

Abstract and key words:

This bachelor thesis aimed to investigate the development of disability terminology, specifically focusing on mental health issues, and its evolving frequency in newspapers from 1990 to 2019. The data was sourced from the COCA corpora, and the list of terms was based on the Disability Style Guide, established by the National Center on Disability and Journalism, with support from the categorization provided by the World Health Organization's ICD-11 browser. The primary focus was on examining the average frequency of 26 terms, primarily in three major newspapers: the New York Times, USA Today, and Washington Post. Additionally, the study observed the developmental patterns of the most frequently used words on the list, along with derogatory terms. The findings indicated an overall inclination towards an increase in average frequency, with noticeable variations in peaks and troughs across all analyzed categories. The derogatory terms demonstrated distinct fluctuations in all three newspapers, suggesting their continuous usage in journalism. The three newspapers exhibited significant differences, sharing high peaks in the later part of the analyzed period and inclining trandline. This area of research remains relatively underexplored, as there are limited studies focusing on the average frequency or individual usage of these words. Although the thesis confirmed the hypothesis of an increase in average frequency, it also highlights the need for more in-depth and repeated research on this topic. A deeper investigation into the variations identified in the results, as well as an examination of data from more recent years, could provide a better understanding of the nuances in mental health terminology uncovered during this analysis.

Key words: disability, disability terminology, mental health issues, historic overview, analysis of frequency, newspapers