

## Exploring the Use of Adverb Literally in Corpus of Contemporary American English

Indah Nur Azizah<sup>1\*</sup>

Wahya<sup>2</sup>

Susi Machdalena<sup>3</sup>

Universitas Padjadjaran

Bandung Sumedang Road km 21 Jatinangor, Sumedang Indonesia

\*[indah19006@mail.unpad.ac.id](mailto:indah19006@mail.unpad.ac.id)

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the use of adverb literally by a native speaker. It is qualitative descriptive research. The main source of this research is the data from one of the online corpora, namely Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). There are three steps used in this research, namely data collection, data analysis, and result analysis. Based on the data from COCA, this research describes the frequency of adverb literally used in COCA and how the adverb is used in the sentence by knowing the particle that follows it. Theories used in this research are the theory of adverb by Pichler (2016) which is supported by Murphy's theory (1993) and the types of an adverb by Frank (1972). The result shows that the frequency of the word literally used in COCA amounted to 39.109 contained in the range of 1990 to 2019. The adverb is mostly used in the context of spoken language which is 8.339. The collocation and the concordance lines in COCA are used to find out the particle that follows the adverb literally. The collocation in this research is divided into three classes of words, namely verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Based on the concordance lines of adverbs in COCA, we can know that the adverb does not have the same position in the sentence. The position of adverb literally can change based on the context of the sentence.

**Keywords:** adverb, corpus, American English

### ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan penggunaan adverb literally yang digunakan oleh native speaker. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini diambil dari dalam satu korpus online yaitu Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Terdapat tiga tahapan dalam*

*penelitian ini, yaitu tahap pengumpulan data, tahap analisis data, dan tahap penyajian hasil analisis data. berdasarkan data yang terdapat dalam COCA, penelitian ini mendeskripsikan frekuensi penggunaan adverb literally yang terdapat dalam COCA dan bagaimana adverb literally digunakan dalam kalimat dengan mengetahui partikel yang mengikuti adverb tersebut. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini yaitu teori adverb yang dikemukakan oleh Pichler (2016) yang di dukung oleh teori Murphy (1993) dan jenis-jenis adverb menurut Frank (1972). Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa frekuensi penggunaan adverb literally dalam COCA berjumlah 39.109 yang terdapat dalam rentang tahun 1990 sampai 2019. Adverb literally paling banyak digunakan dalam konteks bahasa lisan yang berjumlah 8.339. Collocation dan concordance lines yang terdapat dalam COCA digunakan untuk menemukan partikel yang mengikuti adverb literally. Collocation yang terdapat dalam penelitian ini dibagi menjadi tiga kelas kata yaitu verba, adjektiva, dan adverbia. Berdasarkan pada concordance lines dalam adverb literally yang terdapat dalam COCA, kita dapat mengetahui bahwa adverb literally tidak memiliki posisi yang sama dalam sebuah kalimat. Posisi adverb dapat berubah berdasarkan pada konteks kalimat.*

**Kata kunci:** *adverbia, korpus, American English*

## INTRODUCTION

English is an international language used throughout the world by speakers of various languages. This is due to the role of English itself, namely as the lingua franca. In other words, English is used as a common communication tool between people from various countries around the world which is used in various contexts, such as in the fields of education, business, entertainment, tourism, and so on. As its role is used as a means of communication throughout the world, it is common knowledge that more and more Indonesians use English as a means of communication (Nugroho, 2019: 95). There is a unique phenomenon that is still being discovered until now, namely the mixing of the use of Indonesian and English in a speech or known as code-switching.

This phenomenon occurs when an Indonesian speaker uses English vocabulary while they speak Indonesian. One of the most frequently used English vocabulary words is the adverb literally. The phenomenon of code-switching by using one of the vocabulary words in English, which occurred among millennial children or the millennial generation around 2008 and until now there is still a phenomenon using this word, one of which is in the social media Twitter. This code-mixing phenomenon is known as 'Bahasa Anak jaksel' (Sari, 2018: 138).

In general, an adverb is a word or phrase that modifies or describes an adjective, verb, or phrase that expresses the relationship between place, time, and way. One type of adverbial in English is the adverb of manner, which is usually formed by adding the suffix -ly to the classy root adjective or adjective

such as bad + -ly = badly, careful + -ly = carefully, literal + -ly = literally, and so on.' The word literally which is the focus of this research is one of the adverbs of manners in English, which comes from the word class adjective becoming an adverb after adding the suffix -ly. According to Gelderen (2002), Reinard (2008), and Sher (2011) in Quansah & Tetteh (2017: 45) states that the adverb is part of the grammatical (or functional) category of part of speech that is often overlooked and not often examined with the main (lexical) category of part of speech which means that adverbials are often ignored and that they are often not checked lexically in speech. This can be the reason why there are several English adverbials in the code-mixing phenomenon, especially those that are widely used by the millennial generation.

Based on this phenomenon, this research aims to find out how adverb literally is used by native speakers by describing the frequency of adverb literally found in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and describing the elements that follow each adverb literally contained in the COCA.

Based on the objectives of this study, the data used in this study were taken from one of the online corpus, namely COCA contained in <https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>. The data used in this study is limited to the data contained in the section with the highest percentage of adverb literally usage.

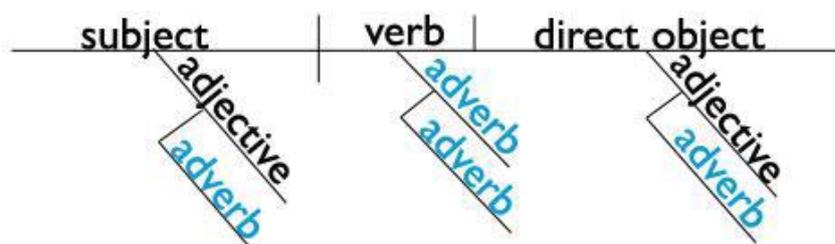
In conducting this research, research on adverbs in English is found in many previous studies such as research studied by Mutiara (2018), Diana (2019), and Nugroho (2019). In the research reviewed by previous researchers, it has the same focus, namely examining adverbs in English. Studies reviewed by Mutiara (2018) entitled "Adverbs in Expressions of Disagreement: A Corpus Study". This research focuses on adverbs that disagree with incorporations online, namely COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English) and BNC (British National Corpus) showing disagreement expressions contained in a corpus provides a lot of insight into how these expressions occur naturally in communication. The result of the research found that expressions of disagreement tend to occur with adverbs. Adverbs are used to indicate time, manner, degree, restrictive, and stance (epistemic and attitude). Diana (2019) entitled "A Corpus Study of Degree Adverb Collocations in Research Articles Across Disciplines". This research focuses on the degree of adverbs collocation in research articles across disciplines. The result of this research found that aspects of lexical collocation, semantic preference, and semantic prosody are tied to the nature of each discipline. Concerning adverb combinations of degree and semantic preference, those aspects generally vary more in social disciplines than in health and physics disciplines. Besides, Nugroho's research (2019) entitled "How Dead? Investigating the Use of the Adverb *dead* by American and British People: A Corpus-Based Study" focuses on the difference in the use of the adverb used by Americans and British people in two corporations

online, namely COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English) and BNC (British National Corpus). The result of this research found that in terms of frequency and distribution there are several similarities and differences. The difference lies in the number of times the adverb *dead* appears in the two corpora, that is, it is more frequently found in COCA compared to BNC. On the other hand, they have something in common because these adverbs mostly appear in fictional and oral contexts and appear most rarely in academic contexts in COCA and BNC.

Based on the foregoing, the equation of this study with previous research lies in the study subjects were used that adverb in English and the things that distinguish this study is the object that is used to focus on adverb literally contained in the corpora online that COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English).

Adverbs according to Pichler (2016) in Quansah and Tetteh (2017: 45) are modified verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Murphy (1993: 192) in Puspitasari (2010: 10) states that an adverb explains about a verb and in what someone does something or in what way something happens. In essence, an adverb is a word used to describe adjectives, verbs, and even adverbs themselves and describe how someone does something and how things happen. In general, an adverb or adverb in English is formed by adding the suffix *-ly* to the suffix of the adjective. In English, adverbs are included in one of the important word classes as illustrated in Figure 1. The diagram explains that the adjective describes or modifies the subject (noun or pronoun), the adverb describes or modifies the verb, adjective, or verb others (Peters & Westerstahl, 2006 in Quansah & Tetteh, 2017: 45).

Picture 1:  
The function of the adverb in a sentence



Source: [www.English-Grammar-Revolution.com](http://www.English-Grammar-Revolution.com)

The importance of adverbs in English is partly due to both oral and written reasons, it is not possible to provide an adequate description of what someone has done or done without an adverb. The position of an adverb in a sentence is important when there is more than one verb in a sentence. If the adverb is placed after the clause adverb serves to modify all the action described by the clause, as in the following sentence:

- (1) a. She quickly agreed to re-type the letter. (her agreement was quick)  
b. She agreed to re-type the letter quickly. (the re-typing was quick)
- (2) a. He silently asked me to leave the house. (his request was silent)  
b. He asked me to leave the house silently. (the leaving was silent)

The importance of placing the adverb in a sentence affects the meaning contained in a sentence. This can be seen in the two example sentences above, in which in each number the meaning contained in points a and b differ depending on the position of the placement adverb in the sentence.

According to Frank (1972: 141) in the *Modern English Book*, there are several types of adverbs in English, among them:

1) Adverb of Manner

Adverb of manners has a characteristic in forming the word class by adding the suffix *-ly* at the end of an adjective, such as 'he runs quickly' or 'she opened the window quietly.'

2) Adverb of Place

Adverbs of place are used to describe places, such as here, there, below, near, and so on. Examples of adverbs of place in sentences such as 'he came in' or 'they walked down.'

3) Adverb of Time

The adverb of time shows when something happened. The forms adverb of time such as immediately, then, now, yesterday, tomorrow, later, daily, and so on.

According to Kurniawati (2014: 1), adverbs have variations according to their type, namely morphologically and syntactically. Morphologically, adverb can be classified into 3, namely simple adverb, compound adverb, and complex adverb. Syntactically, adverbs can be classified into 10, namely adverb of degree, adverb of manner, adverb of time, adverb of place, adverb of frequency, adverb duration, adverb of affirmation, adverb of probability, relative adverb, and interrogative adverb

## METHOD

This research is qualitative descriptive research. The corpus used as data is obtained from the COCA which can be accessed through <https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>. COCA has more than 1 billion words contained in the text (25+ million words every 1990-2019) from eight genres, namely oral, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, academic texts (with updates in March 2020), sub on TV and movies, blogs and other web pages. Qualitative descriptive research is research conducted based on facts or phenomena of language that empirically live in its speakers which will produce a description of the language that is like a portrait or exposure as it is (Sudaryanto, 2015: 62). Therefore, this study will describe the frequency of use of adverb literally and the elements that follow it contained in COCA.

Descriptive analysis is research that aims to describe or describe systematically the data to be studied.

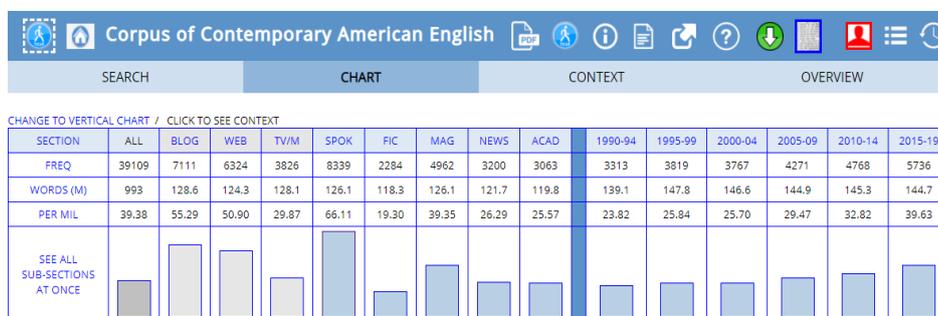
There are three steps used in this research, namely the data collection, the data analysis, and the display of the analysis of the results. In the data collection method, the researchers used three steps under the theory put forward by (Sudaryanto, 2015: 12), namely the first data collection is done by write down the results of data search on each corpus, the second, selecting and sorting the data needed and not. The third, structuring based on the parts that are the source of the data to be used. In the data analysis method, the researchers used a distributed method to analyze the adverb *literally* contained in COCA (*Corpus of Contemporary American English*). There are several stages in data collection, namely open the online corpus website through the pages <https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>, write the word *literally* in the search section found in the online corpus, choose data by looking at the highest percentage of data in the section contained in the online corpus, and arrange the data contained in the section with the highest percentage as data to be studied. In the method of the results analysis display, this study uses an informal method. The informal method is a method with the formulation using ordinary words. It is used to describe the use of adverb *literally* in COCA.

The steps involved in this research are the researchers wrote the word *literally* as the keyword used to get the data and describes the frequency of the use of the adverb *literally* in COCA. The data with the highest percentage of the use of adverb *literally* presented as the data in this study and the data used to see the elements that follow it.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents data analysis and discussion of the findings contained in this study. The following is data on the frequency of use of the adverb *literally* in COCA.

Picture 2:  
 The frequency of *Adverb literally* in COCA



Based on the figure above, the frequency of the use of the word *literally* in COCA is 39,109, with the most used in the spoken section or found in the

data in the oral context, which are 8,339. The use of the word literally in COCA was mostly found from 2015 to 2019, which is 5,736. Based on the highest frequency of the use of the adverb literally, which is found in an oral context, this shows that the word literally is often used in informal situations.

Furthermore, based on the definition of the adverb, which is a word that modifies a verb, adjective, and other adverbs, here are collocations or words that come before and after the adverb literally. Collocation in this study is divided into three classes of words, namely verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

Picture 3:  
 Verb Collocation for the Adverb *Literally* in COCA



Picture 4:  
 Adjective Collocation for the Adverb *Literally* in COCA



Picture 5:  
 Adverb Collocation for the Adverb *Literally* in COCA

HELP	CONTEXT	FREQ
1	<input type="checkbox"/> JUST	253
2	<input type="checkbox"/> QUITE	191
3	<input type="checkbox"/> ALMOST	41
4	<input type="checkbox"/> SO	38
5	<input type="checkbox"/> NOW	23
6	<input type="checkbox"/> REALLY	21
7	<input type="checkbox"/> OUT	21
8	<input type="checkbox"/> UP	19
9	<input type="checkbox"/> THEN	17
10	<input type="checkbox"/> TOO	17
11	<input type="checkbox"/> RIGHT	17
12	<input type="checkbox"/> THERE	16
13	<input type="checkbox"/> DOWN	15
14	<input type="checkbox"/> NEVER	14
15	<input type="checkbox"/> VERY	13
16	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	13

Based on the collocation of the adverb *literally* contained in COCA, it can be seen that the verb that is often used before and after the word *literally* is the verb *mean* which has the highest frequency of use among other verbs such as *go*, *going*, *said*, *put*, *got*, *get*, *went*, and so on. In adjective collocation, the adjective that is often used before and after the adverb *literally* is the word *true* which has the highest frequency of use among other adjectives such as *right*, *impossible*, *afraid*, *sick*, *crazy*, and so on. Furthermore, in the adverb collocation, the dominant word is the word *just* which has the highest frequency of use among other adverbs such as *quite*, *almost*, *so*, *now*, *really*, and so on.

The use of adverbs *literally* in COCA is mostly in spoken context, including in CNN Newsroom, Fox News: The Ingraham Angle, NBC News: Today, NPR\_FreshAir, and so on. Based on the use of the adverb *literally* in COCA, it is more often used to modify other adverbs, to be more precise, to modify the adverb *just*.

Furthermore, to see the use of adverb *literally* in the context of sentences contained in the COCA, it can be seen from the concordance lines taken from each collocation with the highest number of uses, namely the collocation of the verb *mean*, adjective collocation *true*, and the adverb collocation *just*. This is illustrated in the concordance lines following:

Picture 6:  
Concordance lines for Verb collocation *Mean* on the Adverb *Literally* in COCA

of your life so you can get what you want. KELLY-CLARKSON) : I **mean literally**, I get puppies and wine with y'all. I love y'all. ANNOUNCER) : From CUCCINELLI) : Walsh threw a temper tantrum over it, and I don't **literally mean** that, but -- CUOMO) : Right, right. CUCCINELLI) : -- but stress. Two super simple suppers that are packed with flavor. KELLY-CLARKSON) : I **mean literally**, I get puppies and wine with y'all. I love y'all. ANNOUNCER) : From food and the wonder from down under, Curtis Stone? KELLY-CLARKSON) : I **mean literally**, I get puppies and wine with y'all. I love y'all. ANNOUNCER) : From we'll get pulses racing with New Amsterdam star Ryan Eggold. KELLY-CLARKSON) : I **mean literally**, I get puppies and wine with y'all. I love y'all. ANNOUNCER) : From edition of Guys Tell All featuring country cutie Jimmie Allen. KELLY-CLARKSON) : I **mean literally**, I get puppies and wine with y'all. I love y'all. ANNOUNCER) : From what we've got planned for our cohort, Ellie Kemper. KELLY-CLARKSON) : I **mean literally**, I get puppies and wine with y'all. I love y'all. ANNOUNCER) : From hundreds of dollars at home when we play Who Knew? KELLY-CLARKSON) : I **mean literally**, I get puppies and wine with y'all. I love y'all. ANNOUNCER) : From . And that profit, that money could be going to defend our and I **literally mean** defend our homeless, and our poor, and our sick and our farmers JUDY-WOODRUFF# So, when you say it's firing on all cylinders, you **mean literally** everywhere in every kind of industry? MARK-VITNER# Well, I wish it was literally

Picture 7:  
Concordance lines for Adjective collocation *True* on the Adverb *Literally* in COCA

Day. And the idea that she's embraced President Trump is really quite **true literally**. You see her campaign ads, and there's actually an advantage of her she talked to Putin and he was living in a different world. That's **literally true**. You know, we all thought we were living in a post-Cold War JIM-LEHRER: So, when Erskine Bowles says this is a starting point, that's **literally true**, correct? LORI-MONTGOMERY: I think that's -- I think that's right. keep your healthcare plan. Period. Yes, to some extent that may be **literally true** but that'll be taking orders from the government. HANNITY: Yes. , anti-Semitism is a good enough reason to hate America. CARLSON: That is actually **literally true**. If you read -- if you read Osama bin Ladens own statements all news business in the '90s. I don't remember that many disasters. Is that **literally true** was it a disaster a week? TIERNEY: That is **true**. I mean said, " I have no war plans on my desk. " Was that **literally true**? BOB-WOODWARD: I've seen his desk a number of times and there the entire Christmas story, while 55 percent believe every word of the Bible is **literally true**. And 52 percent say Jesus will return. However, when asked if America who will protect the house from the invaders. But after 9/11, that's **literally true**. The whole race has been Bush claiming Kerry's a sissy and Kerry stick our necks out for a resolution that can't pass. " It is **literally true**, the resolution can not pass if France is going to veto it.

Picture 8:  
Concordance lines for Adverb collocation *Just* on the Adverb *Literally* in COCA

go, stick with the skin tone meant for the most part? HUDA-KATTAN) : **Literally just** one to two shades darker. NATALIE-MORALES) : One shade. Okay. I were in probably had about 20 people. **Just** barricaded. REPORTER) : Were you **literally just** -- I am assuming hugging one another, holding one another a great question. Quid pro quo, literally -- it's Latin. It **literally just** means this for that. And what separates bribery from other exchanges is that n't have a lot of time, you're like me, right. **Just literally** go to the dollar store, I'm not even kidding, they have these . If you're a person -- like, I have some friends that **just literally** like to eat to -- to -- to stay alive. GAYLE-KING) : Guy -- just as tight-lipped. JUDY-WOODRUFF) : All right. Well, it is has **just literally** come out in the last hour or so. We learned at 5:00 Eastern that . I died. That's four times. Also - also my cat **just literally** disappeared. GROSS) : Reviewing " Russian Doll " in The New York Times, I think it might be impossible... (LAUGHTER O'BRADY) :... You know, **just literally**, you know, crying in my ski goggles, you know, with the the trial transcript from his first trial and I saw that the family was **just literally** begging him to admit that, you know, he had done something beyond v , he heard that foreigners may kill millions of Americans. (BEGIN-VIDEO-CLIP LOU-DOBBS-FBN-HOST: **Just literally** put out welcome wagons. Pile them

The Use of adverb literally contained in COCA focuses on the content contained in the part of spoken language divided into three parts, namely on verb collocations, adjective collocations, and adverb collocations. In verb collocations, the adverb literally is often used to modify the verb mean as in the following sentence:

- (1) .... *I mean literally, I get puppies and wine with y' all. I love y' all. ....*

- (2) ... *and I don't **literally mean** that, but .....*
- (3) ... *I **literally mean** defend our homeless, and our poor. ....*

In data (1), (2), and (3) the adverb literally serves to provide confirmation and add information to the verb used, namely the mean. The use of the adverb literally in the data has a difference which lies in the position of the placement of the word literally itself. In data (1) the word literally comes after the main verb mean because there is no object that follows in the clause. In data (2) the word literally falls between the auxiliary verb do and the main verb mean. Furthermore, in data (3) the word literally comes before the main verb mean. In adjective collocations, the adverb literally is often used to modify the word true as in the following sentence:

- (4) .... *She's embraced President Trump is really quite **true literally**. ....*
- (5) ... *That's **literally true**. ...*
- (6) ... *Yes, to some extent that may be **literally true** but that'll be taking orders ....*

In data (4), (5), and (6) the function of an adverb literally is to modify and provide additional information on the adjective used, namely true. As with verb collocations, the use of the adverb literally in this collocation has a difference in the position where the word literally is placed. In data (4) the word literally is placed at the end of the sentence, which is after the word true. In data (5) and (6) the word literally is placed between the auxiliary and adjective verbs, namely, the auxiliary verb is in data (5), be in data (6), and the adjective is true. Furthermore, in adverb collocation, adverb literally is often used to modify the word just as in the following sentence:

- (7) .... *It **literally just** means this for that. ...*
- (8) ... *also my cat **just literally** disappeared. ...*
- (9) ... *I saw that the family was **just literally** begging him to admit that, ...*

In data (7), (8), and (9) the function of an adverb literally is to modify and provide additional information on other adverbs in the context of the sentence, namely just. It is not different from the two previous collocations, the use of the adverb literally in this collocation has a different position in the placement of the word literally. In data (7) the word literally comes after the subject and before the adverb just. In data (8) the word literally comes after the adverb just and before the verb. In data (9) the word literally comes after the adverb just and between the auxiliary verb was and the main verb begging.

There are several differences in this research with previous research that have been previously mentioned based on the findings contained in each research. According to Mutiara's research shows that there are four expressions in COCA and BNC such as *I'm sorry, I have to disagree; I'm sorry, I can't agree that*, and the expression *I'm afraid I disagree* was not found in COCA and BNC. Expressions of disapproval tend to occur with adverbs. Adverbs are used to indicate time, manner, degree, restrictive, and stance (epistemic and attitude). In some cases, two adverbs may occur. Sometimes two

utterances containing an expression of disapproval are produced at the same time to prove how strong the disagreement is. Diana's research shows that there are three-degree adverbs with the most frequently used in the data with 94, 67, and 48 occurrences respectively. They are *extremely*, *highly*, and *strongly*. Aspects of lexical collocation, semantic preference, and semantic prosody are tied to the nature of each discipline. Those aspects generally vary more in social disciplines than in health and physics disciplines with regard to adverbial combinations of degree and semantic preference. Furthermore, Nugroho's research shows that there are several similarities and differences in terms of frequency and distribution. The difference lies in the number of times the adverb *dead* appears in the two corpora, that is, it is more frequently found in COCA compared to BNC. On the other hand, they have something in common in that these adverbs mostly appear in fictional and oral contexts and appear most rarely in academic contexts in COCA and BNC. Furthermore, regarding collocation, there are also some similarities and differences between the search results in COCA and BNC. For verb collocations it was found that the top 15 collocations in the two corpora mostly consist of various forms *to be* such as *was*, *were*, *are*, etc.

This research shows that there are three different words that follow the word literally, namely *mean* in the verb collocation, *true* in the adjective collocation, and *just* in the adverb collocation. The use of adverb literally in COCA mostly found in spoken context and adverb literally mostly used to modify other adverbs. The differences in each of the previous research and this research can be seen from each result found. Furthermore, the similarities between previous research and this research contained in the sources used in each research.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the definition of adverbs, which are words used to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs, adverbs literally have this function, namely to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs in a sentence. In the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) the frequency of use of the word literally amounted to 39.109 contained in the range of 1990 to 2019. The use of the adverb literally in COCA is found in some parts of which are spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, academic text sub on TV and movies, blogs, and other web pages. The frequency of the use of adverbs literally is most in the context of spoken language among them in CNN Newsroom, Fox News: The Ingraham Angle, NBC News: Today, NPR\_FreshAir, and so on. The total use of adverbs literally in the spoken context is 8.339. Adverbs literally found in COCA are more often used to modify other adverbs among them, namely just, quite, almost, so, now, really, out, up, then, and so on. Based on the context of the sentence, the use of the adverb literally in COCA has a difference in the position of the adverb's

placement, that is, the verb collocation comes after the main verb because there is no object that follows in the clause, in between the auxiliary verb and the main verb, and before the main verb. In adjective collocation, the difference in the placement of the adverb literally is at the end of the sentence and between the auxiliary and adjective. Furthermore, in adverb collocations there is a difference in the placement of the adverb literally after the subject and before the adverb, after the adverb just and before the verb, after other adverbs and between the auxiliary and main verbs. It can be concluded that the use of the adverb literally in a sentence either serves to modify a verb, adjective or other adverb depending on the context of the sentence itself.

Based on the findings of this study, there are several suggestions that the authors propose. First, relating to the scope and limitations of the study. This study only discusses one English adverb, it is suggested that other broader aspects can be further explored in future studies. Second, related to data sources, because this study only uses one online corpus, namely COCA, further research can compare the use of adverbs in COCA and BNC or another online corpus.

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