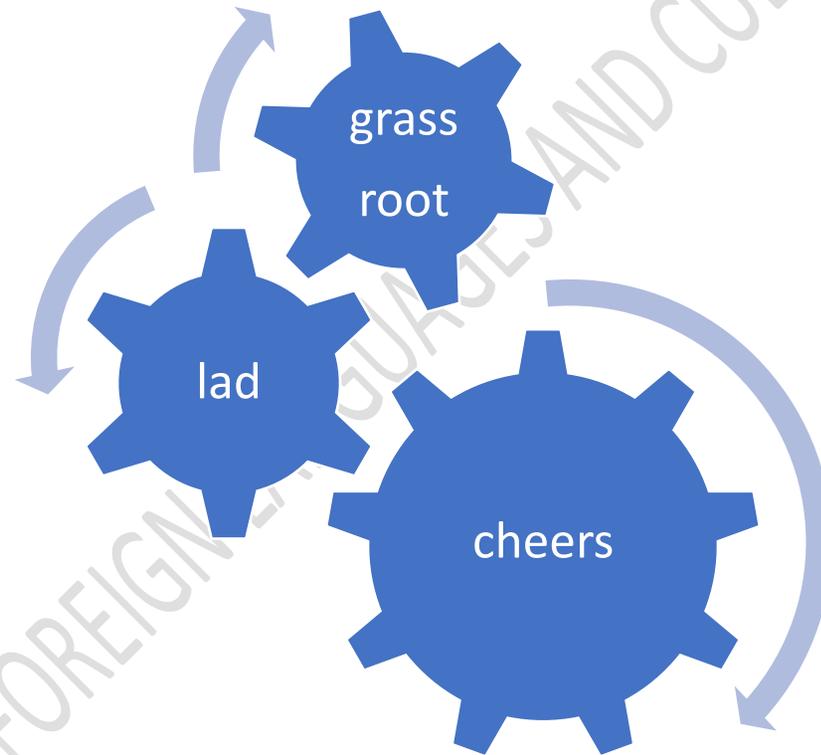


Concept investigation



A methodology to investigate concepts specific for British culture

The student of culture is often placed in a position to make statements such as: *The English never (eat garlic, have coffee ...)*, or *The English always (prefer tea, dress up for high tea ...)*. However, if there is an English person around, such generalisations necessarily meet strong feelings – no person likes being boxed into a stereotype, most generalisations are felt as straightjackets for genuine interest. That is why studying culture requires subtle methodologies.

Concept Investigation adopts a small culture approach¹ where concrete events are observed and described, a range of resources is included and the presentation acknowledges the sources and the reactions, without bundling together instances and building stereotypes.

The Task:

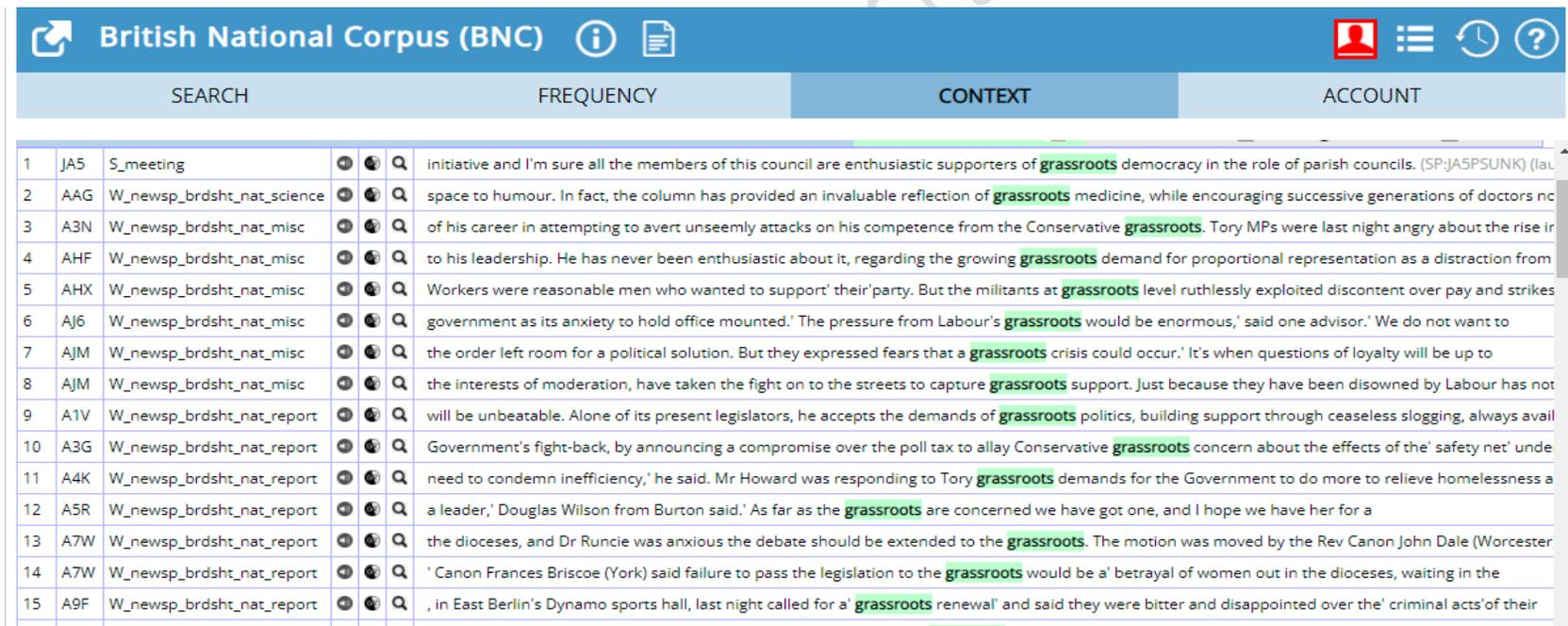
1. Choose a concept of interest to you, and typical of English culture: e.g., trainspotting, commuting, lollipop lady etc. There is a list of such concepts in the course on BC – ENGB517.
2. Check a definition in an English-English dictionary for a good description of what the concept implies. You can use Oxford English Dictionary, which will also give you the etymology and the changes through history.
3. See whether you can find statistical data about the concept from the resources on the course page ENGB517. Not all concepts allow for quantification, but some data – e.g., the commute for each European country, the number of people engaged in train spotting etc. – can be instructive.
4. Check the British National corpus. Use the link in the course. You can see in which genres the term is used, which attributes modify the term, which verbs are used with it, does it associate with nouns etc. From the search you can establish fiction where the term is used and media texts.
5. Look for uses of the concept in media. Which media have published material about the concept? What claims are made? Why?
6. Check whether the concept is used in literary texts – poems, songs, films etc. Analyze critically the text – what metaphors are used, are there similes etc.? What effect is achieved with these figures of speech?
7. Put all the data together and report it with reference to YOUR material. Do not attempt OVERREACHING conclusions.

¹ Adrian Holliday, Martin Hyde, and John Kullman. Intercultural Communication. Routledge Applied Linguistics. 2010.

Lora Paskaleva

Grass roots

According to The British National Corpus the term “grass roots” is most frequently used in the UK quality press such as “The Guardian” and “The Independent”. The collocation is often found in articles about elections and political parties. It is also part of news scripts and interviews with politicians on central television.



The screenshot shows the British National Corpus (BNC) interface. The top navigation bar includes the BNC logo, a search icon, and utility icons for user profile, menu, clock, and help. Below the navigation bar are four tabs: SEARCH, FREQUENCY, CONTEXT, and ACCOUNT. The main content area displays a table of search results for the term "grassroots". Each row contains a list number, a document ID, a document type, and a snippet of text with "grassroots" highlighted in green. The table is scrollable, and the current view shows 15 results.

	SEARCH	FREQUENCY	CONTEXT	ACCOUNT
1	JA5	S_meeting	initiative and I'm sure all the members of this council are enthusiastic supporters of grassroots democracy in the role of parish councils. (SP:JA5PSUNK) (la...	
2	AAG	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_science	space to humour. In fact, the column has provided an invaluable reflection of grassroots medicine, while encouraging successive generations of doctors no...	
3	A3N	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_misc	of his career in attempting to avert unseemly attacks on his competence from the Conservative grassroots. Tory MPs were last night angry about the rise in...	
4	AHF	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_misc	to his leadership. He has never been enthusiastic about it, regarding the growing grassroots demand for proportional representation as a distraction from...	
5	AHX	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_misc	Workers were reasonable men who wanted to support their party. But the militants at grassroots level ruthlessly exploited discontent over pay and strikes...	
6	AJ6	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_misc	government as its anxiety to hold office mounted. The pressure from Labour's grassroots would be enormous,' said one advisor. 'We do not want to...	
7	AJM	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_misc	the order left room for a political solution. But they expressed fears that a grassroots crisis could occur. It's when questions of loyalty will be up to...	
8	AJM	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_misc	the interests of moderation, have taken the fight on to the streets to capture grassroots support. Just because they have been disowned by Labour has not...	
9	A1V	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_report	will be unbeatable. Alone of its present legislators, he accepts the demands of grassroots politics, building support through ceaseless slogging, always avail...	
10	A3G	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_report	Government's fight-back, by announcing a compromise over the poll tax to allay Conservative grassroots concern about the effects of the 'safety net' unde...	
11	A4K	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_report	need to condemn inefficiency,' he said. Mr Howard was responding to Tory grassroots demands for the Government to do more to relieve homelessness a...	
12	A5R	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_report	a leader,' Douglas Wilson from Burton said. 'As far as the grassroots are concerned we have got one, and I hope we have her for a...	
13	A7W	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_report	the dioceses, and Dr Runcie was anxious the debate should be extended to the grassroots. The motion was moved by the Rev Canon John Dale (Worcester...	
14	A7W	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_report	' Canon Frances Briscoe (York) said failure to pass the legislation to the grassroots would be a betrayal of women out in the dioceses, waiting in the...	
15	A9F	W_newsp_brdsh_t_nat_report	, in East Berlin's Dynamo sports hall, last night called for a grassroots renewal' and said they were bitter and disappointed over the 'criminal acts' of their...	

However, the term is also used in the popular press, too – “The Northern Echo”, “Liverpool Daily Post”. It can be found in the sports news sections for example.

The verbs most commonly used in collocations before the term “grass roots” are “serviced”, “is” and “cultivate”. The most common verb used after “grass roots” is “level”.

The Oxford Learner’s dictionary defines the term as “ordinary people in society or in an organization, rather than the leaders or people who make decisions”.

The Cambridge dictionary give the following meaning: “the ordinary people in a society or an organization, especially a political party”.

The Mariam-Webster dictionary has three meanings listed: 1. basic, fundamental; 2. being, originating, or operating in or at the grass roots; 3. not adapted from or added to an existing facility or operation - totally new.

The most frequently used meaning of the term “grass roots” is the one of The Cambridge dictionaries.

Stephany Jasmati

Cheers

Dictionary definition

[Cambridge dictionary](#)

1) A friendly expression said just before you drink an alcoholic drink. Example: Cheers! Your good health.

2)Used to mean “Thank you”

Example: "I've bought you a drink." "Cheers, mate. "

3)Used to mean “goodbye”

Example: "Bye." "Cheers, see you next week."

[Oxford dictionary](#)

1) Expressing good wishes before drinking.

Example: "Cheers," she said, raising her glass' or 'But now we have and it should be read tongue in cheek and beer in hand - cheers!'

2) Expressing good wishes on parting or ending a conversation.

Example: "Cheers, Jack, see you later."

3) Expressing gratitude or acknowledgement for something.

Example: 'Billy tossed him the key. 'Cheers, pal.'" or 'The lads certainly appreciated your support - cheers!'

[Macmillan dictionary](#)

1) Used for expressing good wishes when holding a glass of alcohol, just before you drink it

2) "Thank you"

Example: 'Here's that book you wanted to borrow.' 'Oh, cheers.'

3) "Goodbye"

[Dictionary.com](#)

1) A shout of encouragement, approval, congratulation, etc.

Example: The cheers of the fans filled the stadium.

2) A set or traditional form of shout used by spectators to encourage or show enthusiasm for an athletic team, contestant, etc., as rah! Rah! rah!

3) Something that gives joy or gladness; encouragement; comfort: words of cheer.

Origin of the word

- Legends

The "clinking" ritual, according to this theory, was a gesture to prove the safety of the drink. In time, the actual mixing of the two drinks was altered to become a gesture performed especially amongst trusted companions. However, this origin was quickly debunked, as tradition holds that the host always drinks first to test the nature of the drink. The practice continues today especially in regard to wine. I have found that this supposed origin, however, actually dates back only to a fictional plot twist penned by Alexandre Dumas in the late 1800's.

WORD SKETCH



Not logged in
[Log in](#)

cheer as noun 10x ...

object_of bring brought more cheers	subject_of go cheer went	modifier thunderous thunderous cheer victory victory cheer more more cheers good good cheer	and/or applause cheers and applause and hospitality hospitality and good cheer th th , a thunderous cheer	pp_obj_of salvo salvos of cheers word word of cheer
pp_obj_with greet greeted with a cheer	pp_from direction cheer from the direction	pp_obj_amid company Company amid cheers		

Concept in literary texts

Cheers

Cheers to silence

When she calls

And you leave.

Cheers to how fast

She makes your heart beat.

Cheers to your new love.

Cheers to what I don't have

Any more...

By: Eleanor Rigby Mar 2015

Citara Bakirova

Lollipop lady/man

Dictionary definition

Lollipop lady/man by [Oxford dictionaries](#)

A woman or man who is employed to help children cross the road safely near a school by holding up a circular sign on a pole to stop the traffic.

Lollipop lady/man by [Urban dictionary](#)

A crossing guard, holding a big "stop" sign resembling a lollipop.

We can't cross the road until the lollipop lady says it's ok.

Lollipop lady/man by [Free dictionary](#)

Someone who helps people (especially children) at a traffic crossing

Data investigation

Salary

Usually paid by the hour, between £7.50 and £12.25, term-time only.

Working hours

Usually work for around 1 to 2 hours a day, Monday to Friday. Your actual hours will depend on the opening and closing times of the schools near your crossing.

26,000 lollipop men and women in the UK

The number of lollipop ladies have fallen by more than 1,000 in the past 5 years

More than 419 School Crossing Patrollers have left in the last year alone

Lollipop ladies/men in the news

Lollipop ladies/men most frequently appear in the news in connection to job cuts and declining numbers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2003/mar/05/childrensservices.guardiansocietysupplement>

Dept of FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Lollipop men and women numbers down

By Lucy Adams & Marc Ellison
Political correspondent, BBC Scotland

1 December 2016



The number of lollipop men and women has fallen by 75 in three years

Two-thirds of Scotland's councils have cut the amount of money spent on lollipop men and women in the past three years, research by BBC Scotland has found.

School crossing patrol personnel numbers have dropped by about 75 since 2013, leading to fears about safety.

DailyMail

According to Dailymail -

"...number of lollipop ladies has fallen by more than 1,000 in five years as councils cut costs..." which make 19% over the past five years.

Lollipop ladies/men in the news

BBC

According to BBC, only in Scotland - "School crossing patrol personnel numbers have dropped by about 75 since 2013"

Lollipop ladies/men in the news

"This is mostly because a cost-cutting drive as local authorities try to save money.

The total amount spent by councils on the wages of crossing patrollers has been cut by almost £3million over five years (from £19.6m to £16.7million)" – Daily Mail.

In both articles is very clear said that the decline of lollipop ladies/men is due to cuts in budget.

"A spokesman for Stirling Council, which had the biggest cut to school patrol services, said the decision was made three years ago following substantial cuts to its overall budget." - BBC

Lollipop Man: Song by The Sweet

Released in 1969

Failed to make the Charts

Ostensibly about crossing the street to meet a girl, however, more metaphorically dealing with bridging the gap between a boy and a girl against the backdrop of the very different social landscape of 1960s England.

"Any kind of weather

Bringing us together"

Lollipop Man: Song by The Sweet

And here it is the song itself

"You go to the girl's school

And I go to the boy's school

Both separated by a lollipop man

I must cross the street to

Get around to meet you

Therefore, I have to pass a lollipop man"

Militsa Stoitsev

Toll

Definition

[Legal Dictionary:](#)

A sum of money paid for the right to use a road, highway, or bridge.
To postpone or suspend.

[Oxford Dictionary:](#)

A charge payable to use a bridge or road;

A charge for a long-distance telephone call;

The number of deaths or casualties arising from a natural disaster, conflict, accident, etc.;

The adverse effect of something.

[Free Dictionary:](#)

A fixed charge or tax for a privilege, especially for passage across a bridge or along a road;

A charge for a service, such as a telephone call to another country;

An amount or extent of loss or destruction, as of life, health, or property;

Metaphorical definition

Idiom: to take a/its toll - to have a cumulative negative effect on someone or something, be damaging or harmful, cause loss or destruction, death, suffering

Examples:

The war has taken its toll on the people.

The problems of the past few months have taken their toll on her health and there are shadows under her eyes.

Etymology

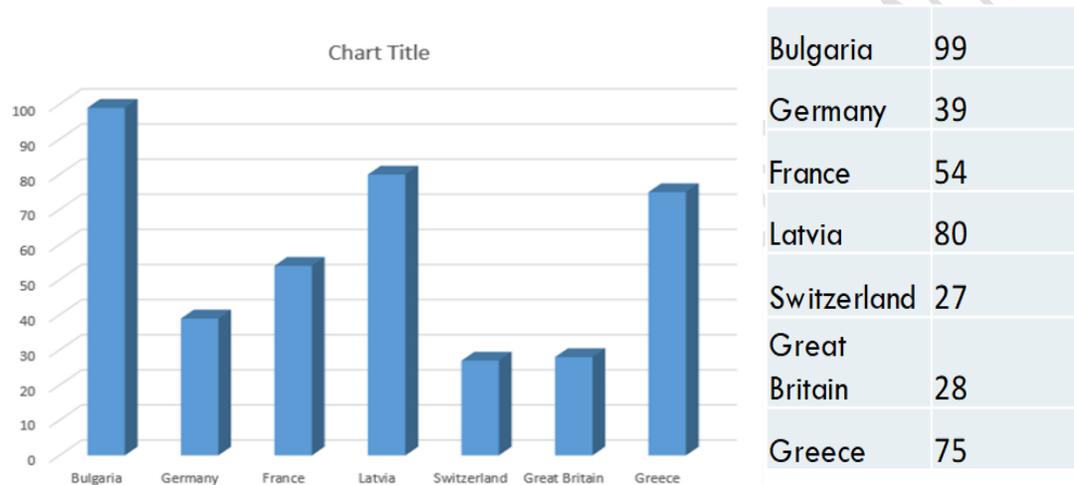
Originally in a general sense of "payment exacted by an authority;" meaning "charge for rite of passage along a road" is from late 15c.

Old English toll > variant of toln, cognate with Old Norse tollr > Old Frisian tolen > Old High German zol > Late Latin tonium "custom house."

"impost, tribute, passage-money, rent,"

Statistics

Road casualties for 2016 / 1 mln



Data from the Bulgarian Ministry of the Interior

Fatalities by road user type

In 2016, **car occupants** accounted for 46 per cent of road deaths, pedestrians 25 per cent, motorcyclists 18 per cent and pedal cyclists 6 per cent.

	Fatalities in 2016	% share in 2016	% change since '15	% change from '10 - '14 avg
	816	 46%	^8%	√1%
	448	 25%	^10%	^6%
	319	 18%	√13%	√10%
	102	 6%	^2%	√9%
Other	107	 6%	^4%	^19%

Data from the UK Department for transport

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Air pollution is blamed for increases in road accidents

Clearer, bluer, Science Correspondent
October 3 2014, 12:04pm,
The Times



A PhD student at the London School of Economics found that the number of accidents on British roads increased in line with levels of nitrogen dioxide.

Death toll on British roads

The horrendous crash on the M56 today is one of the worst road accidents in recent history with seven dead and two fighting for their lives.

Here we look back to other tragic crashes on Britain's roads and remember those who were killed or injured.

Possibly the most horrific came in 1993 when 12 children and their teacher died when their minibus smashed into the back of another vehicle on the M40 in Warwickshire as they headed back from a London day trip.

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Financial news from the boardroom to the sidewalk
WEEKDAYS
FIND OUT WHEN IT'S NEXT ON

Fewer people killed in Scottish road accidents in 2015

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Road deaths on the rise in UK, according to latest figures

The government has just published the Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain Annual Report for 2014, which shows that there were 1,775 reported road deaths last, an increase of 4% compared with 2013.

By CRAIG THOMAS
PUBLISHED: 09:03 Sun 26 Sep 2015 | UPDATED: 05:46 Sat 26 Sep 2015

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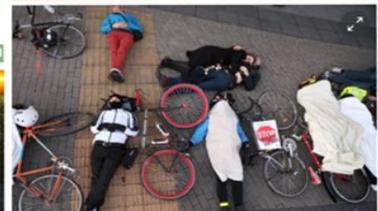
the guardian

Home Life & Style Cars Road deaths on the rise in UK, according to latest figures
Home culture business lifestyle fashion environment tech travel
Opinion editorials

What's many times more deadly than terrorism? Britain's roads

by Toynbee

Government preaches 'security' yet cuts police and road casualty targets. Keep our fears of the risks in everyday life in proportion



Time Takes Its Toll - Poem by Mittur Ramprasad

And the time takes it toll
Burning the heart and soul
Leaving behind only a glimpse
Of the beauty of once, in corpse
Alas, laws laid by the nature
Encompasses the enforcer with torture
Only goes to show that everyone is viable
Trekking with time that is invisible
Only to perish at some given point
But then again who is to anoint
Where and when like candle in the sun
Burn it will with its wick when it is done
Leaving behind traces of what once was
For the future to wonder searching in the straws

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