boy was 72--10 . <p_83> Phar Lap was ridden by Bill " Urn " Elliott , who got
GtRace _ Phar Lap . <p_82> " The Red Terror ", as Phar Lap was to become known , was a freak of breedin
BGSRpt Kong , Sir David Wilson , on the geology of Chek Lap Kok , the site of the planned new airport for
envd47 ee islands in the world _ Lamma , Lantau and Chek Lap Kok . Discovered in 1953 by Hong Kong herpet
envd47 opulation of rare tree frogs on Hong Kong 's Chek Lap Kok island is to be destroyed to make way for
Nuke00 P protein could efficiently inhibit the action of LAP [ 27 ] . This was apparently not the case in
krw102 Representatives , the NDPL gained 51 seats , the LAP eight , the LUP three and the UP two . <ct> 1
dogWhe <p_341> It was necessary to find another name for lap ii/us . Swainson ( 1840 ) had called this ani
dogWhe , later , Norwich Crag , the shells are all of N. lap ii/us . The advance and subsequent retreat of

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Immediate constituent analysis, in linguistics, a system of grammatical analysis that divides sentences into successive layers, or constituents, until, in the final layer, each constituent consists of only a word or meaningful part of a word. (A constituent is any word or construction that enters i. Encyclopaedia Britannica's editors oversee subject areas in which they have extensive knowledge, whether from years of experience gained by working on that content or via study for an advanced degree. See Article History. Alternative Title: IC analysis. A synchronic morphological analysis is most effectively accomplished by the procedure known as the analysis into immediate constituents (IC’s). Immediate constituents are any of the two meaningful parts forming a larger linguistic unity. The main opposition dealt with is the opposition of stem and affix. It is a kind of segmentation revealing not the history of the word but its motivation, i.e. the data the listener has to go by in understanding it. The method is based on the fact that a word characterized by morphological divisibility (analysable into morphemes) is involved in c Discourse analysis is concerned with the relationship between language and the contexts it is used in. It is not a methodology of teaching and knowledge of discourse is not always useful to the language teacher. It occurs sometimes very broad in meanings. Originally the word 'discourse' comes from Latin 'discursus' which denoted 'conversation, speech'. However, discourse refers to too wide an area of human existence. The study of discourse has developed in a variety of disciplines-sociolinguistics, anthropology, sociology, and social psychology. Thus discourse analysis takes different theoretical perspectives and analytic approaches. Conjoint Analysis Usage. Conjoint studies aid in advertising. By research the company can selected the most desirable attributes to be marketed. For example, after conjoint analysis, the company determines that brand and hardware configuration of the phone is most important to its users. It would then design advertisements that well promote these attributes and that do not focus on price which is a secondary concern in this case. The most common usage is new product development. Conjoint analysis identifies opportunities by fusing attributes to generate new products and services that are not