Specificities and other applications of the Fisher's exact test to textual data:
What's the matter with lexical frequencies?

Bénédicte Pincemin

CNRS, IHRIM UMR5317, ENS de Lyon – benedicte.pincemin@ens-lyon.fr

Abstract

This article aims to make four contributions: *(i)* to disseminate internationally that the textometric measure of Specificity is a Fisher's exact test; *(ii)* to explain why this measure is still state-of-the-art for textual data analysis; *(iii)* to review and respond to the main criticisms levelled at it; and *(iv)* to provide guidelines for its proper use.

Keywords: association measures, keyword research, collocations, dispersion, corpus linguistics, textometry.