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## **Corpus Based Analysis of Established Preposition-Noun Word Combinations with the Meaning of Emotions (aus Spaß = for fun, aus Lust = for pleasure, aus Angst = from fear...)**

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**Abstract**---Corpus linguistics is used in this paper to describe selected established German-language combinations firmly connecting prepositions and nouns (German: *Substantiv*) with a zero article, a sign of their lexicalisation. The focus is on preposition-noun combinations that express emotions in a primarily causal adverbial function, such as *aus Angst* 'from fear', *aus Furcht* 'for fear'; *aus Spaß* 'for fun', *aus Lust* 'for pleasure' *aus Verzweiflung* 'out of desperation/despair', *aus Frust* 'out of frustration'. The paper points out the insufficient lexicographic description currently available in dictionaries, while emphasising that the meaning of the word combination can only be analysed in context and, from their typical occurrence, it is possible to distinguish several aspects of the combination used, something dictionaries usually do not reflect. Research into these word combinations constitute a desideration of contemporary linguistics.

**Keywords**---Corpus linguistics, lexicographic, meaning of emotions, prepositions nouns, word combination.

## Introduction

The expressing of emotions is an integral part of everyday life. It is the first verbally portrayed human response to external excitement. Language coding is one way to express emotions and this is discussed in the paper through an analysis of lexicalised German-language combinations forming minimal binary preposition-noun-phrases (PNP). These combinations, in their lexical-syntagmatic combinatorics, consist of the German preposition “*aus*” and a noun (with a zero article) and together they express psychic stimuli. A preliminary analysis of their lexicographic processing enables a statement to be made about their affiliation to the semantic class of causal relationships.

This paper seeks to draw attention to German combined preposition-noun phrases with causal meanings because they are mentioned only sporadically in relevant German grammar and lexicographic sources. The usual word combinations that include these PNPs are structurally and semantically a very heterogeneous group (Kasahara, 2011). The PNP analysis is based on research conducted as part of VEGA 1/0352/20 *Confrontational research on the lexicalization of structural models in German and Slovak* by the Department of German Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of St. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia.

The need to examine more closely the combinatorics of prepositions with nouns is based on an empirical finding that the syntagmatic lexical relation of functional words has more differentiated limitations in their usage than has been presented to date (Britt, 1994). In phraseology research, the issue of PNPs is an area that requires more attention because recurrent usage of them in language demonstrate different degrees of fixity, lexicalisation and phraseologisation.

## Preposition-noun phrases

In the German language, preposition-noun phrases are understood as relatively established combinations and so form lexicalised phraseological units. Their fixity is evident mainly in the zero article before the noun (*zu Hause* ‘at home’) or a fixed combination of the preposition and article *im Allgemeinen* ‘in general’. Recurrent zero articles between the preposition and the noun themselves signal a lexicalisation and phraseologisation of these word combinations (Khurana et al., 2018). In the causal combinations analysed here, the zero article is also conditioned by the nature of the noun and this is abstract. However, such combinations are not excluded from the overall objective of the research. On the contrary, it is intriguing to observe the tendency toward fixity in other semantic PNP groups. As language units, PNPs are set in specific contexts and bind typical, recurrent collocation partners. They are thus cognitively established as separate units based on their recurrent usage and functional fixation (compare Steyer 2018; Ďurčo 2018). As relatively strong combinations, they occur in sentence structures as autonomous units functioning mostly as adverbs.

However, a systematic description of PNP as a means of expressing circumstances (temporal, local, modal and causal) is absent in grammar. This assertion can also be generally applied when linguistically describing a PNP. Di Meola (2014),

characterises PNPs in his grammaticalisation of German prepositions as “prepositional phrases” (German: *Präpositionalphrasen*), analysing them in terms of prepositions and yet in the form of a syntactic structure. Simultaneously, he mentions a higher degree of grammaticalisation that cover such PNPs, where no article is placed between the preposition and the noun. Kiss (2011), thematises the conditions for omitting the article in “preposition-noun combinations” (German: *Präposition-Nomen-Kombinationen*). With few exceptions, he finds these connections not described in grammar, although some regularity can be observed in their formation. He links the omission of the article in these combinations to structural and interpretive factors.

Steyer (2018), makes the most important contribution to the PNP question when he describes the formal and functional properties of these combinations, while paying the greatest attention to PNPs in the temporal sense. In recent years, research in this area has intensified in Slovakia, targeting both research into the German language and also a contrastive perspective toward it (Hein et al. 2018; Ďurčo 2018, 2020; Peter et al., 2019; Fraščíková 2018, 2019, 2020; Hornáček Banášová 2018; Banášová, 2020; Hujsiova-Tabacekova, 2019).

The starting point for research here is a statistical analysis of syntagmatic profiles in the electronic language corpora of these PNPs: *aus Angst* ‘from fear’, *aus Furcht* ‘for fear’, *aus Spaß* ‘for fun’, *aus Lust* ‘for pleasure’ *aus Verzweiflung* ‘out of desperation/despair’, *aus Frust* ‘out of frustration’. Even though these combinations exhibit some common features, the individual PNPs were analysed in detail by us based on how they are used in specific contexts, which permits corpus linguistics to be used (Cheng et al., 2003; Candel-Mora & Vargas-Sierra, 2013). Wider co-competences need to be examined qualitatively and quantitatively in order to observe their modes and any restrictions in their typical usage. This contributes not only to a linguistic description of the combinations, but also enriches their lexicographic description, which is often absent in dictionaries (Himmelfarb & Ikizler, 2007).

Nonetheless, a comprehensive analysis of a PNP has to include a morphosyntactic analysis, too (Koroliova et al., 2021). From a syntactic perspective, it is worth bearing in mind that the PNPs examined in this paper do not always appear in sentences basically functioning as causal adverbs, thus relatively autonomously. Cases where PNPs are part of different syntactic structures are quite common, for example:

- As part of attributes (matched/mismatched):  
*Mein Wunsch, meine **aus Frust** zugenommenen Pfunde loszuwerden, ging voll daneben.*  
*‘My desire to rid myself of the pounds I had gained **out of frustration** went completely awry.’*  
*Scheitern **aus Angst** ist menschlich und männlich.*  
*‘Failing **because of fear** is human and masculine.’*
- Mandatory/optional addition:  
*Vermeidung ergibt sich **aus Angst**. ‘Evasion comes **from fear**.’*
- Firmly established constructions/phrases (*aus Verzweiflung wird Hoffnung; aus Frust wird Lust* – ‘Despair turns into hope; frustration turns into desire’):

*Langsam ändert sich ihre Einstellung ihm gegenüber; aus Frust wird Lust.*  
 ‘Slowly, her attitude toward him is changing - from frustration to desire.’

However, this solid construction show some variability too, such as

*Und so wird aus Frust wieder die pure Lust am Arbeiten.*

‘And so frustration turns once more into the pure pleasure of working.’

In a similar vein, it includes established combinations of a PNP and another noun, such as *aus Lust und Laune; aus Angst und Panik/Scham/Sorge/Unsicherheit/ Unwissenheit/Verzweiflung* ‘on a whim; out of fear and panic/shame/worry/ uncertainty/ignorance/despair’.

It is also relatively common for PNPs to exhibit internal variability: *aus großer Angst* ‘out of great fear’, *aus eigener Angst* ‘out of one’s own fear’). Semantic variability is likewise closely related to this formal variability. It is characteristic especially in the PNPs above that variability does not disrupt semantic relations, but rather expresses a certain intensification or possession: *aus Angst* vs. *aus großer Angst* vs. *aus eigener Angst* ‘out of fear’ vs. ‘out of great fear’ vs. ‘out of one’s own fear’.

Describing a PNP’s formal and semantic properties is a very complex problem, with each one characterised by specific typical properties in shape and meaning that are associated with frequent restrictions in their usage (Parkinson, 2009). Therefore, it is vital to become acquainted with typical contexts for their usage and to utilise them to analyse their semantic properties. Only an electronic corpora can provide such a detailed analysis with the amount of data involved.

### **Empirical research**

It is critical to employ electronic language corpora to examine PNPs because of the large amounts of data available therein that can be used to examine semantic properties and functional restrictions. Corpus analysis also provides the opportunity to analyse the language units in their specific usage contexts (van Velzen et al., 2014).

When examining PNPs, the first stop would be PREPCON<sup>1</sup>, an online platform that documents the frequency of German PNPs and provides basic information on the established usage of these structures. The examples shown in this paper were taken from the *German Web Corpus “deTenTen13”*.<sup>2</sup> The analysis mainly examines the lexical environment of any PNP in the corpus. Lexical environment means here either a PNP’s collocation possibilities or the ability to bind verbal or nominal collocators to each other (Peniro & Cyntas, 2019). The semantics of PNPs is closely connected with collocations, examining them in situational contexts, the so-called “usage” (German: *Gebrauchsaspekt*) of the PNP and what its typical collocators are in each sense. Formal restrictions on these combinations, closely related to the PNP’s semantic aspect, are frequently revealed here.

<sup>1</sup> <http://uww.ids-mannheim.de/prepcon/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sketchengine.co.uk/>

### Analysis of established word combinations

The first step is a semantic analysis of word combination units and the entire established combination, which forms the foundation for determining semantic properties. The standard corpora for this type research are Duden<sup>3</sup> and DWDS<sup>4</sup> (*Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache*) and it was from these online dictionaries that the lexicographic description of the units was analysed.

Next, there was an examination of whether the analysed PNP could be found in the relevant dictionaries. It is common practice for them to provide only one basic meaning, without taking into account the other typical contexts and meanings of these combinations, or even mention therein, although usage of these combinations is relatively high in the corpora:

Table 1  
Frequency of selected PNPs in corpora

PNP	Number of examples in deTenTen13	Frequency in PEPCON	Appears in	
			Duden	DWDS
<i>aus Spaß</i>	19.965	225	√	√
<i>aus Lust</i>	3.905	39	X	X
<i>aus Angst</i>	85.393	1683	√	√
<i>aus Furcht</i>	13.797	354	√	√
<i>aus Verzweiflung</i>	6.524	128	X	√
<i>aus Frust</i>	5.615	160	X	X

The analysis found only very much frequently used PNPs listed, yet they remain either with a single basic meaning or only stating a phrase or a firm combination. Notwithstanding, a corpus analysis brings new knowledge because analysis of a large amount of data already provides relevant data about typical usage of the combination in certain contexts, the so-called “usage” of PNP. Individual usages of the examined PNPs are presented in the next chapter, where they always form a pair primarily understandable as synonymous. But a detailed corpus analysis will show them not to be completely synonymous because each combination has its own typical usage and it would be incorrect to understand and communicate them as synonyms.

#### ***Aus Lust – aus Spaß***

A semantic analysis of the nominal parts of *aus Lust* and *aus Spaß* showed both nouns in these PNPs to have several meanings. The German noun *Lust* can mean passion, zest, lust<sup>5</sup> (in the meaning of sexual desire), sexual pleasure and also a strong mind to do something. The noun *Spaß* (or *Spass*) may appear in the meaning of pleasure and of a joke, jest or fun. The analysis found the nouns to be synonymous only in the sense of pleasure, which is also reflected in the usage of both PNPs.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.duden.de>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dwds.de/d/woerterbuecher>

<sup>5</sup> “Lust” is also an English word that means overwhelming craving, intense enthusiasm and also intense sexual desire.

**Typical meanings of *aus Lust*:**

Usage 1: joy, pleasure (doing something for joy or pleasure, doing something that brings the speaker joy/pleasure)

There are two forms that occur in this usage. Simple - etwas aus Lust machen (Example 1) and when the preposition may become a postposition in the PNP “*an/am – etwas aus Lust an/ am + “noun” machen*” (Example 2).

Typical verbal collocators: *entstehen* ‘to be created/to emerge’, *tun* ‘to do’, *geschehen* ‘to happen’, *töten* ‘to kill/slay’, *jagen* ‘to hunt’, *essen* ‘to eat’:

- 1) *Jäger töten aus Lust. Jedes Jahr werden ca. 10 Millionen Wildtiere von Jägern getötet.*  
‘Hunters kill for pleasure; each year they kill around 10 million wild animals.’
- 2) *Letztendlich entstanden sie aus purer Lust an der zeichnerischen Wahrnehmung der Umwelt.*  
‘Ultimately, they were created out of sheer pleasure from sheer pleasure in the graphic perception of the environment.’

Usage 2: need (the speaker needs something to happen or has to do something)

This form occurs in infinitive constructions. Typical verbal collocators: *tun* ‘to do’, *entstehen* ‘to be created/to emerge’, *essen* ‘to eat’, *jagen* ‘to hunt’:

*Der Mensch isst aus Lust, weil man erleben will.*  
‘People eat out of passion because they want to experience it.’

Usage 3: lust (most frequently used in the context of sexual pleasure or sexual desire)

It occurs most commonly in the verb *geschehen* ‘to happen’

*Der Sex geschieht daher lediglich aus der spontanen Lust heraus.*  
‘Therefore, sex happens merely out of spontaneous desire.’

**Typical meanings of *aus Spaß*:**

Unlike *aus Lust*, this PNP only has two aspects of usage and only one of them is the same as *aus Lust* (Usage 1):

Usage 1: joy, pleasure (doing something because it brings the speaker joy or pleasure) In this sense, the preposition is frequently expanded with “*an/am*” as a postposition. It is typical only for this usage.

Typical verbal collocators: *machen* ‘to do’, *spielen* ‘to play’, *schreiben* ‘to write’, *tun* ‘to do’, *fahren* ‘to drive’:

*Aber wir machen das ganze doch aus Spaß am Basteln.*  
‘But we’re doing it all for the pleasure of tinkering’

Usage 2: joke (to think or to do something for fun)

*Aus Spaß* is used more frequently in this sense than in the meaning provided in Usage 1.

Typical verbal collocators: *machen* ‘to do’, *spielen* ‘to play’, *schreiben* ‘to write’, *tun* ‘to do’, *meinen* ‘to think’, *fahren* ‘to drive’, *töten* ‘to kill’:

*Er meinte es aus Spaß (der denkt auch er sei total cool), aber es verletzt den anderen ja!*

*‘He meant it as a joke (that he thought would be totally cool), but it hurt the other guy!’*

The analysis implies both PNPs to be understandable as synonymous just in Usage 1: joy, pleasure. Certain restrictions in their usage can no longer be noticed in the remaining usages and cannot be understood as synonymous. *Aus Lust* most often occurs in the sense of a strong need to do something and also in the sense of sexual pleasure, enjoyment or desire. In these meanings, *aus Spaß* is never found. This PNP is found only in the sense already mentioned and also as a joke in the meaning of making something of a joke.

### **Aus Angst – aus Furcht**

The nouns in both PNPs are monosemic in nature and constitute an adverse emotional state evoked by a sense of danger. It is also worth mentioning that the German noun *Furcht* ‘fear’ itself implies a semantic future sign, so somebody experiences fear(s) because of something they expect, but it is not necessarily going to happen. The noun *Angst*<sup>6</sup> ‘anxiety’ is an emotion expressed when in danger. An interesting comment in *Duden*<sup>7</sup> mentions that the nouns are used synonymously in the spoken language, while *Furcht* is stylistically perceived as *gehobener*, a more sublime or sophisticated expression. In both cases, the corpus analysis revealed parallel usage of the PNP as a binary combination and as a combination with a mismatched adjective in the form of the prepositional phrase “*vor* [before, in front of] / *um* [about] + XY” (with the preposition “*vor*” dominant).

### **Typical meanings of *aus Angst* (*vor/um*):**

Usage 1: leave from somewhere, move out of fear or dread somewhere else

Typical verbal collocators: *fliehen/ flüchten* ‘to flee’, *untertauchen* ‘to disappear, to go into hiding’, (*das Land/ das Camp/ das Haus...*)

*verlassen* ‘to leave a country, camp, home...’, *weglaufen* ‘flee, abandon’:

*Auch kirgisische Familien verlassen aus Angst die Stadt und werden mit Bussen zum Flughafen (und dann wohl in die Hauptstadt) gebracht.*

*‘Even Kyrgyz families are fleeing the city out of fear and they are being bussed to the airport (and probably to the capital).’*

Negating the sentence with “*nicht*” modifies Usage 1. *Aus Angst* is not an impulse to flee from somewhere, but rather to remain in place there.

*Manche verlassen jahrelang aus Angst vor dem Tod nicht ihr Haus.*

*‘Some never leave their homes for years for fear of dying.’*

<sup>6</sup> In English, the word “*angst*” strictly means anxiety or apprehension or to feel anxious or apprehensive. Unlike in German, *angst* is also a verb.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.duden.de/rechtschreibung/Furcht>

Usage 2: hide, conceal oneself/one's identity/somebody/something

Typical verbal collocators: *sich verbergen* 'to hide', *sich verkriechen* 'to crawl away', *to hide away*, *sich verstecken* 'to conceal', *verstecken* 'to stash', *versteckt halten* 'to hunker down':

*Sie versteckt sich aus Angst hinter dem Busch.*  
'She hid (herself) behind a bush out of fear'

Usage 3: withhold information, certain contents, not tell the truth

Typical verbal collocators: *kuschen* 'to knuckle under', *lügen* 'to lie (tell a falsehood)', *schweigen* 'to remain silent', *verschweigen* 'to withhold information':

*Die türkische Presse schweigt aus Angst.*  
'The Turkish press kept quiet out of fear.'

Usage 4: avoid someone, something, an opportunity, an action, a situation

Typical verbal collocators: *ablehnen* 'to refuse', *meiden* 'to evade', *scheuen* 'to shun', *sich nicht trauen* 'to mistrust', *vermeiden* 'to eschew', *verzichten* 'to renounce', *sich verweigern* 'to deny', *verweigern* 'to decline', *weigern* 'to refuse', *zögern* 'to hesitate' (combined in some contexts with the infinitive of another verb):

*Der Jugendliche weigert sich inzwischen aus Angst die Schule zu besuchen.*  
'Meanwhile, teenagers refuse to attend school out of fear.'

Usage 5: commit homicide out of fear, kill an animal out of fear

Typical verbal collocators: *töten/ umbringen* 'to kill, to slay':

*Er tötet Saha-Fera aus Angst, sie könnte sein Geheimnis verraten.*  
'He killed Saha-Fera out of fear that she might betray his secret.'

Usage 6: accompanying expressed feelings of fear (people), defensive reactions caused by fear (animals)

Typical verbal collocators: *schreien* 'to scream', *weinen* 'to cry, to weep', *zittern* 'to tremble' / *bellen* 'to bark', *beißen* 'to bite', *schnappen* 'to snap':

*Ich muss jetzt nicht mehr aus Angst zittern und ich habe das Gefühl, dass die das auch ernst meinen mit meinem Verbleib.*  
'I no longer have to tremble in fear and I have the feeling that they are serious about me staying.'

### **Typical meanings of *aus Furcht (vor/um)*:**

Usage 1: leave from somewhere, move out of fear or dread somewhere else, go back somewhere

Typical verbal collocators: *entfliehen* 'to escape', *fliehen/ flüchten* 'to flee', *rennen* 'to run', *untertauchen* 'to disappear, to go into hiding', *verlassen* 'to leave', *zurückziehen* 'to pull back':

*Aus Furcht fliehen große Teile des Adels aus Frankreich, aber der König bleibt im Amt.*



*'Most of the nobility are fleeing France out of fear, but the king remains on the throne.'*

Similarly, negating this PNP modifies Usage 1, where it becomes not an incentive to escape, but contrarily to remain in place.

*Viele Frauen verließen aus Furcht ihre Häuser nicht mehr, und Mädchen wurden am Schulgang gehindert.  
'Many women stopped leaving their houses out of fear and girls were prevented from going to school.'*

Usage 2: hide, conceal oneself

Typical verbal collocators: *sich verbergen* 'to hide', *sich verkriechen* 'to crawl away', *to hide away*, *sich verstecken* 'to conceal':

*Als sie nicht antwortete, stand er auf und rief seine Leute, aber niemand kam, denn alle Sklavinnen hatten sich aus Furcht verborgen.  
'When she didn't answer, he got up and called his people. But no one came, for all the slave girls had hidden out of fear.'*

Usage 3: withhold information or certain contents, not tell the truth

Typical verbal collocators: *lügen* 'to lie (in the meaning of to tell a falsehood)', *schweigen* 'to remain silent', *verschweigen* 'to withhold information':

*Zuerst hat die Frau Manthey die Geschichte aus Furcht verschwiegen und erst nach Verlauf von Jahren erzählt.  
'At first, Mrs. Manthey concealed the story out of fear and told it only after years had passed.'*

Usage 4: avoid someone, something, an opportunity, an action, a situation, to dare not

Typical verbal collocators: *ablehnen* 'to refuse', *sich nicht trauen* 'to mistrust', *meiden/scheuen* 'to evade', *sich nicht trauen* 'to mistrust', *vermeiden* 'to eschew', *verweigern* 'to decline', *verzichten* 'to renounce', *nicht wagen* 'to dare not', *weigern* 'to refuse' (combined in some contexts with the infinitive of another verb):

*Von da an getrauten sie sich aus Furcht nicht mehr heranzukommen.  
'From then on, they dared not approach out of fear.'*

Usage 5: commit homicide out of fear/out of dread

Typical verbal collocators: *töten* 'to kill':

*Am 9. Januar 1989 missbrauchte er das damals acht Jahre alte Kind H.B. sexuell und tötete es anschließend aus Furcht vor Entdeckung.  
'On 9 January 1989, he sexually abused and then killed the eight-year-old H.B. out of fear of discovery.'*

Usage 6: accompanying expressed feelings of fear (in people)

Typical verbal collocators: *zittern* 'to tremble'

*Ich zitterte aus Furcht und hielt mich, aus Besorgnis herabzufallen, so weit wie möglich von dem Rande des Tisches entfernt.*

*'I trembled out of fear and, worried about falling, kept as far away from the edge of the table as possible.'*

Usage 7: display obedience, comply out of fear (people and animals)

Typical verbal collocators: *gehorschen* 'obey', *sich unterwerfen* 'submit oneself':

*Sie [die Tiere] gehorchen aus Furcht.*

*'They (the animals) obey out of fear.'*

Comparing the usage of *aus Angst* and *aus Furcht* leads to the conclusion that, despite the large difference in their overall occurrence in deTenTen13 ( $\Sigma 85393$ :  $\Sigma 13797$ ), their contextual setting exhibits a high degree of similarity to synonymy. This is evidenced by the fact that, with the exception of Usage 7, which mentions only *aus Furcht*, either PNP can be assigned almost identical aspects of usage. There are certain, but not significant differences ascertainable in the case of the specific verbal collocators, where a slightly greater variety can be seen in *aus Angst*. The identical positioning of the subject is not directly related to the difference seen in all usages. Both PNPs are used not only as binary combinations, but also in connection with the prepositions *vor/um*, which proves the great degree of similarity in their usage (Girju et al., 2005).

### **Aus Frust – aus Verzweiflung**

Although the semantic description of *Frust* and *Verzweiflung* differs considerably in the online dictionaries (*Frust*: a negative feeling caused by unfulfilled expectations; *Verzweiflung*: a state of complete despair), an analysis of both PNP draws the conclusion that there are several usages in the same contexts and with the same typical verbal collocators.

#### **Typical meanings of *aus Frust*:**

Usage 1: accept something out of frustration

Typical verbal collocators: *essen* 'to eat', *sich futtern* 'to chow down', *verzehren* 'to consume', *schaufeln* 'to scoop', *stopfen* 'to cram', *trinken* 'to drink', *sich betrinken* 'to get drunk', *saufen* 'to guzzle', *fett werden* 'to fatten/put on weight', *greifen nach* 'to clutch at', *zu etw. greifen* 'to reach for something':

*Langsam mach ich mir echt Sorgen um mich, da ich so viel aus Frust esse.*

*'I'm really starting to worry about myself because I'm eating so much out of frustration.'*

A very frequent sub-meaning in Usage 1 is to purchase out of desperation, with the typical verbs: *kaufen* 'purchase', *bestellen* 'order', *shoppen* 'shop', *sich etw. gönnen* 'indulge in something'.

Usage 2: get rid of something, quit

Typical verbal collocators: *loswerden* 'get rid of something', *weggehen* 'to go away', *wegwerfen/hinschmeißen* 'to throw away/to slap down', *verlassen* 'to leave'

behind', *abreisen/ abwandern* 'to set out/to drift away', *kündigen* 'to give notice', *verschwinden* 'to disappear':

*Und aus Frust habe ich auch alles weggeschmissen, sodass ich mir diese Versuche nicht mal mehr ansehen kann.  
'And I threw everything away out of frustration so I can't even look anymore at those attempts.'*

Usage 3: do something wrong in a frenzy

Typical verbal collocators: *handeln* 'to act', *prügeln/ schlagen/ wegschlagen* 'to beat', *in etw. Schlagen* 'to hit something', *schießen* 'to shoot', *kaputtmachen/ beschädigen* 'to break', *zerreißen* 'to rip', *töten* 'to kill':

*Der Schläger erklärte der Polizei später, er habe aus Frust gehandelt.  
'The thug later told the police that he had acted out of frustration.'*

Usage 4: express something out of frustration

Typical verbal collocators: *äußern* 'to utter', *sagen* 'to say', *erzählen/ reden* 'to tell', *lächeln* 'to smile', *lachen* 'to laugh', *weinen* 'to cry, weep':

*Manchmal habe ich das Gefühl, dass irgendjemand irgendwann mal diese Aussage aus Frust geäußert hatte.  
'Sometimes I get the feeling that at some time someone uttered that statement out of frustration.'*

Usage 5: arise, start something out of frustration

Typical verbal collocators: *anfangen* 'to start', *entstehen* 'to emerge', *werden* 'to become'

*Jedoch es entsteht aus Frust des Nichtbefriedigt sein und das Bedürfnis es steigern zu müssen.  
'Nonetheless, it comes out of frustration of not being satisfied and the need to get more satisfaction.'*

### **Typical meanings of *aus Verzweiflung*:**

Usage 1: accept something out of desperation

Typical verbal collocators: *trinken* 'drink', *sich betrinken* 'to get drunk', *ausprobieren* 'to try out', *verfallen* 'to become addicted', *zu sich nehmen* 'to ingest', *greifen nach* 'to turn to':

*Viele von euch Sterngeborenen greifen aus Verzweiflung zu Drogen, um den Schmerz der Erinnerung nicht hochkommen zu lassen.  
'Many of you born stars turn to drugs out of desperation, in order to keep the pain of the memory from surfacing.'*

Unlike *aus Frust*, which tends to be bound to many verbs expressing the intake of food or drinks, *aus Verzweiflung* is rather limited to verbs expressing the intake of intoxicants. There is also a sub-meaning - to buy something out of desperation - that is much less common in the corpus.

Usage 2: leave

Typical verbal collocators: *weggehen* 'to go away', *wegziehen* 'to pull away', *wegrennen* 'to run away':

*Ihre Eltern haben sie verlassen oder sie sind aus Verzweiflung selber weggelaufen...*

'Their parents have abandoned them or have gone away out of frustration...'

Again, the collocation possibilities can be seen in this combination and are limited, in comparison to *aus Frust* to movement verbs expressing departure.

Usage 3: do something wrong in a frenzy

Typical verbal collocators: *handeln* 'to act' *tun/ machen* 'to do/make':

*Menschen sind unberechenbar. Vor allem, wenn sie aus Verzweiflung handeln.*

'People are unpredictable. Especially when they act out of desperation or despair.'

As opposed to *aus Frust*, this PNP merely expresses the meaning of a general act with negative consequences.

Usage 4: express frustration at something

Typical verbal collocators: *sagen* 'to say', *schreiben* 'to write', *schreien* 'to scream', *lachen* 'to laugh', *weinen/ heulen* 'to cry/wail':

*Ich sah manch anderen Soldaten in diesen 18 Monaten aus Verzweiflung weinen.*

'I saw many other soldiers crying out of despair in those 18 months.'

In the case of *aus Verzweiflung*, the verbs typically bound to the combination in this usage tend to express incentives the actor cannot consciously influence, given the mental state of despair or desperation.

Usage 5: something arising out of frustration

Typical verbal collocators: *entstehen* 'to emerge', *passieren/ geschehen* 'to happen'. However, the collocation *aus Verzweiflung geboren sein / werden* is also typical and whose meaning indicates something that emerged out of despair and has a negative connotation:

*Denn wirkliche Harmonie unter den Nationen kann sich nur entfalten, wenn nicht Knappheit und Not zu Aggressionen führen, die aus Verzweiflung geboren sind.*

'True harmony among nations can develop only if scarcity and need do not lead to aggression born out of desperation/despair.'

Usage 6: death due to despair

Typical verbal collocators: *sich aufhängen/ sich erhängen* 'to hang oneself', *sich umbringen/ sich töten* 'to kill oneself', *Selbstmord begehen* 'to commit suicide', *sterben* 'to die':

*Tristan stirbt aus Verzweiflung und ebenso Isolde, als sie den Geliebten tot antrifft.*  
 ‘Tristan dies of despair and so does Isolde when she finds her lover dead.’

Unlike *aus Frust*, this combination is more about self-destruction, harming oneself rather than one’s surroundings.

Comparing the two PNPs examined here, some restrictions do exist in their usage. Because both nouns are monosemantic, the focus was on determining and comparing usage in typical contexts defined from verbal collocators. To sum up, although *aus Verzweiflung* occurs more in the corpus, it has a more limited collocability and is associated with significantly fewer verbs than *aus Frust*. This can also be explained in connection with the semantics of nouns in combinations, as desperation indicates a state of complete despair, a worse psychological state than frustration. Thus, the semantics of a noun in the combination significantly affects the collocability of the entire combination in contexts.

## Conclusion

The paper focuses on a functional and semantic description of causal PNPs with the German preposition “*aus*” and a group of emotional nouns which themselves indicate causality in their semantics. Separate usages for the PNPs examined in this paper are described from their collocation behaviour, which means an analysis of the specific contexts in which these phrases occur and the contexts typical for the combination. The defined semantic groups of verbal collocators were the starting point for determining the usages able to reveal semantic differences between pairs of PNPs with synonymous nouns. It was found that the causal meaning of a PNP is influenced not just by the semantics of the nouns themselves, but also by the different degree of significance in selectivity, which is pronounced in *aus Spaß* and *aus Lust*, or emotionality, which is substantial in *aus Angst*, *aus Furcht*, *aus Verzweiflung* and *aus Frust*.

The procedure provides results that contribute additional information to supplement insufficient lexicographic descriptions of these phrases, since dictionaries frequently contain only one basic meaning, with no contextual definition. In this way, our research enriches the lexicographic description with typical PNP meanings, which dictionaries only marginally mention, if they ever mention them at all, even though they form a fixed element of communication, as evidenced by electronic language corpora. The conducted research analyses the specific use of word combinations in communication, thereby helping to properly understand their usage and, most of all, to apply them correctly in specific contexts and communicative situations (Shams & Baraani-Dastjerdi, 2017). This type of research can only take place with corpus linguistics.

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