Title of Project:
Prising Open English for Academic Purposes

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Project Summary:

My proposed work with the TIRF DDG aims to re-use data collected for my doctoral research for investigating optimal uses with technology for scaling open source language tools and Open Educational Resources (OER) in English for Academic Purposes (EAP). With both research and practitioner audiences in mind, an exploration of relevant promotional channels for sharing my dissertation findings and resource outputs will be undertaken. Recommendations will also be made for the uptake of open tools and resources in EAP with reference to two research hypotheses concerning (i) increased learner satisfaction and (ii) improved practitioner performance with OER in relation to the development of open language collections (corpora) and open educational practices, specifically for non-expert corpus users in EAP.

A language corpus (plural: corpora) is usually a collection of texts but the term can also refer to a collection of multimedia resources, for example audio-visual media that are linked to transcribed and tagged text files. These texts, which reflect features of written and spoken discourse, are enhanced by text analysis tools that enable us to discern noticeable language patterns to investigate the ways in which words combine with one another in different contexts of use. Now, with new social and technological interfaces arising from the growing number of re-useable resources being made available by open movements within education, research and software development, exciting possibilities exist for work with materials development for English language instruction.