

**A Corpus-based Study on English and Swedish Near-synonyms.
The Case of *Environment, Circumstances* and *Surroundings*, and
Miljö, Omständigheter and *Omgivning*.**

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Pro gradu –tutkielmassani tarkastelen synonymian eroja ja yhtäläisyyksiä englannin ja ruotsin kielissä. Tutkimukseni perustana ovat englannin substantiivit *environment, circumstances* ja *surroundings* sekä ruotsin *miljö, omständigheter* ja *omgivning*. Suomen kielessä sanojen vastineina ovat useimmiten *ympäristö* tai *olosuhteet*, minkä vuoksi niiden käyttäminen voi tuottaa ongelmia suomalaiselle, joka käyttää englantia tai ruotsia vieraana kielenä. Ennen itse analyysia esittelen tutkimuksen kannalta tärkeimmät kielitieteen alat, jotka ovat korpuslingvistiikka ja kontrastiivinen lingvistiikka. Näistä jälkimmäinen on korpusten käytön, ja siten eri kielten keskinäisen vertailun, lisääntyessä tullut jälleen ajankohtaiseksi. Lisäksi semantiikan alalta käsittelen synonymiaa pohtien, milloin kaksi sanaa voivat olla synonyymeja ja selvittäen, miten kielitieteilijät ovat selittäneet ilmiön omissa teoksissaan. Esittelen myös termin *kollokaatio*, joka liittyy siihen, miten tietyillä sanoilla on taipumus esiintyä tekstissä toistensa kanssa.

Tavoitteeni on selvittää, onko englannin sanojen *environment, circumstances* ja *surroundings* välillä synonymiaa ja missä lauseyhteyksissä se mahdollisesti ilmenee. Samaa tutkin ruotsin sanojen *miljö, omständigheter* ja *omgivning* välillä, minkä jälkeen vertaan englannin ja ruotsin eroja ja yhtäläisyyksiä. Tarkastelen, onko näiden sanojen kohdalla mahdollista havaita ekvivalenssia ruotsin ja englannin välillä, eli käyttäytyvätkö *environment* ja *miljö, circumstances* ja *omständigheter* sekä *omgivning* ja *surroundings* samalla tavoin synonyymisesti tai ei-synonyymisesti molemmissa kielissä.

Tutkimusmateriaalini koostuu neljästä englanninkielisestä ja kolmesta ruotsinkielisestä sanakirjasta, yhdestä laajasta ja yhdestä suppeammasta englanninkielisestä sekä kahdesta suppeammasta ruotsinkielisestä korpuksesta. Sanakirjojen avulla luodaan korpustuloksille vertailupohja selvittämällä, miten sanojen merkitykset on kuvattu ja miten merkitykset ovat muuttuneet historiallisesta näkökulmasta katsottuna. Tulosten valossa englannin ja ruotsin kielten sukulaisuus tulee esiin mm. molemmille kielille tyypillisten vakiintuneiden ilmausten samankaltaisuudessa. Sanojen välillä on kuitenkin liikaa merkityseroja, jotta niitä voitaisiin kutsua täydellisiksi synonyymeiksi. Yksittäisissä tapauksissa tämä saattaa olla mahdollista. Ekvivalenssia ei myöskään ole löydettävissä sanojen *environment* ja *miljö* sekä *surroundings* ja *omgivning* välillä, mutta *circumstances* ja *omständigheter* voisivat laajemman tutkimuksen niin todistaessa olla keskenään ekvivalentteja.

Avainsanat: korpuslingvistiikka, kontrastiivinen lingvistiikka, synonymia, kollokaatio, ekvivalenssi

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1 Introduction

The term 'synonym' is used about lexemes, if they have similar meanings and if they are interchangeable without affecting meaning in some context or contexts.
- Gunnar Persson (1989, 1)

Environmental protection is an important theme in today's world. Quite often we hear the word *environment* in this context but the same word can stand for a great deal of other things as well. In addition, it is claimed that it has synonyms, such as *surroundings* and *circumstances*. All of these three nouns are usually translated as *ympäristö* or *olosuhteet* in Finnish, depending on the context. Translating is quite difficult in the case of these nouns because one can find very varying translations of *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings*. *Ympäristö* and *olosuhteet* are probably the most common translations in Finnish, but, for example, in Swedish there are much more possibilities, one of them being that a certain noun has no direct translation at all but has instead been included in a broader context. Nowadays it is important to know how to use these three words correctly since nature preservation has to be considered in many fields such as politics and economy. This is a problem not only restricted to the English language, but it can be seen in Swedish as well when it comes to the words *miljö*, *omständigheter* and *omgivning* which, presumably, are considered as translations for *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings* respectively. The translations between the many languages in the European Union are becoming more and more numerous, which is also a reason to concentrate on translation equivalence.

Only by taking a quick look at a few dictionaries one notices one major problem concerning *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings* and the Swedish *miljö*, *omständigheter* and *omgivning*. It is that they all have both concrete and abstract senses. Thus, there must be other ways to distinguish between these nouns than looking at their

degree of concreteness or abstractness. Some uses are quite similar to each other, which is why it is sometimes tempting to regard some of these nouns as synonyms but I intend, in this piece of research, to show whether these assumptions are too haphazard. This because the sentences in which these words occur, although often structurally in resemblance, may still have different connotations and take different collocates. These collocates, along with the whole context of the surrounding sentence, form the primary reason to choose one word rather than the other. The same idea is being put forward in the quote from Persson's work above.

The aim of this contrastive study is, firstly, to investigate the dictionary definitions of these six words to form a basic understanding of their senses and usages. Secondly, my aim is to compare the results obtained in the dictionaries with corpus concordances which give a picture of how the words are used in actual contexts. In the corpora, I will compare the collocates that the nouns take in order to point any possible differences of meaning and usage that they may have. My attempt is to find a pattern of some sort according to which it would be easier to choose between *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings* and, on the other hand, between *miljö*, *omständigheter* and *omgivning*. It will also be interesting to see whether the Swedish nouns can be considered translations of the English ones.

Thus, considering the topic and the contrastive approach of this piece of research, I believe that this thesis will be of interest especially to translators and foreign language learners and teachers as there will be some dictionary critique and contrastive analysis of two related languages. Naturally, anyone interested in lexis may find this study useful.

The structure of this study is as follows. Chapter 1 discusses some important issues related to the study and introduces the topic. The relevant study areas of corpus linguistics, contrastive linguistics, and semantics will be handled in chapters 2, and chapter 3 introduces the research method and materials. Chapter 4 is dedicated to the study results based on dictionary analysis (Chapter 4.1) and corpus analysis (Chapter 4.2). The English and Swedish

studies will be kept separate until chapter 4.3 in which I will concentrate in the comparison between the two languages. The conclusive words for the whole study will be found in chapter 5.

2 Theoretical and Methodological Background

This section introduces briefly the areas of emphasis in this thesis, which include corpus linguistics, contrastive linguistics, and the semantic phenomena, synonymy and collocation. Biber says quite accurately that "[s]tudies of language can be divided into two main areas: studies of structure and studies of use. Traditionally, linguistic analyses have emphasized structure" (1998, 1). However, this thesis will focus mostly on language use, that is, "rather than looking at what is theoretically possible in a language", I shall study "the actual language used in naturally occurring texts" (Biber 1998,1).

For example, synonymy has been studied during decades and the same could be said about collocation and the research areas of contrastive linguistics and corpus linguistics as well. Nevertheless, researchers have not been able to make use of major electronic corpora until the last couple of decades, which is why corpus material in the 1970s and 80s, for example, looked very different. This is why the point of focus in the studies of Biber and myself – language in naturally occurring contexts – has not been as easily accessible a resource for study as it is now thanks to the fast development of computers.

When looking at earlier studies on synonymy, it was surprising to notice that there are practically no studies to compare with my own research topic. The only relevant studies that were to be found were Stig Johansson's corpus-based contrastive study of the Norwegian translation equivalents for the English verb *spend* and vice versa (see Johansson 2003) and Jarmo Harri Jantunen's doctoral thesis *Synonymia ja käännössuomi (Synonymity and*

Translated Finnish) in which he studies the contextuality of synonymous expressions and lexical features specific to translated language (see Jantunen 2004).

2.1 Linguistic Phenomena Relevant for this Study

The linguistic phenomena relevant for this study are synonymy and collocation. They both have to do with how words relate to each other. Thus, this section is concerned with whether any two words can be considered synonymous and what different types of synonymy there are. I will also discuss how words co-occur with each other, i.e. the phenomenon called *collocation*.

2.1.1 Synonymy

Synonymy is something that fascinates people, especially semanticists, translators, and those who study language acquisition. However, an ordinary language user may stop as well to think about the many possible senses of a certain word. Synonymy is also the area of semantics having a central role in the analysis of the lexemes discussed in this thesis. Persson says, “as synonymy is a relation between predicates and not between words [...], such a relation can only be detected in context” (1989, iii). However, there is the question whether synonymy exists at all. Many linguists talk about it, but when it comes to the definition of synonymy, things become more complicated. What is synonymy? How do we decide which words can be considered synonymous and which words can not? Can two words still be synonymous if they have a small propositional difference that would prevent them from being used in all possible contexts? Leonard Bloomfield takes this point further by saying:

Our fundamental assumption implies that each linguistic form has constant and specific meaning. If the forms are phonemically different, we suppose that their meanings also are different – for instance, that each one of a set of forms like *quick*, *fast*, *swift*, *rapid*, *speedy*, differs from all the others in some constant and conventional feature of meaning. (1984, 145)

As can be interpreted from his statement, separating word senses from each other is not as simple as this. Bloomfield's set of words, *quick*, *fast*, *swift*, *rapid* and *speedy*, could be the subject of a study that is very similar to mine. It is a complicated task to decide what should be considered synonymous because these five adjectives can be expected to have multiple senses in different contexts in the same way as the nouns that I am studying.

Both Tognini-Bonelli and Nida suggest that synonymy cannot exist. Tognini-Bonelli bases her argument on the claim that even if “two words exist, their meaning(s) tend to restrict themselves to specific areas of usage, operating in specialised contexts, with a specific collocational profile and acquiring specific pragmatic functions within the text that surrounds them” (2001, 34). Nida agrees with this definition but is quick to add that when translating meaning

[T]he aim is to find the closest natural equivalent. But such an equivalent is not merely one which reflects the lexical content of the original statement but also one which is an equivalent on a rhetorical level of impact and appeal. Translating meaning implies translating the total significance of a message in terms of both its lexical or proportional content and its rhetorical significance. (1982, 11)

Naturally, this poses problems for the translator if one is to assume that no two words can completely correspond to each other. In cases like this, it should be impossible to accurately translate texts which would be complete copies of each other in two different languages.

Geoffrey Leech defines synonymy as “more than one form having the same meaning” (Leech 1981, 94). According to him, “[i]n natural language, semantic equivalence or synonymy cannot always be shown directly, by tracing two sentences back to the same underlying representation”. Instead, he claims that synonymy should be shown indirectly by

what he calls “rules of implication” (1981, 276). He defines a rule of implication as “a rule which specifies that for a given semantic formula it is possible to substitute another semantic formula” (1981, 255).

Cruse, however, likes the idea that synonyms might exist after all because, in his view, two words can have some small differences in their senses but still be considered synonymous:

Synonyms [...] are lexical items whose senses are identical in respect of ‘central’ semantic traits, but differ, if at all, only in respect of what we may provisionally describe as ‘minor’ or ‘peripheral’ traits. (1986, 267)

Cruse gives another definition to help recognize synonymous words. He says that they are words that characteristically occur together in certain types of expression. For instance, a synonym is often “employed as an explanation, or clarification, of the meaning of another word. The relationship between the two words is frequently signalled by something like *that is to say*, or a particular variety of *or*” (1986, 267). He seems to continue with this thought in his later work by saying “[i]f we interpret synonymy simply as sameness of meaning, then it would appear to be a rather uninteresting relation; if, however, we say that synonyms are words whose semantic similarities are more salient than their differences, then a potential area of interest opens up” (2000, 156). This is a valid point in that one has to wonder why there would have developed words with completely identical meanings without one of them falling into obsolescence. It would be difficult to rationalize why people would use two synonymous words for the same thing so that the choice of either one would cause no difference, not even a connotational one, in meaning.

The reason which should cause us to use the term *synonymy* very carefully and with moderation is the fact that many researchers have noted absolute synonymy to be extremely rare in English. A rough rule could be that each word, although having similar referents and usage with some other words, may always have a distinct meaning and connotations in some

cases. These meanings might be very rare, but they still make a difference. This supports the argument put forward by Alan Partington: “every lexical item in the language has its own individual and unique pattern of behaviour” (1998, 46).

Persson and Sparck Jones mention absolute synonymy, but neither of the researchers claims that it would not exist. Sparck Jones refers in a somewhat criticizing manner to something written earlier by Ullmann, and says: “he interprets synonymy strictly as absolute synonymy, and then discusses the fact that words in natural language are often not synonymous in this sense, for instance because one word is more general than another or because one word is more literary than another” (1986, 75). By saying this, she puts forward the idea that synonymy is a term one is allowed to use for words that only roughly have the same meaning.

Sparck Jones’ argument would require more elaboration because it brings up the question of where to draw the line. This is when we should consider different degrees or “scales” of synonymy, as Cruse calls them (1986, 268). He talks about some pairs of synonyms being “more synonymous” than others and shows the example of *settee* and *sofa* which should be considered more synonymous than *die* and *kick the bucket*, “which in turn are more synonymous than *boundary* and *frontier*, *breaker* and *roller*, or *brainy* and *shrewd*” (1986, 265). Cruse names three degrees of synonymy: “absolute synonymy, propositional synonymy, and near-synonymy” (2000, 156). He starts by asking the question: “Where, in the following series, does synonymy end: *rap:tap*, *rap:knock*, *rap:thwack*, *rap:bang*, *rap:thud*?” (1986, 268). There are inevitably sense differences, but it is very difficult to say whether *rap* and *thwack* should be considered more synonymous than *rap* and *bang*, for instance, or whether some of the above word pairs should not be considered synonymous at all. Cruse adds that “synonyms must not only manifest a high degree of semantic overlap, they must also have a low degree of implicit contrastiveness” (1986, 266). This statement is, however,

difficult to relate with the word pairs compared as language users would most likely have differing views on where to draw the line. Some might consider, for example, *thwack* as being too loud a *rap* to be synonymous with it.

In addition to what was criticized by Sparck Jones, Ullmann says that

In ordinary language, one can rarely be so positive about identity of meaning, since the matter is complicated by vagueness, ambiguity, emotive overtones and evocative effects; but even there one can occasionally find words which are for all intents and purposes interchangeable; it has been suggested, for example, that *almost* and *nearly* are such 'integral' synonyms. (1970, 142)

It seems that he has found one word pair that is an example of absolute synonymy. However, on the basis of one single example, it is difficult to make conclusions.

When discussing absolute synonymy, Cruse seems determined that there be “no obvious motivation for the existence of absolute synonyms in a language”. If there were, “one would expect either that one of the items would fall into obsolescence, or that a difference in semantic function would develop” (1986, 270). The example he gives in his later work of the imaginary lexical items, X and Y, supports this statement:

[I]f they are to be recognized as absolute synonyms, in any context in which X is fully normal, Y is, too; in any context in which X is slightly odd, Y is also slightly odd, and in any context in which X is totally anomalous, the same is true of Y. This is a very severe requirement, and few pairs, if any, qualify. (2000, 157)

Cruse defines propositional synonymy in terms of entailment. He says that “[i]f two lexical items are propositional synonyms, they can be substituted in any expression with truth-conditional properties without effect on those properties” (2000, 158). That is to say, “two sentences which differ only in that one has one member of a pair of propositional synonyms where the other has the other member of the pair are mutually entailing”. Cruse uses the following examples to illustrate this:

John bought a violin entails and is entailed by *John bought a fiddle*; *I heard him tuning his fiddle* entails and is entailed by *I heard him tuning his violin*; *She's going to play a violin concerto* entails and is entailed by *She's going to play a fiddle concerto*.

According to Cruse, in the last example, “*fiddle* sounds less normal, but the word change still leaves truth conditions intact. This shows that *fiddle* and *violin* are not absolute synonyms” (2000, 158). These sort of slight sense differences without producing differences in truth conditions may well be the reason for propositional synonyms being rather common “in areas of special emotive significance, especially taboo areas, where a finally graded set of terms is often available occupying different points on the euphemism-dysphemism scale” (2000, 158).

Cruse says that the difference between propositional synonymy and near-synonymy is normally clear, but that “the borderline between the near-synonymy and non-synonymy is much less straightforward”. Firstly, language users have their own intuitions of which pairs of words are synonyms and which are not. No native speaker is “puzzled by the contents of a dictionary of synonyms, or by what lexicographers in standard dictionaries offer by way of synonyms, even though the great majority of these qualify neither as absolute nor as propositional synonyms”. Secondly, “it is not adequate to say simply that there is a scale of semantic distance, and that synonyms are words whose meanings are relatively close” (2000, 158). This relative closeness cannot be seen as a basis for degrees of synonymy in any case, though. Cruse claims that there is “no simple correlation” (2000, 158) between the two. The following word pairs are taken as examples of this. At the end of the list, the pairs come semantically closer to each other, but not synonymous in any of the cases: *entity–process*, *living thing–object*, *animal–plant*, *animal–bird*, *dog–cat*, *spaniel–poodle*, etc. This list could be continued infinitely without the word pairs ever producing synonyms.

If we are to believe the claims of the researchers above, the conclusion would be that synonymy is too simple a definition for the linguistic phenomenon discussed in this thesis and that more explicit definitions should be used instead, such as absolute, propositional or near-synonymy. According to the researchers, there is no such thing as absolute synonymy, but any

two words should be considered either propositional synonyms, near-synonyms or not synonymous at all. Eugene Nida discusses the problem that the above mentioned characterization produces for translation:

The fact that languages possess various ways of communicating essentially the same proportional information provides a translator with real difficulties. If the same essential data can be communicated in more than one way, that is to say, if there are almost always various possible paraphrases, this means that there is more than one way to translate a particular statement. (1982, 11)

As far as the definitions of synonymy above are concerned, I believe that, in this thesis, the safest way is to use the term *near-synonymy* when referring to the English and Swedish nouns respectively. In the case of the English *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings*, it does not seem possible to substitute the nouns without changes in truth-conditions. This is my assumption which will be proven either right or wrong as the research proceeds. Lyons makes the following point on near-synonymy:

Many of the expressions listed as synonymous in ordinary or specialized dictionaries [...] are what may be called *near-synonyms*: expressions that are more or less similar, but not identical, in meaning. (1981, 50)

In addition, he warns that near-synonymy should not be confused with various kinds of partial synonymy, but, unfortunately, he does not elaborate on the reasons for this. In fact, none of the works cited in this thesis gave clear definitions of near-synonymy. It remains to be seen whether the dictionary and corpus evidence for this study manage to clarify the picture.

2.1.2 Collocation

Collocation can sometimes pose problems for a non-native language user whereas for native English speakers it is a natural part of their language use. Aijmer and Altenberg support this by saying that

The mental lexicon of any native speaker contains single-word units as well as phrasal units or collocations. Mastery of both types is an essential part of the linguistic equipment of the speaker or writer and enables him to move swiftly and with little effort through his exposition from one prefabricated structure to the next. A decisive characteristic of collocations is the predictable nature of their constituents: the presence of one of them will predict the presence of the other(s). (1991, 125)

This is an interesting area of study which, therefore, deserves a few more words of explanation.

Collocation is a term introduced decades ago by J. R. Firth who has studied the collocability of words quite extensively. It has become an essential and frequently occurring term in the modern corpus linguistic research. Firth says, "[w]e must take our facts from speech sequences, verbally complete in themselves and operating in contexts of situation which are typical, recurrent, and repeatedly observable" (1957, 35). Firth also makes an important point by saying: "meaning by collocation is not at all the same thing as contextual meaning, which is the functional relation of the sentence to the processes of a context of situation in the context of culture" (1957, 195). Thus, collocation is not used to refer to any two words or expressions occurring together but, as was stated above, to very frequently co-occurring words, such as *dark + night* and *blond + hair*. Lyons, as many other linguists, has studied Firth's pathbreaking work in the field of semantics, but seems to have come to the conclusion that Firth has not given any clear explanations of how he actually understands collocability. Lyons claims that "[e]xactly what Firth meant by collocability is never made clear" (Lyons 1977b, 612).

Both Lyons and Porzig discuss syntagmatic relations between words. When handling the relationship between a noun and a verb or a noun and an adjective, Porzig uses the term *bipartite syntagm* which could also be understood to stand for *collocation*. According to him, there is an essential meaning-relation (*wesenhafte Bedeutungsbeziehung*) that binds together the lexemes in such syntagms (1950: 68). Lyons continues by highlighting two points which

are essential when syntagmatically related word pairs (such as “‘lick’:’tongue’, ‘blond’:’hair’, ‘dog’:’bark’, etc.) are concerned:

The first, and perhaps the most obvious point, is that lexemes vary enormously with respect to the freedom with which they can be combined in syntagms with other lexemes. At one extreme, we have adjectives like ‘good’ and ‘bad’ in English which can be used in collocation with almost any noun; at the other extreme, we find an adjective like ‘rancid’, which may be predicated of butter and little else. (1977a, 261–262)

He refers to Porzig’s work and says that Porzig “is drawing attention to this fact, and more particularly to the impossibility of describing the meaning of collocationally restricted lexemes without taking into account the set of lexemes with which they are syntagmatically connected, whether explicitly in texts or implicitly in the language-system” by means of the essential meaning-relations (Lyons 1977a, 262).

Kjellmer, when discussing aspects of English collocations, points out that “collocations are essential text elements. In fact, they account for a very high proportion of almost any running text in modern English” (1987, 134). And he adds that

If it can be agreed that collocations are essential elements of English text, one may ask whether they are equally essential in all types of text. It seems reasonable to assume that collocations, those fixed and often fossilised building-blocks, should be more at home in some types of text than in others. (1987, 135)

This is an interesting statement since no other linguists referred to in this study have made such a claim, which could even be seen as a generalization.

This thesis will follow John Sinclair’s terminology when studying collocation. Sinclair uses the term *node* for the word that is being studied, and the term *collocate* for any word that occurs in the specified environment of a node (Sinclair, 1991). According to him, “[w]ords influence each other, pass judgements on each other, and lay down guidelines for each other’s interpretation. One word can prepare the reader or listener to receive another one that comes just a little later, and to understand it in a certain way (2003, 57).

Despite the differing comments presented above, the Firthian view of collocation, however lacking it may seem to Lyons, will be treated as the most essential background information for this study since I will not go into much depth when it comes to collocation. Hopefully, the corpus evidence will yield some results of whether the nouns under study prove to habitually co-occur with any words or expressions. If they do, the results might help me to distinguish between the different uses of the nouns and, in doing this, also be able to decide whether they should be regarded as synonymous or not.

2.2 Contrastive Linguistics

Contrastive linguistics lost its position as a significant research area some time during the 1970s. However, it seems to have started gaining back its popularity in the past few years. The partly renewed interest in contrastive studies could be due to multilingual corpora becoming larger and ever more widely used. Johansson's corpus-based study of the English and Norwegian verbs carried out in 2003 and his article about multilingual corpora and contrastive studies from 2007. In Granger et al. Johansson even mentions "the meeting of contrastive linguistics and the new approach to the study of language which is generally referred to by the term corpus linguistics." And he goes on to say that "[o]ne of the most significant recent trends is the development of multilingual corpora for use in cross-linguistic research, both theoretical and applied, which promises to lead to a revitalization of contrastive linguistics" (2003, 31). This suggests that he is of the opinion that contrastive linguistics might be seeing its renaissance at the beginning of the 21st century. In the same work by Granger et al., Salkie (1999) supports the argument by Johansson: "Parallel corpora are a valuable source of data; indeed, they have been a principal reason for the revival of contrastive linguistics that has taken place in the 1990s" (2003, 33).

The focus in contrastive linguistics can be either purely on theory or contrastive research may serve for a specific purpose. The latter one is the kind of research I am doing in this thesis since my aim is to study the so-called “environment words” which constitute a specific sense group. I will also briefly touch upon the analysis of translation which, according to Chesterman shares a great deal in common with contrastive linguistics. He says the two disciplines “are interested in seeing how ‘the same thing’ can be said in other ways, although each field uses this information for different ends”. He says that “[t]he corpus has the potential to bring the two fields even closer together” because researchers in both contrastive linguistics and translation studies “rely on the same type of data, use the same software tools and are partly interested in the same corpus-based applications, notably reference materials – dictionaries, grammars – and teaching methods” (1998, 39).

The meaning of corpora is also emphasized by many linguists. Filipović is of the opinion that contrastive analyses

cannot be carried out without the use of a corpus. Today it is generally accepted that not one important part of language can be contrastively analysed without precise data on distribution. We cannot obtain such data from just any sort of language material, collected in an ad hoc manner, but only from a well organized corpus” (1984, 113).

He continues by saying that good corpora (without commenting further what he means by ‘good’) make it possible to “investigate contrastively the stylistic value of some construction and to determine its statistical significance and representativity. This is because the corpus contains long stylistically homogeneous extracts from continuous texts” (1984, 114). Based on these arguments, I view great possibilities opening for contrastive linguistics in the 21st century. The research area has changed remarkably since the 1970s, for instance, precisely because of the new paths that large, computerized corpora have opened for it.

2.3 Corpus Linguistics

Over the last few decades, after computers started to be used in connection with corpora, compiling and using corpora for analysis has led to a new research area called corpus linguistics. Laviosa sheds some light on the historical facts and points out in her work that the “first-generation” computer-readable corpora were created in the 1960s when the corpus size was commonly one million words. She further observes that “second-generation multi-million word corpora” started to appear in the 1980s (2002, 5). That was the time when the novelty of large computer corpora seemed to cause some confusion among scholars which is reflected in Sinclair’s comment of the time when processing “texts of several million words in length [...] was considered quite possible but still lunatic” (1991, 1). Numerous writers seem to agree on the fact that, recently, the discipline has quickly increased its popularity and it has been adopted as a tool in many areas of language studies that earlier did not seem to need it. Graeme Kennedy’s work on corpora has given a good base to rest on as in his book, *An Introduction to Corpus Linguistics*, he focuses on many important areas dealing with corpus linguistics, for example corpus design, techniques and tools used in the analysis, and, according to his own words, “corpus-based descriptions of aspects of English structure and use” (1998, 1), which would be the most interesting area for this piece of research.

McEnery and Wilson even ask whether corpus linguistics should be classified as an independent branch of linguistics at all. According to them, it can be either or, since corpus linguistics cannot be seen as a branch of linguistics in the same way as syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, for example. They claim that

All of these disciplines concentrate on describing/explaining some aspect of language use. Corpus linguistics in contrast is a methodology rather than an aspect of language requiring explanation or description. A corpus-based approach can be taken to many aspects of linguistic enquiry. Syntax, semantics and pragmatics are just three examples of areas of linguistic enquiry that have used a corpus-based approach. Corpus linguistics is a methodology that may be used in almost any area of linguistics, but it does not truly delimit an area of linguistics itself. (2001, 2)

Laviosa's statement on this is that corpus linguistics should be regarded as an "independent discipline within general linguistics" because in addition to its "specific methodology" and its "particular nature of its object of study", it has a "unique approach to the study of language which is firmly based on the integration of four interdependent, equally important elements: data, description, theory, and methodology" (2002, 8). This is an important point which also applies to this piece of research because an area of semantics, synonymy, will be investigated using corpus linguistics as the research method. These are both important points, and, in my opinion, both of them can be applied in this thesis, since it takes into consideration all of the four elements listed by Laviosa, but at the same has the main focus on describing the sense relations of certain lexemes using the corpus-based research method.

Geoffrey Leech (in Svartvik 1992, 106) suggests that *computer corpus linguistics* would be a more appropriate term since linguists and grammarians had already been gathering corpora for the study of language long before computers came into picture. However, I prefer to keep to the term *corpus linguistics* since it is still the term that seems to be more commonly used for this field of study.

The main interest in corpus linguistics is to study for instance the nature and use of languages, language variation and change, and language acquisition (Kennedy 1998, 8). One important area of interest, according to Kennedy, has been the descriptive function of corpus linguistics. The main concern of this sort of linguistics has been "to make use of computerized corpora to describe reliably the lexicon and grammar of languages, both of the linguistic systems we use and our likely use of those systems". This is to say that corpus-based descriptive linguistics studies not only "what is said or written, where, when and by whom, but how often particular forms are used" (1998, 9).

Laviosa has listed characteristics that can be used to describe the nature of corpus linguistics by adapting Stubbs' work (1993, 2 and 1996, 23). She states that corpus linguistics

has developed the study of language towards a direction in which “language is viewed as a social phenomenon which reflects and reproduces culture from generation to generation”. The development further involves, among other things, the “rejection of the Saussurian *langue-parole*, the Chomskian competence-performance and internalized–externalized language dualisms which have been influential in undermining the importance of corpus evidence in linguistic research and the role of descriptive linguistics in formulating theories of language”. The importance of corpora also shows considering the fact that they are large collections of authentic texts which constitute a more reliable basis for analysis than native-speaker introspection. There are patterns in language that “can only be discovered from the direct examination of corpus-based word frequencies, concordances and collocation” (2002, 8-9).

It is also useful to make a difference between corpus-based and corpus-driven research as both of them are used in publications by corpus linguists. Tognini-Bonelli defines the term *corpus-based* as something that refers to “a methodology that avails itself of the corpus mainly to expound, test or exemplify theories and descriptions that were formulated before large corpora became available to inform language study” (2001, 65). In the case of my study, the phenomenon that is being tested is synonymy and especially absolute synonymy, which according to some linguists exists. According to Ooi, corpora are used “to help extend and improve linguistic description”. *Corpus-driven* linguists for their part use corpora as important tools for bringing out new ideas for examination. The “evidence from the corpus is paramount, therefore the linguist makes as few assumptions as possible about the nature of the theoretical and descriptive categories” (1998, 51).

Using “Saussurian terminology”, Tognini-Bonelli states that a “text is an instance of *parole* while the patterns shown up by corpus evidence yield insights into *langue*”. By this she means that the information gathered from corpora is more generalizable to “the language as a whole, but with no direct connection with a specific instance”. Texts, in the meantime,

are interpreted as “meaningful in relation to both verbal and non-verbal actions in the context in which they occur and the consequences of such actions” (2001, 3).

For McEnery and Wilson, “[t]he importance of corpora in language study is closely allied to the importance more generally of empirical data”. This way the linguist will be able to make objective statements about language without his/her own individual perceptions affecting them. Additionally, they point out that “[t]he use of empirical data also means that it is possible to study language varieties such as dialects or earlier periods in a language for which it may not be possible to use a rationalist approach” (2001, 103).

There are two important points to conclude this description with. Firstly, Christian Mair summarizes Wallace Chafe’s central ideas of what corpus linguistics is: “The object of corpus linguistics is not the explanation of what is present in the corpus, but the understanding of language. The aim of the corpus is not to limit the data to an allegedly representative sample but to provide a framework to find out what questions should be asked about language in general” (in Svartvik 1992, 99). Secondly, Kennedy says that corpus linguistics is “concerned typically not only with what words, structures or uses are possible in a language but also with what is probable – what is likely to occur in language use” (1998, 8).

3 Research Methods and Materials

In this section, I introduce my research methods and aims along with the dictionaries and corpora used as material for this study. The dictionaries and corpora will be compared in terms of the practices used in the compilation process and the ways in which the dictionaries have been introduced and reviewed. The corpora are going to be compared with each other in terms of size and content.

3.1 Methods and Aims

The aim of this thesis is to study and describe how the English nouns *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings* and the Swedish nouns *miljö*, *omständigheter* and *omgivning* are used and how they can be defined in terms of meaning and usage. They will be studied by considering how synonymous they are with each other and whether there is equivalence between the word pairs *environment–miljö*, *circumstances–omständigheter* and *surroundings–omgivning* in the two languages, i.e. whether, for example, *environment* and *miljö* function in a similar way in English and Swedish.

John Sinclair lists the three main sources of lexicographic evidence which, according to him, are dictionaries, “users’ ideas about their language” and “observation of language in use” (1991, 37). It is clear that Sinclair’s view can nowadays be regarded as somewhat outdated since the reason for him to list the three methods above in the order that he does is according to the popularity of the methods. Today, the order would look quite different as the observation of language in use, that is, the use of corpora is rather prevalent in lexicographic research. This is why I will be concentrating mostly on corpus analysis. However, dictionaries should not be forgotten either because they give a general view of word uses. However, as dictionaries tend to become outdated quite quickly, corpus evidence is of paramount importance in present-day research. Dictionaries are useful to start with but when one wishes to take an in-depth look into lexis, corpora are definitely needed.

Being more accurate and comprehensive, corpus evidence is used in the compilation of many contemporary dictionaries, such as *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*. This gives an even better reason to focus on corpora. The aim with the dictionaries is merely to see what the dictionary authors have emphasized. Comparing dictionaries with corpora is a useful way to find out how the language in everyday usage differs from what the dictionary authors claim to be the standard.

I have used mostly contemporary dictionaries but it will also be interesting to see what kind of historical background the nouns have. This is why historical dictionaries, the *Oxford English Dictionary* and *Svenska Akademiens Ordbok*, have been included as a part of the study in both languages. Sinclair writes in his work that “[n]o one likes to look up a word in a dictionary and find it is not there, so there will always be room for the historical dictionaries, to cope with a tiny margin of uncharacteristic usage” (1991, 38). The only reason to look at historical dictionaries is not by far to study the words’ uncharacteristic usage, but also to find the senses that no longer are in use. It will be interesting to see how far back in history the use of the nouns under study go and whether their senses have changed during the years.

When it comes to the dictionaries, an important point to consider is the order in which the senses are presented. The preface of the *New Oxford Dictionary of English* includes the term *core meanings* which are defined as representing “typical, central uses of the word in question in modern standard English, as established by research on and analysis of the *British National Corpus* and other corpora and citation databases” (1998, ix). It is also said that the core meaning is

the one that represents the most literal sense that the word has in ordinary modern usage. This is not necessarily the same as the oldest meaning, because word meanings change over time. Nor it is necessarily the most frequent meaning, because figurative senses are sometimes the most frequent. It is the meaning accepted by native speakers as the one that is most established as literal and central. (1998, ix)

Thus, the basic assumption in this thesis is that the first sense listed by all present-day dictionaries is the one that should be considered the most central according to the dictionary in question. Thus, it will be interesting to see whether the dictionaries have differing views on which uses should be considered more important than others. The first differences will most

probably arise there, and after this, the view formed on the basis of dictionary analysis will be compared with the results obtained with the help of corpora (see Chapter 4.2).

The dictionary definitions for each word are in full form in the Appendices section and I have included clarifying tables in the analysis section (see Chapter 4.1) to facilitate the comparison between the dictionaries. We will see whether the six nouns have lost some senses or gained new ones in the course of their history after looking into the two extensive historical dictionaries, the *Oxford English Dictionary* and *Svenska Akademiens Ordbok*. Swedish and English will be handled separately until Chapter 4.3 in which there will be a comparison between the two languages.

The corpus evidence will be analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. Firstly, there will be a semantic analysis of the concordance lines and every line will be categorized into certain sense groups. Secondly, the frequency of tokens in each sense group will be counted and presented in tables, and, finally, compared with the results from the dictionaries and the rest of the corpora.

3.2 Dictionaries

For this task, I consulted four dictionaries in English and three in Swedish in order to see what they suggest for the possible meanings and usages. After doing this, I compared those results with the corpus concordances. Even though the corpora have a more important role in my thesis, it is important to study a sufficient number of dictionaries so that the basis for the comparison between them and the corpora would be as reliable as possible. As will be observed below, the dictionaries have been compiled using different techniques, such as corpus evidence and the compilers' intuitions about language, and one of them, *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, focuses on American English.

My assumption in this thesis is that the word pairs *environment—miljö*, *circumstances—omständigheter* and *surroundings—omgivning* should correspond to each other in terms of meaning and behavior, i.e. represent a notable degree of equivalence between them, which is also visible in the dictionary definitions. After the analysis section, it will be possible to draw some conclusions on whether this is really the case.

3.2.1 English dictionaries

The English dictionaries seem to be generally more varied than those in Swedish, which is why four of them will be studied to get a comprehensive picture of the word usages. The Swedish dictionaries that are available have been compiled in a more old-fashioned manner without major emphases on any special features or variants whereas the compilers of at least *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* and the *New Oxford Dictionary of English* have used both corpora and their own intuition. Both of these dictionaries also have British English as their Standard English variant while *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* has the emphasis on American English.

3.2.1.1 Present-day English Dictionaries

The present-day English dictionaries used in this thesis are *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* and the *New Oxford Dictionary of English* (later abbreviated as MWD, LDOCE and NODE, respectively). MWD is based on the print version of the 11th edition of *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.

The preface for LDOCE promises much by saying that “[a]t the heart of definition lies semantic analysis, with lexicographers ensuring that every major sense of a word as it occurs in contemporary use has been dissected by minds as delicately sharp as any surgeon’s knife” (1995, ix). The semantic analysis is, however, the result of human work, which means that there is still room for discussion about the correctness of the analysis. Considering that my research topic is concerned with nouns, a note could be made on what Kennedy says about the number of the senses of the nouns in LDOCE. He describes the dictionary as containing “23,800 entries which are labeled as ‘nouns’. Of these, 67 % are listed as having one sense, 20 % have two senses, 6.5 % have three senses, and 2.5 % have four senses” (1998, 107).

The compilers of NODE have a different view on how word senses should be analyzed: “[p]ast attempts to cover the meaning of all possible uses of a word have tended to lead to a blurred, unfocused result, in which the core of the meaning is obscured by many minor uses. In the *New Oxford Dictionary of English*, meanings are linked to central norms of usage as observed in the language. The result is fewer meanings, with sharper, crisper definitions” (1998, vii). They have listed words of both present-day and historical English, giving each entry “at least one core meaning, to which a number of subsenses, logically connected to it, may be attached” (1998, vii). According to the preface, the compilers of NODE, similarly to those of LDOCE, have made use of the *British National Corpus*. According to the preface, the dictionary “views the language from the perspective that English is a world language”, and also deals with “highly technical vocabulary unfamiliar to many dictionary users” (1998, vii). Michael Quinion, who has written an online review of NODE, has said that the dictionary is controversial because it “has been compiled on the basis of the way people actually use words, as opposed to how experts think people use them, or should use them, or actually did once use them but no longer do” (2000). If this is the case, the dictionary definitions should correspond with the corpus results later in this study.

In the web pages of *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, there is not much information about the compiling process behind the creation of the original print version of it, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. The only information that can be found is that MWD “includes the main A-Z listing of the *Collegiate Dictionary*, as well as the Abbreviations, Foreign Words and Phrases, Biographical Names, and Geographical Names sections of that book” (www.merriam-webster.com). The editors have also made use of a machine-readable corpus of about 20 million words, which was first used in the compilation of the tenth edition of the dictionary.

3.2.1.2 Oxford English Dictionary

In the dictionary web pages, the *Oxford English Dictionary* (later abbreviated as OED) is described as “the accepted authority on the evolution of the English language over the last millennium” (www.oed.com). The word senses have been derived on the basis of 2.5 million quotations “from a wide range of international English language sources, from classic literature and specialist periodicals to film scripts and cookery books” (www.oed.com). As OED includes words from many centuries and different variants of English, the senses are not presented in the same way as in the present-day dictionaries, but “the various groupings of senses are dealt with in chronological order according to the quotation evidence, i.e. the senses with the earliest quotations appear first, and the senses which have developed more recently appear further down the entry” (www.oed.com).

3.2.2 Swedish dictionaries

The Swedish dictionaries discussed in this thesis are *Bonniers Svenska Ordbok*, *Svensk Ordbok* and *Svenska Akademiens Ordbok* (later abbreviated as BSO, SVO, and SAOB, respectively). The first two represent the Swedish of today while with SAOB we take a glance into the past of the three Swedish nouns under study.

3.2.2.1 Present-day Swedish Dictionaries

The present-day Swedish dictionaries used in this study are *Svensk Ordbok* (compiled at Gothenburg University) and *Bonniers Svenska Ordbok*. In the preface of SVO, it is said that the main aim of the dictionary is to be descriptive and up-to-date. They aim to introduce not only the normal and frequent Swedish words, but also so called “citatorord” (citation words) which have come to the Swedish language mainly from English. They have made extensive use of the authentic language recordings at Språkdata at Gothenburg University (1990, v). These recordings can, to some extent, be considered to give similar information about the language as corpora do.

The editors of *Bonniers Svenska Ordbok*, for their part, take pride in the fact that they have included in the dictionary many new words that occur especially in the language of the youth in larger cities. Most of these words are loans from the English language and they have produced many compound words in Swedish which have, then, been included and explained in BSO (1991, 5). There is, however, no mention of corpora having been used in the compilation of BSO.

3.2.2.2 *Svenska Akademiens Ordbok*

Svenska Akademiens Ordbok is a dictionary published by the Swedish Academy and it can be seen as the counterpart for OED. The compilation process is still in progress and it is expected to be finished in 2017. At the moment, the number of entries in the dictionary is approximately 470,000 words (g3.spraakdata.gu.se). Otherwise, SAOB is very close to OED as the words' etymology is described first and, thereafter, they are followed by a number of examples of their usage.

3.3 Corpora

The language looks rather different when you look at a lot of it at once.
- John Sinclair (1991, 100)

Bowker and Pearson give the following comment to the use of corpora: “[o]ne of the earliest, and still one of the most common, applications of corpora was in the discipline of lexicography, where corpora can be used to help dictionary makers to spot new words entering a language and to identify contexts for new meanings that have been assigned to existing words” (2002, 11). This is a point that makes me wonder why there has not been more research on the comparison of dictionaries and corpora. It is clear that when dictionaries go out of date, they are often updated with the help of corpora. However, one cannot help but think that there could still be some word usages or senses that leave, or have to be left, unnoticed in the dictionary compiling process. Hopefully, this piece of research can present at least some evidence of those usages or senses.

In this piece of research, I have used four corpora: two English and two Swedish. The English nouns will be studied using the *British National Corpus* (later abbreviated as

BNC) and two microconcordances in the *Microconcord corpus*. The two microconcordances will be referred to later as MCA and MCB. The Swedish corpora, *Svenska Dagbladet 2000* and *Bonniersromaner II*, have been compiled at the University of Gothenburg and, although much smaller compared with BNC, they represent rather large corpora of the Swedish language. Meyer points out that “for those constructions that do occur frequently, even a relatively small corpus can yield reliable and valid information” (2002, 12). It remains to be seen whether the Swedish corpora give examples of only the frequent constructions or whether they are large enough to present also some more uncharacteristic usages of the Swedish nouns. However, Kennedy’s point brings a new insight into the value of corpus size: “[a] huge corpus does not necessarily ‘represent’ a language or a variety of a language any better than a smaller corpus. At this stage we simply do not know how big a corpus needs to be for general or particular purposes” (1998, 68). Possibly, my piece of research will bring new evidence of this.

I have also made some restrictions to the number of tokens investigated. In BNC, I will analyze 200 randomly picked instances. In the case of MCA and MCB, I shall analyze all the 14 examples of *surroundings* found in the corpus and 100 examples of both *environment* and *circumstances*. With the Swedish corpora, however, restrictions are not possible, which is why every other sample of *miljö(n)* and *omständigheter(na)* has been investigated. This has also been the reason for ignoring all compounds in which *miljö* often occurs, for example, *miljöparti*, *miljölagstiftning*, *miljövård* and *miljöskydd*. The smaller number of occurrences of *omgivning(en)* has allowed me to investigate all the samples.

Another aspect affecting the handling of the concordances is, as we shall see later when we look into the dictionaries (See Chapter 4.1), that the forms of *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings* differ only between the singular and plural forms, and the difference between the definite and indefinite forms is indicated with a separate article. *Surroundings* is always used in plural and *environment* usually without the indefinite article

an. Circumstance can sometimes take the indefinite article, but in those cases the word normally carries a different meaning that will not be investigated in this thesis, for instance:

Worst of all there was very little interlocking between separate communes, a **circumstance** which was reflected in these peasants' lack of political cohesiveness in the Dumas. (BNC: A64 543)

In this case, *circumstance* carries the meaning 'a condition, fact, or event accompanying, conditioning, or determining another' (See Appendix 1). This sense occurs quite rarely, which is why I shall not take it into account in this thesis. The plural forms *environments*, *miljöer(na)*, and *omgivningar(na)*, and the singular *omständighet(en)* have also been left out.

The following forms will be analyzed in this thesis:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| - <i>environment</i> | - <i>miljö</i> |
| | - <i>miljön</i> |
| - <i>circumstances</i> | - <i>omständigheter</i> |
| | - <i>omständigheterna</i> |
| - <i>surroundings</i> | - <i>omgivning</i> |
| | - <i>omgivningen</i> |

It would have been very interesting to see also whether a parallel corpus would give more insights into the subject. Unfortunately, there is only one parallel corpus of English and Swedish, ESPC (*The English–Swedish Parallel Corpus*), compiled at the universities of Lund and Gothenburg. The corpus consists of Swedish original texts and their translations into English and vice versa. It will not be used in this thesis because of its small size (2.8 million words in total) and lack of variation in the data because, even at first look, the results seem to contain a large number of similar items. One reason for this could be that the original texts in both languages include a relatively large number of speeches in the European Parliament.

3.3.1 *British National Corpus*

The *British National Corpus* is one of the largest corpora available at the moment, with about 100 million words. It is said on the BNC web pages that the corpus has been “designed to represent a wide cross-section of current British English, both spoken and written” (<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>). Therefore, it can be expected to give a general picture of every word and not concentrate too much on any special fields. Although the corpus includes both written and spoken material, I have used only the written part as the Swedish corpora do not have any spoken language.

According to the BNC web pages, the written section of the corpus includes, among others, extracts from regional and national newspapers, specialist periodicals and journals for all ages and interests, academic books and popular fiction, published and unpublished letters and memoranda, school and university essays, as well as many other kinds of text. The text material in the corpus was compiled between 1991 and 1994 and, according to the web pages, “[n]o new texts have been added after the completion of the project but the corpus was slightly revised prior to the release” of the second and third editions in 2001 and 2007 (<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>).

The BNC defines itself as being a monolingual, synchronic and general sample corpus. In brief, this means that only British English is being handled with no foreign words occurring in the corpus. By being synchronic, the corpus concentrates on present-day language, that is, “British English of the late twentieth century, rather than the historical development which produced it” (<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>).

3.3.2 The *Microconcord corpus*

The Microconcord Corpus has been compiled by Mike Scott and Tim Johns at the University of Liverpool. The corpus is divided into two parts, the Microconcord A and the microconcord B (later referred to as MCA and MCB). MCA consists of five 200,000 word corpora which are collections of newspaper texts covering the areas of home, foreign, business, arts, and sports news. MCB is a similar collection of five corpora of 200,000 words including scientific, philosophical, and religious texts in the genre of academics ().

3.3.3 *Svenska Dagbladet 2000 and Bonniersromaner II*

The Swedish corpora, *Svenska Dagbladet 2000* and *Bonniersromaner II* (abbreviated as SVD and BR II) have both been compiled at the Department of Swedish at Gothenburg University. These corpora are considerably smaller than BNC. SVD includes the whole annual volume of the newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* from the year 2000 and the size of it is approximately 13 million words. BR II, which is a collection of 60 novels published by the Bonnier publishing house in 1980 and 1981, consists of ca. four million words. Most of the novels in BR II have been originally written in Swedish, but there are a few among them which are translations from English. Even though the Swedish corpora are considerably smaller in size in comparison to BNC, it should not pose a problem as they represent a similar distribution of informative and fictional texts as BNC.

4 Analysis and Discussion of Data

In this section, I will analyze the material to be found in the dictionaries and the corpora and discuss the results. The dictionary definitions are in their full form in the Appendices section, but the definitions will be presented in a concise form in tables. They will, then, be compared with the results obtained in the corpus material.

4.1 Dictionary Analysis

The seven dictionaries that I will look into in this chapter provide a good basis to begin the comparison between English and Swedish. As has already been said, dictionaries give a much narrower picture of the use of words than corpora, but, when studying word senses, it is useful to have a narrower basis to start the information gathering with. It will be interesting to see where the dictionaries go hand in hand and where they differ from each other. There are summarizing tables on each dictionary to make the possible differences more visible. The tables could not be constructed using the whole dictionary definitions but I have devised some general definitions to give a broader picture and the whole definitions are handled more closely in the text. The dictionary definitions in their full form are in the Appendices section.

Thesauri were also considered as a source of information in this study, but they appeared to be too complicated because of their too large a collection of so-called synonyms. Most thesauri often give as many as ten alternative words for *environment*, for example. Since the aim of this piece of research is to study synonymy, the approach in the thesauri is very different from the one presented in this study. This thesis focuses on *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings* and, on the other hand, *miljö*, *omständigheter* and *omgivning* from a similar point of view to that put forward by Gunnar Persson who says words are synonymous only “if they have similar meanings and if they are interchangeable without

affecting meaning” (1989: 1), which is not the case with all the words given in thesauri. However, Alan Partington makes a point by saying that thesauri are “positively dangerous” for non-native speakers (1998: 47). Speakers first have to learn the so-called synonymous words before using them, which is not a bad thing at all. In spite of this, the thesauri did not provide enough information that would be relevant for my research.

4.1.1 English

The English dictionaries differ very much in the number of definitions that they give especially for *environment* and *circumstances*. One major problem disturbing the analysis of *circumstances* is caused by the different approaches concerning the count of the noun. The opinion in MWD is that the noun should be in the singular, in the NODE it is either or, and in LDOCE it is considered a plural noun. There are also some discrepancies when comparing the contemporary dictionaries with the historical OED because particularly MWD has listed some senses that do not seem to correspond to everyday language use. It also seems that some of the dictionaries have not taken into consideration the fact that *circumstances* has different senses in the singular and in the plural. Concerning the noun that has a more restricted usage, *surroundings*, the dictionaries are more in line with each other.

4.1.1.1 *Environment* – meaning and usage

	MWD		NODE		LDOCE
1	abstract circumstances	1a	abstract circumstances	1	situations influencing people
2a	natural world	b	setting in which people function	2	natural world
b	social relations	c	computing		
3	Linguistics	2	natural world		
4	computing				

Table 1. Concise English dictionary definitions of *environment*.

As a non-native speaker of English, one would probably expect *environment* to have quite concrete usages as the word is often found in contexts where nature and nature preservation are discussed. My personal experience is that the word is quite common in official contexts and thus would have the sense of concrete nature. Interestingly enough, MWD and the NODE seem to prove this assumption wrong by listing “abstract circumstances” as the most important. MWD gives the following description: “the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded” (See Appendix 1). It should be noted here that, in this sense, *environment* is also rather neutral, not affecting anyone or anything. The NODE agrees with this definition, which does not indicate much about any value-loading that the word might have.

LDOCE, however, does not mention anything about an abstract, neutral meaning. Instead, it has placed the definition “all the situations, events, people etc that influence the way in which people live or work” first. This definition, although rather abstract as well, refers more to a social environment which has an effect on anyone surrounded by it. The other two dictionaries, MWD and the NODE, have the same sense as well (senses 2b and 1b respectively), but they have distinguished it from the more abstract and neutral one listed first

in both. MWD has put this sense with social relations in a second sense group together with nature, while the NODE has grouped this sense together with abstract circumstances (See Table 1). Different dictionary makers seem to have rather different conceptions of which sense should be grouped together with which.

What the dictionaries agree on, though, is the sense they all have listed as the second most frequent, the reference to nature. The NODE probably gives the most accurate definition: “the natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity” (See Appendix 2). However, nature often has an effect on things surrounded by it, which is why it was not surprising to see that MWD had grouped the sense “social relations” under the same definition with this one. It is possible that the authors of MWD have grouped the senses according to the degree of influence that *environment* can be seen to have.

After this, views begin to go in slightly separate directions. The NODE has included in the first definition the meaning referring to computing, which appears as a separate definition in MWD, and gives the following example: “a desktop development environment” (See Appendix 2). MWD also lists a sense referring to linguistics without clarifying this choice with examples (See Appendix 1). LDOCE only has the two primary meanings mentioned in the table above (See Appendix 3).

What OED says about the history behind *environment* is that the word was first used by Philemon Holland in 1603 in the following phrase: “I wot not what circumplexions and environments” in which the word *environment* was translated from the Greek word περιελεύσεις [perie'lefsis], and this is in OED under the definition “the action of environing; the state of being environed”. However, the verb *to environ* is very rare nowadays, which is why contemporary dictionaries do not tend to use it when defining the word *environment*. Interestingly enough, Holland has chosen to use the plural form of the word. Unfortunately, it

is not possible to state whether this was a common practice at the time, because OED only has this one example from this period of time.

The sense with quite a few examples is the concrete meaning (2a in OED) “that which environs; the objects or the region surrounding anything”. This was used first by Thomas Carlyle around 1830:

- Baireuth, with its kind picturesque **environment**
- The whole habitation and **environment** looked ever trim and gay.

However, in present-day English, I would replace *environment* at least in the first sentence by *surroundings*. Another sense of *environment* is 2b: “the conditions under which any person or thing lives or is developed; the sum-total of influences which modify and determine the development of life or character”. The first example of this is from 1827 and the latest from 1881, but this use can be found even in present-day English, especially in natural sciences. We can compare the following examples. The first sentence is from OED and was used in 1874, and the two latter ones are from the British National Corpus.

- The organism is continually adapted to its **environment**.
- Another approach has been to consider how a monster or family of monsters, if they did indeed exist in the loch, might be able to survive in a **freshwater environment**. (AMT 710)
- The parasite itself is oval in shape and possesses eight whiplike hairs or flagella (hence *Octo* ‘eight --; mitus’), of which two are particularly elongated and are used to propel the organism through its **watery environment**. (CGH 1268)

In connection with this sense, OED gives an interesting example sentence from the works of Carlyle (1827):

- In such an element with such an **environment of circumstances**.

It is difficult to tell by that short sentence what Carlyle was discussing, but here “environment of circumstances” could possibly be rephrased with “conditions”. Although the examples

above merely deal with something non-human, animate things referring to concrete nature, the sense could, at least according to the definition given in OED, also be applied to people. This would mean that the environment in which a person lives has an effect on his/her mental state and has an influence in the development of the person's character.

Sense 2c has to do with phonetics. *Environment* in this sense started to be used in the 1950s and the last example is from 1966:

- There was evidently a phonemic distinction between forms which ultimately had the assibilated consonant and those which did not, even in the **environment** of front vowels.

The corpus concordances that I investigated did not give any examples of this usage, and MWD was the only one of the three other dictionaries to list this sense. Thus, it is questionable whether the usage has such a sense that the dictionaries should mention it separately at all.

OED, being a dictionary that aims to include specialist usages as well, lists another sense that none of the contemporary dictionaries listed, that is 2d. It is quite new as well (a few examples between 1962 and 1979), and it is described in the dictionary as denoting “a large structure designed to be experienced and enjoyed as a work of art with all (or most) of one's senses while surrounded by it, rather than from outside”. In this sense, *environment* was used also in the plural. However, it is curious to note that *environment* in most cases appears between quotation marks like in the following example sentences. This suggests that the sense had a somewhat vague meaning and was not part of everyday language use; hence, the quotation marks.

- About the only idea that everyone present did agree on was Whitman's suggestion that the Pepsi pavilion be an '**environment**' in which visitors could create their own experience.
- Along Haight Street the trees are decorated with Japanese parasols to create '**environments**'.

OED also gives definition number 3 (“attrib., as *environment area*, *control*, *minister*”), which shows that *environment* began to be used as an attribute instead of the longer form *environmental* in the 1960s, and gives examples such as:

- The future of cities should be conceived as a patchwork of ‘**environment areas**’ of residence, commerce or industry from which traffic other than that concerned with the area would be excluded.
- A house to Bucky is an **environment control**.

In 1993, OED inserted an additional sense referring to computing and operating systems.

- Several programming methods in a LISP **environment** can be summarized as involving the use of superimposed languages.
- Windows and GEM are bundled with the machine, giving the user a choice of **environments**.

It seems that *environment* started to be used in official contexts sometime in the 1960s and 1970s. By ‘official’ I mean administrative contexts in which *environment* occurs together with words such as *minister* or *secretary of state*, or in constructions with *department of (the) environment*, for instance. However, this is merely my own assumption because the only example of this sense in OED was from 1970:

- Mr. Walker defines role of **environment** minister.

4.1.1.2 *Circumstances* – meaning and usage

	MWD: < <i>circumstance</i> >		NODE: < <i>circumstance</i> > <i>usu</i> <~s>		LDOCE: < <i>circumstances</i> > (<i>plural</i>)
1a	fact conditioning other	1a	fact relevant to an event/action	1	conditions affecting a situation/action/event
b	subordinate detail	b	fact causing sth to happen	2	“under/in no circumstances”
c	piece of evidence	2	state of financial/material welfare	3	“under/in the circumstances”
2a	essential and environmental factors			4	uncontrollable facts influencing people
b	state of affairs			5	situation with regard to wealth (old-f.)
c	situation with regard to wealth				
3	attendant formalities and ceremonial				
4	event constituting a detail				

Table 2. Concise dictionary definitions of *circumstances*.

When it comes to *circumstances*, the dictionary entries are more difficult to compare as the dictionaries disagree on whether the entry should be in the singular or in the plural. MWD does not have an entry for *circumstances* in the plural at all. In fact, it does not mention anything about the plural form, except for the example sentences in definitions 2B and 2C. This is rather interesting because *circumstances* seems to be much more commonly used than the singular form, and, even more importantly, the singular and plural forms carry different meanings and are, therefore, used in different contexts. This view is corroborated by OED below. The NODE is more precise because, although having the dictionary entry for the singular form, *circumstance*, it has a note indicating that the word is usually used in the plural. LDOCE has chosen another approach and does not have an entry for the singular form at all (See Appendices).

As MWD has multiple definitions for *circumstance*, there are some among them that did not prove to be useful for this study. Because of this abundance of definitions, at least the

ones numbered 1B (“a subordinate or accessory fact or detail”), 1C (“a piece of evidence that indicates the probability or improbability of an event (as a crime)”) and 4 (“an event that constitutes a detail”) can be ignored at the moment. Definition number 3 (“attendant formalities and ceremonial”) seems to have a somewhat archaic flavor, and is, thus, also irrelevant for this study (See Appendix 1). The example phrase in definition 3 has been taken from Shakespeare and it is probable that its use is mostly restricted to those times rather than modern texts. The above mentioned definitions were ignored because it would probably sound strange for a modern reader to see *circumstance* used for example in the following contexts:

- the weather is a **circumstance** to be taken into consideration (Definition 1A)
- open rebellion was a rare **circumstance** (Definition 2B)
- pride, pomp, and **circumstance** of glorious war (Definition 3)
- considering each **circumstance** in turn (Definition 4)

Naturally, it is correct to use *circumstance* in these contexts, but the examples suggest that the above mentioned usages are mostly found in very formal and specialized language since examples of this sort were nowhere to be found in the corpora. In addition, if these words were used in the plural form, they would not have the same sense as the one I am investigating. It is even possible that *circumstance* in all of these senses could not be used in the plural at all. This is one reason why it is problematic to handle singular and plural forms of *circumstance* under single definition; the singular and plural forms have notably different uses. According to what the dictionaries say, the singular form refers to a certain thing or factor that influences something while the plural form refers to more general conditions surrounding a person or a thing.

It is interesting to note that MWD gives a definition that is quite close to *environment* in its abstract sense: “the sum of essential and environmental factors” (See Appendix 1). The example sentence “constant and rapid change in economic circumstance” could, in my

opinion, would sound more natural with *circumstances* in the plural or with *environment*: “constant and rapid change in economic *circumstances*” or “constant and rapid change in the economic *environment*”. The form is slightly different but the meaning stays roughly the same. This suggests, indeed, that these two words could be considered almost synonymous in this case.

The LDOCE has chosen to present the uses “under/in no circumstances” and “under/in the circumstances” as separate senses, even though the meaning that *circumstances* carries in these constructions seems to fluctuate somewhere between the senses 1a and 4 in LDOCE. In my opinion, the construction with “under/in...” does not necessarily change the meaning of *circumstances*; it is merely an idiomatic construction with roughly the significance “conditions or things influencing a person, an event or a thing”. We will see whether this is true later when we look at the corpora.

While other meanings found in the dictionaries are quite insignificant, there was one sense that all the dictionaries list, the meaning referring to one’s state of financial or material welfare. An example of this could be the following: *the artists are living in reduced circumstances* (NODE, See Appendix 2). However, LDOCE is the most precise by emphasizing that this usage is nowadays regarded as old-fashioned. According to my own experience, this sense is very seldom found in contemporary texts, which is why one should question the present-day dictionaries’ motivation to keep listing the sense. Here, the corpora are an important source of information when trying to decide whether one should consider the sense still useful.

Circumstances is the oldest of the three English nouns, and it seems that the use of the plural form was rather rare when the word came to use. It also appears with varying written forms, such as *circumstaunce*, *circumstaunce* and *cercumstans*. The oldest sense is “the logical surroundings or ‘adjuncts’ of an action; the time, place, manner, cause, occasion,

etc., amid which it takes place” (2a in OED), and it dates back to the beginning of 13th century. OED has a note which points out that the above definition applies for the plural form, and the singular *circumstance* carries the meaning “any one of these conditioning adjuncts”. However, the oldest examples given in OED are rather unintelligible for a present-day reader, so I have taken examples from 1603 and 1754, respectively:

- Neither in time, matter, or other **circumstance**.
- Unless the different Time be a **Circumstance** which has influence.

This usage seems quite similar to the examples given in MWD which had an emphasis on the singular forms of the word. When comparing MWD’s approach to OED, the definitions in MWD begin to look rather old-fashioned. One cause for this could be the fact that *circumstance* possibly came to use in its singular form and since the plural form started to be used alongside the singular one there has been some uncertainty about how their senses should be understood.

The senses numbered 3, 4a and 5 seem to be the most relevant for this study:

(3) The adjuncts of a fact which make it more or less criminal; or make an accusation more or less probable

- We have nought but **circumstances** to charge her with, about her husband’s death. (1612)

(4a) The ‘condition or state of affairs’ surrounding and affecting an agent; esp. the external conditions prevailing at the time. (Now usually *pl.*)

- Every Hypocrite..under the same **Circumstances** would have infallibly treated Him with the same Barbarity (1665)

(5) *esp.* Condition or state as to material welfare, means. Now always *pl. in easy, good, reduced, straitened, circumstances, etc.*

- When men are easy in their **circumstances**, they are naturally enemies to innovations (1716)

OED also makes a point that the rest of the dictionaries have not mentioned. It notes that “a mere situation is expressed by ‘**in** the circumstances’, action affected is performed ‘**under** the circumstances’”. It will be interesting to see whether the corpus concordances present examples of this and whether the English and Swedish languages behave similarly.

After reading the definitions of *circumstance* given in OED, it seems that MWD, even though a modern dictionary, is not very up-to-date because it has almost the same definitions as OED. Many of the senses have become obsolete, and it is alarming that MWD has not highlighted them in any way.

4.1.1.3 Surroundings – meaning and usage

1	<p>MWD the circumstances, conditions, or objects by which one is surrounded, environment</p>	1	<p>NODE the things and conditions around a person or thing</p>	1	<p>LDOCE the objects, buildings, natural things etc that are around a person or thing at a particular time</p>
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Table 3. Concise dictionary definitions of *surroundings*.

Surroundings has a much more restricted usage than the other two as all the dictionaries give only one definition for it. They also seem to be in agreement as far as the sense of this word is concerned. LDOCE differs slightly from the other two by defining *surroundings* with words that imply something concrete while the other two have used, for example *conditions*, which leaves place also for more abstract interpretation (See Appendices).

Another thing worth mentioning is that MWD suggests that *surroundings* would correspond to *environment*. When I compare these dictionary definitions with the corpus concordances, we will see whether these two words can really be treated as synonyms or whether the dictionaries are just circular, i.e. using words to define each other.

Surroundings is relatively new compared to *environment* and *circumstances*. The following definitions given in OED are currently in everyday use:

- those things which surround a person or a thing, or in the midst of which he or it (habitually) is; things around (collectively); **environment**
- persons surrounding or attending upon a person

Along with MWD, OED also suggests that *surroundings* could correspond to *environment*. The second example sentence above presents a sense that the dictionaries do not mention directly. In this case, *surroundings* has a social or interpersonal dimension which is, at least on the basis of the dictionary definitions, non-comparable with *environment*.

The earliest example of the first sense in OED is from 1861 when it was used by Samuel Smiles in his work *Lives of the Engineers* the following way: “The place remained comparatively rural in point of size and surroundings”. It is also curious to note that, once again, *surroundings* is linked together with *environment*. Here, and in many other cases as well, they could be replaceable even though the use of *surroundings* often sounds more concrete, which is why they still could not be considered representative of Ullmann’s absolute synonymy (Sparck Jones, 1986: 75).

According to OED, the singular form, *surrounding*, was used some time in the 15th and 16th centuries with the meaning “overflowing, inundation”, but the sense is now obsolete.

4.1.2 Swedish

Svenska Ordbok (SVO) and Bonniers Svenska Ordbok (BSO) have more easily comparable definitions than the English dictionaries even though there still are some marked differences. When looking at the definitions of *miljö*, *omständigheter* and *omgivning*, neither of the dictionaries is as good and comprehensive as an ideal dictionary could be. Both of them have taken quite big steps in defining the words because they have missed some of the senses that the English dictionaries list separately. Naturally, it is possible that the Swedish language behaves differently from English and if this is the reason for the seemingly incomprehensive definitions in SVO and BSO the corpora should highlight the difference.

4.1.2.1 Miljö – meaning and usage

	SVO	BSO
1	omgivande förhållanden (särsk. inverkan på ngn/ngt; ngn spec. aspekt på omgivningen)	omgivning, yttre förhållanden som påverkar ngn/ngt
		fysisk (vatten, luft, mark, byggnader...)
		psykisk (människor runt oss)
2	omgivande (ursprunglig) natur (positiv värdeledning)	(mer konkret) (typ av) omgivning

Table 4. Concise dictionary definitions of *miljö*.

SVO and BSO correspond to each other quite well even though BSO seems to be somewhat more precise by separating the sense nuances of ”fysisk miljö” (physical environment) which can have an effect on someone/something, and ”psykisk miljö” (psychological/mental environment) which can be regarded as some sort of social surroundings in which people influence each other. I imagine this influence can be in terms of one’s behavior, feelings or psychological development. When considering this more closely, it is not clear what is meant in BSO when it says that physical environment can have an impact on someone. There is, indeed, a big difference in the appearance of people living at the Equator and the Arctic Circle, but this has more to do with biology. It is, thus, more likely that the physical environment is meant to have an effect on a person’s feelings, for instance.

Both definitions in SVO sound rather concrete since they do not mention anything that would refer to mental or social environment, that is, people influencing each other. In any case, it is noted that the first sense is used when the ”surrounding circumstances” (”omgivande förhållanden”) are considered to have an effect on someone/something. In addition, they note that this meaning can be used when only a certain aspect of environment is discussed. Since there are no examples of this, it is difficult to go into more detail.

When it comes to the senses listed second in the dictionaries, there are still some differences. SVO has defined it as "surrounding (primitive/indigenous) nature" ("omgivande (ursprunglig) natur") meanwhile BSO has "(more concrete) (type of) surroundings" ("(mer konkret) (typ av) omgivning"). Unfortunately, there are no examples given of these senses either, but it could be assumed that the dictionaries are referring to concrete nature.

In addition to the senses presented in the present-day dictionaries, SAOB has other, older senses, for example, when *miljö* is used to refer to "common, uninteresting type of people" ("människor av (ointressant) genomsnittstyp"). They give the following example:

"Massan har sin Strauss, .. "gräddan" sin Mozart .., för att ej tala om den stora, fadda miliön som ränner efter Bellini."
("The masses have their Strauss,.. the cream their Mozart .., not to mention the huge crowd of common people who run after Bellini.")

SAOB notes, though, that this usage is archaic and that there have been only sporadic examples of it. An interesting comparison could be made here between the past and the present. In the past, *miljö* was used in the sense described above (common people), whereas in present-day language use the same word is used, at least according to BSO and MWD, in the sense "people influencing other people". Here we can see that *miljö* has had at least some sort of usage referring to social relations through the times, but it is not clear whether the sense of the past has transformed into the one in the present or if the "common people" reference is just a trace from the past without any connection or effect on the contemporary "social relations" reference. When words are used under a long period of time, their sense may change or new senses may arise. According to SAOB, *miljö* has mostly been used in the following senses:

- de yttre förhållanden som (enl. miljöteorien) anses utöva en avgörande invärkan på ngns (l. ngts) utveckling
- den omgivning (av natur- l. samfundsförhållanden) vari man rör sig o. värkar
- omvärld
- atmosfär

SAOB even gives the same definition as SVO: ”hål mitt på biljardbords långsida” (the hole in the middle of the long side of a pool table). The dictionary also gives examples of how *miljö* has been used in compounds. There we can find most differences. New combinations have been introduced as the society has developed, for example ”arbetsmiljö” (work environment), ”miljöterapi” (environmental therapy) and ”miljövård” (environmental conservation).

4.1.2.2 *Omständigheter* – meaning and usage

	SVO	BSO
1	sakförhållande som har betydelse i (visst) sammanhang	förhållande, villkor, händelse runt en annan
2		”leva i små omständigheter”
3		”förmildrande omständigheter”
4		”under inga omständigheter”

Table 5. Concise dictionary definitions of *omständigheter*.

When it comes to *omständighet*, SVO and BSO have somewhat differing views on how the word should be defined. SVO gives a rather large amount of examples under the definition, ”sakförhållande som har (beledsagande) betydelse i (visst) sammanhang”, for instance:

- ett bra resultat med tanke på omständigheterna
- jag kommer under alla omständigheter

One reason for the variation in the definitions could be that the word is used both in the singular and in the plural, but somewhat differently. This happens in English, too, and the Swedish singular form corresponds to the English definition 1a given in MWD: “fact conditioning other” (See Appendices). However, the difference between MWD and SVO is

that MWD listed multiple senses for the singular form of the word while SVO gives only one. MWD also gave examples that could be classified as slightly old-fashioned in English.

BSO has four definitions. What is interesting here is that in the example "under inga omständigheter" ("under no circumstances") *omständighet* has the same sense as in the first definition, "förhållande, villkor, händelse runt en annan". The only difference is that *omständighet* is in plural. "Under alla/inga omständigheter" can be regarded as an idiomatic expression that does not change the meaning of *omständighet*. Therefore, the example could be included under definition 1. It is true also, for example, of the English expression "under no circumstances" that the prepositional phrase does not change the meaning of the head word.

"Leva i små omständigheter" (to live in reduced circumstances) which is given in SVO under definition 1 has quite a different meaning and usage than the rest of the examples. For this reason, it could have been given a definition of its own. "Förmildrande omständigheter" (extenuating/mitigating circumstances) is formed with *omständighet* in the singular sense. That is why it has a different sense, similar to 1c in MWD and should, therefore, have a separate definition.

Another, rarer example in SVO is "råka i omständigheter" which carries the sense "to get pregnant". This usage is completely unknown to me, and it seems to be a Swedish invention since there is no mention of this kind of usage in the English dictionaries. It is probable that "råka i omständigheter" has occurred only very rarely. However, we will see whether there are any examples of this in the corpora.

Omständighet is the oldest word of the three Swedish nouns. The first recorded uses are from the beginning of the 16th century. Here is an example from a text by Olaus Petri from 1528:

Huru wij vpräkna skulle alla wora synder medh alla theres vmstendigheeter (thz er)
huru, j huad motto och j huadh tijdh och stadh sådana synder bedreffna wore.
(Olaus Petri, 1528)

Omständigheter or *vmstendigheeter* in the sense ”berätta/uppräkn/notera/överväga ngt med (alla) dess omständigheter/enskildheter” (observe/count/note sth considering each circumstance), has now become obsolete. The English noun *circumstance* still has this sense, though. Although it seems rather unlikely that one would hear this usage in everyday speech, it can still be found in English official documents and news articles, for example.

4.1.2.3 *Omgivning* – meaning and usage

	SVO	BSO
1	sammanfattning av förhållanden/företeelser runt omkring ngt	det eller de som omger en

Table 6. Concise dictionary definitions of *omgivning*.

There is not much to say about *omgivning* because the dictionaries give similar definitions. In BSO the definition is merely a little more concrete: ”det eller de som omger en”, which can refer to something concrete such as nature or buildings, or to something abstract such as human relations or an atmosphere of some sort because the definition in BSO is elaborated further with the words *trakt*, *grannskap*, *miljö* and *umgänge* (region, vicinity, environment and company). SVO also has a definition that can bring to mind either something abstract or concrete as the dictionary gives examples such as ”omgivningshygien”, ”stadens vackra omgivningar” and ”hennes självmord kom inte förvånande för omgivningen”.

Contrary to English, it is surprising that *omgivning* seems to be often given under the entry of the verb *omgiva*. This is the case with BSO and SAOB, for instance. The word is used in considerably fewer contexts than *miljö* and *omständighet*, which applies also to

surroundings that, regardless of the restricted usage, has been given its own definition in each of the English dictionaries. One reason for this could be that *omgivning* is used in contexts similar to those in which the verb *omgiva* is used while the English *surroundings* and *to surround* appear in more varying contexts. If this is true, it can be deduced that *surroundings* and *omgivning* do not behave according to the same pattern in English and Swedish. The corpora are hoped to give some answers to this later on.

The first examples of *omgivning* in SAOB are mostly from the 19th century. Back then the noun had more concrete senses than today, for example ”konkret beteckning för ngt som befinner sig omkring ngt/ngn, ngt som höljer eller avgränsar ngt”. SAOB gave the following example from 1836: ”(Människo-) Äggets skal eller omgifning” (the shell of the human egg). Another example, unfortunately lacking a proper definition, was from 1856: ”(Trävirkets) Omgifning med eller inpackning i främmande ämnen, såsom lera, näffver m.m.”. This phrase is left rather incomprehensible without further explanation.

The first examples of *omgivning* in the sense that it is relevant for this study are mostly from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. SAOB defines the word as follows: ”område l. bebyggelse omkring en plats l. sammanfattningen av de föremål l. personer som befinna sig omkring ngn l. ngt” and gives the following examples:

- Han började vid dagsljuset närmare betrakta sin omgifning. (1831)
- Glad hon tog dem [dvs. buketterna] mot af sin omgifning. (1881)

It should be noted here that the latter example sentence very much resembles the English usage of *surroundings* in its sense “social relations”. If translated to English, the second sentence could sound something like “She happily accepted them [i.e. the bunches of flowers] from her surroundings”.

SAOB adds that when the word is used in the plural, it has the sense ”(områden eller trakter i) området kring en plats” (area surrounding a place). ”Göteborg med omgifningar”

serves as an example of this. It is stunning that the modern Swedish dictionaries have no mention of the fact that the meaning of *omgivning* changes according to the number of the noun. What is more, this does not apply to the English *surroundings*. The above phrase would probably be translated to English as “the outskirts of Gothenburg”, for example.

4.2 Corpus Analysis

I have used two English and two Swedish corpora in my research. The English ones are the *British National Corpus* (BNC) and the *Microconcord corpus*. BNC is a large corpus consisting of about 100 million words whereas the *Microconcord corpus* consists of about 2 million words altogether from both written texts and spoken materials. I have used both two sections of the corpus, microconcord A and microconcord B (MCA and MCB). For the sake of comparison, it is reasonable to use both a very large corpus and a smaller corpus to discover whether there are any differences.

The Swedish corpora are, as was said in Chapter 3, considerably smaller than BNC. Despite this, they include different sorts of texts from different genres, which is why they are viewed as reliable in this study. The other English corpus, the *Microconcord corpus*, is also much smaller than BNC, and, therefore, the results found in the MCA and MCB create a nice basis for comparison between the English corpora as well. The tables 7, 8, 9, and 10 below show how the words are distributed in the corpora:

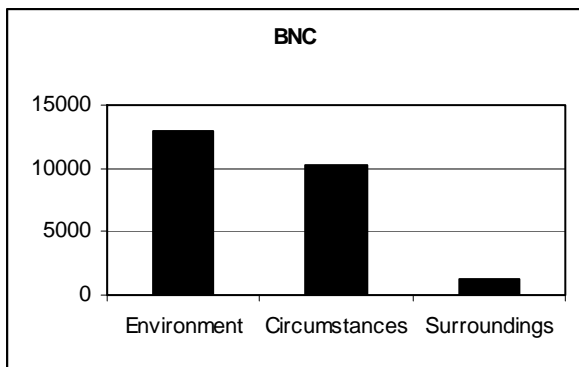


Table 7. The distribution of the English nouns in BNC.

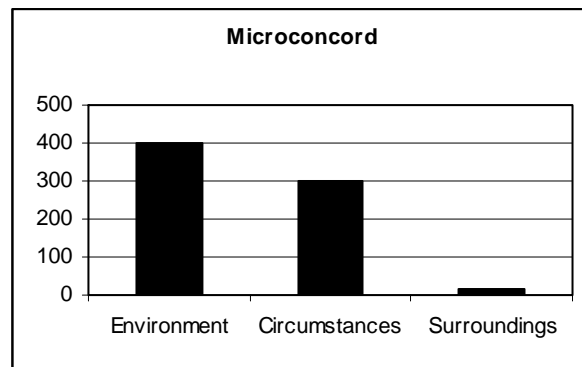


Table 8. The distribution of the English nouns in MCA and MCB.

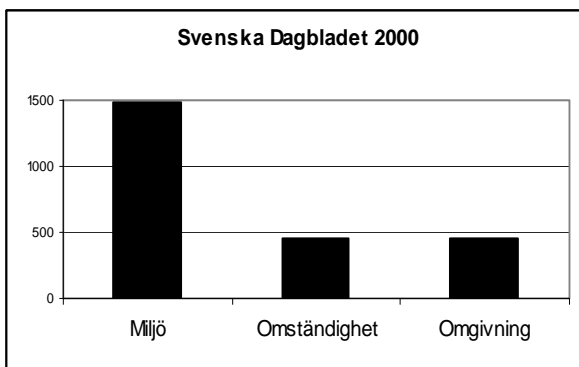


Table 9. The distribution of the Swedish nouns in SVD.

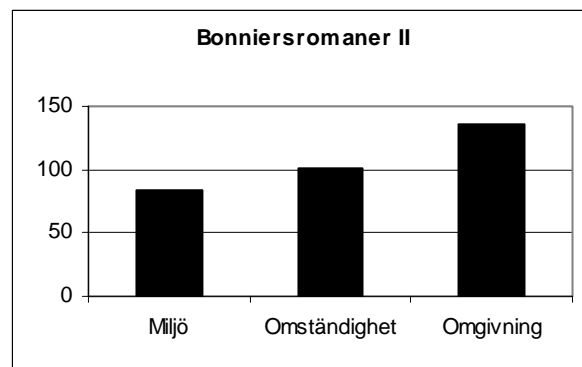


Table 10. The distribution of the Swedish nouns in BR II.

As English and Swedish are related languages, it is surprising that there are quite remarkable differences between the corpora. The English corpora are more or less in accordance, but the Swedish ones contradict both each other and the English corpora rather drastically. The differences in Swedish might be explained with the fact that SVD consists of journalistic texts meanwhile BR II represents literature, but remembering the assumption made earlier that the English and Swedish nouns are expected to correspond to each other in the two languages, it is surprising to see that *omgivning*, for instance, has a much greater frequency than its, let me call it, equivalent, *surroundings*, in English.

4.2.1 English

BNC is such a large corpus that it can be expected to represent different types of language use quite comprehensively. Despite this, I wish to look at the English nouns from a different perspective with the help of a significantly smaller corpus, the parts MCA and MCB from the *Microconcord Corpus*. It remains to be seen whether the two corpora of different sizes yield different results.

Environment is the most frequent with about 12,900 occurrences in BNC and about 400 in MCA and MCB. *Circumstances* is also quite common with over 10,200 occurrences in BNC and over 300 in MCA and MCB. *Surroundings* is, at least to my surprise, very rare compared to the other two (only about 1,230 in BNC and 14 in MCA and MCB).

Environment is often used when referring to nature while in the case of the other two this is quite rare. Therefore, the large number of examples of *environment* is not very surprising.

4.2.1.1 *Environment* in the Corpora

When looking back at what the dictionaries said about *environment*, one may be reminded that they all listed the meaning close to *circumstances* or *situations* first, and, as the next important thing, the meaning referring to nature (See Appendices). First of all, it might be useful to look at table 11 below to get an overview of the sense categories of *environment* in the corpora:

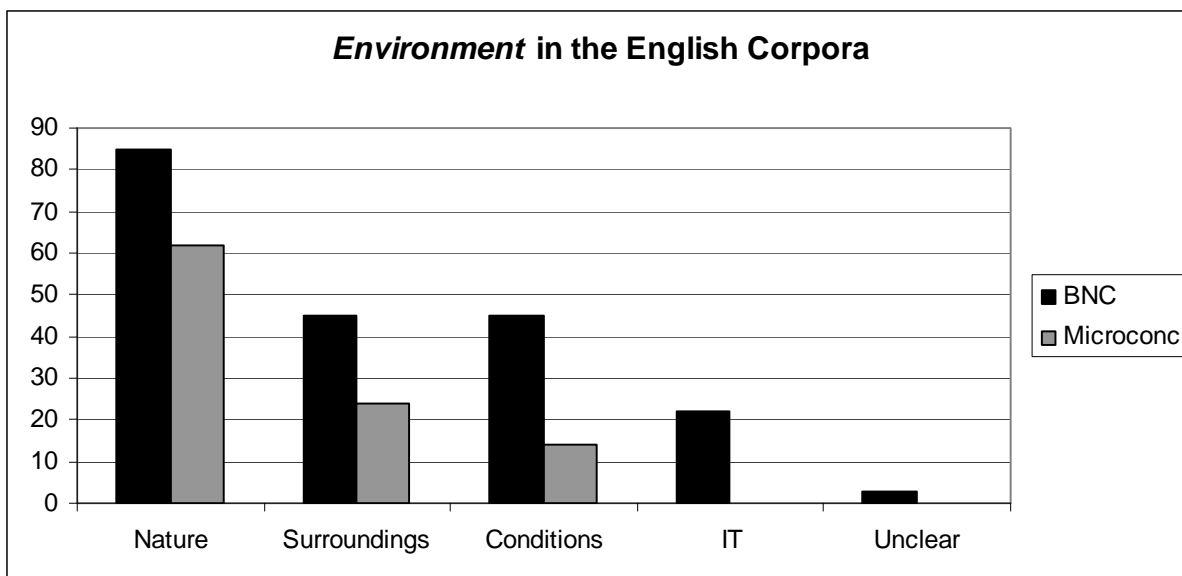


Table 11. *Environment in the British National Corpus and the Microconcord Corpus.*

In BNC, 85, and in MCA and MCB 62, of the 200 and 100 instances have a concrete sense referring to nature. When considering the concordance lines in more detail, it is noticeable that in quite a few of those *environment* is used either in the name of a public office or title of an authority. There are 33 instances of this in BNC and 21 in MCA and MCB. The following examples are taken from BNC:

- The guidelines, which have been issued by the Department of the Environment, govern compensation to farmers in national parks and sites of special scientific interest. (B77 403)
- Mr Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary, said he was sure Mr Chope could reply comprehensively when he summed up the debate. (A8X 300)
- The Ministry and the French Environment Agency have together pledged FF40 million towards the scheme for 1993. (J38 392)
- The owner of Wendy House, Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, is to have a postal number to assist callers, Stockton council environment and general services committee agreed. (K4W 1443)
- Three quarters of local authorities did not follow up the Department of Environment's advice and carry out checks to see if the tenant was receiving the right benefits. (BPH 1372)
- Small hospitals incinerators do not have to comply with the latest emission standards set by the Department of Environment until 1996. (J2W 569)

When looking at the collocates co-occurring with *environment*, the most usual combinations seem to be *a/the Department of Environment* and *Environment Agency* or *Secretary*. It should be noted that, when referring to concrete nature and when the word stands alone and not as an attribute, for example, the word *environment* should always occur with the definite article *the*, with two exceptions in BNC. This was also mentioned in the NODE and LDOCE. In tables 12 and 13, we can see that the corpora are mostly in agreement of how *environment* in the sense ‘nature’ is distributed according to different fields of usage.

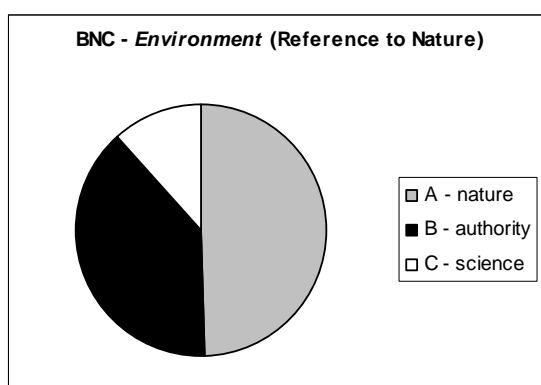


Table 12. Distribution of the senses of *environment* with reference to nature in BNC.

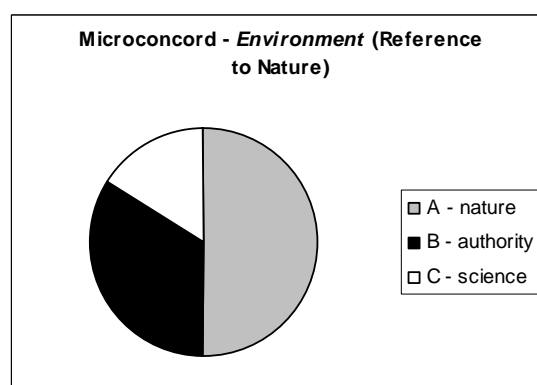


Table 13. Distribution of the senses of *environment* with reference to nature in MCA and MCB.

Both in BNC and the microconcord, concrete nature was the referent in approximately half of the examples of *environment* with reference to nature. The only difference that is notable in the tables is the proportion in which the references to authorities and science differ from each other, *science* meaning here contexts in which nature is handled in terms of biology, for instance. In the table on the microconcord, the white area is slightly larger than in the BNC table. Natural science is referred to 10 times in both BNC and MCA and MCB, which means that its occurrence is proportionally more frequent in MCA and MCB. However, when it comes to science, the corpus examples differ from other senses by not referring directly to nature as a whole, but to certain places that parts of nature constitute, i.e. the immediate environment. These examples are from the microconcord:

result from the organisms' responses to their **environment** is acute; but how much information transfer does not depend upon the temperature of the **environment**; and it allows the colonization of environments where rhythms are removed. First, we must make the **environment** constant and study individuals in constant

Many of the text samples handle also things surrounding and influencing people at home or at work, for example, *working environment* or *learning environment*. MCA and MCB are not as comprehensive as BNC in this case as they merely give examples of things in nature that influence the life or survival of an animal, for instance, or, something to do with an abstract personal environment like the following:

and Amelia's own declared desire to keep her **environment** in a state of constant flux had turned the environment (ie. conflict between the individual and his **environment**) and role theory (ie. inter-personal conflict) is mentioned or seems to be so that the poetic persona can be imagined either as a thinking mind or as a speaker talking to himself in a solitary **environment**.

On the basis of how the dictionaries define *surroundings* (See Appendices 1 and 2), *environment* could, in my opinion, be replaced by it in the previous sentences. In BNC, however, there are 46 instances where *environment* denotes 'conditions' or situations of some sort, the contexts relating to economics, working conditions, or to politics. Here are some examples:

both decent social provision and a regulated **environment** for fair competition. essential contribution to creating the stable **environment** which progress in the negotiations requires (lossary) involves designing the job, working **environment** or product to take proper account of human

This implies that *environment* is used for *nature* especially in legal, political and other official contexts, whereas *nature* itself is in more universal usage.

4.2.1.2 *Circumstances* in the Corpora

First, it is useful to look at the distribution of the senses found in the corpora in Table 14 below:

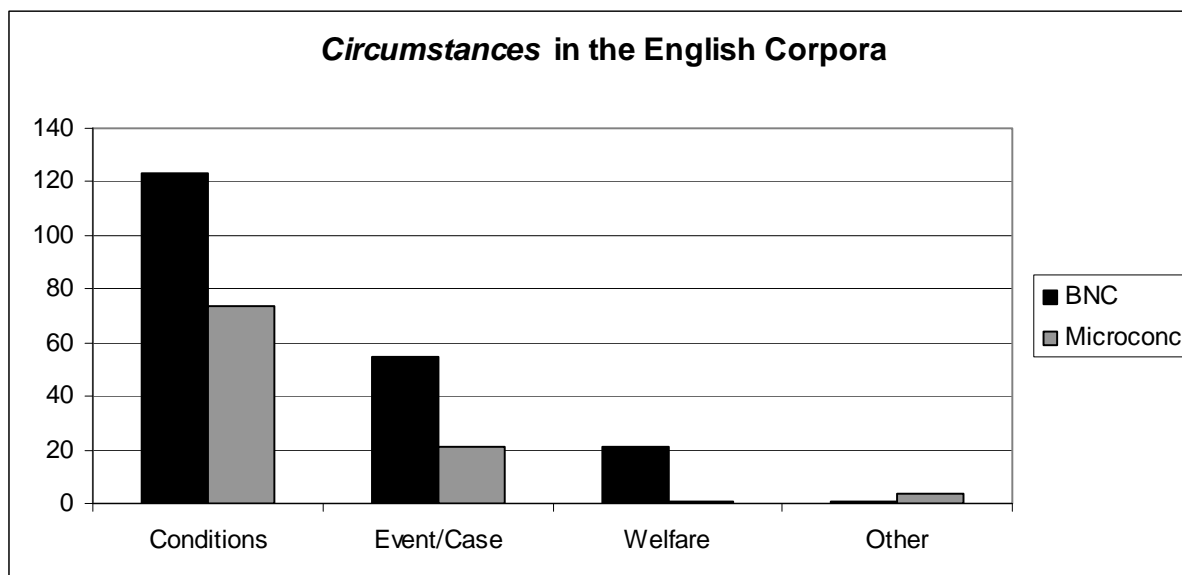


Table 14. *Circumstances* in the British National Corpus and the Microconcord Corpus.

In the case of *circumstances*, the corpora seem to be surprisingly well in accordance with each other. This accordance stretches also to dictionaries as they give similar results of the frequencies of the senses. The central senses (below) listed in the dictionaries can also be found in the corpus concordances (See Appendices):

- conditions affecting a situation/action/event, or state of affairs
- piece of evidence (especially when referring to crime or accidents)
- situation with regard to wealth

The construction *under/in... circumstances* is very common, as expected. There are as many as 61 instances of this in the microconcord (43 of which with *in...circumstances* and 18 with *under...circumstances*) and 97 in BNC (77 of which with *in...circumstances* and 20 with *under...circumstances*). Here are some samples from MCA and MCB:

may well provide reasons to obey the law in
rtance of habit and biological factors in such
t be used by the crops even **under** the best
ers. The real question is whether, **under** the

circumstances where the law transcends the legitim
circumstances is hard to decide. Making use of our f
circumstances , it is no surprise that nitrous oxide e
circumstances , it would be wrong to continue interve

In Section 4.1.1.2, I considered the chance of the construction with *in/under... circumstances* not changing the sense of the noun *circumstances* itself. After looking into the corpus results, it certainly seems that the use of the expression merely depends on the context. Some contexts require the use of the prepositions meanwhile others do not. In either case, the sense of *circumstances* does not change. As an example of this, the same sense can also be found in sentences where *circumstances* appears without the preposition *in* or *under*. Here are some examples from BNC:

- Whatever the **circumstances**, Dickens, from Trinity College, Cambridge became Master and served until his death in 1703.
- A change in **circumstances** that could not be predicted exactly does not mean that planning was incorrect in the first place.
- It has art's power to translate, to abstract from the **circumstances** in which it originates.

This is why it is rather surprising that LDOCE has listed the expressions *in/under... circumstances* as separate definitions even though *circumstances* itself can nowadays have the same sense as in the first definition in the dictionary: “the conditions that affect a situation, action, event etc” (See Appendix 3). The construction *under/in...circumstances* is a fixed expression that does not change the sense of *circumstances* itself. There are 32 examples altogether of the use of *circumstances* without the prepositions *in* or *under* in BNC and 24 in the MCA and MCB. In this case the dictionaries and the corpora are in accordance with each other on the frequency of the sense. However, OED notes that there should be a difference in the usage of the constructions *in...circumstances* and *under...circumstances*. It says that the former is used when “a mere situation is expressed” whereas the latter is used in the case

when the circumstances affect the action performed. The above examples show, though, that this may not always be the case nowadays, which might be the reason why the present-day dictionaries have not included this rule.

Another sense that MWD and the NODE defined as quite important are meanings number 1C (a piece of evidence that indicates the probability or improbability of an event (as a crime)) and 1 (a fact or condition connected with or relevant to an event or action) respectively (See Appendices 1 and 2). *Circumstances* occurred 47 times in this sense in BNC and 21 times in the microconcord. These examples are from BNC:

ly reduced by encouraging patients to avoid	circumstances known to have triggered crises in the
Do you know the	circumstances in which er Lawrence was recaptured
ow supervise as investigation into the exact	circumstances of the shooting.

BNC also gives examples of rarer usages found in the dictionaries (See Appendices).

In these samples from BNC, *circumstances* is used in the sense ‘situation regarding wealth’:

standard of living in more difficult economic	circumstances in the late nineteenth century, and in
natural for a woman sensible of her humble	circumstances not to wish to unveil the total intimac

The microconcord mostly give examples of more general usages of *circumstances* and had only one instance of this:

ial contacts. 3. Uncertainties about her financial **circumstances** and legal position. 4. Feelings of frus

However, one of the BNC concordance lines that does not have any connection to the senses I am investigating in this thesis, but still contains the plural form, *circumstances*, is the following:

For instance, certain building permissions granted by the Department of Planning have been associated with inexplicable **circumstances**.

It seems that *circumstances* in this sentence is used as a euphemism for doubtful activity. In this case, *circumstances* is also a plural form of the originally singular word, *circumstance*, corresponding either to the definition number 2 (“an event that constitutes a detail”) or 4 (“subordinate or accessory fact or detail”) in MWD.

Because MWD treats *circumstance* as if the singular and plural forms have no difference in meaning, I decided to make a search in BNC to see whether MWD has a point in that *circumstance* is a frequently used word along with its plural form. The result was that the corpus had only 596 concordance lines containing the singular form of the word, which is very little compared to the 10,200 occurrences of the plural form.

The senses of the singular *circumstance* correspond quite well to the dictionary definitions in MWD (See Appendices). In the singular, *circumstance* often corresponds to the meanings numbered 1A (an essential or inevitable concomitant), 2B (state of affairs) or 4 (an event that constitutes a detail). Here are some examples:

It casts the Woodvilles as the aggressors and Gloucester as the victim of **circumstance**.
research would be due to changes of **circumstance** which are quite understandable.
eir meaning depends on the time and **circumstance** in which they are used; `;style';, however, c

Here we may note that *circumstance* in the singular can, in certain cases, be used to denote the same as *environment*. For example, the latter concordance line could be rephrased as follows, denoting the immediate environment:

eir meaning depends on the time and **environment** in which they are used; `;style';, however, c

4.2.1.3 Surroundings in the Corpora

Surroundings is often used in the concrete sense, referring to objects, buildings etc.

surrounding something. However, just as often, it can be seen in contexts where people surrounding a person are discussed, i.e. the social environment. This becomes clear in Table 15 below.

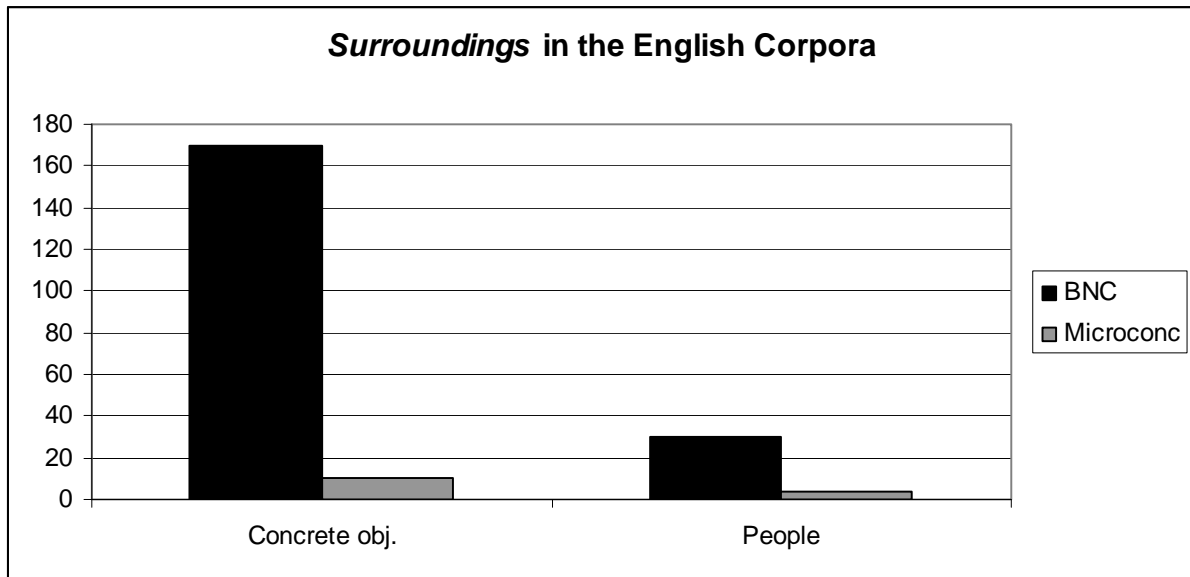


Table 15. Surroundings in the British National Corpus and the Microconcord Corpus.

As mentioned above, MWD and the NODE left a little more space for interpretation for the reader by giving definitions such as “the circumstances, conditions, or objects by which one is surrounded” (See Section 4.1.1.3 and Appendices 1 and 2). The following examples from MCA and MCB could be interpreted as describing an abstract, social environment:

ere, and his natural instinct to dramatize the re-trial hearing before the judge, in informal on well-being (new-found fears, mistrust of

surroundings and make them a backcloth for the **surroundings**, at which the child could be cross-exa **surroundings** and other people, embarrassment, an

BNC only gives examples of concrete meanings.

Surroundings is, quite correctly, often listed among the synonyms of *environment*. In

BNC there are 14 instances where this could be true, for example:

e toad's colouring blended perfectly with the time in the jungle became so adept in their Plants that grow in reasonably moist

surroundings for, Harry remembers, you never knew
surroundings they became known as 'Green Ghost'
surroundings manage this easily enough, though th

The microconcordances give similar examples. *Surroundings* has the same sense in the last sentence above as *environment* does in the following; they both represent a part of nature:

whiplike hairs of flagella (hence Octo `;eight --; mitus), of which two are particularly elongated and are used to propel the organism through its watery **environment** .

4.2.2 Swedish

The Swedish corpora used in this piece of research are, as was said earlier, much smaller and also more restricted than the English ones because there are no larger ones to be found.

However, SVD and BR II can still be expected to give reliable results in comparison with BNC and the microconcordances as they include a similar variety of fiction and non-fiction.

4.2.2.1 *Miljö* in the Corpora

After leaving out the examples of *miljö* in compounds, there are 401 examples of *miljö* and 284 of *miljön* left for analyzing since I have analyzed only every other line in the

concordances. The examples have then been divided into four so called sense groups:

'nature', 'concrete surroundings', 'influence', and 'other'. First, there is a table that shows how the examples of *miljö* and *miljön* are distributed among these sense groups. As we can

see in Table 15, there are some differences between the indefinite and definite forms. It

should be noted, though, that the number of samples in the definite form was smaller, which partly causes these differences.

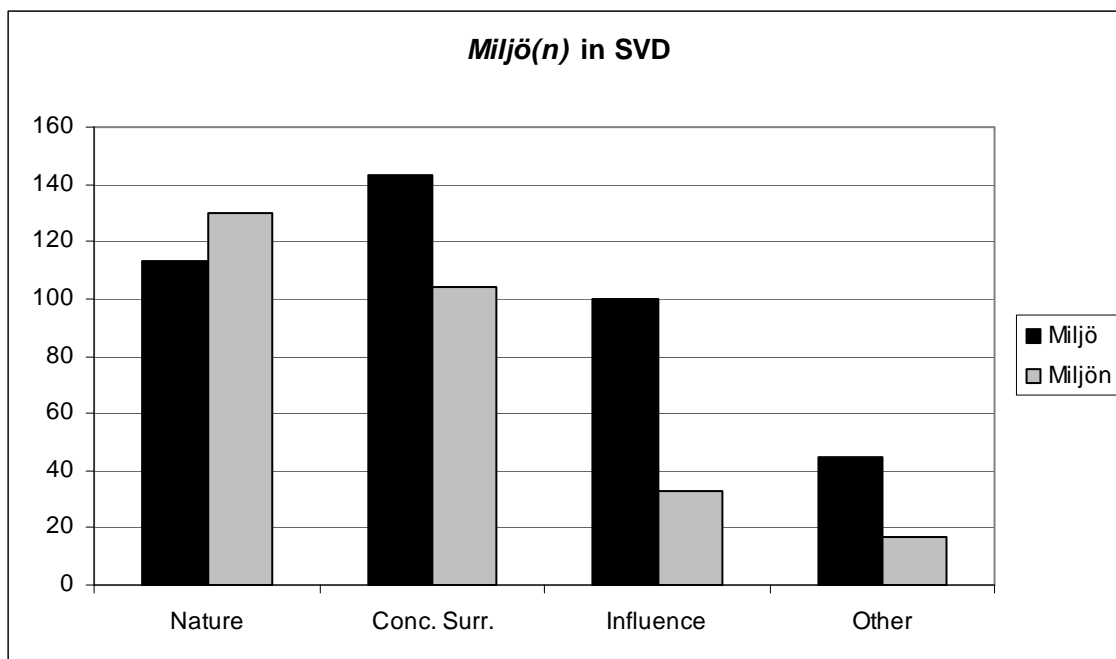


Table 16. Distribution of *miljö* and *miljön* in *Svenska Dagbladet* 2000.

Here it can be noted that the indefinite form *miljö* appears usually in the concrete sense

'concrete surroundings', for example

inte särskilt nödvändig, inledning där verkets **miljö** byggs upp, beledsagad av bandinspelad kyrkos
 rsonalen tycker det känns trist att behöva byta **miljö**. Kassörskornas tjänster flyttas troligen till Täby c
 nd är en gammal bruksort med en väl bevarad **miljö**. Liljefors ateljé finns vid den stora herrgården oc

It is also used commonly in contexts in which nature is regarded as having influence on
 someone or something. The definite form, for its part, occurs most frequently with the sense
 'nature'. Here are examples of nature having influence on someone/something:

politikern för att en förändrad säkerhetspolitisk **miljö** motiverar en ny maktfördelning för försvaret, så
 orskning om vilka faktorer som skapar en trygg **miljö** och därmed främjar kommunikationen mellan ba
 er långt framme när det gäller att skapa en god **miljö** på arbetet. Och i andra sammanhang, t ex i deb

The sense 'nature' does not necessarily need much explanation, but, in brief, in such
 cases, *miljö* refers to the concrete nature that comprises plants, animals and atmosphere, for
 example. As it is said in SVO, it is also possible to refer to nature with a highly positive

attitude ("med positivt värde laddning") (See Appendix 5). An example of this could be, for instance, the fact that *miljö* is often used in compounds with words such as *-parti* (party), *-vård* (care), *-skydd* (protection), etc. This is also a reason for *miljö* being used in official contexts, for example in connection with politics or economy. The cases in which *miljö* has been used in the field of biology has also been included in this sense group. Here are some examples:

att blysmältverket är en fara både för hälsa och **miljö**. De forna kommunistländerna är inte kända för s
 Världsbankens verksamhet i hans region inriktas allt mer på...
miljö, hälsa, utbildning - och att "motverka effekterna
 heterna att nå de bästa lösningarna i fråga om **miljö**, ekonomi, säkerhet, samhällsnytta och sociala a
 de kemiska ämnen som i dag finns på marknaden påverkar människa och...
miljö. En EU-rapport 1999 visade att det saknas grun
 rovdrift nu skapa balans mellan människa och **miljö**. En sådan ekologisk modernisering passar in i d
 ar att det kan bli farligt för Bush att ens ta ordet **miljö** i sin mun, eftersom Gore kan slå tillbaka med de

There are quite a few examples in which *miljö* occurs with the noun *hälsa* (health), as in the first two examples above. The contexts in sentences of this sort often handle politics and social issues.

With 'concrete surroundings' I am referring to something that is approximately equivalent to the dictionary definition 'fysisk miljö' given in BSO, referring to water, air, buildings, communications, etc, surrounding a person at home or at work, for instance. In any case, this kind of "miljö", or setting, should not have an effect on anything:

, bild av England som ett stillsamt ställe i lantlig **miljö** med en puttrig pub och "tanter som cyklar till nat
 arkitektkontor i Gamla stan inrymt i en klassisk **miljö** med idel historiska byggnader som grannar. Tea
 ingen fara för sågverksarbetare som vistas i en **miljö** med mycket finfördelat spån och trädamm. De s
 t Hubers utgångspunkt är att en bra miljö är en **miljö** med så många grönområden som möjligt. Nu är
 n de två filmerna. Båda utspelar sig i en urban **miljö** och handlar om människor som kämpar med exi

Phrases of this type can be found mostly in texts that describe a concrete place or a setting in a novel or a film. The following are examples given in SVD:

Hemonska berättelser förankrade i amerikansk **miljö**. Den amerikanska litteraturen behöver Aleksan
 n film, en gammaldags, romantisk film i exotisk **miljö**, och om det verkligen händer så händer det i va
 st intresserade sig mycket för modern afrikansk **miljö** vilket speglas i böckerna Den svarta system (19

This kind of usage also seems to entail that *miljö* in these cases has qualities that the reader recognizes according to how the word *miljö* is defined in the phrase. For example, when someone mentions "amerikansk miljö", the reader may think about things that are considered typically American, such as well kept neighborhoods with fine lawns, meanwhile "exotisk miljö" reminds us of palm trees, the sun and beaches. In these cases, the noun *miljö* could also be replaced by *omgivning* as the word refers to something very concrete.

The third of the sense groups is 'influence'. As the name reveals, the group includes examples in which *miljö* is considered to have an effect on someone or something. This influence can be either concrete (affecting the physical development of a person or an animal) or psychological (other people, with their behavior, attitudes and opinions, affecting someone). Here are some examples:

ati och utslagning hos alltför många, och till en **miljö** som gör det besvärligt även för de mest studiein
else, som trängde igenom i den modernistiska **miljö** som han blev en del av. Hambræus avslutade si
ktår. Det är en vandring i klassisk högborgerlig **miljö** som, inte minst genom Ingmar Bergmans försor
kan kännas för dem: - Domstolen är en absurd **miljö**, utan någon större empati ens för dem som blivit
Vi vet sedan tidigare att faderlösheten i denna **miljö** varken var värre eller bättre än att "vara utan tu

The sense group 'other' includes examples that remain unclear or have a rarer sense.

There are five cases in which the expression *arv och miljö* was mentioned:

de senaste decenniernas strider kring **arv och miljö** får emellertid inte skymma att mycket viktiga för
m tror forskarna kan orsakas av både **arv och miljö** . I bägge fallen handlar behandlingen ofta om ko
eteendet. Människan är en produkt av **arv och miljö** , men jag räknar inte med något pris för det kon
r ett mycket komplext samspel mellan **arv och miljö** och jag tror inte det är meningsfullt att försöka hi
ngen att betona att jag vet det är både **arv och miljö** som formar oss, och att jag alltså inte är biologis

SVO is the only one of the Swedish dictionaries to give an example of this: "den klassiska frågan om arv och miljö", but no explanation is provided. After a closer look at these

examples, it could be stated that the expression refers to nature and biology, meaning that a person is formed by the environment surrounding them.

There are considerably fewer examples of *miljö* in BR II than in SVD; *miljö* occurred 57 times and *miljön* 27 times. Table 16 below shows how the samples divide between the sense groups in the fictional texts of BR II:

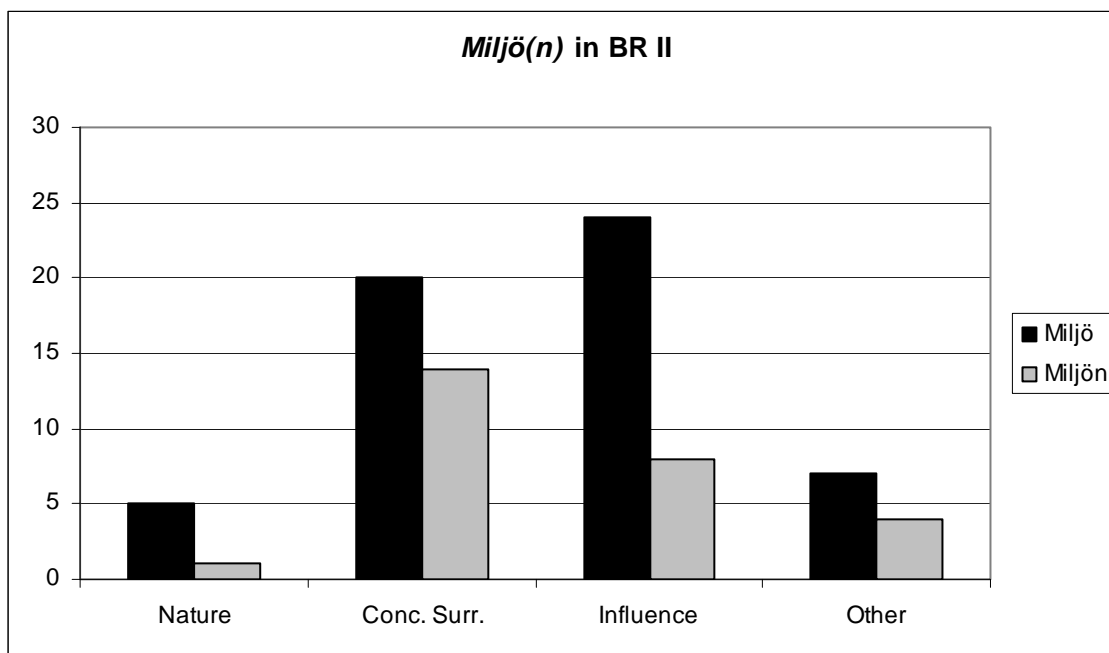


Table 17. Distribution of *miljö* and *miljön* in *Bonniersromaner II*.

It is worth mentioning that nature is referred to surprisingly rarely in both the indefinite and definite forms. There may be other reasons as well, but it is possible that nature protection and environment politics were not as much of interest to authors of novels than to journalists, for instance. Descriptions of places and feelings, and the use of metaphors could be a reason for 'concrete surroundings' and 'influence' to be this frequent. BR II gives examples of this kind:

and och stad. Fördelarna är uppenbara: renare **miljö**, förenklade kommunikationer och transporter. D
 det rätt att sätta barn till världen i vår förgiftade **miljö**? Han hade varit starkt intresserad av återkan p
 så lätt och varligt på en i framtiden totalförstörd **miljö** med cancersjuka jobbare och lemlästade barn. I

The contexts in the sense groups 'concrete surroundings' and 'influence' are very similar to those in SVD which is why they will not be handled here any more closely.

However, there are some examples of the use of the expression *arv och miljö* again. Two of them are quite interesting:

På jobbet, för att bara ta ett om än väldigt viktigt exempel, kan man välja att sitta tyst under rashetsen eller protestera... -- Det i sin tur torde vara förutbestämt av ens personliga konstitution, som i sin tur är bestämt av **miljö och arv**. Våra möjligheter att ta beslut har sin källa långt ner i barndomens brunn... (Wirde, Ken: *Stadsbrevbärarens ensamhet*, 1949)

(At work, only to take one but a very important example, one can choose to sit quietly at the time of collapse or to protest... --This, in turn, should be predetermined by one's personal character, which, in turn, is determined by nature and heredity. Our possibilities to make decisions originates in the well of our childhood...)

Jag har en gång för alla bestämt mig för att vara fullkomlig, aldrig göra fel, sånt svider så oerhört efteråt. Naturligtvis är jag inte ensam ansvarig för mina uttryckssätt, allting är ett hopkok av **arv och miljö**. Madames liv är av dubbelbottnad natur. Jag inträder i förfluten tid i det ena rummet och i nutid i det andra. (Treschow, Louise: *Svart och vitt*, 1944)

(I have once and for all decided to be immaculate, never to make mistakes; that hurts so much afterwards. Naturally, I am not alone responsible for the way I express myself; everything is a mix of nature and heredity...)

Neither of the uses refers directly to nature nor biology, but instead to a social environment. If this has been the intention of the author, on the basis of what was said in the dictionaries, the expression *miljö och arv* or *arv of miljö* could probably be formed with the noun *omgivning* as well.

4.2.2.2 *Omständigheter* in the Corpora

At first, it might be, again, useful to look at Table 17 below to get an overall view of the senses that *omständigheter* has in SVD:

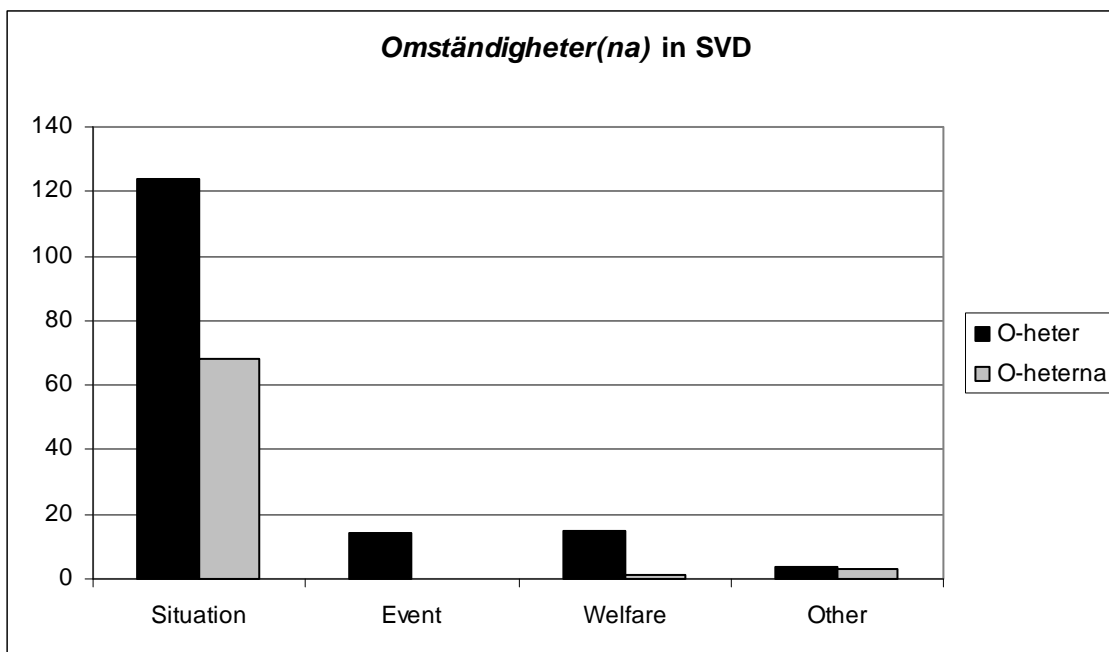


Table 18. Distribution of *omständigheter* and *omständigheterna* in *Svenska Dagbladet* 2000.

The indefinite and definite forms have quite similar usages. They occur mostly in contexts in which an abstract situation is referred to. In SVD there are 124 examples of this in the indefinite form and 68 in the definite form. In this sense, *omständigheter* is used also in the construction *under/i...omständigheter*. The preposition *under* is used clearly more often than the preposition *i* (56 times with *under* and only once with *i*). In these cases, *omständigheter* takes attributes such as *alla*, *inga*, *några*, *vissa* (all, no, some, certain) etc. Here are some examples from SVD where *omständigheter* is used in the sense ‘situation’:

ed Natoländerna var det **under** inga **omständigheter** fråga om. Så visar det sig nu att samarbetet m säkerställda resultat som, **under** alla **omständigheter**, har något viktigt att säga till en icke obetydligt em. Det är en vrede som **under** vissa **omständigheter** kan koka över. Officiella serbiska medier foku arbeta med regeringen **under** några **omständigheter**. Låg skatt för ledare I regeringens planer ingår

There are also examples in which *omständigheter* has the sense ‘the situations or events surrounding an accident or a crime’. The dictionaries have not mentioned anything about this usage even though there are 15 examples of it in SVD in both the indefinite and definite forms:

an tveksamheter uppstått om diverse **omständigheter** kring Osmo Vallos död. De två poliser som gjo
hämt efter lagändringen är att övriga **omständigheter** runt brottet, dvs andra än berusningsgraden,
nnadij Karpenko dog under mystiska **omständigheter**, Viktor Gontjar och Jurij Zacharenko är spårlo
om inte känner till de bakomliggande **omständigheterna** anländer till brottsplatsen och sätter handfä
dem som slogs drog kniv. De exakta **omständigheterna** kan vi ännu inte lämna ut, säger Lars Grön
Sven-Erik Alhem i Malmö ska utreda **omständigheterna** kring mordet på en 29-årig kvinna i Helsing
n efter kriget 1992 till 95. De närmare **omständigheterna** kring olyckan är ännu inte kända. Men enligt

This sense may also occur either with or without the construction *under... omständigheter* in
the indefinite form, but in the definite form the phrases have been constructed in a different
way as the usage with the preposition *under* seems to be typical only of the indefinite form. In
many cases, *omständigheter(na)* is followed by the preposition *kring*. This usage seems to
occur quite often in legal contexts like the following:

st som helst av parterna åberopa nya **omständigheter** och få en ny prövning i tingsrätten, och varför
på livstid - Det finns fler förmildrande **omständigheter** som tingsrätten inte tagit upp, som att min klie

As was mentioned in the paragraph above, the definite form *omständigheterna* is not
used with the preposition *under*. However, there is another way to form expressions similar to
under... omständigheter, that is *efter omständigheterna*. SVD gives the following examples:

också att samtliga i gisslan mår efter **omständigheterna** bra, även den 57-åriga tyskan Renate Wall
luckor, men samtliga återfanns i efter **omständigheterna** god kondition. I den process som följde dö
sa sjön och anpassa båtens fart efter **omständigheterna**. Inget utrymme - Det finns inget utrymme fö
e vd-n Gunnar Sjögren. Han är "efter **omständigheterna** nöjd" med utvecklingen. - Vi möter hård kon
iss. Han anpassar sig helt enkelt efter **omständigheterna** och låter sin framgång dra iväg med sig, gl
ister Mahendra Chaudhry, som "efter **omständigheterna** var vid god vigör, även om han klagade öve
ade anmält sig frivilligt. Han mår efter **omständigheterna** väl. Han, dvs chefsjuristen vid rikspolisstyre

Here it is worth mentioning that *efter omständigheterna* is often placed in the middle of a
sentence as can be seen in the examples above. There are also examples of the type *han mår*
bra efter omständigheterna (he is well under the circumstances), but the most usual order
seems to be *han mår efter omständigheterna bra*, with a different word order.

One usage of the sense ‘situation’ should still be added, that is *offer för omständigheter(na)* (victim of circumstances) of which there are two examples:

karna skulle vara några slags offer för **omständigheter** som de inte råder över, kanske sina " säregna n framställer sig själv som ett offer för **omständigheterna**. Argument, uttryckssätt och ordval påminne

And what does the sense group ‘event’ stand for, then? In this case, *omständigheter* has a different kind of sense that is quite close to ‘situation’, but the difference between them is that *omständighet* could be used possibly in the singular form as well. For example, the following instances could be realized with the singular forms *en omständighet* and *omständigheten* if the structure of the whole sentence was in the singular:

terade Hellekant med flera besvärliga **omständigheter**. Bland annat det meddelande från slutet av se t sänka straffet på grund av "sällsynta **omständigheter**". Ett beslut Ljung-qvist anser vara "beklämman ort det egna kapitalet. Framför allt två **omständigheter** förs fram som motiv för den långa avskrivning att komma till ett sådant beslut. Några **omständigheter** gör ändå att Christer Jungeryd tror att den sve egå onda handlingar, medan lyckliga **omständigheter** har lett in oss andra på en bättre bana. Enligt issionen synes ha ljugit om väsentliga **omständigheter**, något som artikelns författare, Knut Carlqvist ida har man pekat på en rad märkliga **omständigheter**. Regeringen Bildt blev inte informerad av Söp t. - Men det beror enbart på olyckliga **omständigheter**, samtliga hästar har ätit ett smittat foder, säge

The noun *omständigheter* could, in these cases, be replaced by *missöden*, *olyckor*, *händelser*, *fakta*, *aspekter* or *saker* (misfortune, accidents, incidents, facts, aspects or things), for example. The word could also be used in singular if needed, as in the following:

- Framför allt **en omständighet** förs fram som motiv för den långa avskrivningstiden...
- Kommissionen synes ha ljugit om **en väsentlig omständighet**...
- Men det beror enbart på **en** olycklig **omständighet**...

There are no examples of this in the definite form.

The sense category ‘welfare’ still needs to be clarified with some examples. Talking about ‘welfare’ means that *omständigheter(na)* can be used when referring to a person’s economic situation:

här under sådana oberäkneliga yttre **omständigheter** att all precis planering blir meningslös. Vem v
m av yttre, det vill säga ekonomiska, **omständigheter**. Det handlar om att skapa positiva cirklar, att f
r vårt fysiska yttre och våra materiella **omständigheter**. Då är det svårt att känna stolthet över sitt arv.
s och sin egen uppväxt under knappa **omständigheter**. Förutom långa samtal med mormor Ida Maria
Mölnadal. Uppväxt: I Åsa under enkla **omständigheter**, föräldrarna drev småbruk. Bor: I bostadsrätt p
En fader som växte upp under fattiga **omständigheter**, läste bokföreläsning på kvällarna och blev framgång
urgh. Familjen levde i så kallade små **omständigheter**, pappa körde lastbil och mamma jobbade som
bland annat därför att de ekonomiska **omständigheterna** för teatrar och skådespelare i Ryssland är

The sense category ‘other’ includes the instances that remained unclear and usages
that occur only sporadically. There are two instances, though, in which *omständigheter* seems
to have a somewhat more concrete sense than the usual sense ‘situation’. The contexts are not
very clear, but it could be stated that *omständigheter* has almost the same sense as
environment or *place*:

känslig eftersom den kräver speciella **omständigheter** för att kunna fortplanta sig, till skillnad från me
om att planera sin peppring till torrare **omständigheter** och eventuellt mala lite frisk peppar vid sidan

Another usage mentioned in SVO is *komma i omständigheter* which means ‘to get pregnant’.

There is only one example of this in SVD. We just need a somewhat larger context to
understand what is discussed:

Men det kryper också fram att Marie hade förbindelser med en skum societetsläkare, en läkare som
hjälpade kvinnor som kommit i **omständigheter** när sådan hjälp var svår att få och sedan gick över till
att hjälpa kvinnor att komma i **omständigheter**. Så Marie samlar sperma. Hon ligger med
vetenskapsmän och popstjärnor, idrottsmän och nobelpristagare; romanens titel syftar på hur
luciauppvaktningen av de senare kunde användas för att säkra intelligensens återväxt i det arma
Sverige.

As it can be noted in Table 18 below, BR II gives rather similar results to SVD even
though the corpus consists of fictional texts.

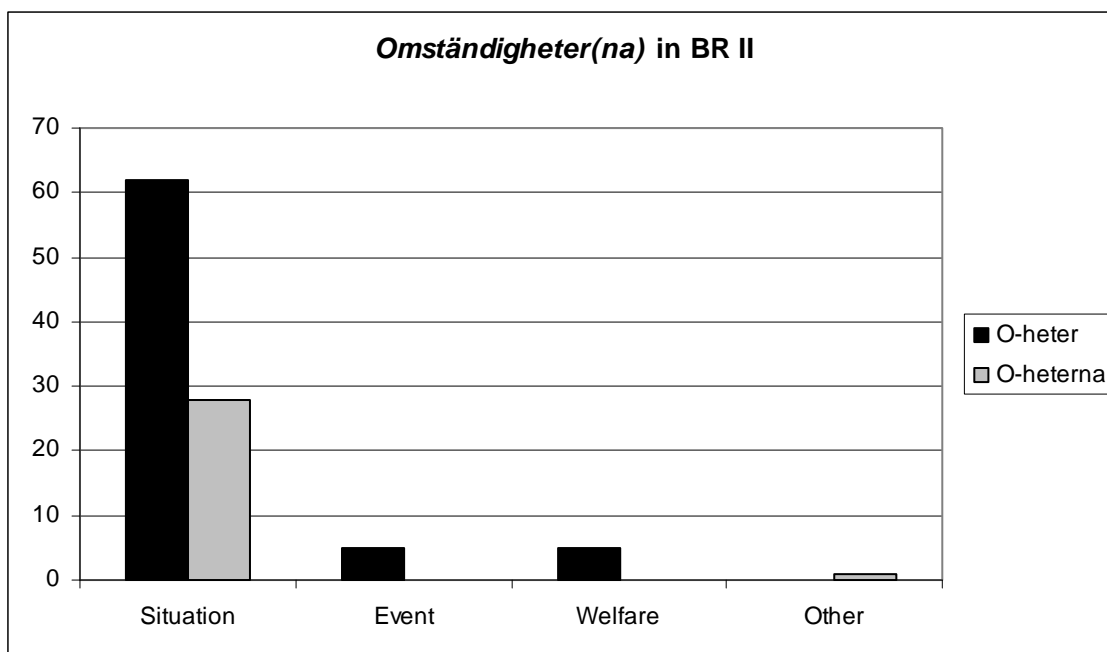


Table 19. Distribution of *omständigheter* and *omständigheterna* in *Bonniersromaner II*.

The sense ‘situation’ occurs in a rather similar proportion as in SVD, and the examples are similarly quite identical. However, there is one difference according to which the usage referring to economic welfare does not appear with the definite form *omständigheterna*.

There is, however, an interesting example that is difficult to place in any sense category in this study, as *omständigheter* has the sense ‘ceremonier, formaliteter, krus’ as is mentioned in SAOB (See Appendix 5). This usage has presumably become obsolete since there is only one example of this to be found in the corpora:

Snickaren Per Andersson fördes till den sista vilan, utan större **omständigheter** och utan gravöl.

4.2.2.3 *Omgivning* in the Corpora

It is surprising to notice that there are remarkable differences in the number of instances of *omgivning(en)* in SVD and BR II. In SVD, *omgivning* forms the smallest group compared to *miljö* and *omständigheter*, while in BR II it has the largest number of tokens. This does not

have much effect on the sense categories, though. This is also why the indefinite and definite forms are presented in one table.

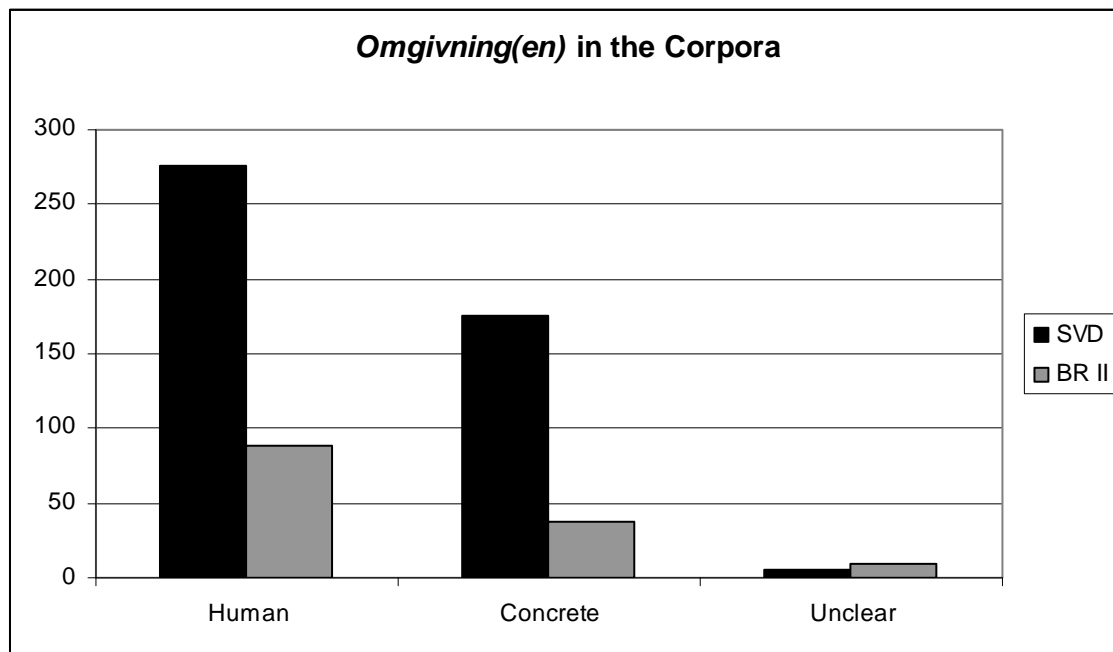


Table 20. Distribution of *omgivning* and *omgivningen* in the Swedish corpora.

The most significant sense group in both corpora is the reference to people that surround and often have an influence on a person. Here are some examples from SVD:

de verkligen må jättedåligt och hade ingen i sin omgivning att prata med. Jag, som själv har haft lite er så finns det kvar." Andra i Lennart Olofssons omgivning anser att uttrycket är helt korrekt: "Det finns 96 hade Göran Persson nämligen förvånat sin omgivning genom att säga sig vara mycket tveksam t rd turné och led av sömnbrist. De flesta i hans omgivning ser tragedin som en ren olycka. Det man r Lundberg spelade länge på ett sådant sätt att omgivningen började snacka om att nya Telia-aktien tt bedriva denna verksamhet i sitt hem utan att omgivningen fick veta alltför mycket. Den svenska un

Usually it could be difficult to decide whether the word refers to people or to concrete surroundings without the help of the contexts. When the sentences include, for example, the verbs *anse*, *förvåna ngn*, *se* (consider, surprise sb, see) etc, for which *omgivning* functions as the agent, it becomes quite clear that the context refers to something human.

The following are examples of a concrete place, or concrete surroundings:

ar är en metall som finns naturligt överallt i vår **omgivning**. Den finns i själva luften vi andas, om än i n ska "utan eget val utsättas för tobaksrök i sin **omgivning**". Dessutom har rökning växt till ett arbets aktiskt kyler. Frön gror nämligen bäst i en varm **omgivning**, runt 20 grader, med hög luftfuktighet. Oc riska tillstånd är inte att, som vid astma, sanera **omgivningen**, det är i stället som Bråkenhielm mycke sekvenserna. Vindkraftens tänkbara effekter på **omgivningen** finns översiktligt beskrivna i den statliga

The examples on the third and fifth lines could also be rephrased with *miljö* instead of *omgivning* since the context refers to nature.

Bonniersromaner II gives 155 hits of *omgivning*, most of which are in the singular form (69 in the indefinite and 67 in the definite form). Because of this, the dictionaries could also give two definitions for the word as the corpus examples can clearly be divided into two groups. In the first one, there are instances in which *omgivning* has an abstract sense:

, sanna kristendom. Kyrkokristendomen är den **omgivning**, den miljö där Bibeln växte fram, och fö i diset. Nu är han ensam i en fientlig och hotfull **omgivning** där minsta felsteg eller övertramp kan grå böljande håret som en hjälm. Även i denna **omgivning** är han en fältherre. Pamela? Mina ögo

In the first example it is also interesting to note that *omgivning* is used together with *miljö*, which implies that the author might regard the two nouns as synonymous in this case.

It is also quite usual to use *omgivning* when referring to a social environment. With "social" I mean people surrounding a person. This group of people may have an influence on a person, but this is not by far always the case. When it comes to the collocates, it is interesting to note that in a large number of the instances *omgivning* occurs preceded by a possessive pronoun.

i deprimerad. Det måste vara ett helvete för min **omgivning** att ha med mig att göra just nu. Det fin blygas över sig själv. För vem döljer inte för sin **omgivning** att han ibland vistas på högmodets mo sta repmånad och jag utfrågade helt enkelt min **omgivning** av äldre och yngre gubbar vad de ege tog den knappast på allvar. Liksom min övriga **omgivning** betraktade han den som en övergåend

The other group consists of examples in which *omgivning* is used when referring to a concrete place like in the following:

t var därför att jag fick veta det i en främmande **omgivning**, ensam på ett egyptiskt tåg på väg mot r lyktans eller spisens bur och förtärde allt i sin **omgivning**. Per kände det ofta och påtagligt när h n till Bertel Carlsson, domprost i Uppsala), i rätt **omgivning** (det lugna, rika Kåbo, som såg ut som ett

As we remember, SVO merely gives the following definition: ”sammanfattning av förhållanden/företeelser runt omkring ngt” (the sum om conditions/occurrences around sth).

Both *förhållanden* and *företeelser* refer to something that is not concrete, which is why SVO seems somewhat inadequate even though the concrete sense is not as frequent as the abstract sense.

4.3 Comparison between the English and Swedish Nouns

At first sight, the English–Swedish noun pairs seem to behave in a similar manner. However, after taking a closer look at the dictionaries and corpus concordances, there are clear differences. The nouns differ from each other in various ways when we compare the two languages with each other, but, more significantly, the definitions found in the dictionaries and the behavior of the nouns in the corpora reveal even greater discrepancies.

It has been interesting to notice that the senses of *miljö* are divided in the corpora so that there are more or less equal amounts of examples of the senses ‘nature’ and ‘concrete surroundings’, while *environment* in English is used much more often in the sense ‘nature’, the other senses clearly distinguishing from it. One reason for this could be that *environment* is used more often in official contexts, for example in the names of public offices or titles. On the basis of the corpus evidence, this does not seem to be as common in Swedish. Another exception is that *environment* is used in technical contexts, for example ”software

environment”, but there are no examples of *miljö* in this sense. The Swedish noun *miljö* also occurs in contexts where English would probably prefer *milieu* or *setting*, which is most likely the reason for *environment* not occurring in phrases similar to the Swedish phrase *en gammaldags, romantisk film i exotisk miljö* (an old-fashioned, romantic film in an exotic setting). The expression *arv och miljö* is also something that is not characteristic of the English language. In Swedish, *arv och miljö* is a fixed expression used to refer to a person’s biological heredity in terms of character or physical features.

When it comes to *circumstances* and *omständigheter*, the sense ‘situation’ is the most frequent, although there are differences in how the word is used in sentence level. The constructions *under/in... circumstances* and *under/i... omständigheter* occur in different proportions, according to the corpora I studied. In Swedish it seems that it is very exceptional to use the expression *i...omständigheter*, while the construction *under...omständigheter* is used quite abundantly. In English, *in...circumstances* occurs much more often than *under...circumstances*, which proves to be the opposite to the results in Swedish.

The fact that English and Swedish are related languages becomes clear, for example, when fixed expressions are studied. The similar usage of the expressions *victim of circumstances* and *offer för omständigheter(na)*, and the reference to material welfare with both *circumstances* and *omständigheter* are examples of this. Another example could be the following, although nowadays old-fashioned, usage:

- Snickaren Per Andersson fördes till den sista vilan, utan större **omständigheter** och utan gravöl. (Bonniersromaner II)
- pride, pomp, and **circumstance** of glorious war (MWD)

The only dictionaries in which this sense is mentioned are SAOB (definition 6), OED (7a) and MWD (3). There are also 15 examples of the Swedish noun *omständighet* in the sense ‘the situations or events surrounding an accident or a crime’ which is not mentioned in the

dictionaries. The English dictionaries do give this kind of definition, which possibly means that the usage is more established in English, such as “investigation into the exact circumstances of the shooting”. Also the use of *circumstance* and *omständighet* either in the singular or plural occurs in both languages carrying the meaning ‘event’, ‘situation’ etc., for example “certain building permissions granted by the Department of Planning have been associated with inexplicable circumstances” and “det beror enbart på olyckliga omständigheter” (it depends only on unlucky circumstances).

The clearest difference is found between *omgivning* and *surroundings*. *Omgivning* occurs often in the sense ‘people surrounding a person’ while *surroundings* in the concrete sense referring to nature, buildings or objects surrounding a person. The English dictionaries have recognized both senses whereas the Swedish ones mostly referred to a concrete place even though the corpus evidence clearly shows that the abstract sense is more common.

When it comes to the theoretical part, my goal has been to investigate the possibility of interchangeability between the words *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings*, and *miljö*, *omständigheter* and *omgivning*. The results show that they behave quite differently depending on the context. *Environment* and *surroundings* could be mutually substitutable in some cases, especially with the reference to nature. *Environment* can be used in official contexts while *surroundings* can not. This may also affect the translation from English to Swedish, as the Swedish *miljö* occurs much less frequently in official texts. Considering this, it is vague whether the word pairs *environment*—*surroundings* and *miljö*—*omgivning* can be regarded as synonyms or equivalent in English and Swedish. *Circumstances* and *omständigheter* have proved to be quite similar with each other, and, therefore, could be seen to represent equivalence between each other. However, according to my findings, they are rather different from the other word pairs, which is why *circumstances* and *omständigheter* cannot be viewed as synonymous.

Are these results reliable, then? Based on the fact that I have used the largest English language corpus and one of the largest Swedish corpora available, it could be said that the results can be relied on. However, in Section 3.3, I have quoted Kennedy (1998) who says that it is still difficult to decide how large corpora should be in order to yield reliable results, while, according to Meyer (2002), also smaller corpora can be reliable when studying common words. According to Tognini-Bonelli, although corpora are normally trusted as sources of evidence, “[i]ntuition will still be considered an essential input; it will play a big part, for instance, in selecting the phenomenon that the linguist will choose to investigate, and ultimately it will have an important role when it comes to evaluating the evidence in the corpus” (2001, 91). She also says that corpora give researchers “a privileged viewpoint on the evidence” because the contexts of individual instances can be expanded in the concordance lines and because there is “the social practice retrievable in the repeated patterns of co-selection on the vertical axis of the concordance” (2001, 3-4). She also states that “the frequency of occurrence is indicative of frequency of the use and this gives a good basis for evaluating the profile of a specific word, structure of expression in relation to a norm” (2001, 3-4). This is to say that corpora can give valuable information when the sense or usage of a word is studied, because the dictionaries only represent the norm, not the authentic evidence of how language is actually used.

5 Conclusion

The aim of this thesis has been to describe and compare the meanings and usage of the English near-synonyms *environment*, *circumstances* and *surroundings*, and the Swedish near-synonyms *miljö(n)*, *omständigheter(na)*, and *omgivning(en)*. They have been studied with the help of dictionaries and corpora and, during the process of analyzing them, I have concentrated on whether they can be considered synonymous or not within English and Swedish. After the results obtained in both languages separately, I have studied whether there is equivalence between the two languages in the case of the six nouns.

As a result of this study, I have noticed that these six nouns are not as synonymous as is sometimes claimed. There are differences in the contexts in which they occur. *Environment* is often used in formal and official texts, and often with a concrete meaning, while *circumstances* more frequently with an abstract sense. One peculiarity that the noun *circumstance* has is that it carries different senses in singular and plural. There are many dictionaries that obviously have not come to think about this fact because some of them handle the two forms as one. The many senses of *environment*, *circumstances*, *surroundings*, *miljö(n)*, *omständigheter(na)*, and *omgivning(en)* are not by far similar, and they all have different, fascinating historical backgrounds. Some have lost senses during their history while others have gained new senses. For this reason, they cannot be called ‘synonyms’, but rather ‘near-synonyms’. This idea is also put forward in many studies by previous researchers.

The Swedish nouns differ from each other as well as from the English nouns. For example, *miljö* does not occur in official contexts in the same extent as *environment* does. In the light of the results obtained in this study, *circumstances* and *omständigheter* could be considered to represent equivalence between English and Swedish because they seem to behave in similar manners. These are merely the assumptions that can be made on the basis of

this study, and a larger research material might give different results. There are also some fixed expressions that are very alike in both languages, for example *victim of circumstances* and *offer för omständigheterna*, which clearly shows that we are discussing two related languages.

In section 3.3 on corpora, I referred to Meyer and Kennedy when discussing corpus reliability in terms of corpus size. It is worth mentioning that, in a rather compact study such as mine, there were no marked differences between large and small corpora as the results did not differ much from each other. It is possible that the nouns that I have studied occur frequently enough for me to be able to draw conclusions on their usage even with the help of smaller corpora. In this case, Meyer's point "for those constructions that do occur frequently, even a relatively small corpus can yield reliable and valid information" (2002, 12) is valid.

My study has also provided a basis for further research. The word senses of the nouns in question have been studied and analyzed with the help of both dictionaries and corpora without any emphasis on other research areas such as language learning or translation. However, this topic could be of interest for those engaged in translation studies or pedagogy, for example. Multilingual corpora are constantly developed to become larger and more and more reliable. These include, for example, *the English-Swedish Parallel Corpus* (compiled at the University of Lund) and *the Tampere Finnish-English Bilingual Computer Corpus* (compiled by Robert Cooper at the University of Tampere). They could, together with bilingual dictionaries, provide useful information in examining the differences in the translation of these words. Naturally, this kind of study could be conducted in any language. Language pedagogy could also make use of corpora in a similar way to what I have done while trying to solve the problem of distinguishing between words that are mostly translated to Finnish with one or two alternative translations depending on the context (*ympäristö* or *olosuhteet*). This was, after all, the reason for me to choose just these three words,

environment, circumstances and surroundings, which often cause confusion among foreign students of English because of the simple reason that they may not always be very easily distinguishable.

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Appendices

Appendix 1

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Environment

- 1 the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded
- 2A the complex of physical, chemical, and biotic factors (as climate, soil, and living things) that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival
- 2B the aggregate of social and cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or community
- 3 the position or characteristic position of a linguistic element in a sequence
- 4 a computer interface from which various tasks can be performed: *a programming environment*

Circumstance

- 1A a condition, fact, or event accompanying, conditioning, or determining another : an essential or inevitable concomitant: *the weather is a circumstance to be taken into consideration*
- 1B a subordinate or accessory fact or detail: *cost is a minor circumstance in this case*
- 1C a piece of evidence that indicates the probability or improbability of an event (as a crime): *the circumstance of the missing weapon told against him; the circumstances suggest murder*
- 2A the sum of essential and environmental factors (as of an event or situation) : *constant and rapid change in economic circumstance -- G. M. Trevelyan*
- 2B state of affairs : (EVENTUALITY) *open rebellion was a rare circumstance; (often used in plural) a victim of circumstances*
- 2C plural : situation with regard to wealth : *he was in easy circumstances; rose from difficult circumstances*
- 3 attendant formalities and ceremonial : *pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war - Shakespeare*
- 4 an event that constitutes a detail (as of a narrative or course of events) : *considering each circumstance in turn*

Surroundings

the circumstances, conditions, or objects by which one is surrounded : ENVIRONMENT

Appendix 2

The New Oxford Dictionary of English

Environment

- 1 the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives or operates
- the setting or conditions in which a particular activity is carried on: *a good learning environment*

- (*computing*) the overall structure within which a user, computer, or program operates: *a desktop development environment*
- 2 (*the environment*) the natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity

Circumstance (usu circumstances)

- 1 a fact or condition connected with or relevant to an event or action: *we wanted to marry but circumstances didn't permit*

- an event or fact that causes or helps to cause something to happen, typically something undesirable: *he was found dead but there were no suspicious circumstances; they were thrown together by circumstance*
- 2 one's state of financial or material welfare: *the artists are living in reduced circumstances*

Surroundings

The things and conditions around a person or thing: *I took up the time admiring my surroundings.*

Appendix 3

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

Environment

- 1 all the situations, events, people etc that influence the way in which people live or work
- 2 (the environment) the air, water, and land in which people, animals, and plants live

Circumstances (plural)

- 1 (*circumstances*) the conditions that affect a situation, action, event etc.
- 2 (*under/in no circumstances*) used to emphasize that something must definitely not happen
- 3 (*under/in the circumstances*) used to say that a particular situation makes an action, decision etc necessary or acceptable when it would not normally be
- 4 the combination of facts, events etc that influence your life, and that you cannot control
- 5 (*live in reduced circumstances*), (*old-fashioned*) to have much less money than you used to have

Surroundings

The objects, buildings, natural things etc that are around a person or thing at a particular time

Appendix 4

Oxford English Dictionary

environment

1. The action of environing; the state of being environed. (With quot. cf. ENVIRON v. 4.)

1603 HOLLAND *Plutarch's Mor.* 1009, I wot not what circumplexions and environments [*orig.* περιελεύσεις].

2. *concr.* a. That which environs; the objects or the region surrounding anything.

1830 CARLYLE in *For. Rev. & Cont. Miscell.* v. 34 Baireuth, with its kind picturesque environment. **1831** CARLYLE *Sart. Res.* II. i. (1871) 56 The whole habitation and environment looked ever trim and gay. **1867** FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. §2. i. 166 The flame..burnt hot in my own immediate environment. **1872** BLACKIE *Lays Highl.* Introd. 37 The environment of this loch put me in mind of Grasmere. **1956** P. S. SEARS in W. L. Thomas *Man's Role in changing Face of Earth* II. 473/1 The situation is clouded by a widespread confidence that this impact of man upon environment can continue indefinitely. **1967** K. MELLANBY *Pesticides & Pollution* ii. 31 Perhaps the most obvious way in which man has contaminated his environment is by polluting the air with smoke. **1968** *Biol. Conservation* I. 70/1 EDF is attempting to establish..a body of common law under which the general public can assert its constitutional right to a viable, minimally-degraded, environment. *fig.* **1862** SHIRLEY *Nugæ Crit.* 278 What is poetic in the story is disengaged from its casual environment. **1870** M. CONWAY *Earthw. Pilgr.* xxv. 300 Every belief has an environment of related beliefs.

b. *esp.* The conditions under which any person or thing lives or is developed; the sum-total of influences which modify and determine the development of life or character.

1827 CARLYLE *Misc., Goethe* (1869) 192 In such an element with such an environment of circumstances. **1855** H. SPENCER *Princ. Psychol.* (1872) I. III. iii. 301 The division of the environment into two halves, soil and air. **1874** SIDGWICK *Meth. Ethics.* v. 167 The organism is continually adapted to its environment. **1881** ROMANES in *Fortn. Rev.* Dec. 740 Environment—or the sum total of the external conditions of life.

c. *spec. in Phonetics.* (See also quot. 1951.)

1951 Z. S. HARRIS *Methods Struct. Ling.* ii. 15 The environment or position of an element consists of the neighbourhood, within an utterance, of elements which have been set up on the basis of the same fundamental procedures which were used in setting up the element in question. **1960** *Medium Ævum* XXIX. 27 There was evidently a phonemic distinction between forms which ultimately had the assimilated consonant and those which did not, even in the environment of front vowels. **1963** *Amer. Speech* XXXVIII. 50 Consonant and pause probably made up just about this percentage of environments for all finals. **1966** *Ibid.* XLI. 258 In all other phonetic environments.

d. Art. A large structure designed to be experienced and enjoyed as a work of art with all (or most) of one's senses while surrounded by it, rather than from outside.

1962 *Listener* 5 Apr. 603/3 Last summer, at the Martha Jackson gallery in New York, there was an exhibition of 'environments, situations, places'. **1970** *New Yorker* 3 Oct. 93/1 About the only idea that everyone present did agree on was Whitman's suggestion that the Pepsi pavilion be an 'environment' in which visitors could create their own experience. **1977** *Times* 19 Aug. 12/5 In the jargon of modern art, an environment is a work of environmental art: a form of art that encompasses the spectator instead of confronting him with a fixed image or object. **1979** *United States 1980/81* (Penguin Travel Guides) 427 Along Haight Street the trees are decorated with Japanese parasols to create 'environments'.

3. attrib., as environment area, control, minister.

1963 *Daily Tel.* 28 Nov. 16/2 The future pattern of cities should be conceived as a patchwork of 'environment areas' of residence, commerce or industry from which traffic other than that concerned with the area would be excluded. **1968** *Listener* 26 Sept. 393/2 A house to Bucky is an environment control. **1970** *Times* 27 Oct. 2/7 (*heading*) Mr. Walker defines role of environment minister.

ADDITIONS SERIES 1993

Add: [2.] e. **Computing.** The overall physical, systematic, or logical structure within which (a part of) a computer or program can operate; the particular combination of operating system, software tools, interface, etc., through which a user operates or programs a system.

1961 *Communications Assoc. Computing Machinery* IV. 23 (*heading*) CL-1, an environment for a compiler. *Ibid.* 27/2 We have used the term 'programming system' to refer to a compiler operating within such an appropriate environment. **1964** *Proc. Nat. Conf. Assoc. Computing Machinery* XIX. E2.3. 11/1 Great strides have been made in the last few years toward furnishing sophisticated tools to the users, programmers and operators of computers. However, the integration of these tools into a complete, well organized environment is still a major task. **1978** *Computing Surveys* X. 70/1 Several programming methods in a LISP environment can be summarized as involving the use of superimposed languages. **1981** *Computer* Apr. 35/1 This situation would improve if tools were configured to be continuously supportive to the user in actual day-to-day work. Such a configuration is referred to as a software environment. **1986** *Micro Decision* Oct. 34/2 Windows and GEM are bundled with the machine, giving the user a choice of environments.

circumstance, n.

I. That which surrounds materially, morally, or logically.

†1. a. That which stands around or surrounds; the totality of surrounding things; surroundings; environment. *Obs.* (exc. *nonce-use* as in 1832).

a1340 HAMPOLE *Psalter* cxl[i]. 3 Set lord..dure of circumstaunce [*ostium circumstantiæ*] til my lippis [so **1382** WYCLIF]. **c1400** *Test. Love* I. (1560) 277/2 Had I been blind, with myne handes all the circumstaunce I myght well have feeled. **1562** LEIGH *Armorie* (1597) Avj, The description of the Viniēt with the circumstaunce thereof. **1832** TENNYSON *Pal. Art* lxiv, A star that with the choral starry dance Join'd not, but stood, and standing saw The hollow orb of moving Circumstance Roll'd round by one fix'd law.

†b. Circumference. *Obs.*

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* xii. 5 In his hand a ball of right great cyrcumstaunce.

†c. *spec.* The surrounding sense or context of a passage. *Obs.*

1549 LATIMER *6th Serm. bef. Edw. VI* (Arb.) 167 It is the circumstaunce, and collacion of places that make scripture playne. **1579** TOMSON *Calvin's Serm. Tim.* 168/1 The circumstaunce of the place, sheweth that Iesus Christ is called Mediatour in respect hereof.

2. a. *pl.* The logical surroundings or 'adjuncts' of an action; the time, place, manner, cause, occasion, etc., amid which it takes place; in *sing.* any one of these conditioning adjuncts.

a1225 *Ancr. R.* 316 Abuten sunne [= sin] ligge^ð six þinges þet hit helie^ð: o Latin circumstaunces: on Englisch, heo muwen beon ihoten totagges: persone, stude, time, manere, tale, cause. **a1300** *Cursor M.* 27158 þe circumstaunces þat mesurs oft-sithes vr penances..Qua, quate, qui, quare, quam wit, quen. **1530** PALSGR. 141 The tyme, place, maner or some other cyrcumstaunce belongyng to the same. **1603** SHAKES. *Meas. for M.* IV. ii. 109 Neither in time, matter, or other circumstaunce. **1754** EDWARDS *Freed. Will* II. §8. 76 Unless the different Time be a Circumstance which has Influence.

b. in *Grammar.* An adverbial adjunct.

1824 L. MURRAY *Eng. Gram.* I. App. 448 It is a rule..never to crowd many circumstaunces together, but rather to intersperse them in different parts of the sentence.

3. 'The adjuncts of a fact which make it more or less criminal; or make an accusation more or less probable.' (J.) Cf. *circumstantial evidence.*

1580 LYLY *Euphues* (Arb.) 436, I knowe not by experience, and yet I beleuee by circumstaunce. **1581** LAMBARDE *Eiren.* IV. v. (1588) 502 The circumstaunces of an acte doe either aggrauate or diminish the offence therein. **1593** DRAYTON *Idea* 291 In ev'ry thing I

hold this Maxim still, The Circumstance doth make it good, or ill. **1594** SHAKES. *Rich. III*, I. ii. 77 Vouchsafe..Of these supposed crimes, to giue me leau By circumstance, but to acquit my selfe. **1612** WEBSTER *White Devil* III. ii, We have nought but circumstances To charge her with, about her husband's death. **1682** SOUTHERNE *Loyal Brother* II. i, Had I a circumstance, a shew of truth I would..drive the sorceress hence. **1747** *Col. Rec. Penn.* V. 87 There are great Complaints against two of our Traders..the circumstances are very strong.

4. a. The ‘condition or state of affairs’ (J.) surrounding and affecting an agent; esp. the external conditions prevailing at the time. (Now usually *pl.*) Esp. in phr. (*the*) creature of circumstance(s).

Mere situation is expressed by ‘in the circumstances’, action affected is performed ‘under the circumstances’.

c1380 WYCLIF *Sel. Wks.* III. 392 Iche counseile of Crist is comaundement for sumtyme and summe circumstaunsis. **1526** *Pilgr. Perf.* (W. de W. 1531) 164 All..thynges perteynyng therto as circumstaunces required. **1665** SOUTH *Serm. John* i. 11 Every Hypocrite..under the same Circumstances would have infallibly treated Him with the same Barbarity. **1711** SHAFTESBURY *Charac.* IV. §3 (1737) I. 147 The past Actions and Circumstances of Mankind. **1745** W. HARRIS in *Private Lett. 1st Ld. Malmesbury* I. 19 A..march attended with the severest circumstances of weather and roads. **1768** STERNE *Sent. Journ.* II. *Versailles*, I am governed by circumstances..I cannot govern them. **1769** *Junius, Lett.* ix. 39 Your administration has driven us into circumstances of equal distress. **1826** DISRAELI *Viv. Grey* VI. vii. 369 Man is not the creature of circumstances. Circumstances are the creatures of men. **1827** J. C. & A. W. HARE *Guesses at Truth* 1 Man without religion is the creature of circumstances. [**1836** R. OWEN *New Moral World* I. vii. 37 Man is the creature of the circumstances in which he is placed.] **1856** FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. ii. 140 Who found himself in circumstances to which he was unequal. **1862** RUSKIN *Munera P.* (1880) 17 The desire to obtain the money will, under certain circumstances, stimulate industry. **1862** [see CREATURE 5]. **1866** R. BROUGHTON *Cometh up as Flower* i. 1 As comfortable as circumstances will permit. **1872** E. G. WHITE *Testimonies for Church* No. 21. 65 If we are creatures of circumstance, we shall surely fail of perfecting Christian characters. **1875** JEVONS *Money* 13 By custom or the force of circumstances. **1929** *Sat. Rev.* 20 July 78/2 Theresa is the creature of circumstance. **1947** W. S. MAUGHAM (*title*) Creatures of circumstance.

b. without *a* or *pl.*: now poet. or rhet.

1602 SHAKES. *Ham.* I. iii. 102 You speake like a greene Girle, Vnsifted in such perillous Circumstance. **1713** STEELE *Englishm.* No. 49. 314 Under this Circumstance, I..have lately been converted. **1742** YOUNG *Nt. Th.* II. 91 Who does the best his circumstance allows, Does well. **1821** BYRON *Sardan.* III. i, All are the sons of circumstance. **1887** RIDER HAGGARD *She* xviii, Nor can he count the airy threads that weave the web of circumstance.

5. esp. Condition or state as to material welfare, means. Now always *pl.* in *easy, good, reduced, straitened, circumstances, etc.*

a1704 T. BROWN *Praise of Wealth* Wks. 1730 I. 85 Despicable in circumstance. **1716** ADDISON *Freeholder* No. 42 When men are easy in their circumstances, they are naturally enemies to innovations. **1794** GODWIN *Cal. Williams* 292 His circumstances were narrow.

1844 LD. BROUGHAM *A. Lunel* I. xxxviii, Born of noble family..reduced in its circumstances. **1872** E. PEACOCK *Mabel Heron* I. i. 7, I am afraid he is in very bad circumstances still. **1879** FROUDE *Cæsar* v. 41 A country gentleman in good circumstances.

II. Words or work made *about* anything.

6. Circumstantiality of detail; detailed and hence (*formerly*) circuitous narration; circumlocution, beating about the bush, indirectness. *arch*.

1509 HAWES *Past. Pleas.* (1845) 59 Poetes..tell theyr tale with al due circumstance. **1580** BARET *Alv. C* 543 To use great circumstance of woordes, to goe about the bushe, *circuitions* *vti*. **1596** SHAKES. *Merch. V. I. i.* 154 You..herein spend but time To winde about my loue with circumstance. **1611** TOURNEUR *Ath. Trag. I. iv,* Time cuts off circumstance; I must be briefe. **1795** SOUTHEY *Joan of Arc* III. 362 Such tale Minutely told with accurate circumstance. **1851** HELPS *Friends in C. I.* 33 Has not each case its specialities, requiring to be argued with much circumstance.
with pl. **1597** BACON *Ess. Discourse* (Arb.) 22 To vse too many circumstances ere one come to the matter.

7. a. The ‘ado’ made about anything; formality, ceremony, about any important event or action. *without* (†*out of*), *circumstance*: without ado or ceremony, unceremonious(ly), abrupt(ly). *arch*.

Chiefly preserved by Shakespeare's ‘pomp and circumstance’.

c1386 CHAUCER *Knt.'s T.* 1405 His sacrifice he dide..fful pitously with alle circumstance. **1541** *Act 33 Hen. VIII, c. 12 §8* The solemne and dew circumstance of the execucion. **1604** SHAKES. *Oth. III. iii.* 354 Pride, Pompe and Circumstance of glorious warre. **1611** — *Wint. T. V. i.* 90 His approach (So out of circumstance, and suddaine) tells vs, 'Tis not a Visitation fram'd, but forc'd. **1609-38** HEYWOOD *Rape Lucr. Wks.* 1874 V. 209 Shall we to horse without circumstance? **1805** SOUTHEY *Madoc in Azt. ii,* Solemnity and circumstance And pomp of hellish piety. **1819** S. ROGERS *Human Life* 801 Busy and full of life and circumstance. **1855** PRESCOTT *Philip II, II. iii.* 231 It was done with great circumstance. **1872** BLACK *Adv. Phaeton* xx. 280 All the pomp and circumstance of a tournament.
with pl. **1615** STOW *Chron., Q. Eliz. an.* 1586 Skinke..without any circumstances condemned him to be thrown..into the Reine.

†b. Importance, moment (of any matter). *Obs*.

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 102 Matter of more circumstance then by every one is considered. **1613** BEAUM. & FL. *Coxcombe* v. i, It seems here your businesse is of deeper circumstance Then I conceived it for. **1676** OWEN *Worsh. God* 53 What is of circumstance in the manner of its performance?

c. In U.S. colloq. phrases: *not a circumstance to*, *nothing in comparison with*; *a mere* (or *remote, poor*) *circumstance*, a person or thing of little or no importance.

1836 *Crockett's Yaller Flower Almanac* 19 Orson, the wild man of the woods, is nothing to him—not a circumstance. **1838** FLAGG *Far West* I. 145 The race of John Gilpin or of Alderman Purdy were, either or both of them, mere circumstances to ours. **c1840** in Thornton *Amer. Gloss.* (1912) II. 969 I'm a little specimen, as you see, a remote circumstance, a mere yearling. **1845** S. JUDD *Margaret* II. v. 284, O, it an't a circumstance to what it used to be. **1899** 'MARK TWAIN' in *Harper's Mag.* (1914) Dec. 10/1 Next comes King John, and he was a poor circumstance. **1901** HARBEN *Westerfelt* xvi. 219 'Mother told me he often drove you out home.' 'Oh, la, that ain't a circumstance, Harriet! He used to come out home mighty nigh every day or night.' **1903** *Nation* (N.Y.) 1 Oct. 258 Undigested securities are not a circumstance to undigested political principles.

III. That which is non-essential, accessory, or subordinate; a detail, a particular.

8. That which is not of the essence or substance: philosophically, the phenomenal part, the sum of the accidents or attributes; sometimes (with *pl.*) an attribute; popularly what is adventitious or casual. *Obs.* or *arch.*

1593 SHAKES. *2 Hen. VI*, v. ii. 39 He that loues himselfe, Hath not essentially, but by circumstance The name of Valour. **1599** DAVIES *Nosce teipsum* II. lxiv, Sense outsides knowes, the Soule through all things sees, Sense Circumstance, she doth the substance view. **1685** *Gracian's Courtier's Orac.* ii, The substance is not enough, unless it be cloathed with its circumstances. **1702** *Eng. Theophrast.* 378 In all things the circumstance is as necessary as the substance, nay, and more. **1875** SEARS *Serm. & Songs* 308 When..this outward circumstance of clay [has] passed away from us for ever.

9. Subordinate matters or details: strictly matters 'appendant or relative to a fact' (J.), viewed as extraneous to its essence, but passing into the sense of 'Subordinate parts of the fact, details'. †a. without *a* or *pl.* *Obs.*

1393 GOWER *Conf.* I. 180 The mater of her tale tolde With all the hole circumstaunce. **c1500** *Lancelot* 416 His drem al hail he haith disclossit; The houre, the nyght, and al the cercumstans. **1602** SHAKES. *Ham.* v. ii. 2 You doe remember all the Circumstance. **1671** MILTON *Samson* 1557 Tell us the sum, the circumstance defer. **1722** DE FOE *Plague* (1756) 260 The Danger of Death not left out of the Circumstance of Sickness.

b. a circumstance (with *pl.*): An accessory matter, a matter appertaining, relative, or subordinate; a particular, a detail.

1303 R. BRUNNE *Handl. Synne* 12425 Clerkys kalle hem [smale synnes] 'cyrcumstaunces', To þe grete synne are þey puruyaunces. **1414** BRAMPTON *Penit. Ps.* lvi. 22 No prevy sore, Ne circumstaunce that longyht ther tyll. **1586** THYNNE in *Animadv.* Introd. 71 The etymon of the name, and other circumstances belonging thereto. **1594** PLAT *Jewell Ho.* III. *Chem. Conclus.* 12 If there be any that [can] say more in the circumstances of butter, I hope their dairies be greater than mine. **1664** POWER *Exp. Philos.* III. 170 Many ticklish Curiosities, and nice Circumstances there are to perform this Experiment exactly. **1680** ALLEN *Peace & Unity* 7 Undetermined circumstances of Order or Worship. **1725** SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* iv, The

sentence of death with all the circumstances of hanging, beheading, quartering, embowelling and the like.

†c. **A material adjunct, appendage, appurtenance, matter, or thing belonging. *Obs.***

1587 HOLINSHED *Chron.* III. 1409/2 The powder and pellets in a box..the coverlet, with the rest of the circumstances therevnto appertaining. **1685** EVELYN *Diary* 15 July, He [Monmouth on the scaffold] would not make use of a cap or other circumstance. **1765** COWPER *Lett.* 24 June, The river Ouse is the most agreeable circumstance in this part of the world. **1792** A. YOUNG *Trav. France* 113 The most interesting circumstance of their farms is the chicory.

10. An event viewed as a detail of some narrative, or history, or of the general course of events; an incident, an occurrence; a matter or fact (properly of a secondary or subordinate kind).

In this use 'circumstance' tends to be entirely emptied of its etymological meaning, and to become merely a vaguer expression for 'fact', 'event'. It is frequently so used in apposition to a substantive clause, as in quot. 1850.

1586 A. DAY *Eng. Secretary* II. (1625) 13 They being together..argueth the circumstance of his going to N. to be but a meere disguising. **1678** BUTLER *Hud.* III. I. 491 If but one word be true..Or but one single Circumstance In all th' Apocryphal Romance. **1704** ADDISON *Italy, Florence*, The Conqueror's weeping for new worlds, or some other..circumstance of his history. **1802** M. EDGEWORTH *Moral T.* (1816) I. xviii. 147 Every circumstance..likely to happen. **1807** HUTTON *Course Math.* II. 365 This circumstance therefore agrees nearly with the theory. **1848** DICKENS *Dombey* xlix, An appeal to arms..rendered necessary by any unforeseen circumstance. **1850** M^cCOSH *Div. Govt.* III. ii. (1874) 365 The circumstance has often been..dwelt on by divines, that Ungodliness is the universal sin of humanity.

surrounding, vbl. n.

I. The action of the verb SURROUND.

†1. Overflowing, inundation. *Obs.*

1449 in Fulman *Rerum Anglic. Script. Vett.* (1684) I. 524 Because of surundyng of waters.
1572 HULOET, Surrunding, or ouerflowing of water.

2. The fact of being around or encompassing. *rare*⁰.

1775 in ASH.

II. That which surrounds.

3. *pl.* Those things which surround a person or thing, or in the midst of which he or it (habitually) is; things around (collectively); environment.

1861 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 471 We know more about Plutarch's personal history and surroundings [etc.]. 1861 SMILES *Engineers* VI. i. II. 6 The place remained comparatively rural in point of size and surroundings. 1873 HAMERTON *Intell. Life* XII. i. (1876) 431 That which we are, is due to the accidents of our surroundings. 1884 F. TEMPLE *Relat. Relig. & Sci.* iii. (1885) 81 My character..has not come out of the antecedents and surroundings according to any fixed law. 1891 FARRAR *Darkn. & Dawn* lxii, We cannot blame him too severely if, in such an age and such surroundings, he had been stained by the vices in the midst of which he lived.

4. A number of persons standing around; a body of attendants; entourage.

1877 FROUDE *Short Stud.* (1883) IV. i. ii. 22 The wealthiest peer in England did not..appear in public with a more princely surrounding. 1891 *Daily News* 22 Jan. 3/4 Their games were watched with much interest by a surrounding of Southerners.

b. pl. Persons surrounding or attending upon a person.

1894 *Daily News* 31 Dec., I have now received particulars of the death from the immediate surroundings of the King. 1907 *Verney Mem.* I. 118 They lived on their estates and did their duty by their surroundings.

Appendix 5

Svensk Ordbok 1-2

Miljö

- 1) omgivande förhållanden *särsk. med tanke på deras inverkan på människor, djur el. växter; ofta om ngn spec. aspekt på omgivningen*: miljöbyte, miljöskildring, arbetsmiljö, boendemiljö, gatumiljö, herrgårdsmiljö, sjukhusets sociala miljöer, en pressande miljö, den klassiska frågan om arv och miljö, bakterier trivs i fuktiga miljöer, finna sig tillrätta i en främmande miljö
 - <spec.> omgivande (ursprunglig) natur <med starkt positiv värdeladdning>: miljöförstöring, miljöparti, miljöskydd, miljövänlig, utsläppen har fördärvat miljön, en ohämmad rovdrift på miljön
- 2) håll mitt på biljardbords långsida

Omständighet

- sakförhållande som har (beledsagande) betydelse i (visst) sammanhang <jfr. FAKTOR; VILLKOR; FÖRHÅLLANDE>
- *biomständighet*
- *en annan viktig ~ är personalens engagement*
- *en historisk ~ som ofta glöms bort*
- *ett bra resultat med tanke på ~erna*
- *jag kommer under alla ~er*
- *Under inga ~er går du ut nut!*
- *förmildrande ~er **
- *(leva) i små ~er leva fattigt*
- *råka i omständigheter bli gravid*

Omgivning

- (sammanfattningen av de) förhållanden eller företeelser som finns runt omkring ngn eller ngt <jfr MILJÖ 1> :
 - *omgivningshygien; samspelet mellan det egna jaget och omgivningen; vara omedveten om sin omgivning.*
 - <spec. om personer som omger ngn> : hennes självmord kom inte förvånande för omgivningen
 - <spec. äv. om naturen runt ngt (SYN. grannskap, nejd)> : stadens vackra omgivningar
 - <äv. om sammanfattningen av alla fysiska företeelser i anknytning till (viss) person> : allt i vår omgivning – utom trä – avger gammastrålar; osunda omgivningar

Appendix 6

Bonniers Svenska Ordbok

Miljö

- Omgivning, de yttre förhållanden (*miljöfaktorer*) som påverkar människor, djur o. växter:
 - *fysisk miljö* innefattar vatten, luft o. mark, bebyggelse o. arbetsplats, kommunikationer m.m.;
 - *psykisk miljö* människor som omger oss
- (mer konkret) (typ av) omgivning: *filmen utspelar sig i flera vitt skilda miljöer, koppla av i en trivsamt miljö.*
- *miljöförstöring, miljöpartist, miljöskadad, miljöskildring, miljöskydd, miljöterapi, miljövärd.*

Omständighet

- Förhållande, villkor, händelse runt en annan händelse e.d.
- *leva i små omständigheter* – fattigt
- *förmildrande omständigheter* – se FÖRMILDRA
- *under inga omständigheter* – inte på några villkor, aldrig i livet

Omgivning

Det el. de som omger en, trakt, grannskap, miljö, umgänge

Appendix 7

Svenska Akademiens Ordbok

MILJÖ

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[Webbversionen är inte slutkorrigerad.]

SPALT: [M964]

[tryckt år 1944]

) miljø⁴,

GENUS: r. l. m.

GENUS: ((†) n. HANSSON Kås. 72 (1897));

BÖJNING: best. **-n l. -en** (ss. n. **-et**); pl. **-er**.

FORMVARIANter: (förr äv. med fransk stavning)

ETYMOLOGI: [jfr dan. o. t. *milieu*, n.; av fr. *milieu*, mitt, genomsnitt, "miljö", av ffr. *mi-*, mitterst, av lat. *medius* (se MITT, sbst.), o. *lieu*, ställe, av lat. *locus* (se LOKUS)]

1) mitt (se MITT, sbst. 1; i ssgn **MILJÖ-SOFFA**.)

2)

BRUK: *spelt*.

BETYDELSE: om hålen vid mitten av en biljards längdvall.

- Då Carolinabollen göres i någondera af milieuerne, fås derfor 10 points. *Hbiblsällsk.* 2: 131 (1839).
- ÖSTERGREN (1932).

3) (enst., (†)) i sg. best., sammanfattande, om människorna av (ointressant) genomsnittstyp.

- Massan har sin Strauss, .. "gräddan" sin Mozart ..., för att ej tala om den stora, fadda miliön som ränner efter Bellini. WENNERBERG Bref 2: 28 (1851).

4) BETYDELSE: om de yttre förhållanden som (enl. miljöteorien) anses utöva en avgörande invärkan på ngns (l. ngts) utveckling; den omgivning (av natur- l. samfundsförhållanden) vari man rör sig o. värkar; omvärld; atmosfär (se d. o. 5, luft (se LUFT, sbst.^{2 3} e; **stundom konkretare, om den synliga närmaste omgivningen (kring ngn l. ngt).**

- VETTERLUND StDikt. 86 (1892, 1901)
- Miljön, platsen man fått i tiden, rummet, samhället är typbildande. RYDBERG Varia 124 (1894).
- Hela miljön inverkar .. på barnet. JUNDELL Barn. 2: 169 (1927).
- Allteftersom man hade lust och råd valde man olika miljöer att celebrera .. (*års skiftet*) i. DN 1930, nr 1, s. 9.
- Södra Djurgårdens traditionsmättade miljö. SvD(A) 1930, nr 204, s. 5.

OMSTÄNDIGHET

© Svenska Akademien, uppdaterad:2005-06-28
[Webbversionen är inte slutkorrigerad.]

SPALT: [O873]

[tryckt år 1950]

UTTAL: *om*³*ständig*~*he*²*t* l. ³~²⁰⁰, *stundom*⁰⁴⁰~¹ (**omstä'ndighet** WESTE),
r. l. f.;

BÖJNING: best. **-en**; pl. **-er**

FORMVARIANTER: (**om-** 1555 osv. **um-** (*vm-*) 1528–1610. **umb-** 1578–1610. **åmb-** 1596)

ETYMOLOGI: [jfr d. *umstændighet*, mlt. *ummestandicheit*, *-stendicheit*, ä. t. *umständigkeit*; till **OMSTÄNDIG**; jfr t. *umstand* (se **OMSTÄNDER**, **sbst.**⁵²), ävensom eng. *circumstance*, fr.*cironstance*, lat. *circumstantia*]

1)

ETYMOLOGI: [jfr ä. t. *mstand*, *umstände* i motsv. anv.]

BRUK: (†)

BETYDELSE: i pl. ss. beteckning för det sammanhang vari ett textställe förekommer (o. varav detta belyses l. förklaras);
jfr **OMSTÄNDIG 1**.

- Thesslijkes uplysa och omstendigheeterna, när man them granneliga anseer, thet som elliest tyckes wara mörk (*i vissa bibelställen*). *KOF* II. 2:19 (c. 1655; möjl. till 2 f) (*Det framgår*) vtaff *Textens Omständigheter, at (osv.)*. SCHRODERUS Os. III. 1:289 (1635, lat. orig.: ex contextu orationis).

2)

ETYMOLOGI: [efter mlt. *ummestandicheit*, ä. t. *mständigkeit*]

BETYDELSE: förhållande varmed man (i visst fall) har att göra l. som ingår ss. moment l. detalj l. faktor i en handling l. ett händelseförlopp l. en situation o. dyl. l. som värkar på visst sätt l. har viss effekt l. viss betydelse l. visst intresse l. som fordrar vissa åtgärder l. som (ofta oförutsett) ingriper i ngn's liv l. öden; sakförhållande, faktum; ofta i uttr. vari ett förhållande anges ss. föremål för kännedom, beaktande, hågkomst l. framställning; förr äv. allmännare: (abstrakt) sak, fall, avseende, händelse, angelägenhet o. d. *En viktig, betydelsefull omständighet (som alltför litet beaktats). I betraktande av den omständigheten att osv.*

REDAKTIONSEXEMPEL: *En för den anklagade mycket besvärande omständighet var att osv. Flera, många, vissa omständigheter tyda på l. tala för att osv. I följd av lyckliga, olyckliga, gynnsamma, ogynnsamma omständigheter. Samvärkande, sammanträffande omständigheter.*

- *At the rett betenckie ville alla vmstendigheter. GIR 7:495 (1530).*
- *Huru .. (med Kristi uppståndelse) är tilgånget, och hwad omstendigheter sigh här begiffuit haffua, är aff.. (evangelisterna) bescriffuit. L PETRI 2 Post. 3 a (1555).*

I anseende til åtyskilliga omständigheter. DALIN Arg. 1:44 (1733, 1754)

- Handeln är en allt för öm omständighet för ett rike, som med mycken noggrnhet måste vårdas. CHYDENIUS 84 (1765).
- För övrigt har jag av en handlingarne, bifogad underrättelse, i vad omständighet mitt vidare hörande i detta mål är för nödigt ansett, blivit varse att (osv.). WEDBERG I HD (i handl. fr. 1796).
- För de fleste ibland Eder .. behöfver jag icke upprepa de omständigheter, som förde .. (G II A.) in på denna blodiga bana. TEGNÉR (WB) 7:124 (1832).
- Omständigheterna vid brottets begående kunna hänföras till **1**) tiden och rummet ..;

2)

BETYDELSE: sättet och medlen.

- BOSTRÖM 2:463 (1842).
- Det (kan) ofta inträffa, att jag den stund jag skrifver, icke kommer ihåg någon omständighet, som jag vid ett annat tillfälle ganska klart erinrar mig. DE GEER Minn. 1:76 (1892).
- Omständigheterna kring mordet är ännu inte klarlagda. LD 1948, nr 241, s. 1.
– jfr **BI-**, **HUVUD-**, **LAPPRI-OMSTÄNDIGHET m. fl.**
– särsk.

2.a)

BETYDELSE: i uttr. *vindande, förmildrande, mildrande, försvårande omständighet(er)*, se **BINDANDE 4 a** slutet, **FÖRMILDRA**

2.a)

BETYDELSE: slutet, **MILDRA 2 a** slutet, FÖRSVÅRA slutet.

2.b)

BETYDELSE: i sådana uttr. som *under omständigheter som osv.*, under förhållanden l. betingelser som osv.; *under* (i sht förr äv. *i dessa, gynnsamma, trista, sådana (för övrigt) lika, nuvarande l. förhandenvarande* (äv. *närvarande*) *omständigheter*, under dessa osv. förhållanden l. förutställningar; förr äv. *vid l. uppå så beskaffade l. fatta omständigheter*, under sådana förhållanden.

- Uppå så fatta omständigheter. HC11H 12:22 (1697).
- Vid så beskaffade omständigheter. HÖPKEN 2:129 (1748).

- I närvarande omständigheter uppmanade han mig att .. efterkomma min morbrors önskan. PALMBLAD Nov. 3: 14 (1841).
- Vår numera store vän .. dog under ganska triviala omständigheter. STRINDBERG NRik. 33 (1882).
- Forskaren .. som söker experimentellt framkalla (*rörelse-*)**fenomenet** under omständigheter han själv bestämmer. BJERRE Spök. 17 (1947).

2.c)

BETYDELSE: i uttr. under alla omständigheter, hur det än må vara l. bli, hur som helst, absolut; *under inga l. inte under några omständigheter*, inte under några förhållanden.

REDAKTIONSEXEMPEL: *Jag går inte med på detta under några omständigheter.*

- KalSv FolkskV 1913, s. 138.
- AULÉN *Allm Tron* 18 (1923).

parollen i västsektorerna (*av Berlin*) är att blockadvintern under alla omständigheter måste uthärdas. *Sv D(B)* 1948, nr 271, s.

2.d)

BRUK: (†)

BETYDELSE: i sådana uttr. som *berätta l. uppräknat l. notera l. överväga osv. ngt med (alla) dess l. sina omständigheter*, berätta osv. ngt med (alla) dess enskildheter o. d.

- Huru wij vpräkna skulle alla wora synder medh alla theres vmstendigheeter (thz er) huru, j huad motto och j huadh tijdh och stadh sådana synder bedreffna wore. O PETRI *I Post. 10* a (1528).
- Szå haffwe wij nw .. the argumenth och geenswar såsom Jören Persson thermoth framsatt haffwer, på thet flitigiste medh all thes vmständigheter förhördt, öffwerwägett och betencht HH XIII. 1:165 (1654).
- Susanna, berätta mig alt, med alla sina omtändigheter. PILGREN *Fig Bröll.* 35 (1785).

2.e)

BRUK: (†)

BETYDELSE: i uttr. efter ngts omständigheter, i enlighet med omständigheterna vid ngt.

- SCHMEDEMAN *Just.* 159 (1615).

At straffet bör inrättas efter brottets omständigheter, hvilka öka eller minska thet samma. NEHRMAN *JurCr.* 33 (1756).

2.f)

BETYDELSE: i pl. best.

utan angivande av ngt vartill ett åstytat antal förhållanden hänföra sig: förhållandena l. betingelserna (i visst fall l. i vart särskilt fall); situation, sakläget; (den oförutsedda l. av ngns vilja oreglerade l. i ngns öden ingripande) händelseutvecklingen, slumpen, ödet; äv. (numera nästan bl. i uttr. *de närmare omständigheterna*): *enskildheterna, detaljerna. Genom omständigheternas makt. Under omständigheternas tryck. I enlighet med omständigheternas krav. Finna sig i omständigheterna.*

- Hwad thet war som Christus (*efter sitt dop*) badh, säger S. Lucas intet. Doch omständigheterna läta wel förstå, at han om löcko och framgång .. badh Gudh. L PETRI I Post. K 4 a **1555**; *möjl. till 1.* BALCK Musæus M 8 a (**1596**)
- Alt som saken och omständigheterne fordra. EHRENADLER Tel. 914 (**1723**).
- Hvarföre skulle ajg söka at underrätta mig om omständigheterna, när sjelfva saken icke är tvetydig? Riccoboni Catesby 84 (**1761**).
- Ditt tragiska verk skall så fort inflyta, som omständigheterna tillåta. BrefNSkolH 240 (**1811**).
- Omständigheterna hade låtit honom hamna hos en snickare i en liten stad, där (*osv.*). HELLSTRÖM Lekh. 279 (**1927**).
- Omständigheterna och ingalunda avsikterna ha gjort Glimmingehus till ett nationellt minnesmärke. GHT **1949**, nr 239 B, s. 2. särsk.

2.f.a)

BETYDELSE: i uttr. *efter omständigheterna.* ')

BETYDELSE: i uttr. *rätta l. foga sig efter omständigheterna, rätta l. foga sig efter de förhållanden som föreligga.*

- Det (*vore*) Landsens Lag til intet mehn och förfång, om man rättade sig efter tiden och omständigheterna. NORDBERG C12 1:606 (**1740**).
- ÖSTERGREN (**1933**).

)

BETYDELSE: i enlighet med vad förhållandena i vart särskilt fall fordra l. göra lämpligt; i enlighet med situationen i vart särskilt fall.

- (
 REDAKTIONSEXEMPEL: *Det står överheten) frijt, at förändra Tiwffwerijs Straff, och thet, effter Omstendigheterna och Syndzens swårhz, skärpa och förhöya.* L PAULINUS GOTHUS MonPac. 861 (**1628**).

- *Den goda tonen är icke en blott godtycklig form, som man efter omständigheterna på- och afkläder. BE MALMSTRÖM 7: 402 (1845). 3 SAH 4: 89 (1889).*

') med hänsyn till (i visst fall) föreliggande förhållanden l. situation; särsk. i fråga om hälsotillstånd l. välbefinnande, i sht hos barnsängskvinna l. sjuk l. av olycksfall drabbad person; äv. elliptisk för: efter omständigheterna väl.

- *Hur mår din täcka fru! – Hvaba? / Tackar ödmjukast för god efterfrågan, / Efter omständigheterna. BELLMAN (BellmS) 2:104 (c. 1784, 1791). (Sv.) Hon mår väl efter omständigheterne, (fr.) elle(l'accouchée) est aussi bien qu'on peut être. WESTE (1807).*
- Konungen befann sig även på onsdagskvällen efter omständigheterna väl. LD 1948, nr 128, s. 1.

2.f.β)

BETYDELSE: i uttr. allt efter omständigheterna allt efter beskaffenheten av omständigheterna i vart särskilt fall; förr stundom i fråga om hälsotillstånd för att beteckna det ss. växlande.

- Tygler. God dag, god dag, Guffar lilla! Hur står det til nu för tiden? Marcel. Alt efter omständigheterna. Stundom bättre, stundom sämre. ENVALLSSON Hofsl. 15 (1786).
- Ett oartikuleradt "hojtande" kan .. betyda allt möjligt alltefter omständigheterna. NOREEN VS 1:19 (1903).
- Låter man vatten vid hög temperatur inverka på kalkkväve, erhålles allt efter omständigheterna urinämne .. eller guanidin. NoK 44: 24 (1925).

2.g) (†); se dock slutet) närmande sig l. övergående i bet.: skäl, orsak, anledning.

- DIJKMAN *Ant Eccl.* 65 (1678, 1703). Denne auctor bannas på mig, för det jag utgifvit mine mäste värk på latin, ty han har icke öfvervägat mine omständigheter. LINNÉ Bref I. 3:159 (1764).

han blef ond öfver en ringa omständighet. WESTE (1807).

- För en ringa omständighet. AHLMAN (1872).

2.g.slutet) särsk. (numera mindre br.) i uttr. för vissa omständigheters skull WESTE (1807).

- HAMMAR (1936).

3)

BETYDELSE: i pl. i ivssa specialfall av 2.

3.a)

BRUK: (†)

BETYDELSE: om förhållanden som äro utmärkande för viss tid l. viss plats o. d.

- Then, som dertill deputered blifwer, weet icke eller så grant omstendigheterne i alle landzänderne. RA II. 2:97 (1617).
- Känna .. sitt Tidevarfs omständigheter. SCHÖNBERG ÅmVetA 1771, s. 58.
- Vissa lokala omständigheter och förhållanden. 2 SAH 6:251 (1812).

3.b)

BETYDELSE: förhållanden under vilka ngn lever l. värkar; levnadsförhållanden; numera nästan bl. med tanke på ekonomiska förhållanden. *Leva, vara sitta i goda, knappa, små, torftiga omständigheter.*

- Du skal ock veta, at våre Förfäders omständigheter voro ganska olika ifrån våra. DALIN Arg. 1:127 (1733, 1754). Til grund för utdelningen af **Enke-hjelpen** fordrades tillförlitlige upgifter af Prostarne på **Präste-Enkorna** och deras omständigheter. WALLQUIST EcclSaml. 1- 4:111 (1788).
- Den (*av eldsvåda*) hemsökta familjen befinner sig i små ekonomiska omständigheter. *Sv D(B) 1948*, nr 259, s. 11. jfr FÖRMÖGENHETS-, LIVNADS-OMSTÄNDIGHETER.

3.c)

BRUK: (numera knappast br.)

BETYDELSE: svårigheter, tråkigheter, bekymmer; trångmål; (tillfällig) pänningförlägenhet; i uttr. *sätta sig i l. komma l. råka i omständigheter*. Sätta sig i omständigheter.

- WESTE 1807; "*fam.*"). Karl Anton borde vara på sin vakt, så att han icke på ett eller annat sätt.. satte sig i omständigheter för denna fina bekantskap. GEIJERSTAM LycklMänn. 175 (1899).
- I omständigheter kan hvem som helst råka. JANSON Gast. 126 (1902).

3.d) (ngtålderdomligt) eufemistiskt för: havandeskap, grossess; i uttr. (*ut*)i (*intressanta*) *omständigheter*;
jfr INTRESSANT slutet.

- Det heter/ att hon försvann (*från staden*), för det hon var / uti omständigheter. WETTERSTEDT ConvOrdb. 134 (1822) (*Han*) Hade .. rymt från en hel månads

kosthåll, från hyran och sin fästmö, som han ställt i omständigheter.
EHDENVINDERIKSSON *Hjul.* 93 81928).

4)

ETYMOLOGI: [efter ä. t. *umständigkeit*]

BRUK: (†)

BETYDELSE: beskaffenhet, art, natur.

- Tjdzens omständigheet och vilkor. A OXENSTIERNA 2:196 (1614).
- Befinnes något mål wara a sådan omständighet, at genom ringaste drögmåhl ens wälferd skulle stå i fara, då kan (*osv.*). *civ. Instr.* 400 (1720).
- Jag har besynnerligen en ört af så besynerlig omständighet, att (*osv.*). LINNÉ *Bref* I . 2:285 (1766).
- Efter sakens omständighet. HEINRICH (1828).

5)

ETYMOLOGI: [utvecklat ur 2]

BRUK: (numera knappast br.)

BETYDELSE: belägenhet, situation.

- At strida mot den, som gifvit fördslen åt en hustru, den han älskade., var en svår omständighet. DALIN *Hist.* 2:171 (1750).
- Alexander.. tog i dylik omständighet en utväg, som Hannibal ej kunde taga DENS. *Montesquieu* 33 (1755).
- Hvad utväg vill ni väl, i slik omständighet / Hon skulle ta, det stackars Öket 8*dvs.* *Bileams åsna*), / Ställd mellan Ängelsn svärd, och stryk af sin Porphet? KELLGREN (SVS) 2:221 (1793).

han är i den omständigheten, att han snart skall träda inför sin domare. HÖGBERG *Vred.* 3:84 (1906).

6)

BETYDELSE: förhållandet att vara omständlig (i bet. 2 *d*) l. ceremoniös l. kruserlig l. cirklad l. att göra svårigheter l. invändningar; numera nästan bl.

BRUK: (ngt vard.)

BETYDELSE: konkretare, i pl.:

ceremonier, formaliteter, krus; undanflykter; invändningar; (extrra l. särskilda) anstalter; i sht förr äv. om festliga arrangemang;
jfr **OMSTÄNDIG 3 b, c. Utan (vidare) omständigheter**, utan att göra vidare affär av skaen, utan krus l. undanflykter, utan vidare.

- De wilja giöra mit Bröllop med alt för mycket Krus och många omständigheter. ÖSTERLING Ter. 2:387 (1700).
- Hon hade svarta silkesvantar på händerna, som endast voro öppna på tummen, och de två främsta fingrarne, hvarföre hon utan omständighet emottog den (*dvs. min hand*). EKMANSON Sterne 1:52 (1790).
- Hör nu, herre, utan vidare omödiga omständigheter; var så god och säg signor Lucentio att hans far kommit. HAGBERG Shaksp. 7:219 (1849).
- Att emottaga och affärda affällige hedningar var för biskoparne vid denna tid en alldaglig föörrättning, som icke kräfde vidare omständigheter. RYDBERG Ath. 76 (1876).
- Den mjölk, som gives åt dibarn, kan behandlas med större och mindre omständighet. RIBBING BarnFostr. 32 (1892).
- Ert söl och era många omständigheter irritera mig, Velasco. JANSON Costa N 2:111 (1910).

OMGIVNING,

GENUS: r. l. f.

ETYMOLOGI: [jfr d. *omgivning*, t. *umgebung*]

1)

BRUK: (numera knappast br.)

BETYDELSE: till **I 1**.

- SCHULTZE Ordb. **1528 (c. 1755)**.
- (*Trävirkets*) Omgifning med eller inpackning i främmande ämnen, såsom lera, näffver m. m. ROTHSTEIN Byggn. 45 (**1856**).

2)

BETYDELSE: till **I 3**: särsk. konkret, ss. beteckning för ngt som befinner sig omkring ngt l. ngn. a) (†) utom i ssgr) om ngt som höljer l. avgränsar ngt.

- (*Människo-*)**Äggets** skal eller omgivning. CEDERSCHIÖLD QvSlägtl. 1:149 (**1836**).

2.b)

BETYDELSE: om område l. bebyggelse omkring en plats l. om sammanfattningen av de föremål l. personer som befinna sig omkring ngn l. ngt; i pl.: (områden l. trakter i) området kring en plats.

(*Han*) började vid dagsljuset närmare betrakta sin omgivning (*Dvs. sitt rum med däri befintliga föremål*). CF DAHLGREN 4:125 (**1831**).

- Glad hon tog dem (*dvs. buketterna*) mot af sin oomgivning. WENNERBERG 1:91 (**1881**).
- Göteborg med omgifningar. ROTH 2 Geogr. 48 (**1884**).
- Det har påståtts .. att eldsvåda utgjorde en allvarlig fara för omgivningen (*kring fabriken*) HELLSTRÖM Malmros 72 (**1931**).

2.b.slutet) särsk. oeg. l. bildl., om den yttre miljö (o. de allmänna yttre levnadsförhållanden) vari ngn lever, den krets av personer som ngn brukar var tillsammans med l. ha att göra med, ngns grannar o. d.; i pl. förr äv.: personer tillhörande ngns miljö. Alla dessa (*brottslingar*) voro Catilinas närmaste omgifningar och förtrogna. RITTERBERG Sall. 20 (**1832**).

- Den utmärkta högaktning, hvilken den hädangångne åtnjöt hos sin omgivning. JJ NERVANDER 1:83 (**1839**).
- Han satte i arbete hela sin omgivning, än till skriftgöromål, än (*osv.*) TEGNÉR Armfelt 1:21 (**1883**).

- (*Han*) kom .. i ett kyligt förhållande till omgivningen. HALLSTRÖM HÄnd. 81 (1927).

3)

BRUK: *kortsp.*

BETYDELSE: till II.

- Gifves oriktigt kan förhanden begära omgifning. HbiblSällsk. 1:276 (1839).
- SUNDÉN (1887).