A Corpus Driven Analysis of Representations Around the Word 'ekonomi' in Malaysian Hansard Corpus

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ABSTRACT

Politicians constantly talk about wealth, power and education, which is often justified on the grounds that it will aid economic growth, which in turn will raise living standard. Thus, many economic issues are seen through the eyes of political beliefs. This paper reports on a corpus-driven analysis around the word *ekonomi* (economy) in the Malaysian Hansard Corpus. The objectives are to analyse the trend concerning the word *ekonomi* and to find out the representations around the word *ekonom*. The analysis showed that the word *ekonomi* was at its peak in Parliament 6 and Parliament 9, but declined in Parliament 8. The analysis also involved examining the collocational meaning of the word *ekonomi* and its collocates to determine the categories in which the word *ekonomi* (economy) was referenced. Positive noun collocates such as *pertumbuhan* (growth) and *kekukuhan* (stable) are mainly categorised into the government's policy, government's plan and economic activities in the country. Whilst negative noun collocates such as *kemerosotan*'(decline) and *kelembapan* (sluggish) are mostly categorised into economic situation in the country and globally and the government's effort to handle sluggish economy in Malaysia. The findings also revealed binary conceptualisations of 'us' vs. 'them', which is common in political discourse. The binary conceptualizations demonstrated that the government's efforts are commended. On the other hand, the unfavourable economic situation which happened in the country was due to factors which are beyond the government's control. The paper concludes that the representations around the word *ekonomi* involved justifying or legitimizing government's course of action.

The study suggests a comparison of Hansard data from other Asean or Asian countries, focusing on representation of the word '*ekonomi*'.

Keywords: collocational analysis; economy; Malaysian Hansard Corpus; discourse analysis; semantic prosody

INTRODUCTION

Economy is often seen or associated with money, trade and services. A review of the word *economy* reveals that in its broadest sense, economy encompasses all activity related to production, consumption, and trade of goods and services in an area (https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/economy.asp). Economy applies to everyone from individuals to entities such as corporations and governments. It is undeniable that economy dominates society.

The impetus for our decision to focus on the word *ekonomi* (economy) was propelled by the fact that many economic issues are seen through the eyes of political beliefs. In fact, politicians can use economists and economic research to back their political views. Consequently, economists can also be promoted by their political sponsors. We often see politicians constantly talking about wealth, power and education, which is often justified on the grounds that it will aid economic growth, which in turn will raise living standard.

The present study used political discourse as the source data. Language is central to human life since it permeates every aspect of our life, and without doubt in politics. Political action, such as political speeches, parliament Acts, political debates, to name but a few is vital to "transforming political will and power into social governance" (Partington, 2013, p. 1). Political actions are in fact prepared, accompanied and controlled by language, thus, cementing language as vital in the process of transforming political will and power into social governance. Bevitori (2018, p. 1) argues that "parliamentary language may, in fact, provide a privileged terrain for analysing the relationship between social practices and discourse". van Djik (2000, p. 20, in Bevitori, 2018, p. 3) defines parliamentary debates as "institutional actions that are constitutive of parliamentary democracy", which involves linguistic activities such as endorsing or contesting a bill and justifying or legitimising a course of action (Bervorti, 2018), within an institutional setting. It is a deliberative, oratorical discursive genre, which is intrinsically 'dialogical'. Bayley (2004, p. 24, in Bevitori, 2018, p. 3) states that parliamentary discourse consists of a "sequence of monologues which are intertextually and contratextually interwoven as MPs respond to what has been said previously, not just in the House, but elsewhere too".

Researches into Hansard and Parliamentary Corpora are conducted in many different corpora and across disciplines due to the availability of parliamentary corpora. The availability of Hansard corpus online has made it possible for researchers interested in the parliament discourse to explore and examine various elements and aspects of the corpus such as representations of selected words and its collocates (e.g. Baker & McEnery, 2005; Gabrielatos & Baker, 2008; Khosravinik, 2013; Baker et at., 2013; Morley & Taylor, 2013; Parren & Sapsed, 2013; Dannreuther & Perren; 2013; Willis, 2017; Baker, Gabrielatos & McEnery, 2013; Bachman, 2011), subject pronouns and the person of the verb (e.g Vuković, 2012) and examination of MP's attitude and stance using sentiment analysis methodology (e.g. Onyimadu, Nakata, Wilson, Macken & Liu, 2014 ; Rheault, Beelen, Cochrane & Hirst, 2016).

There are various perspectives and linguistic elements which can be examined using the Hansard and parliamentary corpora to develop and increase our understanding and insights into parliamentary discourse which clearly exhibits the relationship between social

practices and discourse. In addition, the analysis of certain lexical items in parliamentary discourse, as reported in past studies will enable us to find that "its meanings can differ in the ideology it conveys" (Wang, n.d, p. 52). Members of parliament (henceforth, MPs) are political actors who use language to produce specific effects in the political realm (Wilson, 2001), hence, an analysis of parliamentary discourse will help us to understand the ways in which language can be used or manipulated by the MPs. Therefore, through corpus linguistic approach and discourse analysis, this study intends to establish that the repeated linguistic choices and discursive patterns influence the general public's conceptualisations, which play a role in establishing a common view of the world and lead to shared views of the social, economic and global phenomena. Further, in political communication, binary conceptualisations are very common. They frequently take on the form of polarisation between a legitimised insider group ('us') and a delegitimised outsider group ('them') (van Djik, 1997).

The present study draws on a wider research project aiming at exploring linguistic items and strategies in the setting of an influential political discourse – that of Malaysian parliament. The present study, as mentioned, focused on the lexical *ekonomi (*economy)*, guided by two research objectives; (1) to analyse the trend with regard to lexical *ekonomi* and (2) to find out representations around the word *ekonomi*. Data for analysis is drawn from Malaysian Hansard Corpus (henceforth, MHC).

PARLIAMENT AND HANSARD

Power (2012, p. 8) described parliament as:

> *Parliaments are the indispensable institutions of representative democracies around the world. Whatever their country-specific rules, their role remains the same: to represent the people and ensure that public policy is informed by the citizens on whose lives they impact…Parliament is therefore the central institution of democracy and constitutes an expression of the very sovereignty of each nation. Parliament is a political institution. It is a place for political, and often confrontational, debate.*

Parliament is the highest legislative body in Malaysia. The Parliament of Malaysia is made up of three components; Dewan Negara (Senate), Dewan Rakyat (The House of Representative) and his Majesty, the King. The corpus in the present study comes from parliament debates and meetings which occurred in the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives is the premier legislative body in Malaysia with 222 members that are elected from the General Election of Malaysia that is held every five years. Each Member of Parliament (MP) represents a Parliamentary Constituency (The Official Portal of Parliament of Malaysia, 2018). The parliamentary debates of House of Representative and Senates are all recorded in an official record called Hansard.

The term 'Hansard' is actually taken after the name of Thomas C. Hansard, the printer and publisher of the debates in British Parliament in the early 19th century (Vice & Farrell, 2017). Hansard is a "substantially verbatim" report of what is said in Parliament. This record, Hansard, the official substantially verbatim report of what is said in Parliament is an essential tool for ensuring democratic accountability. The construction of Hansard corpus has already taken place in other parts of the world, such as in Britain, Canada, Asia Pacific, the European countries and African countries. The British Hansard corpus (henceforth, BHC) contains nearly every speech given in the British Parliament from 1803-200 5 (https://www.hansardcorpus.org/). The BHC is available online (https://hansard.parliament.uk/) and is divided into House of Commons Hansard and House of Lord Hansard. The Canadian Hansard Corpus consists of parallel texts in English and

Canadian French, drawn from official records of the proceedings of the Canadian Parliament. Although the content is limited to legislative discourse, it also includes spontaneous discussion and written correspondence along with legislative propositions and prepared speeches((https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/35-2/house/hansard-index The New Zealand Hansard reports go all the way back to the first volume in 1867. The reports, history and related information about New Zealand Hansard is accessible at https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/. Australian Hansard consists of proceedings of the Australian parliament and its committees, which includes the Senate, House of Representatives, the Federation Chamber and all parliamentary committees (https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard). The Parliament of South Africa also made its Hansard reports accessible. The South African Hansard contains information such as parliamentary debates, parliamentary papers, programme and parliamentary committees (https://www.parliament.gov.za/).

CORPUS STUDY ON BRITISH HANSARD

Bachmann (2011) utilized the British Hansard in both Houses of Parliament to examine discourses of same-sex relationships. Keywords were thematically grouped and analysed in context, and analysis of collocations and concordance were carried out. Different discourses are drawn on by different parties in the debates on gay and lesbian relationship, hence, leading Bachman to conclude that these discourses are often used to frame a line of argumentation. Parren and Sapsed (2013) did a systematic analysis on the use of the term *innovation* in policy discourse over a forty-five years period, using the British Hansard. The sutble and changing use of the word *innovation* was examined over the decades. Analysis of words which collocate with *innovation* revealed that the word *innovation* has been used in a wide variety of policy domains in an increasingly positive tone. It is associated with greater emphasis on the government as the driver of innovation, despite oscillations between the public and private sectors over the decades. The term *entrepreneur* with regards to its political significance in the UK parliamentary debates over the past forty years was carried out by Dannreuther and Perren (2013), using a combination of computational analysis of significant collocates that surround the term entrepreneur. The findings showed that patterns of reification, agency and structure are identified in the portrayed entrepreneurial constructs. Rheault, Beelen, Cochrane and Hirst (2016) examined changes in aggregate levels of emotional polarity in the British parliament and tested a hypothesis about the emotional response of politicians to economic recessions. A digitized corpus of text data spanning a century of parliamentary debates in the United Kingdom was used. The findings suggest that the mood of politicians has become more positive during the past decades and that variations in emotional polarity can be predicted by the state of the national economy. Willis (2017) examined how UK politicians discuss climate change, focusing specifically on the 2008 Climate Change Bill. Politicians were found to frame climate change as an economic and technical issue, and neglect discussion of the human and social dimensions. They are selective in their use of scientific evidence, in their attempt to 'tame' climate change, rather than confronting difficult realities. The examination of certain characteristics of the MPs speeches and debates reflect how matters of the country's interests and policies are discussed and debated.

CORPUS STUDY ON OTHER HANSARD

Greene and Cross (2017) studied the political agenda of the European Parliament (EP) plenary, how it has evolved over time, and the manner in which Members of the European

Parliament (MEPs) have reacted to external and internal stimuli when making plenary speeches. The findings suggest that the political agenda of the EP evolves significantly over time. Exogenous events such as EU Treaty referenda and the emergence of the Euro Crisis were also found to have effect on debates that occurred in the parliament.

Peach (2018) studied the use of *te reo* Māori words in New Zealand Parliament by examining the labels used in reference to the country (e.g., New Zealand, Aotearoa, Aotearoa New Zealand) and its people (e.g., New Zealand Europeans, Māori, New Zealanders, Kiwis) and the frequency of use of these labels. Changes in the use and frequency of the word were recorded. In addition, the use of these terms by the different political parties and different individual politicians were also noted. The result revealed that New Zealand was most frequently used to name the country, as expected, but also that of the two main parties. Labour used Aotearoa when referring to the country more frequently than National. On the other hand, politicians who identified themselves as Māori were not more likely to use terms such as Aotearoa over New Zealand. These findings revealed the extent to which biculturalism is displayed through language in New Zealand Parliament and the relationship between language and culture in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Sarfo-Kantankah (2018) examined the discursive construction of corruption by Ghanaian parliamentarians, using a 1.9 million-word corpus of Hansards of debates and committee reports between 2005 and 2016. The findings revealed that MPs discursively construct corruption as a huge systematic social canker that hinders socio-politico-economic development of Ghana. This suggests that stronger measures and more formidable parliamentary commitment are needed to fight corruption.

CORPUS STUDY ON MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENT HANSARD

Several Malaysian researchers have utilized the Malaysian Hansard data. Ngeow, Kuang and David (2010) examined the use of sexist language and gender stereotypes in the parliamentary debates in the Malaysian parliament, using Hansard data in the Parliament official website from 2004 to 2008. A qualitative content analysis approach was employed to identify instances of gender stereotyping and sexist language use in Malaysian parliament. Three categories of frequent episodes involving gender stereotypes and/or sexist language were identified, namely, beautiful women are sexual objects for lusting; female divorcees are sexually promiscuous and menstruation is demonised emerged from the data. Tan et al. (2017) studied the trend of vague language, in the form of adjunctive and disjunctive phrases, used by politicians in Malaysian Parliament. MHC corpus specifically, from 1970 to 1979 was compared with MHC corpus from 2000 to 2009. The approach utilized corpus tools to analyse the collocation, concordance and keywords. The findings revealed that the trend of usage from the 1970's to 1980's showed a high preference for the use of adjunctives over disjunctives based on frequency per million. The findings showed that in the year 2000's the function of adjuctive phrase such as *dan sebagainya* (and others) has been expended to include both issues and solutions, while the disjunctive phrase such as *atau lebih* (or more) was used extensively to quote legal acts.

Azianura Hani Shaari, Marlyna Maros and Imran Ho Abdullah (2017) also utilized the MHC to examine how issues pertaining to crime were discussed in the Malaysian parliament. There was a dramatic increase in the mention of the lexical *jenayah* (crime) in the parliament from the year 1995 t0 2016. The study concluded that this increase correlated with the increase of crime statistics in Malaysia from 1980 to 2004. Norsimah Mat Awal et al. (2019) conducted a corpus-driven approach to identify a particular state in Malaysia, which led them to the state of Selangor. There are 13 states in Malaysia. The researchers then used statistical analysis, which enabled them to determine the issue or issues closely related to

Selangor. *Air* (water) was identified as one of the issues closely related to Selangor. The recurring issues during those periods are the never-ending water-related problems and the steps taken by the government to overcome the problems.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed mixed method design that consists of quantitative and qualitative approaches. A corpus linguistics approach using Wordsmith 5.0 tool was utilized to conduct a corpus analysis on the MHC data, while qualitative analysis involved discourse analysis approach. Partington (2013) states that "by enabling quantitative and qualitative research methodology to be used in tandem, corpus-assisted approaches have considerably deepened our understanding of the character of political language, both from the linguistic and political scientific perspectives" (p. 7). A more detailed account into the corpus and tools utilized in the study follow next.

DATA: THE MALAYSIAN HANSARD CORPUS

The MHC data utilized in the present study is a specialized corpus of parliamentary data developed by Imran Ho Abdullah, Anis Nadiah Che Abdul Rahman and Azhar Jaludin (2017). To date, the corpus comprises of approximately 157 million words (measured with WordSmith 5.0) from 3,511 parliamentary proceedings obtained from the official portal of Parliament of Malaysia (https://www.parlimen.gov.my/index.php?&lang=en. All the files in portable documents format (PDF) obtained from the web were converted into plain text files for corpus development. The parliamentary proceedings in the corpus are from Parliament 1 (1959) until Parliament 13 (2018). Each of the file is stored according to the following sub corpus, as shown in figure 1:
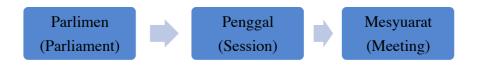

FIGURE 1. The nature of MHC's storage

The nature of such storage allows potential researchers to focus on studies according to selected parliaments, sessions, meeting and also years. Figure 2 shows a sample of MHC's storage from Parliament 6.
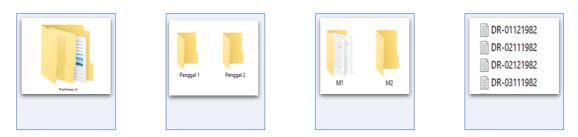

FIGURE 2. The sample of MHC's storage (Parliament 6)

Figure 2 shows the sample of MHC's storage, which was taken from Parliament 6. The corpus is organized according to Parliament. In each parliament, there are different sessions (*penggal*). In each session, there are meetings, which are stored as M1, M2, M3). In

each meeting, there are reports. Each report denotes the day of the proceeding/ parliamentary debates.

CORPUS SIZE AND INFORMATION

Figure 3 shows the corpus size of the MHC according to parliament.

FIGURE 3. The size (token of running words) of sub corpora (parliament) in Malaysian Hansard Corpus (Imran et al., 2018)

Based on figure 3, there is a gradual increase in the number of token from parliament 1 to parliament 13. The number of word token reached the highest point in parliament 12 (22188820), while parliament 3 shows the lowest trend of word token (6264859). The rise in number of word token could be influenced by the number of parliamentary proceeding of that particular parliament. As a diachronic corpus, the parliamentary data is stored according to dates. Table 1 illustrates the distribution of parliament from parliament 1 to parliament 13 according to year. The highlighted parts are the data chosen for analysis in the present study.

TABLE 1. The distribution of Parliament according to year

Parliament	Year
1	1959 – 1964
2	1964 - 1969
3	1971 – 1973
4	1974 - 1978
5	1978 - 1981
6	1982 - 1986
7	1986 -1990
8	1990 - 1994
9	1995 -1999
10	1999 - 2003
11	2004 - 2007
12	2008 – 2012
13	2013 - 2018

WORDSMITH VERSION 5

WordSmith version 5 is text analysis software developed by Scott (2008). The software is able to run text analysis and see the behaviour and pattern of texts. There are three crucial tools in WordSmith Tools, which include WordList, Concord and KeyWords. The present study only utilized WordList and Concord. Each of the tool has different functions to produce different results. This study utilizes WordList and Concord tools to see the trend across parliaments (list of words based on frequency) and Concord to see the node word *ekonomi* in context. Through concord tool, the collocation and its relation with the node word is examined.

PROCEDURE

The analyses of this study consist of several procedures. The approaches taken is depicted in Figure 4.
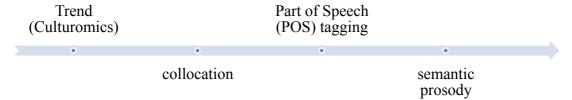

FIGURE 4. The process of data analyses

The first step of data analysis includes generating the culturomics' N-gram (adapted from Google N-gram viewer based on Michel, et al 2010) to see the trend of *ekonomi* over 60 years of parliamentary proceedings. The trend was plotted based on relative frequency of the Malay word *ekonomi (*economy*)* in each parliament. In order to obtain relative frequency, raw frequency of the node word (*ekonomi*) from each parliament previously obtained from the Word list was generated using WordSmith Tools 5. The frequency of *ekonomi* from each parliament were then normalized using the following formula.

$$\text{Normalization} = \frac{raw\ frequency\ of\ node\ word}{total\ token\ of\ subcorpus}\ (1000000)$$

Normalization was conducted to accurately and fairly compare corpus or sub-corpus of different sizes. (McEnery and Hardie, 2012).

COLLOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

The second step of the analysis consists of examination on distinctive trend based on the n-gram. Based on the trend, the researchers decided to focus on the peaks and decline (Parliament 6, 8 and 9) of the node word *ekonomi*(economy). Therefore, a collocational analysis was conducted using WordSmith Tool 5. A statistical analysis was done using Mutual Information (henceforth MI) to quantify the strength of the collocation. In WordSmith, MI Score is computed using the calculation formulated by Gaussier, Langé and Maunier which was described in Oakes (1998: 174). The MI takes the likelihood of the collocate with the node word based on the corpus size (word token). The researchers set the parameters to obtain the result from the collocates that occur with the node word *ekonomi.* (economy). In addition to that, the selection of the collocates was taken from log likelihood. According to McEnery (2006:22), MI score determines the strength of collocation but not statistical significance. Due to that, Log Likelihood (henceforth LL) was conducted to obtain statistical significance. Therefore, MI and LL test were conducted to determine the top 100

collocate of the word *ekonomi*. The parameters set for collocational analysis is shown in table 2.

TABLE 2. The parameters set in the selection of the collocates

Item	Parameter
Collocate	<100
Frequency	>5
MI Score	> 3.0
Log likelihood	> 6.63 (p<0.01)
Window span	±5 (within sentence boundaries)

Based on table 2, top 100 collocates were taken from the collocate list with minimum frequency greater than 5. MI and LL score are respectively set with >3.0 and >6.63, with window span ±5 to the left and right. The parameter set for MI score is based on Xiao and McEnery (2006: 105) who stated that MI with a minimum score of 3 is "considered to be the collocates of a node word." The minimum frequency of the collocate list was taken from McEnery (2006) who set 5 for the study on 'Migrants.'

PART OF SPEECH (POS) TAG

The list of 100 top collocates were tagged according to part of speech using Malay POS Tagger (http://malaynlp.com). POS taggers are noun, adjective/ adverb and verb. Subsequently, the automated tagging was inspected to determine the accuracy of each POS tag. Inaccurate tags are manually corrected with the assistance of, and with reference to the Malay Dictionary (*Pusat Rujukan Persuratan Melayu, url http://prpm.dbp.gov.my/*). Subsequently, the collocate lists are categorised into grammatical items namely noun, verb and adjective while the function words were removed.

SEMANTIC PROSODY

The collocates which are obtained from the POS analysis are categorized into three lexical categories which include noun, verbs and adjective. The categorization is based on Siti Zubaidah and Hajar (2016) who grouped collocates that have semantic content into lexical categories. Having determined the word class, top 50 noun collocates were selected. Noun collocates occurred most frequently, hence, noun collocates were selected for analysis. The noun collocates were then rated and grouped into positive and negative prosody based on the context. According to Louw (2000, p. 58), the purpose of semantic prosody is to demonstrate the attitude and appraisal of a speaker or a writer. Xiao and McEnery (2006: 107) further add that a word that is habitually collocating with a pleasant meaning could bring positive value even though it is used with an unusual collocate. For example, Stubbs (1996) stated that the word 'provide' bring positive prosody as it collocates with words like 'assistance,' 'opportunities,' and 'relief.' In order to identify the prosody, the context of each collocate were evaluated based on positive, negative and neutral prosodies (Xiao and McEnery, 2006). Each collocate was grouped according to its prosody.

FINDINGS

The section that follows present results for n-gram, collocate analysis and semantic prosody.

CULTUROMICS N-GRAM

Figure 5 shows the trend of the node word *ekonomi* from Parliament 1 to Parliament 13 in the Malaysian Hansard Corpus.
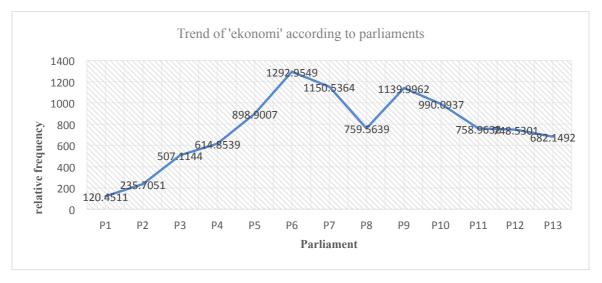

FIGURE 5. Trend of the node word '*ekonomi*' from Parliament 1 to 13 based on normalized frequencies

Based on the n-gram chart, it can be seen that there was a gradual rise in the use of the word *ekonomi* (economy) from parliament 1 to parliament 6. It reached its peak in parliament 6. However, the word *ekonomi* (economy) in parliament 7 and 8 dramatically declined. After this dramatic decline, the frequency of the word *ekonomi* (economy) increased again in Parliament 9. Following the rise, the trend gradually declined from Parliament 9 to 13. Based on the trend, Parliament 6, 8 and 9 have been selected for data analysis.

COLLOCATIONAL ANALYSIS

The list of the collocates were sorted according to lexical categories. Collocation is defined as the words that co-occur with each other. Figure 6 illustrates the collocates Figure 6 illustrates the colligation of *ekonomi* (economy) according to lexical category in parliament 6, parliament 8 and parliament 9.
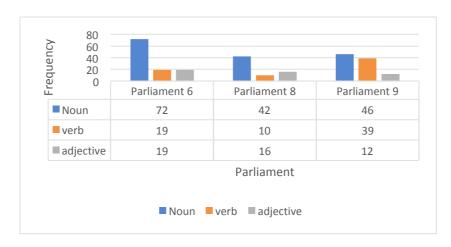

FIGURE 6. Collocates of '*ekonomi*' according to lexical category in P6, P8 and P9

The rank of the collocate is sorted based on MI and Log-likelihood scores. What is interesting in figure 6 is the dominance of noun collocate (72), with the node word *ekonomi* (economy) compared to adjective (19) and verb (19). The highest noun collocate can be seen in parliament 6 (72), followed by parliament 9 (46) and parliament 8 (42). In Parliament 9, there are more verb collocate (39) compared to adjective collocate (12).

<div align="center">

NOUN COLLOCATE

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The lexical category which most commonly collocates with *ekonomi* (economy) in Parliament 6, Parliament 8 and parliament 9 is noun. The patterns of noun-noun colligation (*ekonomi* + Noun collocates) in Parliament 6, 8 and 9 dominantly show economic domain. This means that the collocates are related to the economic situation in the country and the world when the collocates are analysed in context.

The top noun collocates in Parliament 6 like *peminggiran* (isolation), *kemerosotan* (decline), *pertumbuhan* (growth) clearly exhibit the economic situation in Malaysia. economy, as shown in figure 7.
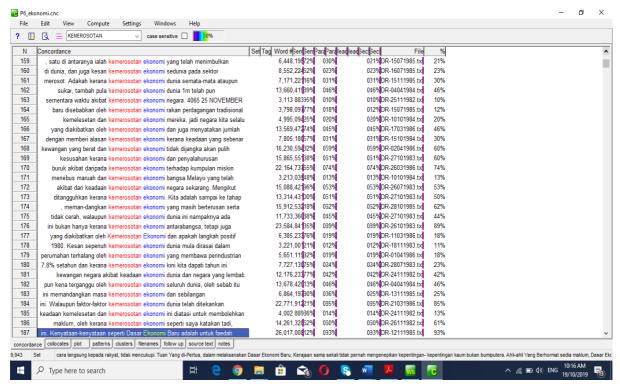

FIGURE 7. Noun collocate *kemerosotan*

Example 1 depicted a statement by an MP urging the government to explain why the government took time (after 3 years) to take action in order to protect the country's economy from the effect of the world's economic downturn.

1982-1986
P6: Example 2
Kerajaan Barisan Nasional bertanggungjawab menerangkan kepada rakyat kenapa dan mengapa tiga tahun setelah mengalami **kemerosotan ekonomi** *dunia, barulah Kerajaan membuat keputusan untuk mengambil tindakan bagi melindungi ekonomi Malaysia daripada kesan buruk* **kemerosotan ekonomi** *antarabangsa*

The Barisan Nasional government is responsible to explain to the people why after there years of world **economic decline,** then only the government decided to take action in order to protect Malaysian economy from the unfavourable effect of the world's **economic decline**.

Noun collocates with high frequency in parliament 8 includes *kadar* (rate), *negeri* (state), *bandar* (city), Asia, *program* (programme), *sekatan* (restrain), *tenaga* (power), *asas* (basic), *pakar* (expert) and *hak* (right). Noun collocate *kadar* (rate) is associated with the unfavourable economic situation in the country, in which the MP reported that the economic growth in Malaysia is low due to the impact of world economic crisis, while noun collocate *program* (program) refers to the government's future plan for the country (Vision 2020). Figure 8 depicted screen capture of the noun collocate for *kadar* (rate) and *program* (program).
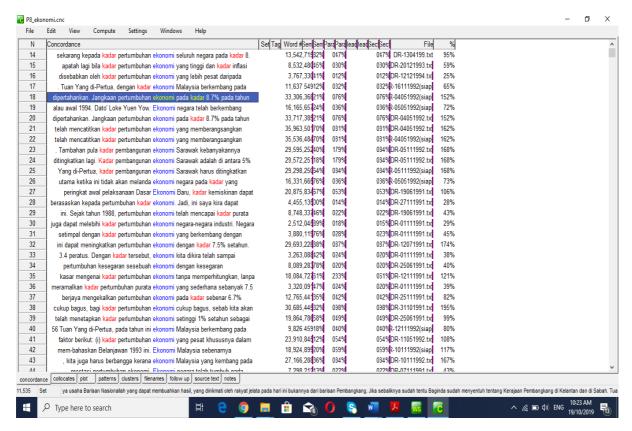

FIGURE 8. Noun collocate kadar

Example 2 depicted a statement by an MP about the government's action plan to handle economic recession in Malaysia which occurred because of the decline in currency and stock market.

1990-1994
P8: Example 2
*Tuan Yang diPertua, kerajaan harus peka dengan perubahan dan perkembangan ekonomi dunia yang tidak stabil yang mempunyai kesan kepada kepada pertumbuhan **kadar ekonomi** negara yang perlahan.*
Mr Speaker, the government has to be alert to the changes and development of unstable world economy, which has effect on the growth of the country's **economic rate**, which is slow.

The top noun collocates in parliament 9 are *agroklimatic* (agroclimatic), *kuncupan* (diminish), *kegawatan* (downturn), *kemelesetan* (recession), corpse, euphoria, *makro* (macro), *kemelut* (crisis), *kelembapan* (slowness) and overheating.

Example 3 illustrated a comment made by an MP on the government's policy to handle the economic recession in the country due to the decline in currency and the stock market.

1995-1999
P9: Example 3
kemelesetan **(recession)**
Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sebagaimana Yang Berhormat sedia maklum, kerajaan telah pun membentuk dasar dan pendekatan bagi menangani masalah **kemelesetan ekonomi** *yang timbul berikutan daripada kemerosotan nilai mata wang dan pasaran saham.*
Mr Speaker, as what you have been informed, the government has developed policy and approach to handle the **economic recession** which occurred due to the decline in currency and the stock market.

<div align="center">VERB COLLOCATE</div>

Verb collocates in parliament 6, 8 and 9 exhibit actions taken towards improving the economy and situations that may contribute to the economic growth and downturn. The top verb collocates in parliament 6 includes *bertumbuh* (growing), *meramalkan* (predicting), *berkembang* (expanding), *menjejas* (affecting), *merosot* (declining), *memperkukuhkan* (fortify), *dirangka* (framed), *menggerakkan* (actuate), *me*mburukkan (worsen) and memesatkan (accelerate). Figure 9 displays the verb collocate *berkembang* (expanding) in Parliament 6.
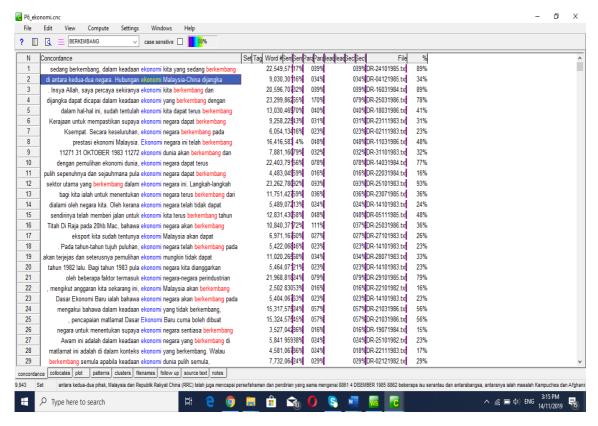

FIGURE 9. verb collocate *berkembang* (expanding)

Example 4 depicted a comment on how the New economic Plan has contributed to the accelerated and expanding economy in the country.

1982-1986
P6: Example 4
berkembang (expanding)
Bukti-bukti yang ada semenjak Dasar Ekonomi Baru dilaksanakan menunjukkan bahawa **ekonomi** *negara telah* **berkembang** *dengan pesat di mana pembasmian kemiskinan tanpa mengira kaum.*
Evidence since the New Economic Plan was implemented showed that the country's **economy** has been **expanding** and accelerating whereby the elimination of poverty without taking into account race factor.

The verb collocates in Parliament 8 include *memberi* (giving), *lihat* (see), *berlaku* (happening), *terlibat* (involved), *percaya* (believe), *diambil* (taken), *merosot* (declining), *dibuat* (done) and *mahu* (want).

The verb collocate like *memberi* (giving) could imply negative effect, as displayed in example 5 (a) and positive contribution towards the economy, as shown in example 5 (b).

P8: Example 5 (a)
memberi (giving) – 1991
Jika tidak, budaya melancong ke luar negeri akan terus menjadi-jadi dan ianya **memberi** *kesan yang buruk kepada* **ekonomi** *negara kita.*
If not, the culture of travelling overseas will keep continuing and this will **give** *bad effect* to our country's **economy**.

P8: Example 5 (b)
...maka Kementerian tidak mempunyai perangkaan yang tepat untuk menunjukkan berapa banyak perdagangan jualan langsung **memberi** *sumbangan kepada aktiviti* **ekonomi**...
…thus the Ministry does not have any exact statistic to show how much the trading of direct sales *contributed* to the **economic** activity…

The high-ranking verb collocates in parliament 9 include *mencergaskan* (invigorate), *merancakkan* (enliven), *merudumnya* (plummet), *memulihkan* (restore), *memacu* (drive), *menjahanamkan* (rupture), *pertumbuhan* (growing), *menguncup* (shrinking), heating and *menjanakan* (generating). Verb collocates, such as *mencergaskan* (invigorate), *merancakkan* (enliven), *memulihkan* (restore), *memacu* (drive), depicted the government's actions and plans to improve the unfavourable economic situation in the country. While *menjahanamkan* (rupture), *menguncup* (shrinking) and *menjahanamkan* (ruptured) are discussions on the impact of world economic crisis on the country and intervention from foreign investors. Examples of the verb collocates are in figure 10 and 11. Example 6 is an example for verb collocate *bertumbuh* (growing) and example 7 is for the verb collocate *merudum* (plummeted).
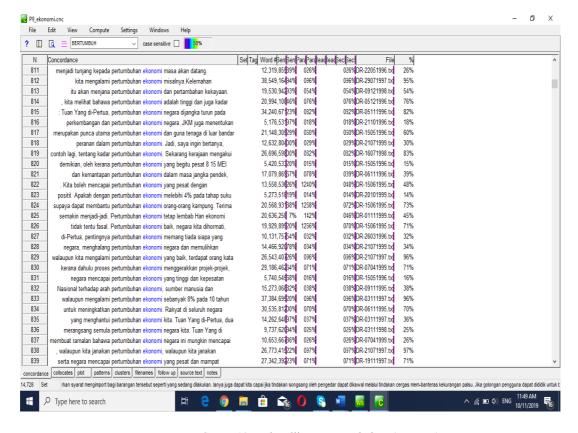
FIGURE 10. verb colligate *pertumbuhan (growing)*

In example 6, an MP commented on the effect of investment on the country's economic growth.

1995-1999
P9: Example 6
***pertumbuhan* (growing)**

*Apabila pelaburan meningkat, berbagai kegiatan ekonomi akan berjalan dan ini akan memberi peluang bekerja kepada rakyat. Akibat perkembangan ini, **pertumbuhan ekonomi** kita akan manjadi pesat, daya pengeluaran akan bertambah dan pendapatan rakyat dan negara akan bertambah dan ini seterusnya akan membawa kepada keselisaan hidup, kebahagiaan, keamanan dan kemakmuran rakyat.*

When investment grows, various types of economic activities will continue and this will provide job opportunities to the citizen. Due to this development, our **growing economy** will accelerate**,** production will increase and the people's income and the country's income will also increase. Consequently, this will bring about comfortable living, happiness, peace and prosperity.
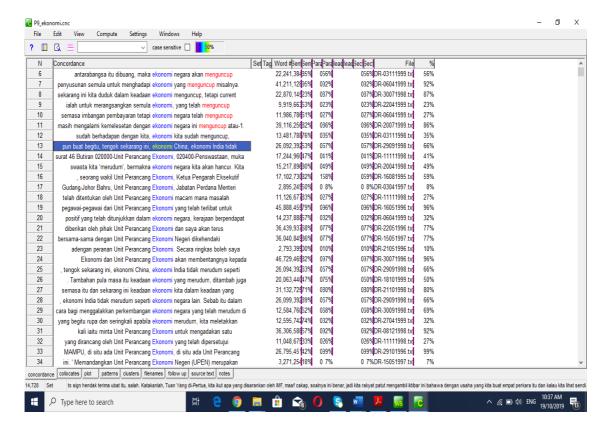
FIGURE 11. verb colligate *menjahanamkan* (ruptured)

In example 7, an MP reported how foreign 'people' took advantage of the world's economic recession to speculate and to rupture the country's stock market which resulted in the reason for the plummeted stock market.

P9: Example 7
Menjahanamkan (ruptured)
*Orang-orang asing telah mengambil kesempatan ini untuk speculate dan **menjahanamkan** ekonomi kita sehingga pasaran saham kita terjunam. Sekatan-sekatan harus diadakan ke atas pelabur-pelabur.*
Foreigners have taken advantage of this situation to speculate and **ruptured** our **economy** until our stock market plummeted. Sanctions should be imposed on these investors.

<div align="center">

ADJECTIVE COLLOCATE

</div>

The patterns of adjective collocate in Parliament 6, 8 and 9 described the current economic situation in the country, the effect of the global economic crisis and government's effort to handle and improve the situation from escalating.

Adjective collcoate in Parliament 6 includes *berpanjangan* (prolonged), *muram* (dismal), *sosial* (social), *sejajar (*parallel), *beransur* (slowly), *perlahan* (slow), *baru* (new), *kukuh* (firm) and *cerah* (bright). The adjective collocate *berpanjangan* (prolonged) and *muram* (dismal) referred to the commendation given to the government for its effort in handling the effect of global economic crisis on the country.
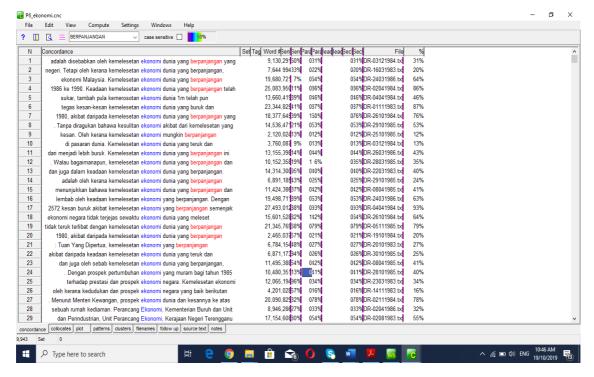
FIGURE 12. Collocate *berpanjangan* (prolonged)

Example 8 illustrated the commendation given to the government in governing and managing the country despite the effect of global economic crisis on the country.

1982-1986
P6: Example 8
berpanjangan **(prolonged)**
*Kemelesetan **ekonomi** dunia yang **berpanjangan** ini sebenarnya telah mengakibatkan penderitaan di banyak negara, tetapi ini sebenarnya tidak berlaku di negara ini. Ini membuktikan, kemampuan dan kehandalan Kerajaan kita memerintah negara ini, membuktikan bahawa Kerajaan ini adalah sebuah Kerajaan yang mampu memerintah.*
The **prolonged economic** recession has caused sufferings in many countries, but this actually did not happen in this country. This proved that the government's ability and prowess in governing the country. This proved that the government is a capable government to govern.

In Parliament 8, the top adjective collocates comprises of *penting* (important), *terbuka* (open), *adil* (fair), *jelas* (clear), *maju* (developed), *mudah* (easy), *cukup* (sufficient) and *buruk* (ugly). The noun-adjective collocates are about the government's plan which have been conducted and will be carried out to improve the economy.
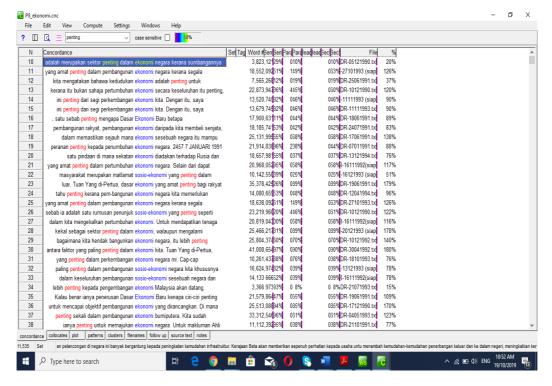
FIGURE 13. noun-adjective collocate *penting* (important)

Extract 9 illustrated one of the government's initiative (IKS) which has managed to contribute to the country's economic growth.

1990-1994
P8: Example 9
***penting* (important)**

*IKS adalah merupakan satu sektor yang **penting** kepada pertumbuhan **ekonomi** negara. Ini adalah kerana dari bilangan pertumbuhan ianya merupakan hampir 93%. Dari segi pekerjaan sumbangannya kira-kira 20%.*

IKS is an important sector to the economic growth of the country. This is because it contributes to 93% of the growth. Where employment is concerned, the contribution is about 20%.

Parliament 9's top adjective collocates includes *sosio* (socio), *tangkas* (swift), *mapan* (established), *esklusif* (exclusive), *pulih* (recovered), *gawat* (critical), *mampan* (sustainable), *pesat* (accelerating), *lembab* (slow), *utuh* (solid) and *kukuh* (firm). An example of noun-adjective collocate in parliament 9 is in figure 14.
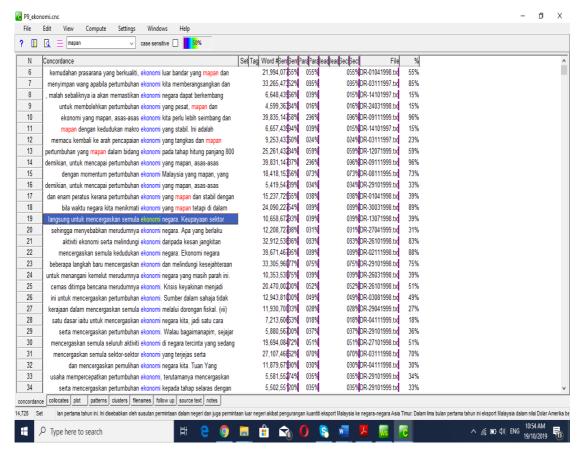
FIGURE 14. noun-adjective collocate *pesat* (accelerating/accelerated)

Example 10 clearly depicted how the government's 6th Malaysian Plan has contributed to the accelerated economic growth in the country, hence, a commendation to the government to continue with the country's National Development Policy.

1995-1999
P9: Example 10
*Pertumbuhan **pesat ekonomi** negara dan kemajuan ketara dalam pencapaian matlamat sosio- ekonomi negara dalam tempoh pelaksanaan Rancangan Malaysia Keenam menyokong kerajaan untuk meneruskan pelaksanaan Dasar Pembangunan Nasional.*
The **accelerated economic** growth of the country and the obvious development in achieving the socio-economic objective of the country during the execution of the 6th Malaysian Plan to support the government to continue with the National Development Policy.

The section that follows present the semantic prosody analysis. As mentioned, the top 50 noun collocates were selected after determining the word class of each collocate. The noun collocates were then rated and grouped into positive and negative prosody based on the context.

POSITIVE SEMANTIC PROSODY

Table 4 depicts the positive prosody of noun collocates for the word *ekonomi* in Parliament 6, parliament 8 and Parliament 9.

TABLE 4. The positive prosody of noun collocates of the word '*ekonomi*'

No	Parliament 6	Parliament 8	Parliament 9
1	EKSLUSIF	KADAR	EUPHORIA
2	EKSKLUSIF	TENAGA	MAKRO
3	**PERTUMBUHAN**	PAKAR	KEMAMPANAN
4	**PERANCANG**	HAK	**PERTUMBUHAN**
5	PEMATUHAN	RANCANGAN	KEMANTAPAN
6	**PROSPEK**	KEWANGAN	KEPESATAN
7	RESESSI	PEMBANGUNAN	**PROSPEK**
8	**KEKUKUHAN**	KEUNTUNGAN	**PEMULIHAN**
9	KETEGUHAN	**PEMULIHAN**	**PERANCANG**
10	KETAHANAN	CADANGAN	**KEKUKUHAN**
11	MENGIZINKAN	KAWALAN	PETUNJUK
12	KESTABILAN	KELUARGA	KERANCAKAN
13	KEMBANGAN		TRANSFORMASI
14			PENDORONG
15			PEMANGKIN
16			SUMBANGANNYA
17			KESTABILAN
18			TUNJANG

Collocates which occurred in all three parliaments (parliament 6, 8 and 9) or in any of the two parliaments, were then put into its respective category through manual concordance analysis (see table 5).

TABLE 5. Positive semantic prosody (P6 and P9) with regards to MI score, frequency of occurrence and total number of texts

No	Collocates	MI score (P6)	MI score (P9)	Frequency (P6)	Frequency (P9)	Total no of texts (P6)	Total no of texts (P9)
1	pertumbuhan (*growth*)	8.471	8.613	743	**1,196**	157	244
2	perancang (*planner*)	7.727	8.252	112	23	58	19
3	prospek (*prospect*)	7.699	8.129	29	**187**	18	96
4	kekukuhan (*stability*)	7.763	8.121	16	**20**	12	18

As shown in table 5, the M1 score for all collocates are higher in P9 than P6. As for frequency of occurrence, the collocate *pertumbuhan* (growth), *prospek* (prospect) and *kekukuhan* (stability) were more frequent in P9 (1196, 187 and 20) than P6. These collocates are categorized as positive semantic prosody based on discourse analysis of the parliament data (discourse), in which the collocates were analysed in context.

It is expected that discussion on economy and economic situation in Malaysia and the world were frequently discussed in the Parliament 9 (1995-1999), because Malaysia was hit by the global economic crisis which happened in 1997 and 1998. This period saw the Asian financial crisis, in which the stock market in Malaysia crashed to 75% and the currency plummeted from 40% to 24%. One of the causes of the crisis in Malaysia was that it had a high-current account deficit, that happened due to imports exceeding exports. (Hays, http://factsanddetails.com/southeast-asia/Malaysia/sub5_4e/entry-3694.html).

The analysis also demonstrated that the trend on the representations around the word *ekonomi* (economy) is affected by the economic situation in Malaysia and the economic recession in the world, thus, as suggested by Bervorti (2018), it can prompt MPs to contest a bill and justify or legitimize a course of action.

Discourse analysis was done to categorize the noun collocates into its respective category. Table 6 illustrates the categories.

TABLE 6. Category of noun collocates

Noun collacates	Categories
pertumbuhan (*growth*)	• Government's policy • Government's plan • Government's policy and world economic situation
perancang (*planner*)	• A unit in the Prime Minister's department • Occupation/role
prospek (*prospect*)	• Malaysia • Global
kekukuhan (*stability*)	• Economic situation in Malaysia

What emerges from the examination of categories is that the collocates revolves around discussion on the government's policy, plans, activities and Malaysia's economy in relation to the world's economy. Since the M1 score and frequency of occurrence for all collocates are higher in P9 than P6, the extracts are only taken from parliament 9.

COLLOCATE *PERTUMBUHAN* (GROWTH) IN P9 (1995-1999)

Example 11 described how the macro-economic policy which was implemented by the government have contributed to the country's economic sustainability, despite the world's or global economic recession. This collocate is categorised as government's policy (see table 6).

1995-1999
P9: Example 11
*Tumpuan dasar ekonomi makro kerajaan ialah untuk memastikan **pertumbuhan ekonomi** terus mampan, iaitu pertumbuhan ekonomi yang mantap dengan kedudukan imbangan pembayaran yang kukuh dan kadar inflasi yang terendah.*
The focus of the government's macro economic policy is to ensure that the **economic growth** continues to be sustainable, which is sustainable **economic growth** with a stable and balanced payment, and low economic inflation rate.

Similarly example 12 showed that the growth of economy in Malaysia is attributed to the government's plan, which is a category identified based on manual concordance analysis (see table 6).

P9: Example 12
*Sejak tahun 1988 **pertumbuhan ekonomi** negara adalah stabil dengan kadar purata 8% setahun. Rancangan Malaysia Keenam (1991-1995) dan Rangka Rancangan Jangka Panjang (1991-2000) meramalkan **pertumbuhan ekonomi** sekitar 7% dan 7.5% bagi dekad 90an yang merupakan salah satu **pertumbuhan ekonomi** yang tertinggi di dunia.*
Since 1988, the country's economic growth is stable with an average of 8% a year. The 6th Malaysian Plan (1991-1995) and the Framework for the Long Term Plan (1991-2000) estima that the growth of economy will be between 7% and 7.5%, for the 1990s. This is one of the highest economic growth in the world.

COLLOCATE *PROSPEK* (PROSPECT) IN P9 (1995-1999)

Example 12 illustrated the government's plan and policy to improve and revive the economic situation in the country has received optimistic views from foreign observers. The evidence is supported with information from the Kuala Lumpur Bursa Index which has shown an

interesting jump. Discussion on the collocate *prospek* (prospect) focused on Malaysia (category: Malaysia, see table 6).

Category: Malaysia
P9: Example 12
Tuan Yang di-Pertua, alhamdulillah, pada minggu lepas pihak asing memberikan pandangan optimistik terhadap **prospek ekonomi** di Malaysia ini. Juga, saya ingin menarik perhatian di Dewan yang mulia ini, pada dua, tiga hari yang lampau kelihatan BSKL telah menunjukkan satu lonjakan yang amat menarik dan ini jelas sekali menunjukkan bahawa asas ekonomi kita sedang terus mengukuh dan faktor teknikal disandar kuat oleh fundamental atau dasarnya.
Mr Speaker, Praise to God, we received optimistic view from foreign observers about the **economic prospect** *for Malaysia. I would also like to draw your attention to the BSKL (Kuala Lumpur Bursa Index) which has shown an interesting jump. This shows that the fundamentals of our economy is becoming more sound and the technical factor is strongly supported with this strong fundamental.*

Discussion in example 13 is about how the situation in the world (with reference to economic situation) and the government's ability to face the new challenges resulted in optimistic view of the country's economic prospect (collocate categorised as the world and Malaysia - see table 6).

Category : World and Malaysia
P9: Example 13
Keadaan dunia pada masa ini dan kebolehan kita menghadapi cabaran baru memberi kita keyakinan untuk bersikap optimistik mengenai **prospek ekonomi** *Malaysia.*
The situation in the world now and our ability to face new challenges give us the confidence to behave optimistically about Malaysian **economic prospect**.

COLLOCATE *KEKUKUHAN* (STABILITY) IN P9 (1995-1999)

Example 14 showed that the economic situation in Malaysia is not only established, but also stable as shown in the consistent economic growth for eight consecutive years.

Category: Economic situation in Malaysia
P9: Example 14
Tuan Yang di-Pertua, bukti kemantapan dan **kekukuhan ekonomi** *negara terpapar dalam pertumbuhan ekonomi secara konsisten selama lapan tahun berturut-turut dan dijangka prestasi ini akan terus meningkat di tahun-tahun akan datang.*
Mr Speaker, evidence about the country's established and **stable economy** is shown in the economic growth which has been consistent for eight consecutive years and it is expected that this performance will congtinue to rise in future years.

NEGATIVE PROSODY

Table 7 shows the negative prosody of noun collocate list of *ekonomi* in Parliament 6, Parliament 8 and Parliament 9. Three collocates were found in Parliament 6 and 9, which are *kemelesetan* (recession), *kemerosotan* (decline) and *kelembapan* (sluggish) but not in Parliament 8. The collocates are identified as negative semantic prosody based on discourse analysis of the parliament data (discourse), in which the collocates were analysed in context. Collocates which are similar were not found in Parliament 6 and 8, nor Parliament 8 and 9.

TABLE 7. the negative prosody of noun collocates of the word '*ekonomi*'

No	Parliament 6	Parliament 8	Parliament 9
1	PEMINGGIRAN	SEKATAN	KUNCUPAN
2	MAFIA	KEKURANGAN	KEGAWATAN
3	**KEMELESETAN**	KEMISKINAN	**KEMELESETAN**
4	MELESET		CORPSE
5	**KEMEROSOTAN**		KEMELUT
6	**KELEMBAPAN**		**KELEMBAPAN**
7	SERAMPANG		OVERHEATING
8	BARA		KRISIS
9	KEMUNDURAN		BAHANG
10	KETIDAKSEIMBANGAN		**KEMEROSOTAN**
11	PERGANTUNGAN		KETIDAKTENTUAN
12	MENENTU		PUTARAN
13			MUSIBAH
14			KETIDAKPASTIAN
15			DISTORTION
16			PERGOLAKAN
17			KEKACAUAN
18			PUKULAN
19			KEJUTAN

As shown in Table 7, the M1 score for collocates *kemelesetan* (recession) and *kemerosotan* (decline) is higher in parliament 6, which is at 9.344 and 8.546, than parliament 9. The MI score for collocate *kelembapan* (sluggish) is higher in parliament 9 (8.748) than in parliament 6 (8.158). Since the MI score for collocates *kemelesetan* (recession) and *kemerosotan* (decline) is higher in parliament 6, the frequency of occurrence is also higher (*kemelesetan* – 977 and *kemerosotan* – 186). The frequency of occurrence for the collocate *kelembapan* (sluggish) is 49.

The Asian financial crisis happened during parliament 6, which was in the 1980s. The Malaysian stock market crashed and the country's currency value in Ringgit plummeted. Therefore, the economic situation in Malaysia and the world was frequently discussed in the parliament.

TABLE 8. Negative semantic prosody (P6 and P9) with regards to MI score, frequency of occurrence and total number of texts

No	Collocates	MI score (P6)	MI score (P9)	Frequency (P6)	Frequency (P9)	Total no of texts (P6)	Total no of Texts (P9)
1	kemelesetan (*recession*)	**9.344**	9.161	**977**	143	205	89
2	kemerosotan (*decline*)	**8.546**	8.113	**186**	101	95	61
3	kelembapan (*sluggish*)	8.158	**8.748**	24	**49**	17	30

Manual concordance analysis and discourse analysis was conducted to categorize the noun collocates into its respective category. Table 9 illustrates the categories.

TABLE 9. Category of noun collocates

Noun collacates	Categories
kemelesetan (*recession*) kemerosotan(*decline*) kelembapan (*sluggish*)	• Economic situation in Malaysia • Effect of Asian economic crisis on Malaysian economy • Economic situation in other countries • Government's effort to handle sluggish economy in Malaysia

What emerges from manual concordance and discourse analysis is that the collocates are about the economic situation in Malaysia, the effect of Asian economic crisis on the commodity and economy in Malaysia, the economic situation in other countries in the world and the effect of global economic crisis on Malaysia. Examples for the collocate *kemelesetan* (recession) and *kemerosotan* (decline) are extracted from parliament 6 only, since the MI score and frequency of occurrence for the collocates are higher in Parliament 6. While examples for the collocate *kelembapan* (sluggish) is extracted from parliament 9, because the M1 score and frequency of occurrence for kelembapan is higher in Parliament 9 than in Parliament 6.

COLLOCATE *KEMELESETAN* (RECESSION) IN P6 (1982-1986)

The discourse in example 14 showed a question was raised by an MP on whether the government plan to review some of the projects by HICOM (a government funded agency) in view of the current declining economy in the country and most probably declining economy in the next few years. It is obvious that he is referring to the unfavourable economic situation in the country.

Economic situation in Malaysia
P6: Example 15
kemelesetan (decline)
Saya ingin bertanya kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri berkenaan bahawa memandangkan ***kemelesetan ekonomi*** *yang sedang dialami oleh negara kita dan mungkin akan dialami buat beberapa tahun lagi, adakah Kerajaan bercadang untuk mengkaji semula setengah-setengah daripada projek HICOM ini…*
I would like to ask the Honourable Minister in view of the **economic recession** situation faced by our country currently and probably for the next few years, on whether the government intend to review some of the projects by HICOM…

COLLOCATE *KEMEROSOTAN* (DECLINE) IN P6 (1982-1986)

The discourse in example 16 showed that the country's declining economy and effect on the prices of agricultural products such as coconut and cocoa is due to the development in the Asian market.

1982-1986
P6: Example 16
Effect of Asian economic crisis in Malaysia
Saya sedar di atas ***kemerosotan ekonomi*** *negara dan harga hasil-hasil pertanian seperti kelapa dan koko-yang disebabkan oleh perkembangan-perkembangan di pasaran luar negeri, iaitu Asia.*
I am aware that the **economic decline** and the prices of agricultural products such as coconut and coco due to the development of overseas market, which is Asia.
Example 17 clearly showed a comment by an MP on the state of sluggish economy due to the world economic crisis in America, EU, Latin America, Russia and China.

kelembapan (sluggish) in P9 (1995-1999).
1995-1999
P9: Example 17
Economic situation in other countries in the world

Umpamanya, sekarang kita dapati berlaku **kelembapan** *ekonomi di Amerika Syarikat, EU, Latin Amerika, Russia dan China. Adakah kemungkinan China akan menurunkan nilai mata wangnya? Begitu juga dengan ekonomi global keseluruhannya, mengikut perangkaan WTO, dagangan dunia pada tahun 1998 jangkaan awal akan meningkat 7% sekarang dijangka meningkat kepada 4% dan pada tahun 1999 kepada 3%.*

For example, we now find that the U.S, EU, Latin America, Russia and China is experiencing **sluggish economy**. Is it possible that China will reduce its currency value? In general, based on WTO's prediction, the world's trade in 1998 which is predicted to increase to 7%, is now predicted to increase to 4% and in 1999, to 3%.

Example 18 illustrated the government's effort to handle the sluggish economy in the country by obtaining loan from various sources in the country and other international financial sector such as the World Bank, Asian Development bank, Islamic development ban, loan from Japan and loan from international trade.

P9: Example 18
Government's effort to handle sluggish economy in malaysia
Namun perbelanjaan tambahan tersebut perlu sebagai langkah untuk menangani **kelembapan ekonomi**. *Untuk menampung defisit kerajaan akan memperolehi pembiayaan dari pelbagai sumber dalam negeri dan melalui institusi kewangan antarabangsa termasuk Bank Dunia, Bank Pembangunan Asia, Bank Pembangunan Islam dan pinjaman daripada negara Jepun serta pinjaman pasaran antarabangsa.*
However, the extra spending is necessary as a measure to deal with the **sluggish economy**. In order to support the deficit, the government will obtain loan from various sources in the country and through international financial sector including the world bank, Asian Development bank, Islamic development bank and loan from Japan, and loan from international trade.

DISCUSSION

The collocate analysis of *ekonomi* (economy) in parliament 6, 8 and 9 has shown that noun collocate frequently occurred in the three parliaments. Frequency of occurrence for noun-verb collocate was highest in parliament 9, while the frequency for noun-adjective collocate was highest in parliament 6. The trends and discussion for collocation analysis, be it noun-collocate, noun-verb collocate or noun-adjective collocate is associated with the economic situation in Malaysia and the world.

Parliament 6 which was from 1982-1985, coincided with the Asian economic crisis, hence, the lexical category for noun-collocate *ekonomi* (economy) reflected the unfavourable economic situation in Malaysia. After the 1985–1986 property market depression, market growth returned in the mid-1990s. Therefore, in parliament 8 (1990-1994), the lexical category for noun-collocate are associated with the government's plan, policy and effort in maintaining economic stability in Malaysia. Malaysia accomplished a transition from a primary product-dependent economy to a manufacturing industry in the 1990s (Hays, 2015). Despite the encouraging economic situation, it is interesting to note that there is a decline in frequency of occurrence of the lexical *ekonomi* (economy) in Parliament 8. The reason could be that the citizens are contented and satisfied with the improved economic situation.

Unfortunately, Malaysia was again hit by the global economic crisis during parliament 9 (1997-1999). The situation affected Malaysia's assembly line-based economy badly. Therefore, noun-collocate for *ekonomi* (economy) was frequently associated with

slow, unstable and unfavourable economy in Malaysia, in parliament 9. In fact, the economy shrunk by 6% in 1998 (Hays, 2015).

The semantic prosody analysis for positive and negative semantic prosody demonstrated close relation with the findings for collocate analysis. The results showed that the trend on the representations around the word *ekonomi* (economy) is reflected in the economic situation in Malaysia and is also affected by the world economic situation, and crisis. The categories based on concordance analysis and discourse analysis are government's policy and plan to handle the sluggish economy in Malaysia and to revive the economy, the effect of Asian economic crisis on economy in Malaysia and the effect of the world's economic crisis on Malaysia. The results showed that the word *ekonomi* (economy) was used by the MPs as a result of their reaction to internal situations in the country and external situations (the world). This is similar to the findings reported in a study by Greene and Cross (2017) about the political agenda of the European parliament plenary. The quantitative analysis has revealed some dominant collocates for *ekonomi*, while the qualitative analysis on positive and negative semantic prosody has shown how MPs act politically by enacting their evaluative stance. The discourse analysis demonstrated that the MPs expressed their views, positively or negatively and questioned the government's plan, policies with regards to the economic situation.

The results also established and support the fact that binary conceptualisations are very common in political discourse. The government is frequently praised for the effort, plans and actions taken to handle the decline and sluggish economic conditions in Malaysia. Any unfavourable economic situations in the country are attributed to the global or world economic crisis. This shows that the discourse clearly takes the the form of polarisation between a legitimised insider group ('us') and a delegitimised outsider group ('them'), as proposed by van Djik (1997). The choices made on the semantic, syntactic and lexical level of language enabled the political actor to achieve positive 'self' or 'us' presentation and negative 'other' or 'them'-presentation (van Djik, 1997).

CONCLUSION

The corpus linguistics approach employed in the present study has enabled us to chart the trend on the debates and discussion of *ekonomi* (economy), which made us decided to focus on the peak and decline points of the trend. The Asian economic crisis and the global economic crisis which happened during Parliaments 6 and 9 clearly depicted collocates for *ekonomi* (economy) with negative semantic prosody. Linguistic choices actually play a role in establishing a common view of the world and lead to shared views of the social, economic and global phenomena. Bayley (2004, in Bevitori, 2018) echoes similar view in which he states that parliamentary discourse are intertextually and contratextually woven because MPs' discourses refer to what was said in the parliament and discourses outside parliament. To achieve their political agenda, the MPs' choices of words assist them in activities such as endorsing or contesting a bill and justifying or legitimising a course of action (Bevitori, 2018).

This study has contributed to the past and growing number of studies on Hansard data, specifically the MHC. The present study has also shown that parliamentary corpora is a multidisciplinary language resource because the findings in the present study correlates with exogenous economic events, such as the Asian financial crisis and the global economic crisis. There are plenty of possibilities for research using Hansard corpus as this study has shown. Suggestions for future research includes comparing Hansard data from other ASEAN or Asian countries with MHC, focussing on the word economy or other lexical, or any aspects in the Hansard data. Since parliamentary discourse is accompanied and controlled by language,

it is vital to understand the debate and discussion which took place in the parliament and how they represent the people's interests.

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