

We can check it in the corpus shur: Framing the use of corpus and corpus methodologies through an investigation of the pragmatic marker *shur* in Irish English

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Why does nearly everyone in Ireland say shur?

Has anyone else had or currently has this habit were you always have to add shur into every sentence you use? I have it, I say it now without even realising! What does shur actually mean anyway?

2 years ago

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Best Answer - Chosen by Voters

Ah shur it doesn't matter.



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Aoife 

shur, grand and like are my three best words!! It doesn't really mean anything, it just sounds good.

2 years ago

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muhahaha

think yourself lucky thats all you picked up...im from cork n every second word we say its either "like" or ja no...or sometimes even "Ja no like"!...i do it all the time n i even annoy myself!

2 years ago

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What is often overlooked is what 'real' people using real language have to say about it (cf. McCarthy & Clancy, 2013)

The corpus perspective

- After all, what's 'in' a corpus is 'real people using real language'...
- Authentic, naturally occurring, spontaneous speech captured for analysis...
- What can we do using corpus tools?
- What possible pitfalls do we need to negotiate?

LCIE Keywords

Position	KeyWord
1	like
2	shure
3	yeah
4	goin
5	cause
6	tis
7	d'you
8	now
9	kind
10	grand

BNC Spoken
(10m) as
reference
corpus

Removing
vocalisations
and
extralinguistic
information

Shur, shure, sure?

- On the whole, transcribed as *shure* in LCIE – but not exclusively
- *Sure* = *shur/e*
- *Shur/e* = *sure*
- *Sure*: lexical, meaning certainty
- *Shur/e*: pragmatic marker

Frequency information

LCIE	SPICE	BNC (spoken)
1277 (<i>shure, shur</i> and <i>sure</i>)	194 (<i>sure</i> *)	11 (<i>shur/e</i>)

Frequency information

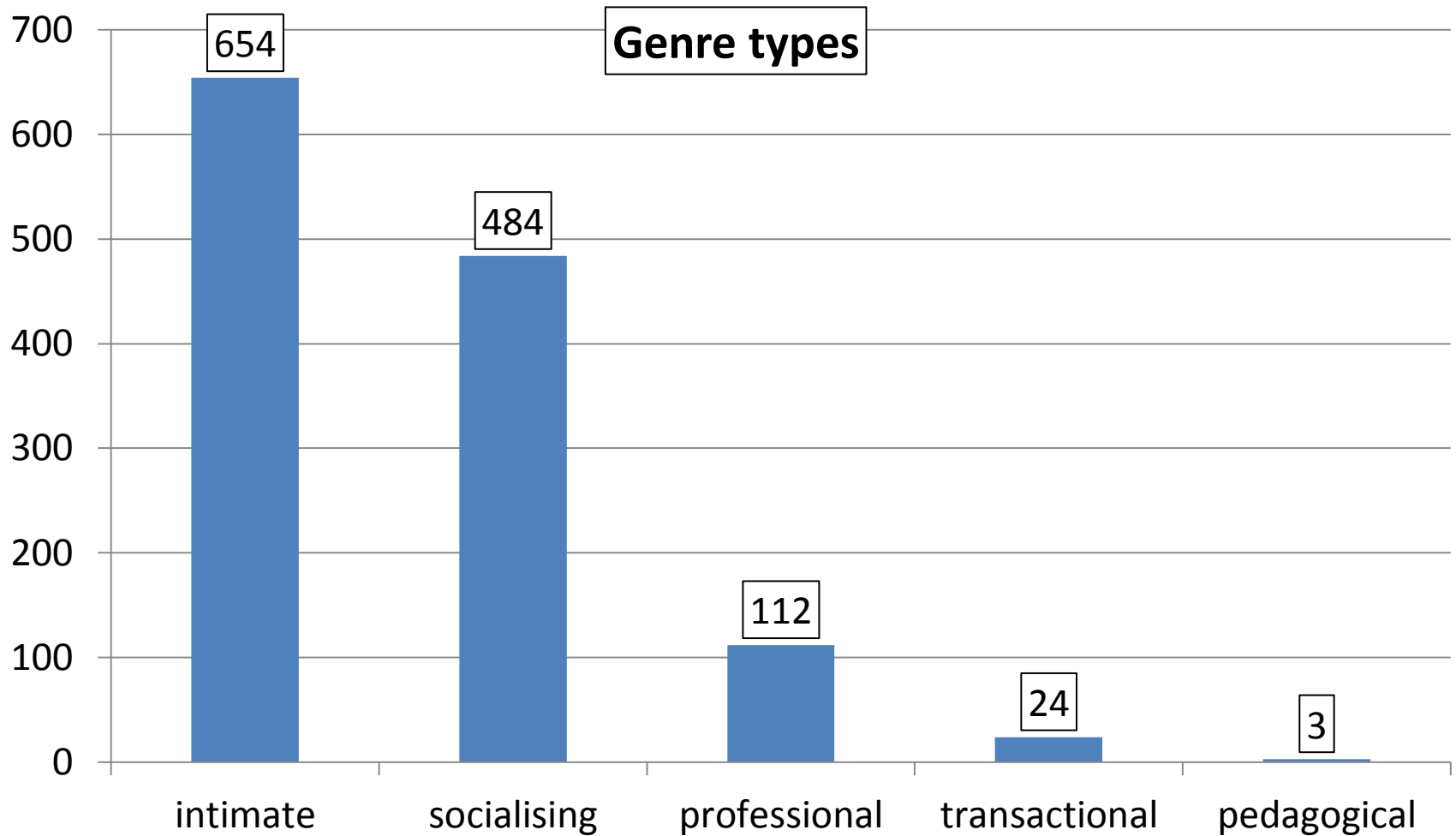
Normalised per million words

LCIE	SPICE	BNC
1277	310	1

*Sure** in SPICE Ireland

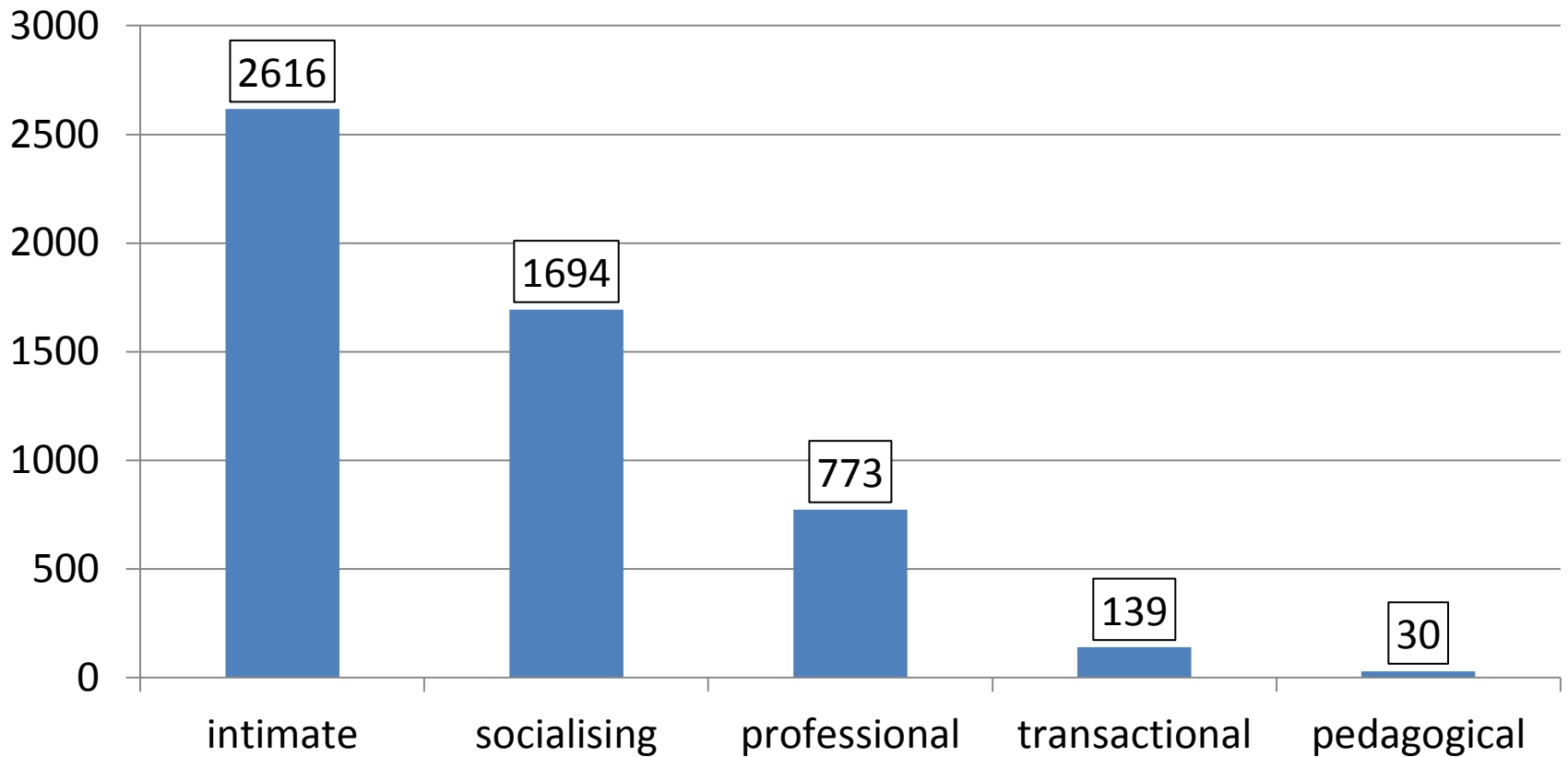
- DMs in SPICE indicated by *...
- In SPICE, there are 167 *sure** in the face-to-face conversations...
- This is equivalent to 897 *sure** per million words...

Breakdown of *SURE* in LCIE



Breakdown normalised per million words

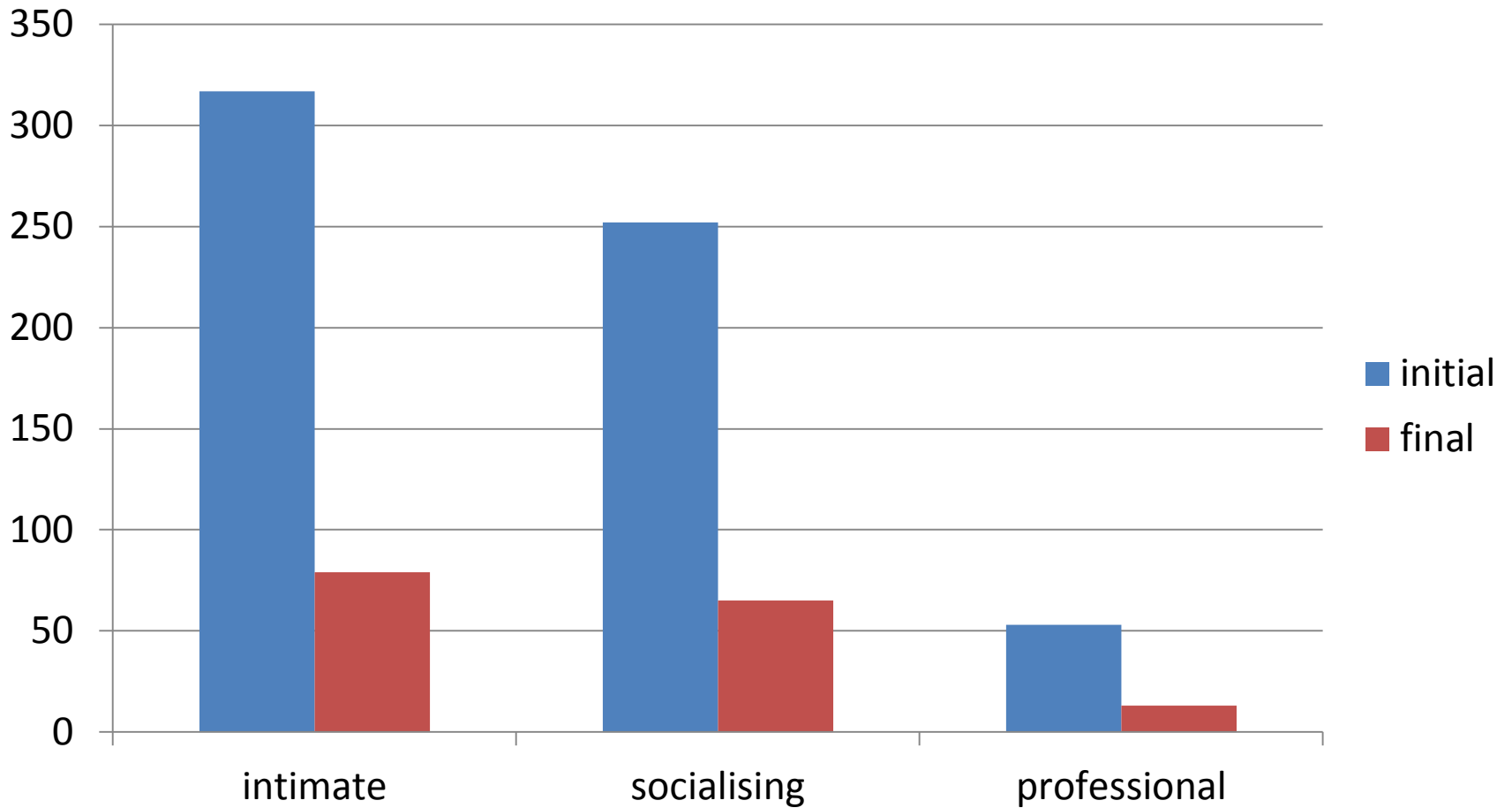
Genre types



What do others say?

- This is used as a mitigator or hedge in initial position. Its most common pattern of use being *but shure*, used to soften the effect of *but* in the introduction of a counter point (O'Keefe, 2011: 60).

Position of *shure* in LCIE



What do others say?

- Kallen (2006)
- *Sure* usually precedes an assertion; new information presented as old, indirectly requesting agreement.
- Kallen and Kirk (2012)
- *Sure* confirms presupposed knowledge – includes general knowledge, which is not the property of any specific individual in the conversation.

What do others say?

- Amador Moreno (2005)
- *Sure* has a range of functions – both emphatic and indexical – and can be used to mark causality, mockery, contrast and consensuality.

“Why does nearly everyone in Ireland say shur?”

- We can add flesh to the bones of our initial observations by using corpus data
- Can't make any claims about “nearly everyone” but...
- *SURE* is salient in LCIE (Key Word)
- *SURE* is most frequent in the casual sphere (in LCIE and SP/ICE)

One final thing: *Shure* isn't LCIE over 10 years old now?

- Home and Away Ireland...
- Currently 2007-2011– tagged and stored as corpus
- c. 200k (59 months of Blog)
- Larger research question: Investigating the language of a community of users of Irish English – they mark and reference the ‘world’ of Irish English

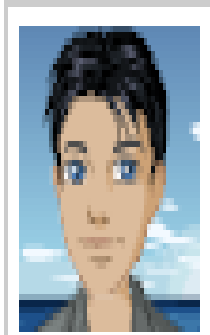
SURE

- 200k: 181 occurrences of *sure*
- 85/181 occurrences – *SURE*
- Approx. 400 occurrences of pragmatic marker *SURE* (normalised p/m)
- **Sure** murder is nothing special in Summer Bay
- **Sure** look at the fine pair of childbearing hips on her

Final observations

- Corpora offer authentic data – but in order to fully investigate the nuances of an item a fine-grained analysis is always necessary
- Can support intuitions and observations...and also reveal other patterns
- ...possibility of *SURE* in final position in the utterance – how might this be distinct (if at all)?

Why does nearly everyone in Ireland say shur?



Best Answer - Chosen by Voters

Ah shur it doesn't matter.

We beg to differ!