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«KLAD” journal admits for publication various types of articles: original research, review articles, short reports or essays, reflections, case studies, methodologies and cases in english; containing the results of fundamental and applied research in the field of philosophy and identity, history of kazakhstan, pedagogy, linguistics and methods of teaching languages, translation, and tourism.

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PART 01

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST

**RESEARCH
PAPERS**



DIACHRONIC CORPUS ANALYSIS OF RUSSIA-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT

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Abstract: This research is aimed to perform diachronic study on mass-media sources related to the conflict of Russia and Ukraine using corpus analysis. The study will conduct the frequency list, collocation, and concordance lines analysis in order to achieve the purpose of discovering and examining variation in language use across diachronic corpus models, identifying and examining the most frequent themes the corpus uses, exploring the lived experiences of the people directly involved in the conflict. The Russia Ukrainian Conflict Corpus (RUCC) contains 88 mass-media articles that are related to this conflict with 95508 number of tokens.

INTRODUCTION

Russia and Ukraine were in the conflict for a long time, and the conflict itself has been a deeply entrenched and politically charged issue that has influenced society since the last military actions (war) in Ukraine territory. This paper is studying the linguistic shifts over time, and seeks to explore the differences in discourse and narratives surrounding the conflict. Additionally, the study is aimed to uncover the thematic patterns within the corpus and examine how it reflects the experiences and perspectives of individuals directly involved in the conflict.

RESEARCH PURPOSE

The purpose of this research project is to perform a diachronic corpus analysis of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, with a particular focus on the periods before and after military actions (war). By studying linguistic changes and thematic patterns in the corpus, as well as investigating personal experiences and perspectives reflected in the texts, this study will try to achieve these aims:

- To identify and analyze the differences in language use through diachronic patterns of the corpus
- To reveal and examine the most frequent themes that are used in the corpus

- To explore the personal experiences of people who are directly involved to the conflict

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Main research question — What are the differences between the corpus before and after military actions in the Russia-Ukrainian conflict?

Through comparing the language used in the corpus both before and after warfare, This research question will help to identify major changes in discursive strategies, and the overall framing of the narrative. This analysis will provide crucial insights into how the conflict evolved and how language was used to shape and reflect changing dynamics.

Subsidiary question 1 — What are the most frequent themes that are associated in the corpus?

Through a detailed analysis of the corpus, we attempt to discover repeated themes and subjects that prevail in the discourse around the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. By examining the frequency and significance of these themes, we can provide a picture of the central concerns and issues associated with the conflict.

Subsidiary question 2 — How does

the corpus reflect the experiences and perspectives of individuals directly involved in the conflict?

By investigating the language used in the corpus, we want to make clear how the experiences and viewpoints of the people directly affected by the conflict are represented. This research question will allow us to better understand the human aspect of conflict and how language is used to express personal experience.

To answer these questions, this study will employ diachronic corpus methods, using specialized software to analyze a deeply assembled corpus of texts relating to the various phases of the conflict. The corpus will include a variety of sources, such as news articles and political speeches. Through detailed analysis, we expect to reveal notable linguistic trends and provide insights into the developing discourse and individual experiences around the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

In the following sections, This paper introduces the literature that had been reviewed before the analysis, states the methodology used, provides a description of the process of building the corpus, and presents the findings of conducted corpus analysis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The first reviewed article states the origins of the conflict. “The conflict began in the spring of 2014. The Ukrainian-Russian controversy over Crimea is tightly linked to attempts to split the «Donetsk People’s Republic» and «Luhansk People’s Republic» from Ukraine, as well as armed violence in eastern Ukraine, in which the Russian Federation has been heavily implicated. The recent conflicts, nevertheless, are in some respects different from the Crimean conflict” (Bebler, 2015). This article gives the understanding about the conflict itself, and the reasons for the existing confrontation between two countries.

Another study shows that Ukraine was named this conflict as a “war” before the actual military actions were involved in the conflict. “The Russian mass media are monitored by the Kremlin. This is typical for autocratic states that worry about counter-propaganda that contradicts government-approved messages. President Vladimir Putin has realized the potential of social media and messaging in a new area of warfare: information space. Russia Today (RT) and Channel One are the two main state-run television channels, broadcasting pro-Russian, multilingual programs around the world. Russia has turned a traditional non-state actor into a tool of the state to form internal and external views and suppress the opposition. In the meantime, Ukraine Today was founded in August 2014 as an English-language news provider in Kiev with the aim of enhancing «international communication, understanding and peace.» This mass media outlet encourages the public to stop calling what is happening in Ukraine a crisis or a conflict and call it what it is: a war” (Mulford, 2016).

The study by Goncharov & Volkov found out that “The largest number of Russians (62%) still support Russia’s annexation of Crimea, but only three in ten (29%) would like to see the same thing for Donetsk and Luhansk. A significant number believe that these self-declared republics should be independent states (46%)” (Goncharov & Volkov , 2019).

The other countries are supporting Ukraine during this war “Considering the high support for Ukraine from the U.S. and NATO allies during the conflict and the growing number of volunteers from NATO member states fighting for Kiev, Russia is likely to deduce that NATO has become effectively involved in the conflict itself” (Frederick et al., 2022). This article confirms that Ukrainian people are under the support of other countries worldwide.

Last reviewed article is telling that this is the first war which can be experienced not only with people who are directly involved in the

war, but even the casual internet users. “War in Ukraine can be seen as the «first ever digital war. It is not a military capability based on advanced technology, but instead stresses a dynamic arena in a digital space that is close to the battlefield, involving millions of individuals and commercial organizations connected to the Internet” (TZ & Hayman, 2023).

This literature will guide this study to seek the confirmations or rebuttal of given statements in the provided analysis.

METHODOLOGY

CREATION OF THE CORPUS

For the analysis was chosen the corpus about the conflict of Russia and Ukraine created by the students of KAZGUU university in major of “Applied Linguistics” for “Corpus Linguistics” course. The Russia-Ukrainian Conflict Corpus (RUCC) contains a total 88 different files and 95508 number of tokens. Corpus itself features the newspapers with the headlines related to the conflict of two countries in the time span of 2014-2022 of the mass-media sources called: “Daily Express”, “Dailymail”, “New York Times” and “Telegraph”. The articles are saved into files of “.txt” format and named as: “Article Source_year of publication_number of the article” (example: [New York Times_2020_006.txt]). Corpus includes 12 articles from 2016, 2 articles from 2017, 1 article from 2018, 11 articles from 2019, 4 articles from 2020, 12 articles from 2021 and 46 articles from 2022.

PROCEDURES

All of the analysis is provided using a corpus analysis tool called “LancsBox 6.0”. In order to perform diachronic study and answer the main research question, the RUCC will be divided into 2 sub-corpus — sub-corpus of articles between 2016-2021 before the war begins, and subcorpus of articles of 2022 when Russia starts the military

actions (war) in Ukrainian territory. There will be the frequency list analysis of both of the sub-corpus separately. After having most frequently used words of the both sub-corpus, there will be sorted out 20 words which will have the independent meaning, and those words will be written on tables. After obtaining a list of the most frequent meaningful words, the repetitive words for both sub-corpus will be highlighted and be compared.

For the purpose of answering the first subsidiary question there will be provided the frequency list analysis for the RUCC corpus. The methods of having most frequent words are almost the same as previous, but for the whole RUCC corpus itself. The most frequent words of the RUCC corpus will be sorted out and only 20 meaningful words will be put on the table. After having the most frequently used words of the RUCC, the words will be divided into several themes.

The answer for the second subsidiary question will be sought from collocation and concordance lines analysis. Collocation analysis will be provided using the table of most frequent words of the RUCC, that will be settled before, and there will be chosen the words with the meaning of homogeneous entity or national identity or other socio-cultural attributes. After indicating the words that will be analyzed in collocation analysis, there will be provided a table of 10 most used collocations for each word.

Concordance lines analysis will be aimed at focusing on the context of the concordance lines of the words from the table of most frequent collocations.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Frequency list analysis — Frequency list analysis of 2 sub-corpus:

The corpus is divided into 2 several sub-corpus, before and after war, here you can see the frequency list of sub-corpus

of articles in time span 2016-2021 before war (Table 1.1) and the frequency list of the subcorpus of articles of 2022, when the war has started (Table 1.2):

After having the frequency lists of both sub-corpora, the next step is sorting out the words with independent meanings of each sub-corpora, and putting them on table (Table 2.1). After having the table, the repetitive words for both sub-corpora are highlighted. There are selected 20 words for each sub-corpora:

The table of most frequent words for both sub-corpora give some interesting findings about other countries that were related to this conflict. Table shows several words like: “Trump”, “united”, “states”, “american”, “Biden” which all are associated with the USA. Those words appear only in the first sub-corpus, which is about the time when the war is not started. This information

demonstrates that the US was involved in this conflict before the war started, but after the war begins, the USA is no longer directly involved in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Another finding is that the words like: “war” and “military” which are straightly connected to war actions, are common for both sub-corpora. This means that, even if the actual war started in 2022, there were several hints for warfare before it officially began.

In order to compare the frequencies of the words that appear on both sub-corpora, below you can see the diagram (Table 2.2) which shows the words that are common for two sub-corpora.

Table 2.2 — Diagram of frequent words that appear on both sub-corpora:

The diagram shows that the words that are

Type	▼ Frequency 01 - Freq	Dispersion: 01_CV
the	2332.000000	0.193155
to	1084.000000	0.272709
of	1006.000000	0.328353
in	909.000000	0.274494
a	845.000000	0.304447
and	783.000000	0.310430
that	474.000000	0.611582
on	372.000000	0.433278
he	313.000000	0.912015
is	307.000000	0.636879
for	294.000000	0.492570
with	291.000000	0.487891
it	240.000000	0.618317
said	239.000000	0.588644
as	238.000000	0.620869
by	237.000000	0.480612
has	231.000000	0.643222
mr.	230.000000	1.744163
was	228.000000	0.861359
russia	226.000000	0.709797
his	217.000000	1.104301
have	205.000000	0.598788
russian	198.000000	0.925552
at	166.000000	0.589632
not	162.000000	0.733691
ah	160.000000	0.500798
mr	159.000000	1.635017
putin	154.000000	1.330444
but	153.000000	0.741211
trump	152.000000	1.827417
be	151.000000	0.875389
from	149.000000	0.640126
are	146.000000	0.791194
president	137.000000	1.102463
had	135.000000	0.971276
been	126.000000	0.890806
his	117.000000	0.828929
they	116.000000	0.939163
ukraine	115.000000	1.685112
would	106.000000	0.993838
is	102.000000	1.039443
who	101.000000	0.862886
over	96.000000	0.883882
which	88.000000	0.785484
us	88.000000	1.626262
their	88.000000	0.811586
military	87.000000	1.404584
were	85.000000	0.964047
was	85.000000	1.490927
we	83.000000	1.590258
after	76.000000	0.944402
united	73.000000	1.479712

Table 1.1 — Frequency list of sub-corpus before war:

Type	▼ Frequency 01 - Freq	Dispersion: 01_CV
the	3410.000000	0.202366
to	1844.000000	0.254420
of	1630.000000	0.297985
and	1329.000000	0.331361
a	1263.000000	0.290627
in	1256.000000	0.247182
on	736.000000	0.433815
that	679.000000	0.497593
said	581.000000	0.618049
russian	547.000000	0.569286
is	520.000000	0.526500
for	465.000000	0.450991
ukraine	451.000000	0.698888
as	428.000000	0.534518
with	361.000000	0.576131
it	356.000000	0.672721
russia	331.000000	0.910543
has	330.000000	0.674966
have	323.000000	0.665474
was	304.000000	0.588826
from	298.000000	0.463279
no	296.000000	0.921385
are	296.000000	0.647232
be	269.000000	0.632261
by	266.000000	0.585067
war	264.000000	0.812269
will	260.000000	1.045275
ukrainian	233.000000	0.977113
at	231.000000	0.630963
not	223.000000	0.794533
an	222.000000	0.636608
been	206.000000	0.674433
they	203.000000	0.839392
putin	194.000000	1.154049
his	191.000000	1.246309
we	188.000000	1.105371
but	183.000000	0.753048
this	176.000000	0.696948
had	176.000000	0.756586
its	172.000000	0.784908
were	170.000000	0.848820
which	156.000000	0.941994
their	156.000000	0.988875
forces	152.000000	1.531637
isn't	152.000000	1.259640
would	148.000000	0.929419
invasion	142.000000	0.907484
president	140.000000	1.085332
also	133.000000	0.694810
who	130.000000	0.972505
military	128.000000	1.228917
zelensky	126.000000	1.513913

Table 1.2 — Frequency list of sub-corpus after war begun:

Sub-corpus before war			Sub-corpus after war		
Number	Word	Frequency	Number	Word	Frequency
1	said	239.00	1	said	591.00
2	Russia	225.00	2	Russian	547.00
3	Russian	198.00	3	Ukraine	451.00
4	Putin	154.00	4	Russia	547.00
5	Trump	152.00	5	war	264.00
6	president	137.00	6	Ukrainian	233.00
7	Ukraine	115.00	7	Putin	194.00
8	military	87.00	8	forces	152.00
9	united	73.00	9	Kyiv	152.00
10	campaign	64.00	10	invasion	142.00
11	Ukrainian	63.00	11	president	140.00
12	war	62.00	12	military	128.00
13	Biden	62.00	13	Zelensky	126.00
14	Moscow	57.00	14	people	110.00
15	government	52.00	15	against	109.00
16	states	49.00	16	nuclear	103.00
17	Vladimir	48.00	17	country	93.00
18	security	45.00	18	sanctions	84.00
19	american	45.00	19	over	83.00
20	people	45.00	20	Russians	79.00

Table 2.1 — The most frequent meaningful words of two sub-corpora

common for both sub-corpora appear more frequently on the second sub-corpus, when the war starts. The words that used to describe national identity or nation itself like: “Russia”, “Ukraine”, “Russian”, “Ukrainian”, are used more than twice frequently in corpus, after the war had started. The answer for this can be — when the Russian forces started the invasion in Ukrainian territory, the mass-media sources started to talk about citizens and the locations more often. Table 2.1 supports this statement by showing that the word “Kyiv”, which is the capital of Ukraine, is one of the most frequent words in sub-corpora of the mass-media sources after the warfare. Additionally, the word “war” appears in corpus much

frequently after the actual war had begun.

Frequency list analysis — Frequency list analysis of RUCC corpus:

The purpose of conducting another frequency list analysis is to identify the most associated themes that are used in the whole corpus, but not for the separate sub-corpora. Here below, you can see the frequency list of RUCC corpus (Table 3.1):

Table 3.1 — Frequency list of RUCC corpus:

There are selected only 20 words that have independent meaning and written on the table (Table 3.2):

Table 3.2 — The most frequent meaningful words of RUCC corpus:

By having the table of the most frequent words that are used in RUCC corpora, they

are divided into several subsets:

- War / Troops (6) — war, military, forces, invasion, against, nuclear.
- Countries / Locations (6) — Russia, Ukraine, Kyiv, Moscow, world, country
- Leaders of Nations / Presidents (4) — Putin, Trump, Zelensky, president
- National identity / Common citizens (3) — Russian, Ukrainian, people
- Non related verb (1) — said

The results of the frequency list analysis shows that the most associated theme of the conflict is the war and military actions of two countries. In the subset of the countries and locations we can see the appearance of the words “world”, and “country” which means that the conflict affects not only the two

opposing countries, but the other countries as well.

The other subset shows that the mass media-sources are mentioning not only the presidents of the nations that are in conflict, but also the previous leader of the USA D. Trump was involved in the conflict of Russia and Ukraine.

The last subset called “National identity/ Common citizens” displays that the mass-media sources frequently write about the citizens of the conflicted countries.

COLLOCATION AND CONCORDANCE LINES ANALYSIS:

For identifying the human aspects of the people who are directly involved to the conflict the are below conducted collocation analysis of the citizens of the both opposing countries. Using the words “Russian”, and “Ukrainian” there will be listed 10 most used collocations for both words in the RUCC corpus (Table 4.0), with window span 2 (2 left, 2 right). After having the table, there will be performed the concordance list analysis for purpose of searching the perspectives of people who are involved to the conflict regarding the conflict itself.

Collocation analysis:

Table 4.0 — The most frequent collocations for words “Russian” and “Ukrainian”:

The table shows that the Ukrainian people struggled more with the war, for the reason that collocates “refuges” and “resistance” are appearing frequently in corpus with the word “Ukrainian”. Also the table shows that the Russian people are more related to military actions, for reasons of the collocates that are related to warfare, appear much more with Russians, rather than Ukrainians.

Concordance lines analysis:

As a way to provide significant concordance analysis, there are selected and analyzed 5 randomly chosen concordance lines for

each node.

Node — Force; Words — Ukrainian, Russian.

1. ...surprising lapse that has given outgunned Ukrainian forces a chance to slow the advance of Russian ground forces.
2. ...was unclear whether the explosion was caused by artillery or by Ukrainian forces intent on stopping Russian advance.
3. ...were ten instance of ceasefire violations by Russian forces, including weapons prohibited by the Minsk
4. ...accused Russia of killing seven people, including one child, after Russian forces fired at...
5. ...officer Zadorozhny said Ukrainian forces were waiting for civilians to evacuate.

The concordance lines of this node demonstrates that Ukrainian forces are trying to resist the Russian invasion. By these lines we could define that the war itself is taking place on the territory of Ukraine, and Ukraine is only defending, while Russia keeps attacking the Ukrainian cities.

Node — Authorities; Word — Ukrainian:

1. In defiance of all evidence to the contrary, Mr. Putin on Thursday accused the Ukrainian authorities of carrying out «a genocide» against the residents of the Donbas
2. Ukrainian authorities are in talks with Russian representatives and international organisations to set up humanitarian corridor to evacuate residents and supply food.
3. Ukrainian authorities have accused Russian forces of shelling evacuation routes and preventing civilians from escaping the city
4. Any provocation by the Ukrainian authorities to solve the problems of Donbas

Points scored

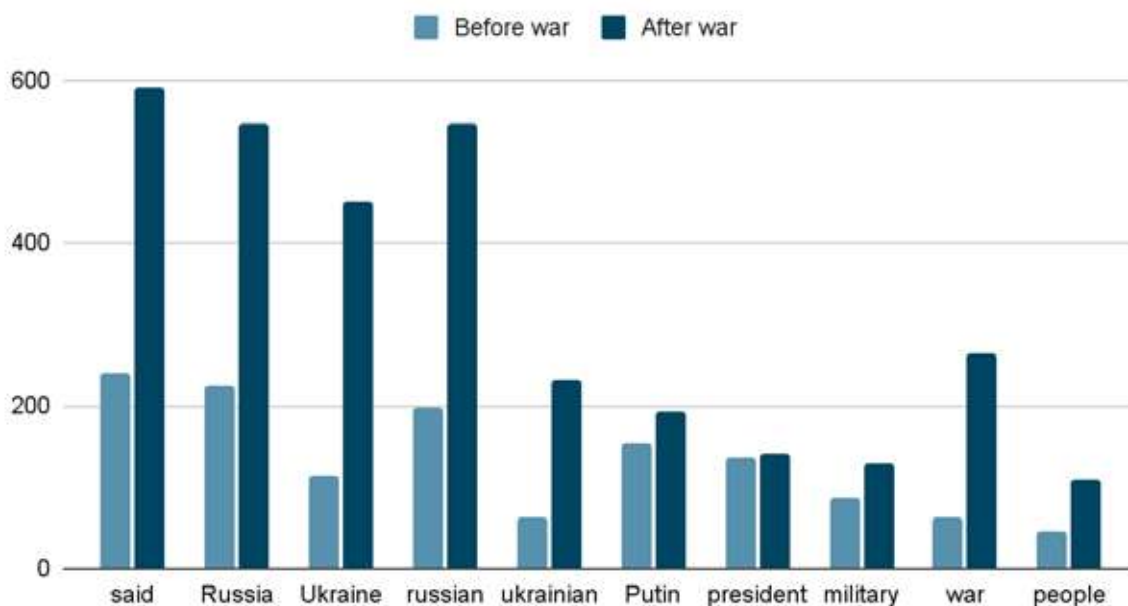


Table 2.2 — Diagram of frequent words that appear on both sub-corpus

using force will be suppressed,» he said

5. Ukrainian cyber authorities accused unnamed Russian internet networks of attacks against its security...

The 1'st and 4'th lines of this node illustrates how the president of the Russian Federation — Vladimir Putin without any evidence, accuses and aggresses towards Ukrainian authorities.

Other concordance lines show that Ukrainian authorities are trying to solve the problems that are initiated by Russia without any military actions.

Node — Refugees; Word — Ukrainian:

1. ...prospect of a humanitarian crisis, with Ukrainian refugees continuing to head for the Polish...

2. ...43,000 households have offered to take in Ukrainian refugees as part of the UK Government's...

3. ...save the Ukrainian people. "I will welcome Ukrainian refugees. We should welcome them with...

4. ...to do this time. "8.33am Pictured: Ukrainian refugees seek safety in Brussels Ukrainians

5. ...with international partners on an airlift for Ukrainian refugees from Moldova, the first airlift of

Concordance lines of this node clearly show that some Ukrainian citizens escaped from their country when the war began. Also 3'rd line displays that other parts of the world are supporting Ukrainian people, especially the refugees and helping them with households.

CONCLUSION

By concluding this paper, the frequency list, and concordance list analysis illustrates the enormity of the conflict, not only in two conflicting sides, but for the international level. This confirms the statement of Frederick and other researchers (2022), when they demonstrated that the U.S. and NATO were involved in the conflict and supported the Ukrainian people. Additionally this maintains the statement of TZ & Hayman (2023) who were declaring

▼ Corpus	Corpus 1	▼ Frequency	▼ Dispersion	▼ Type
Type	▼ Frequency: 01 - Freq	Dispersion: 01_CV		
the	5742.000000	0.200087		
to	2928.000000	0.267228		
of	2636.000000	0.312793		
in	2167.000000	0.276400		
and	2112.000000	0.324785		
a	2108.000000	0.297989		
that	1153.000000	0.504967		
on	1108.000000	0.470224		
is	833.000000	0.569863		
said	830.000000	0.614672		
for	759.000000	0.473453		
russian	745.000000	0.739055		
as	666.000000	0.579322		
with	652.000000	0.552632		
he	609.000000	0.941467		
it	596.000000	0.648004		
ukraine	566.000000	0.991232		
has	561.000000	0.607655		
russia	556.000000	0.816022		
was	532.000000	0.725149		
have	528.000000	0.668271		
by	503.000000	0.579325		
from	448.000000	0.546065		
are	442.000000	0.717803		
be	420.000000	0.745224		
his	408.000000	1.179457		
at	397.000000	0.612792		
not	385.000000	0.773625		
an	382.000000	0.577617		
putin	348.000000	1.315449		
will	345.000000	1.230909		
but	336.000000	0.755597		
been	332.000000	0.794821		
war	326.000000	1.049262		
they	319.000000	0.886037		
had	311.000000	0.832158		
ukrainian	296.000000	1.420336		
this	293.000000	0.759080		
mr.	283.000000	2.393788		
president	277.000000	1.116834		
its	274.000000	0.900522		
we	271.000000	1.303678		
mr	260.000000	1.733052		
were	255.000000	0.897856		
would	254.000000	0.971551		
which	244.000000	0.881996		
their	244.000000	0.903427		
who	231.000000	0.921642		
military	215.000000	1.386150		
us	210.000000	1.624520		
also	203.000000	0.867453		
after	194.000000	1.064704		

Table 3.1 — Frequency list of RUCC corpus

that this is the first war in which involved not only the citizens of warring nations, but every user of the internet.

Also, in diachronic analysis, it is confirmed that the conflict was called a “war” (Mulford, 2016) before the actual military action in Ukraine territory.

By conducting a frequency list of the whole RUCC corpus, there have been identified several themes that are associated in corpora. However the analysis couldn't present the central concerns and issues associated with the conflict, but it is still revealing the main subsets of the RUCC corpus. Collocation analysis demonstrated that Ukrainian people are struggling more than Russian citizens, for reasons of they

are the country which needs to resist in their territory against the military actions of Russia. Concordance lines analysis openly shows that many of the Ukrainian refugees had escaped the warfare to other countries, and the other countries are supporting their decision and supporting the Ukrainian people with households.

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2. FREDERICK, B., CHARAP, S., BOSTON, S., FLANAGAN, S. J., MAZARR,

Number	Word	Frequency
1	said	830.00
2	Russian	745.00
3	Ukraine	566.00
4	Russia	556.00
5	Putin	348.00
6	war	326.00
7	Ukrainian	296.00
8	president	277.00
9	military	215.00
10	forces	191.00
11	Trump	169.00
12	Kyiv	162.00
13	people	155.00
14	invasion	153.00
15	against	150.pers00
16	Zelensky	141.00
17	nuclear	133.00
18	country	133.00
19	Moscow	127.00
20	world	125.00

Table 3.2 — The most frequent meaningful words of RUCC corpus

Russian		Ukrainian	
Number	Collocation	Number	Collocation
1	forces	1	forces
2	invasion	2	president
3	president	3	said
4	military	4	Volodymyr
5	soldiers	5	refugees
6	troops	6	officials
7	Vladimir	7	soldiers
8	leader	8	cities
9	government	9	authorities
10	army	10	resistance

Table 4.0 — The most frequent collocations for words “Russian” and “Ukrainian”

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