



# A Comparative Analysis of Go on with and Carry on with in Three Corpora

Namkil Kang  
Far East University  
South Korea

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The main goal of this paper is to provide a frequency analysis of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the COHA, HC, and COCA. A major point to note is that *Go on with* has been preferred over *Carry on with* by Americans and British politicians. A further point to note is that the type *Go on with* reached a peak in 1930. This in turn suggests that *Go on with* was the most preferred one for Americans. It should be noted, on the other hand, that *Carry on with* had the highest frequency in 1940. This in turn shows that this type was the most preferred one for Americans. When it comes to the HC, it is interesting to point out that *Go on with* has been favored over *Carry on with* in the British parliament. More interestingly, *Go on with* reached a peak in 1880. This in turn implies that it was the most preferred one for British politicians. On the other hand, *Carry on with* reached a peak in 1960 (455 tokens), which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred one for British politicians. The COCA clearly shows that the expression *Go on life* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Go on with business*, and *Go on with things*. The COCA clearly indicates, on the other hand, that the expression *Carry on with business* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Carry on with life*, and *Carry on with vigor*, in descending order. Finally, it is significant to note that only four nouns (*business*, *life*, *vigor*, and *things*) are the collocations of both *Go on with* and *Carry on with*, but the other nouns are not those of both *Go on with* and *Carry on with*. This in turn indicates that *Go on with* and *Carry on with* are low similarity synonyms.

**Keywords:** corpus, COCA, HC, COHA, type, token, go on with, carry on with

## I. INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of this paper is to provide a frequency analysis of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the Corpus of Historical American English, the Hansard Corpus, and the Corpus of Contemporary American English. As Murphy (2016,

2019) points out, *Go on with* and *Carry on with* are synonymously used. In this paper, we aim to consider which type is the preferable one for Americans. In the COHA, we consider the frequency of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* and compare them. Especially, we try to analyze the tendency of the use of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* from 1820 and 2010. On the other hand, we consider which type is the preferable one for British politicians from 1800 to 2000. We also try to analyze the tendency of the use of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* for two hundred years. Additionally, we examine the collocations of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the COCA. We look into similarities between *Go on with* and *Carry on with*. By using the software NetMiner, we observe how much they are related to each other. The organization of this paper is as follows. In section 2, we show that *Go on with* has been preferred over *Carry on with* by Americans. More importantly, the type *Go on with* had the lowest frequency (19 tokens) in 1820, which indicates that it was the least preferred one in all periods. On the other hand, the type *Go on with* reached a peak in 1930, which suggests that it was the most preferred one. *Carry on with* had no frequency in 1850, which in turn indicates that this type was the least preferred one. It is worthwhile noting that *Carry on with* reached a peak in 1940. This in turn shows that this type was the most preferred one for Americans. In section 3, we argue that *Go on with* has been favored over *Carry on with* in the British parliament. More interestingly, *Go on with* reached a peak in 1880, whereas *Carry on with* reached a peak in 1960 (455 tokens), which in turn suggests that they were the most preferred ones for British politicians. In section 4, we argue that the expression *Go on life* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Go on with business*, and *Go on with things*. We further argue that the expression *Carry on with business* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Carry on with life*, and *Carry on with vigor*. Finally, we



show that only four nouns (*business, life, vigor, and things*) are linked to both *Go on with* and *Carry on with*, but the other nouns are not linked to them. This in turn implies that *Go on with* and *Carry on with* are low similarity synonyms.

## II. THE FREQUENCY OF GO ON WITH AND CARRY ON WITH IN THE COHA

In what follows, we aim to consider the tendency of the use of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* from 1820 and 2010. Table 1 shows the frequency of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the COHA.

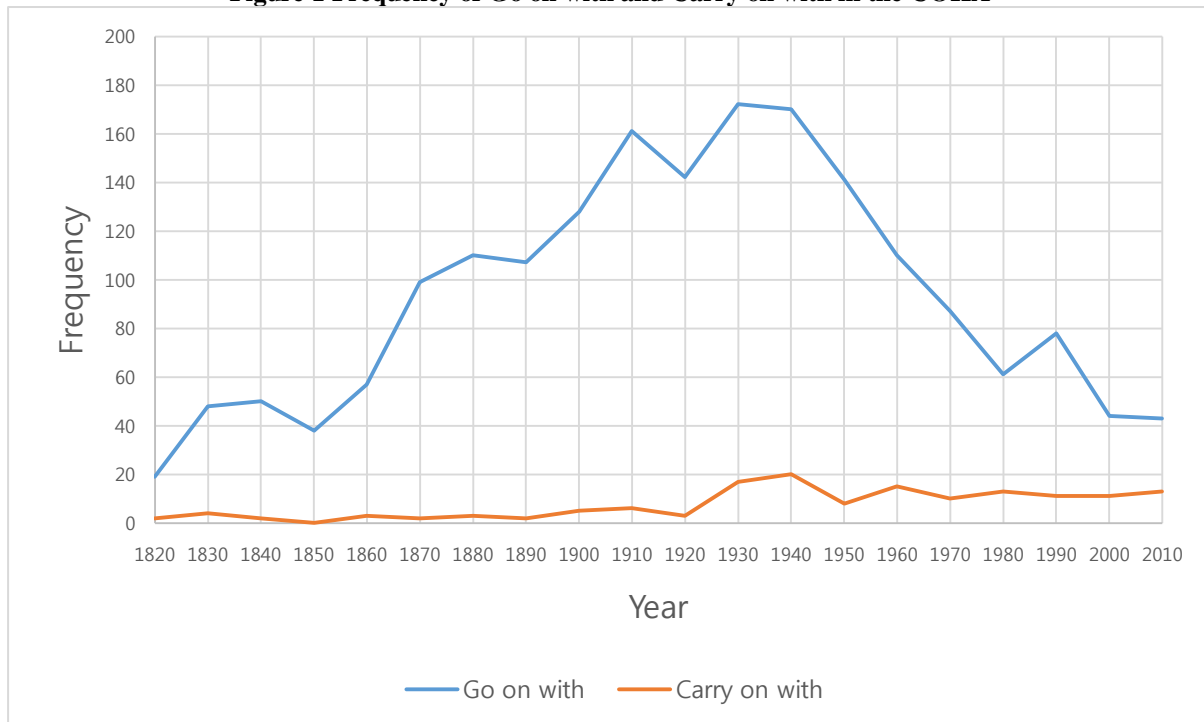
Table 1 Frequency of Go on with and Carry on with in the COHA

Year	Frequency of Go on with	Frequency of Carry on with
1820	19	2
1830	48	4
1840	50	2
1850	38	0
1860	57	3
1870	99	2
1880	110	3
1890	107	2
1900	128	5
1910	161	6
1920	142	3
1930	172	17
1940	170	20
1950	141	8
1960	110	15
1970	87	10
1980	61	13
1990	78	11
2000	44	11
2010	43	13
All	1,865	150
Average	93.25	7.50
Standard deviation	47.79	5.86

Table 1 clearly indicates that *Go on with* has been frequently used by Americans. The overall frequency of *Go on with* is 1,865 tokens, whereas that of *Carry on with* is 150 tokens. That is to say, the frequency of *Go on with* is twelve times higher than that of *Carry on with*. This in turn suggests that *Go on with* has been preferred over *Carry on with* by Americans. The following graph shows the tendency of the frequency of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* from 1820 to 2010.



Figure 1 Frequency of Go on with and Carry on with in the COHA



Interestingly, there was a steady increase in the frequency of *Go on with* from 1820 to 1840. More specifically, there was an increase of 31 tokens from 1820 to 1840. After this period, there was a sudden fall of 12 tokens and then there was a gradual rise in the frequency of *Go on with* from 1850 to 1880. After 1880, there was a sudden decline in the frequency of *Go on with* (a fall of three tokens). After this period, there was a sudden rise in the frequency and then there was a slight decline in the frequency. In 1920, there was a sudden fall of 19 tokens. After 1930, there was a steady decline in the frequency of *Go on with* from 1930 to 1980 (a gradual fall of 111 tokens). After this period, there was a slight rise in the frequency of *Go on with*. More specifically, there was an increase of 17 tokens in 1980. After 1990, there was a steady decrease in the frequency of *Go on with*. It is important to note that *Go on with* had the lowest frequency (19 tokens) in 1820. This in turn indicates that it was the least preferred one in all periods. It is worth pointing out that *Go on with* reached a peak in 1930. This in turn suggests that it was the most preferred one for Americans.

Now attention is paid to the tendency of the use of *Carry on with* in the COCA. It is important to note that the frequency of *Carry on with* from 1820 to 1920 was less than 10 tokens. This in turn implies that Americans did not like using *Carry on with* for

one hundred years. After 1920, there was a sudden rise in the frequency of *Carry on with*. There was an increase of 17 tokens from 1920 to 1940. After this period, there were slight fluctuations in the frequency of *Carry on with* from 1950 to 2010. It is significant to note that *Carry on with* had no frequency in 1850. This in turn suggests that this type was the least preferred one in all periods. It is worthwhile noting, on the other hand, that *Carry on with* reached a peak in 1940. This in turn shows that this type was the most preferred one for Americans.

Most importantly, the average of the frequency of *Go on with* is 93.25, whereas that of the frequency of *Carry on with* is 7.5. This in turn suggests that the type *Go on with* was preferable to the type *Carry on with*. Interestingly, the standard deviation (SD) of *Go on with* is 47.7877, which indicates that the frequency of *Go on with* is roughly larger than  $93.25 - 47.7877$  and smaller than  $93.25 + 47.7877$ . On the other hand, the SD of *Carry on with* is 5.8634, which indicates that the frequency of *Carry on with* is roughly larger than  $7.5 - 5.8624$  and smaller than  $7.5 + 5.8624$ .



### III. A FREQUENCY ANALYSIS OF GO ON WITH AND CARRY ON WITH IN THE HC

In what follows, we aim to provide a frequency

analysis of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the HC. Table 2 shows the frequency of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the HC:

Table 2 Frequency of Go on with and Carry on with in the HC

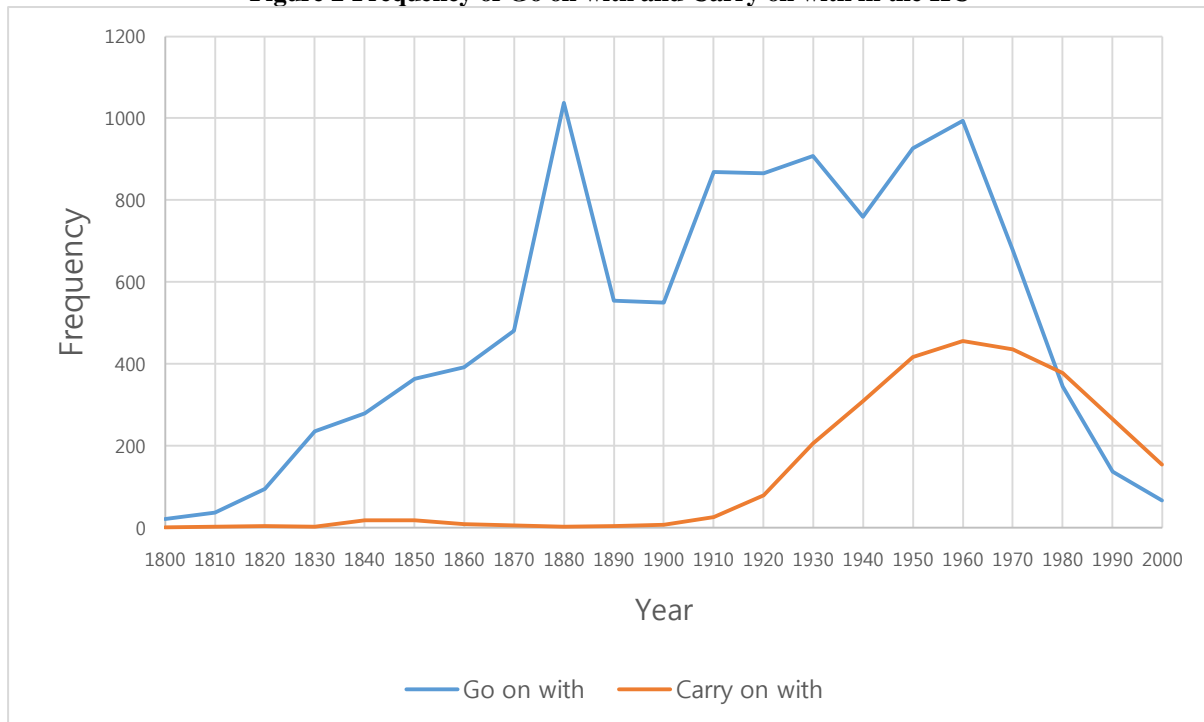
Year	Frequency of Go on with	Frequency of Carry on with
1800	21	0
1810	36	2
1820	94	3
1830	235	2
1840	279	17
1850	364	17
1860	392	8
1870	481	5
1880	1037	2
1890	554	3
1900	549	7
1910	868	26
1920	865	79
1930	908	206
1940	759	309
1950	926	416
1960	994	455
1970	677	435
1980	345	377
1990	136	265
2000	66	154
All	10,586	2,788
Average	504.10	132.76
Standard deviation	343.25	170.41

Table 2 clearly shows that *Go on with* is frequently used by British politicians. More specifically, the overall frequency of *Go on with* is 10,586 tokens, whereas that of *Carry on with* is 2,788 tokens. This in turn indicates that *Go on with*

has been preferred over *Carry on with* by British politicians. The following graph shows the tendency of the use of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* for two hundred years.



Figure 2 Frequency of Go on with and Carry on with in the HC



More interestingly, the type *Go on with* has been mostly preferable to the type *Carry on with*. It should be noted, however, that *Carry on with* was preferred over *Go on with* by British politicians from 1980 to 2000. Interestingly, there was a gradual rise in the frequency of *Go on with* from 1800 to 1870. There was an increase of 460 tokens from 1800 to 1870. This in turn indicates that British politicians came to prefer *Go on with*, as compared with *Carry on with*. When it comes to *Carry on with*, its frequency is less than 20 tokens, which indicates that *Carry on with* was not the preferable one for British politicians. It is worth mentioning that there was a dramatic increase in the frequency of *Go on with* in 1880. This may imply that British politicians were fond of using *Go on with*. After 1890, there were slight fluctuations in the frequency of *Go on with*. More specifically, there was a sudden decline and rise in the frequency of *Go on with* from 1890 to 1930. Interestingly, there was a gradual increase in the frequency of *Go on with* from 1940 to 1960. More specifically, there was a rise of 235 tokens from 1940 to 1960. It should be noted, however, that the frequency of *Go on with* was less than 1,000 tokens. It is worthwhile pointing out that there was a dramatic decrease in the frequency of *Go on with* from 1970 to 2000. There was a decline of 611 tokens in that period. It is interesting to point out that *Go on with* had the lowest frequency in 1800

(21 tokens). This in turn indicates that it was the least preferred one in all periods. It is worth noting, on the other hand, that *Go on with* reached a peak in 1880. This in turn implies that it was the most preferred one for British politicians.

Now attention is paid to the use of *Carry on with* in the British Parliament. Interestingly, the frequency of *Carry on with* was less than 10 tokens from 1800 to 1830, which indicates that British politicians did not prefer *Carry on with* in that period. After that period, there was a slight rise in the frequency of *Carry on with* from 1840 to 1850. More interestingly, the frequency of *Carry on with* was less than 10 tokens from 1860 to 1900 again, which implies that British politicians did not use it. The reason why this took place may be that British politicians preferred using *Go on with* to using *Carry on with*. When it comes to the frequency of *Go on with* from 1860 to 1900, it was more than 300 tokens. It can thus be inferred that *Go on with* was preferred over *Carry on with* by British politicians. After 1900, there was a dramatic increase in the frequency of *Carry on with*. There was an increase of 423 tokens from 1900 to 1960. After that period, there was a steady decrease in the frequency of *Carry on with*. It is important to point out that *Carry on with* was preferred over *Go on with* by British politicians from 1980 to 2000. This stems from the fact that the frequency of *Carry on with* is higher



than that of *Carry on with* in that period. A major point to note is that *Carry on with* had no frequency in 1800, which in turn indicates that *Carry on with* was the least preferred one in all periods. A further point to note is that *Carry on with* reached a peak in 1960 (455 tokens), which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred one for British politicians.

The average of the frequency of *Go on with* is 504.10, whereas that of the frequency of *Carry on with* is 132.76. This in turn indicates that *Go on with* was preferred over *Carry on with* by British politicians. The standard deviation (SD) of *Go on with* is 343.25, which indicates that the frequency of *Go on with* is roughly larger than 504-343.25 and smaller than 504+343.25. On the other hand, the SD

of *Carry on with* is 170.41, which indicates that the frequency of *Carry on with* is roughly larger than 132.76-170.41 and smaller than 132.76+170.41.

#### IV. A COLLOCATION ANALYSIS OF GO ON WITH AND CARRY ON WITH IN THE COCA

In this section, we provide a comparative analysis of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the COCA. We aim to consider the collocations of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* and observe similarities between them in terms of the software NetMiner. Table 3 shows the collocation of *Go on with* in the COCA:

Table 3 Collocation of Go on with in the COCA

Number	Collocation of Go on with	Frequency
1	Go on with life	49
2	Go on with business	9
3	Go on with things	3
4	Go on with surgery	2
5	Go on with idolatries	2
6	Go on with zeal	2
7	Go on with work	1
8	Go on with violence	1
9	Go on with vigor	1
10	Go on with taxpayer	1
11	Go on with annexation	1
12	Go on with ace	1
13	Go on with it	1
14	Go on with instances	1
15	Go on with information	1
16	Go on with impunity	1
17	Go on with history	1
18	Go on with health-care	1
19	Go on with government	1
20	Go on with expansion	1
21	Go on with education	1
22	Go on with ease	1
23	Go on with dynamite	1
24	Go on with day	1
25	Go on with courage	1

Table 3 clearly indicates that *Go on life* is the most frequently used. This in turn implies that *Go on life* is the most preferred one for Americans. As alluded to in Table 3, the expression *Go on life* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Go on with business*, *Go on with things*, and *Go on with surgery*. It is interesting to point out that *Go on with business* is the second most preferred one in America. It is significant to note, on the other hand,

that *Go on things* is the third most preferred one in America. More interestingly, the everyday expression *Go on with work* is the seventh most preferred one in America. It is worth pointing out that the expression *Go on with it* ranks thirteenth in the COCA. We thus conclude that the expression *Go on with life* is the most preferred one for Americans. Now let us turn to the visualization of the collocation of *go on with* in the top twenty five:





Figure 3 Visualization of the collocation of Go on with in the COCA



As exemplified in Figure 3, twenty five nouns are linked to the type *Go on with*. These nouns are the collocations of *Go on with* in the COCA. Most importantly, the noun *life* is the most preferable one among Americans along with *Go on with*. It is noteworthy, on the other hand, that the noun

*business* is the second most preferred one in America along with *Go on with*. Finally, the noun *things* is the third most preferred one in America with *Go on with*. Now let us turn our attention to the collocation of *Carry on with*. We aim to consider the collocation of *Carry on with* in the top twenty four:

Table 4 Collocation of Carry on with in the COCA

Number	Collocation of Go on with	Frequency
1	Carry on with business	5
2	Carry on with life	4
3	Carry on with vigor	2
4	Carry on with what	1
5	Carry on with things	1
6	Carry on with talk	1
7	Carry on with strikes	1
8	Carry on with sporting	1
9	Carry on with sorrow	1
10	Carry on with polices	1
11	Carry on with payouts	1
12	Carry on with nymphets	1
13	Carry on with nary	1
14	Carry on with members	1
15	Carry on with me	1
16	Carry on with living	1



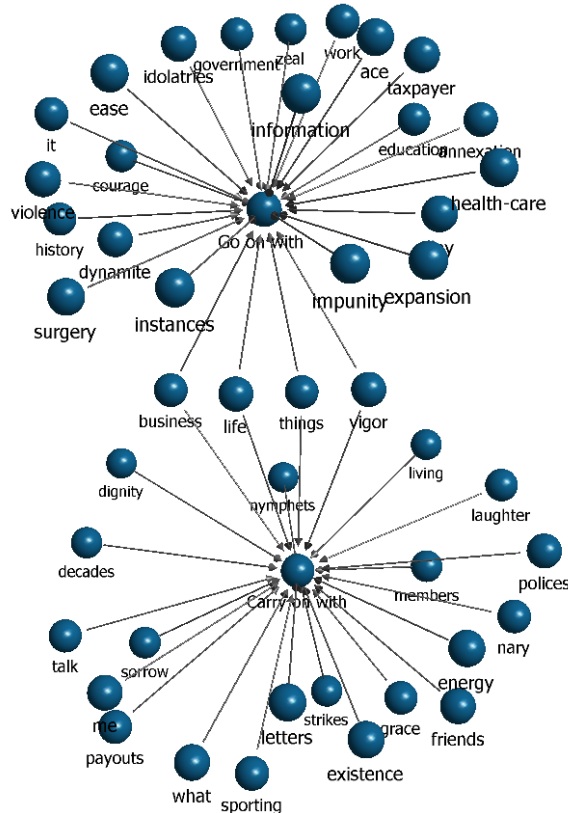
17	Carry on with letters	1
18	Carry on with laughter	1
19	Carry on with grace	1
20	Carry on with friends	1
21	Carry on with existence	1
22	Carry on with energy	1
23	Carry on with dignity	1
24	Carry on with decades	1

Table 4 clearly shows that the expression *Carry on with business* is the most frequently used in America. This in turn suggests that the collocation *Carry on business* is the most preferred one for Americans. As illustrated in Table 4, the expression *Carry on with business* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Carry on with life*, and *Carry on with vigor*. It is interesting to point out that *Carry on with business* is the most preferable one among Americans, whereas *Go on with business* is the second most preferred one. It is significant to note that the expression *Carry on with life* is the second most preferred one in America, whereas the

expression *Go on with life* is the most preferred by Americans. Interestingly, *Carry on with vigor* is the third most preferred one in America, whereas *Go on with vigor* is the ninth most preferred one. Finally, *Carry on with things* is the fourth most preferred one in America, whereas *Go on with things* is the third most preferred one. We thus conclude that the expression *Carry on with business* is the most preferred one for Americans.

Now we visualize the collocations of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in terms of the software NetMiner. This 3-D visualization of the collocations of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* was performed by it.

Figure 4 Visualization of the collocations of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the COCA







Forty six nouns are linked to *Go on with* and *Carry on with*, respectively. They have a collocation relationship with *Go on with* and *Carry on with*. It is important to note that only four nouns are linked to both *Go on with* and *Carry on with*, which indicates that only they are the collocations of *Go on with* and *Carry on with*. The four nouns are *business*, *life*, *vigor*, and *things*. The frequency of *Go on business* is 9 tokens, which ranks second in the COCA, whereas that of *Carry on business* is 5 tokens, which ranks first. On the other hand, *Go on with life* ranks first (49 tokens) in the COCA, whereas *Carry on with life* ranks second (4 tokens). It should be noted, however, that many nouns are not linked to both *Go on with* and *Carry on with*. This in turn implies that *Go on with* and *Carry on with* are low similarity synonyms.

## V. CONCLUSION

To sum up, we have provided a frequency analysis of *Go on with* and *Carry on with* in the COHA, HC, and COCA. In section 2, we have shown that *Go on with* has been preferred over *Carry on with* by Americans. More importantly, *Go on with* had the lowest frequency (19 tokens) in 1820. This indicates that it was the least preferred one in all periods. On the other hand, *Go on with* reached a peak in 1930. This in turn suggests that it was the most preferred one Americans. It is significant to note that *Carry on with* had no frequency in 1850. This in turn indicates that this type was the least preferred one in all periods. It is worthwhile noting, on the other hand, that *Carry on with* reached a peak in 1940. This in turn shows that this type was the most preferred one for Americans. In section 3, we have argued that *Go on with* has been favored over *Carry on with* in the British parliament. It is worth noting that *Go on with* reached a peak in 1880. This in turn shows that it was the most preferred one for British politicians. On the other hand, *Carry on with* reached a peak in 1960 (455 tokens), which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred one for British politicians. In section 4, we have argued that *Go on life* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Go on with business*, and *Go on with things*. We have further argued that the expression *Carry on with business* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *Carry on with life*, and *Carry on with vigor*. Finally, we have shown that only four nouns (*business*, *life*, *vigor*, and *things*) are the collocations of both *Go on with* and *Carry on with*, but the other nouns are not. This in turn indicates that *Go on with* and *Carry on with* are low similarity synonyms.

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