A Comparative Analysis of Look after and Take care of in Two Corpora

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Abstract—The main purpose of this paper is to provide a comparative analysis of look after and take care of in the COCA and BNC and to show that look after and take care of are synonymously used, but look after is not the equivalent of take care of. A major point to note is that look after and take care of in the COCA show the same pattern in the TV/movie and blog genres and the academic genre, whereas they show a different pattern in the web, fiction, magazine, and newspaper genres and the spoken genre. A further point to note is that look after and take care of in the BNC reveal the same pattern in the fiction genre and the academic genre, whereas they reveal a different pattern in the spoken, misc, non-academic genres and the magazine and newspaper genres. It is interesting to point out that look after in the COCA is the nearest type to take care of in the web genre, whereas look after is the furthest type from take care of in the fiction genre. It is worth noting, on the other hand, that look after in the BNC is the nearest type to take care of in the academic genre, whereas look after is the furthest type from take care of in the fiction genre. More importantly, the COCA clearly indicates that look after things is the most preferred by Americans, followed by look after children, look after people, look after you, and look after orphans, in descending order. The COCA clearly shows, on the other hand, that take care of business is the most preferable one among Americans, followed by take care of things, take care of people, take care of children, take care of me, and take care of it, in that order. Additionally, the COCA shows that only twenty of eighty nouns have a collocation relationship with both look after and take care of. This in turn shows that look after and take care of are synonymously used, but look after is not the equivalent of take care of. More interestingly, the BNC clearly shows that look after children is the most preferable one for the British, followed by look after things, look after gran (look after number), and look after people, in that order. The BNC indicates, on the other hand, that take care of things is the most preferable one among the British. In addition, only five of twenty nine nouns in the BNC have a collocation relationship with both look after and take care of. This in turn suggests that look after and take care of are synonymously used, but look after is slightly different from take care of in its use.

Keywords— type, token, corpus, COCA, BNC, look after, take care of

1. INTRODUCTION

As Murphy (2016, 2019) points out, the types *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used. In this paper, we aim to explore similarities between *look after* and *take care of* by providing a genre analysis of the COCA and BNC and the collocations of *look after* and *take care of*. We also investigate similarities between *look after* and *take care of* by using the software NetMiner and in terms of the Euclidean distance. First, we provide a genre analysis of the COCA and BNC to see how much *look after* and *take care of* are related to each other. Second, we investigate similarities between the two in terms of the Euclidean distance in the COCA and BNC. Third, we explore similarities between *look after* and *take care*

of in terms of the collocations of *look after* and *take care of* in the COCA and BNC. The organization of this paper is as follows. In section 2.1, we maintain that *look after* and *take care of* show the same pattern in the TV/movie and blog genres and the academic genre, whereas they show a different pattern in the web, fiction, magazine, and newspaper genres and the spoken genre. We also maintain that *look after* and *take care of* show very close similarities in the web genre, whereas they do not show them in the fiction genre. In section 2.2, we contend that *look after* and *take care of* show the same pattern in the fiction genre and the academic genre, whereas they show a different pattern in the spoken, misc, non-academic genres and the magazine and newspaper genres. We also contend that *look after* is the nearest type to *take care of* in the academic genre. On the other hand, *look after* is the furthest type from *take care of* in the fiction genre. In section 3.1, we argue that *look after things* is the most preferable expression among Americans, followed by *look after children*, *look after people*, *look after you*, *look after orphans*, and *look after shrub*, in descending order. We further argue that *take care of business* is the most preferable one among Americans, followed by *take care of things*, *take care of people*, *take care of children*, *take care of me*, and *take care of it*, in that order. We also argue that only twenty nouns have a collocation relationship with both *look after* and *take care of*. This in turn implies that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*. In section 3.2, we point out that that *look after children* is the most preferable one for the British, followed by *look after things*, *look after gran* (*look after number*), and *look after people*, in that order. We contend, on the other hand, that *take care of things* is the most preferable one among the British. Finally, we argue that only five nouns in the BNC have a collocation relationship with both *look after* and *take care of*. This in turn implies that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*.

2. A GENRE ANALYSIS OF LOOK AFTER AND TAKE CARE OF IN THE COCA AND BNC

2.1. The Genre Analysis of Look after and Take care of in the COCA

In what follows, we aim to provide a comparative analysis of *look after* and *take care of* in the eight genres of the COCA. Table 1 indicates the genre frequency of *look after* and *take care of* in the eight genres of the COCA:

Table 1 Genre frequency of look after and take care of in the COCA

Genre	Look after	Take care of
All	4,247	37,325
Blog	343	3,962
Web	384	3,280
TV/Movie	1,568	14,658
Spoken	279	5,034
Fiction	970	4,899
Magazine	308	2,355
Newspaper	220	2,451
Academic	175	686

An immediate question is "Which one of *look after* and *take care of* is preferred by Americans?" Table 1 clearly indicates that the type *take care of* is preferred over *look after* by Americans. To be more specific, the overall frequency of *look after* is 4,247 tokens, whereas that of *take care of* is 37,325 tokens. The frequency of *take care of* is eight times higher than that of *look after*. It seems thus reasonable to hypothesize that Americans prefer using *take care of* to using *look after*.

An important question that naturally arises is "In which genre is the type *look after* the most frequently used by Americans?" Table 1 clearly shows that the type *look after* is the most widely used by Americans in the TV/movie genre. More specifically, American celebs most prefer *look after* in the TV/movie genre. It is worth pointing out that *take care of* is also the most commonly used by Americans in the TV/movie genre. From all of this, it is clear that *look after* has the same characteristic as *take care of with* respect to their

ranking in the TV/movie genre of the COCA. It should be pointed out, however, that *take care of* is favored over *look after* in the TV/movie genre of the COCA. The frequency of *take care of* is nine times higher than that of *look after* in the TV/movie genre.

It is important to note that *look after* is the second most preferred by Americans in the fiction genre. In the fiction genre, however, the type *take care of* is preferable to the type *look after*. This in turn suggests that American writers prefer using *take care of* in their novels. It is significant to note, on the other hand, that the type *take care of* is the second most preferred by Americans in the spoken genre. This implies that *look after* do not show the same characteristic as *take care of* with respect to their ranking. It can thus be inferred that the use of *look after* is partly different from that of *take care of*. In the spoken genre, *take care of* is preferable to *look after*. To be more specific, the frequency of *take care of* is eighteen times higher than that of *look after* in the spoken genre.

It is worth pointing out that the type *look after* is the third most preferred by Americans in the web genre, whereas *take care of* is the third most preferred by them in the fiction genre. It is interesting to note that in the web genre, *take care of* is favored over *look after*. More specifically, the frequency of *take care of* is eight times higher than that of *look after* in the web genre. That *look after* ranks third in the web genre, whereas *take care of* ranks third in the fiction genre suggests that they show a different property in their use. We take this as indicating that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*.

It is worthwhile pointing out that *look after* is the fourth most preferred by Americans in the blog genre, whereas *take care of* is the fourth most preferred by them in the blog genre. As exemplified in Table 1, *look after* shows the same property as *take care of* with respect to their ranking in the blog genre of the COCA. It turns out that the use of *look after* is the same as that of *take care of* in the blog genre. It must be pointed out, however, that the frequency of *take*

care of is eleven times higher than *look after*. That is to say, the type *take care of* is preferred over the type *look after* by American bloggers.

It is interesting to note that *look after* is the fifth most preferred one in the magazine genre, whereas *take care of* is the fifth most preferred one in the web genre. As illustrated in Table 1, *look after* and *take care of* do not show the same characteristic with respect to their ranking. The frequency of *take care of* in the magazine genre is seven times higher than that of *look after*. It can thus be inferred that *take care of* is favored over *look after* in the magazine genre. When it comes to the web genre, the frequency of *take care of* is eight times higher than that of *look after*. Thus, it seems reasonable to assume that *take care of* is preferable to *look after* in the web genre.

It should be pointed out that *look after* is the sixth most preferred one in the spoken genre, whereas *take care of* is the sixth most preferred one in the newspaper genre. Simply put, *look after* and *take care of* show a different property with respect to their ranking. This in turn indicates that the use of *look after* is partly different from that of *take care of*. As for the spoken genre, the frequency of *look after* is 279 tokens, whereas that of *take care of* is 5,034 tokens. This in turn implies that *take care of* is preferable to *look after* in the spoken genre. With respect to the newspaper genre, it is interesting to point out that the frequency of *take care of* is eleven times higher than that of *look after*. This indicates that *take care of* is favored over *look after* in the newspaper genre.

Noteworthy is that *look after* is the seventh most preferred one in the newspaper genre, whereas *take care of* is the seventh most preferred one in the magazine genre. Clearly, *look after* and *take care of* reveal a different characteristic with regard to their ranking. In a word, *look after* is partly different from *take care of* in its use.

It should be noted that *look after* and *take care of* have the lowest frequency in the academic genre. Thus, it is reasonable to argue that they reveal the same property with respect to their ranking in the

academic genre. To sum up, *look after* and *take care of* show the same pattern in the TV/movie and blog genres and the academic genre, whereas they show a different pattern in the web, fiction, magazine, and newspaper genres and the spoken genre. It can thus be inferred that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*.

Now take a look at Figure 1 and Figure 2. They show the percentage of the frequency of *look after* and *take care of* in the eight genres of the COCA:

Figure 1 Percentage of the use of look after in the eight genres of the COCA
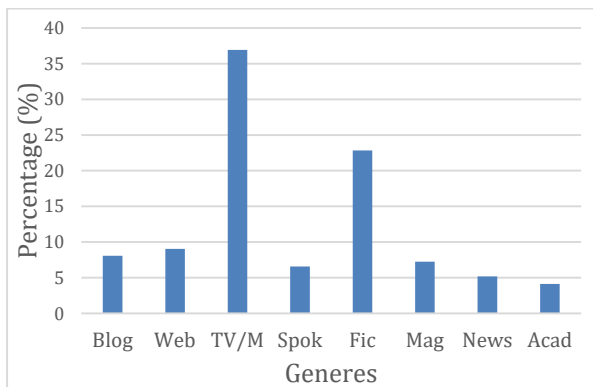
When it comes to the use of look after, the TV/movie genre is the most influenced by it, followed by the fiction genre, the web genre, the blog genre, the magazine genre, the spoken genre, the newspaper genre, and the academic genre, in descending order.

Figure 2 Percentage of the use of take care of in the eight genres of the COCA
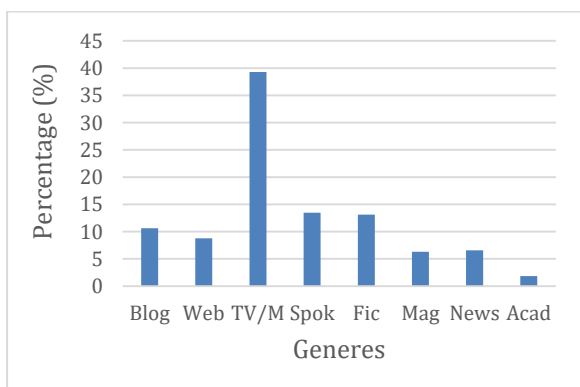
With respect to the use of *take care of*, it is interesting to point out that the TV/movie genre is the most influenced by it, followed by the spoken genre, the fiction genre, the blog genre, the web genre, the newspaper genre, the magazine genre, and the academic genre, in that order.

Finally, attention is paid to the Euclidean distance. The Euclidean distance provides similarities between *look after* and *take care of*:

(1) Euclidean distance:
$$d(p,q) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(p_i - q_i)^2} \qquad (1)$$

The more the figure of the Euclidean distance is low, the more *look after* and *take care of* show close similarities.

Table 2 Euclidean distance between look after and take care of

Genre	Percentage of look after (%)	Percentage of take care of (%)	Euclidean distance
Blog	8.07	10.61	1.91
Web	9.04	8.78	0.26
TV/Movie	36.92	39.27	2.35
Spoken	6.56	13.48	6.92
Fiction	22.83	13.12	9.71
Magazine	7.25	6.30	0.95
Newspaper	5.18	6.56	1.38
Academic	4.12	1.83	2.29

It is interesting to note that *look after* is the nearest type to *take care of* in the web genre. On the other hand, *look after* is the furthest type from *take care of* in the fiction genre. This in turn indicates that *look after* and *take care of* show deep similarities in the web genre, whereas they do not show them in the fiction genre. Interestingly, *look after* and *take care of* show very close similarities in the magazine genre, whereas they do not show them in the spoken genre. It is noteworthy, on the other hand, that *look after* and *take care of* reveal close similarities in the newspaper

genre, whereas they do not reveal them in the TV/movie genre. It can thus be inferred that *look after* is partly similar to and partly different from *take care of* in its use.

2.2. The Genre Frequency of Look after and Take care of in the BNC

In this section, we aim to provide a genre analysis of *look after* and *take care of* in the BNC. Table 3 indicates the genre frequency of *look after* and *take care of* in the BNC:

Table 3 Genre Frequency of look after and take care of in the BNC

Genre	Look after	Take care of
All	2,220	535
Spoken	416	40
Fiction	681	231
Magazine	112	46
Newspaper	242	30
Non-academic	256	52
Academic	121	35
Misc.	392	101

An important question is "Which type of *look after* and *take care of* is preferred by the British?" The overall frequency of *look after* is 2,220 tokens, whereas that of *take care of* is 535 tokens. The frequency of *look after* is four times higher than that of *take care of*. This indicates that *look after* is preferred over *take care of* by the British. It is thus reasonable to hypothesize that the British prefer using *look after* to using *take care of*. It should be pointed out that Americans prefer using *take care of* to using *look after*.

It is interesting to note that *look after* and *take care of* are the most preferred by the British in the fiction genre. Thus, *look after* and *take care of* reveal the same characteristic with regard to their ranking in the fiction genre. It must be pointed out, however, that the frequency of *look after* is almost three times higher than that of *take care of*. This in turn implies that *look after* is preferable to *take care of* in the fiction genre. Thus, it seems reasonable to assume that British

writers prefer using *look after* to using *take care of* in their novels.

It is significant to note that *look after* is the second most preferred by the British in the spoken genre, whereas *take care of* is the second most preferred by them in the misc genre. This suggests that *look after* is slightly different from *take care of* in its use. With respect to the spoken genre, it is interesting to note that the frequency of *look after* is ten times higher than that of *take care of*. This may imply that *look after* is preferable to *take care of* in the spoken genre. It is worth noting, on the other hand, that in the misc genre, the frequency of *look after* is three times higher than that of *take care of*. From this, it can be inferred that *look after* is favored over *take care of* in the misc genre.

It is worth pointing out that *look after* is the third most preferred by the British in the misc genre, whereas *take care of* is the third most preferred by them in the non-academic genre. This indicates that *look after* and *take care of* do not show the same property with regard to their ranking. It can be inferred from this that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but they are slightly different from each other in their use. When it comes to the non-academic genre, *look after* is preferable to *take care of*. This comes from the fact that the frequency of *look after* is four times higher than that of *take care of* in the non-academic genre.

It worthwhile noting that *look after* is the fourth most preferred by the British in the non-academic genre, whereas *take care of* is the fourth most preferred by them in the magazine genre. This in turn shows that *look after* and *take care of* do not reveal the same property with regard to their ranking. With respect to the magazine genre, it is interesting to point out that the frequency of *look after* is two times higher than that of *take care of*. Thus, it seems reasonable to assume that *look after* is preferable to *take care of* in the magazine genre.

It is interesting to note that *look after* ranks fifth in the newspaper genre, whereas *take care of* ranks fifth

in the spoken genre. Again, *look after* and *take care of* do not show the same pattern with respect to their ranking. From this, it is evident that *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*. That the frequency of *look after* is ten times higher than that of *take care of* in the spoken genre suggests that the British prefer using *look after* to using *take care of* in daily conversation. In the newspaper genre, the frequency of *look after* is 242 tokens, whereas that of *take care of* is 30 tokens. This in turn shows that *look afte*r is favored over *take care of* in the newspaper genre.

It is worthwhile pointing out that *look after* and *take care of* rank sixth in the academic genre. This indicates that they show similarities in the academic genre. It should be emphasized, however, that *look after* is preferred over *take care of* by the British. This stems from the fact that the frequency of *look after* is three times higher than that of *take care of* in the academic genre.

Noteworthy is that *look after* ranks seventh in the magazine genre, whereas *take care of* ranks seventh in the newspaper genre. Thus, *look after* and *take care of* do not show very close similarities with respect to their ranking. To sum up, *look after* and *take care of* show the same pattern in the fiction genre and the academic genre, whereas they show a different pattern in the spoken, misc, non-academic genres and the magazine and newspaper genres. We thus conclude that *look after* and *take care of* is synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*.

We turn our attention to the use of *look after* and *take care of* in the seven genres of the BNC:

Figure 3 Percentage of the use of look after in the seven genres of the BNC
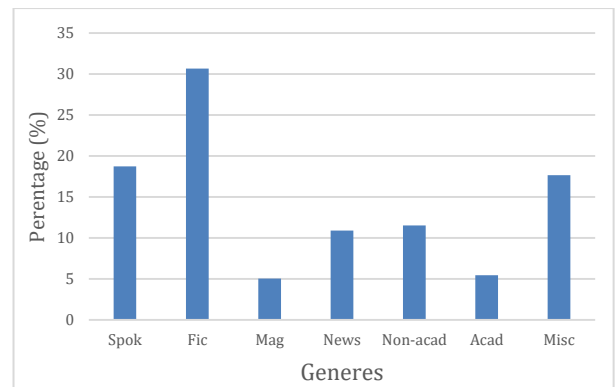
When it comes to the use of *look after* in the seven genres of the BNC, the fiction genre is the most influenced by it, followed by the spoken genre, the misc genre, the non-academic genre, the newspaper genre, the academic genre, and the magazine genre, in descending order.

Figure 4 Percentage of the use of take care of in the seven genres of the BNC
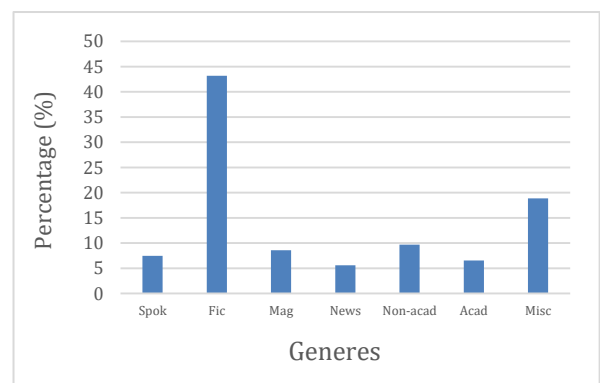
With respect to the use of *take care of*, it is interesting to note that the fiction genre is the most influenced by it, followed by the misc genre, the non-academic genre, the magazine genre, the spoken genre, the academic genre, and the newspaper genre, in that order.

Finally, attention is paid to the distance between *look after* and *take care of* in the BNC. The Euclidean distance provides the similarity index. The following

table shows the Euclidean distance between *look after* and *take care of* in the BNC:

Table 4 Euclid's distance between look after and take care of

Genre	Percentage of look after (%)	Percentage of take care of (%)	Euclidean distance
Spoken	18.73	7.47	11.26
Fiction	30.67	43.17	12.5
Magazine	5.04	8.59	3.55
Newspaper	10.90	5.60	5.3
Non-academic	11.53	9.71	1.82
Academic	5.45	6.54	1.09
Misc.	17.65	18.87	1.22

As alluded to in Table 4, *look after* is the nearest type to *take care of* in the academic genre. On the other hand, *look after* is the furthest type from *take care of* in the fiction genre. This in turn suggests that *look after* and *take care of* show deep similarities in the academic genre, but they do not show them in the fiction genre. Interestingly, *look after* and *take care of* reveal very close similarities in the misc genre, whereas they do not show them in the spoken genre. Similarly, *look after* and *take care of* reveal close similarities in the non-academic genre. It seems thus reasonable to conclude that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but they are slightly different from each other in their use.

3. Collocations of Look after and Take care of in the COCA and BNC

3.1. A Collocation Analysis of Look After and Take care of in the COCA

In what follows, we aim to consider the collocation of *look after* in the COCA. Table 5 shows the frequency of the collocation of *look after* in the top twenty five:

Table 5 Collocation of look after in the COCA

Number	Collocation of look after	Frequency
1	Look after things	26
2	Look after children	16
3	Look after people	12
4	Look after you	9
5	Look after orphans	8
6	Look after shrub	6
7	Look after number	5
8	Look after kids	4
9	Look after Mr	3
10	Look after mother	3
11	Look after Miss	3
12	Look after me	3
13	Look after grandma	3
14	Look after dad	3
15	Look after father	3
16	Look after details	3
17	Look after baby	2
18	Look after horses	2
19	Look after master	2
20	Look after beauty	2
21	Look after men	2
22	Look after mom	2
23	Look after friends	2
24	Look after sheep	2
25	Look after surgery	2

An important question is "Which expression is the most preferred by Americans?" Table 5 clearly shows that *look after things* is the most frequently used by Americans. This in turn implies that the expression *look after things* is the most preferred by Americans. As illustrated in Table 5, *look after things* is the most preferable expression among Americans, followed by *look after children*, *look after people*, *look after you*, *look after orphans*, *look after shrub*, *look after number*, and *look after kids*, in descending order. It is worth pointing out that the expression *look after orphans* is the fifth most preferred by Americans. Interestingly, the noun *shrub* is the sixth most preferred collocation of *look after*. It is interesting to note that the expression *look after details* ranks sixteenth in the COCA. We thus conclude that the expression *look after things* is the most preferable one for Americans.

Now attention is paid to the collocation of *take care of* in the COCA. Table 6 indicates the frequency of the collocation of *take care of* in the top twenty five:

**Table 6 Collocation of take care of in the COCA**

Number	Collocation of take care of	Frequency
1	Take care of business	387
2	Take care of things	306
3	Take care of people	173
4	Take care of children	81
5	Take care of me	46
6	Take care of it	44
7	Take care of kids	38
8	Take care of patients	37
9	Take care of mom	35
10	Take care of family	21
11	Take care of mommy	17
12	Take care of mother	16
13	Take care of us	16
14	Take care of babies	14
15	Take care of animals	13
16	Take care of problems	13
17	Take care of stuff	13
18	Take care of Mr	12
19	Take care of women	12
20	Take care of dad	11
21	Take care of home	11
22	Take care of matters	9
23	Take care of daddy	8
24	Take care of mama	8
25	Take care of right	8

An immediate question is "Which expression is the most widely used by Americans?" Table 6 clearly indicates that *take care of business* is the most commonly used by Americans. This indicates that the expression *take care of business* is the most preferable one for Americans. As exemplified in Table 6, *take care of business* is the most preferable one among Americans, followed by *take care of things*, *take care of people*, *take care of children*, *take care of me*, *take care of it*, *take care of kids*, and *take care of patients*, in that order. More interestingly, *take care of things* ranks second in the COCA, whereas *look after things* ranks first. It is significant to note, on the other hand, that *take care of people* and *look after people* rank third in the COCA, respectively. Additionally, it should be pointed out that *take care of children* ranks fourth in the COCA, whereas *look after children* ranks second. These seem to show that *look after* and *take care of* reveal close similarities.

In what follows, we visualize the collocations of *look after* and *take care of* in order to consider how much

they are related to each other. This 3-D visualization of the collocations of *look after* and *take care of* was performed by the software NetMiner:

Figure 5 Visualization of the collocations of look after and take care of in the COCA
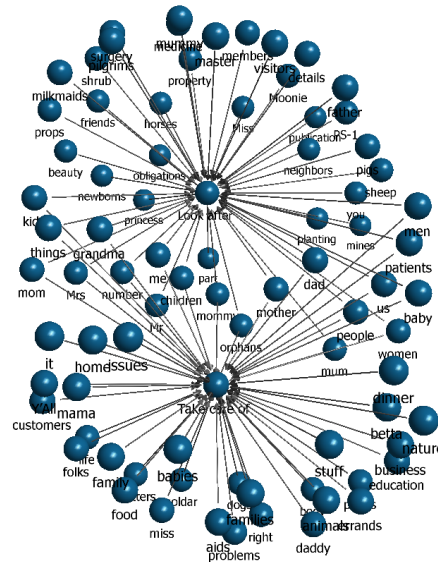
As exemplified in Figure 5, fifty collocations are linked to *look after* and fifty collocations are linked to *take care of*. This indicates that these nouns have a collocation relationship with *look after* and *take care of*, respectively. It is important to note that only twenty nouns are linked to both *look after* and *take care of*. To be more specific, the nouns *kids*, *things*, *grandma*, *mommy*, *mom*, *Mrs*, *number*, *me*, *children*, *mommy*, *mother*, *mum*, *women*, *people*, *us*, *baby*, *patients*, *men*, *dad*, and *orphans* are linked to both of *look after* and *take care of*, but the other nouns are not. Simply put, only twenty nouns have a collocation relationship with both *look after* and *take care of*. This in turn implies that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*.

3.2. A Collocation Analysis of Look After and Take care of in the BNC

In the following, we aim to consider the collocations of *look after* and *take care of* in the BNC. Table 7 indicates the frequency of the collocation of *look after* in the top seventeen:

Table 7 Collocation of look after in the BNC

Number	Collocation of look after	Frequency
1	Look after children	21
2	Look after things	8
3	Look after gran	4
4	Look after number	4
5	Look after people	3
6	Look after us	3
7	Look after mummy	3
8	Look after Mr	3
9	Look after horses	3
10	Look after employees	2
11	Look after farmers	2
12	Look after finances	2
13	Look after home	2
14	Look after health	2
15	Look after internationalization	2
16	Look after matters	2
17	Look after mother	2

Table 8 Collocation of take care of in the BNC

Number	Collocation of take care of	Frequency
1	Take care of things	6
2	Take care of users	1
3	Take care of us	1
4	Take care of thes	1
5	Take care of problems	1
6	Take care of press	1
7	Take care of people	1
8	Take care of mister	1
9	Take care of maintenance	1
10	Take care of guests	1
11	Take care of function	1
12	Take care of employees	1
13	Take care of drainage	1
14	Take care of clothing	1
15	Take care of children	1
16	Take care of business	1
17	Take care of art	1

An important question is "Which expression is the most preferred by the British?" Table 7 clearly shows that the expression *look after children* is the most frequently used by the British. This in turn implies that *look after children* is the most preferred by the British. As illustrated in Table 7, *look after children* is the most preferable one for the British, followed by *look after things*, *look after gran* (*look after number*), and *look after people*, in that order. More interestingly, *look after children* ranks first in the BNC, whereas it ranks second in the COCA. On the other hand, *look after things* ranks second in the BNC, whereas it ranks first in the COCA. It is interesting to point out that *look after number* ranks third in the BNC, whereas it ranks seventh in the COCA. From all of this, it is clear that American English and British English show a similar pattern with respect to the collocation of *look after*.

Now attention is paid to the collocation of *take care of* in the BNC. Table 8 indicates the frequency of the collocation of *take care of* in the top seventeen:

An immediate question is "Which expression is the most preferred by the British?" Table 8 clearly shows that *take care of things* is the most commonly used by the British. This in turn suggests that *take care of things* is the most preferable one among the British. It is significant to note that *take care of things* ranks first in the BNC, whereas *look after things* ranks second. On the other hand, *take care of us* ranks second in the BNC, whereas *look after us* ranks fifth. Interestingly, *take care of children* ranks second, whereas *look after children* ranks first. This fact indicates that *take care of* and *look after* show a similar pattern with regard to their collocations. It is interesting to point out that *take care of us* ranks twelfth in the COCA, whereas it ranks second in the BNC. On the other hand, *take care of people* ranks third in the COCA, whereas it ranks second in the BNC. Finally, it is worth pointing out that *take care of business* ranks first in the COCA, whereas it ranks second in the BNC. It can thus be inferred that American English and British English show a similar pattern with respect to the collocation of *take care of*.

Now we turn our attention to the visualization of the collocations of *look after* and *take care of* in the BNC:

Figure 6 Visualization of the collocations of look after and take care of in the BNC
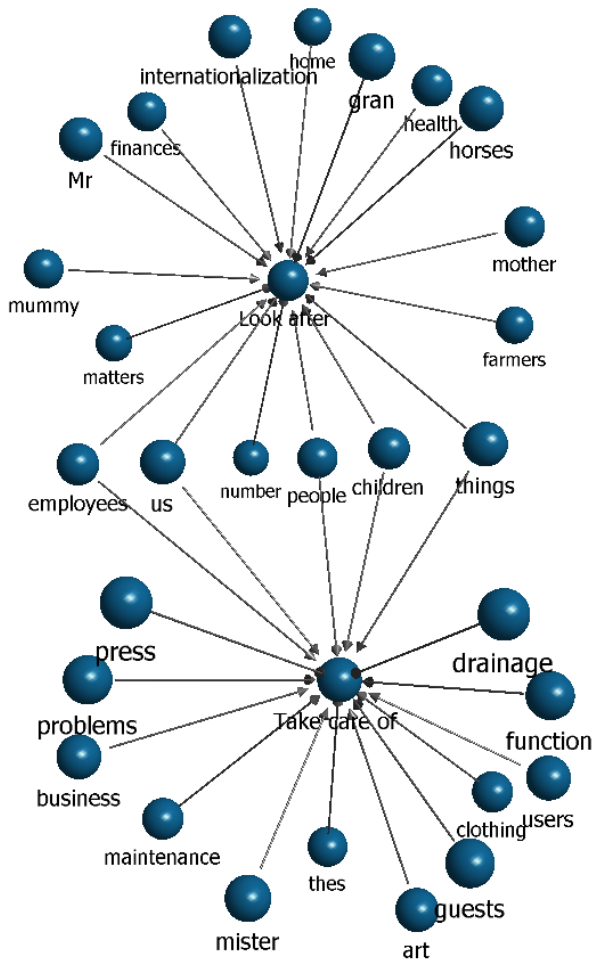
Note that the BNC includes the seventeen collocations of *take care of*. Thus, we compare the seventeen collocations of *look after* and *take care of*, respectively. As indicated in Figure 6, particular nouns are linked to *look after* and *take care of*, respectively. These nouns have a collocation relationship with *look after* and *take care of*, respectively. It is important to note, however, that only five nouns are linked to both *look after* and *take care of*. More specifically, only *things*, *us*, *people*, *employees*, and *children* are linked to both *look after* and *take care of*, but the other nouns are not linked to them. In a word, only five nouns have a collocation relationship with both *look after* and *take care of*. This in turn suggests that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, this paper argues that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*. In section 2.1, we have maintained that *look after* and *take care of* show the same pattern in the TV/movie and blog genres and the academic genre, whereas they show a different pattern in the web, fiction, magazine, and newspaper genres and the spoken genre. We have also maintained that *look after* and *take care of* show deep similarities in the web genre, whereas they do not show them in the fiction genre. In section 2.2, we have contended that *look after* and *take care of* show the same pattern in the fiction genre and the academic genre, whereas they show a different pattern in the spoken, misc, non-academic genres and the magazine and newspaper genres. We have also contended that *look after* is the nearest type to *take care of* in the academic genre. On the other hand, *look after* is the furthest type from *take care of* in the fiction genre. In section 3.1, we have argued that *look after things* is the most preferable expression among Americans, followed by *look after children*, *look after people*, *look after you*, *look after orphans*, *look after shrub*, *look after number*, and *look after kids*, in descending order. We have further argued that *take care of business* is the most preferable one among Americans, followed by *take care of things*, *take care of people*, *take care of children*, *take care of me*, *take care of it*, *take care of kids*, and *take care of patients*, in that order. We have also argued that only twenty nouns have a collocation relationship with both *look after* and *take care of*. This in turn implies that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*. In section 3.2, we have maintained that *look after children* is the most preferable one for the British, followed by *look after things*, *look after gran* (*look after number*), and *look after people*, in that order. We have contended, on the other hand, that *take care of things* is the most preferable one among the British. Finally, we have argued that only five nouns in the BNC have

a collocation relationship with both *look after* and *take care of*. This in turn implies that *look after* and *take care of* are synonymously used, but *look after* is not the equivalent of *take care of*.

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