



University of Salahaddin



College of Education

Department of English

Scientific Affairs

Research Plan Form

Research Title: **A Corpus-Based Analysis of Frequency effects in English Pluralization**

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The abstract of the research:

Frequency effects have been taken as evidence for storage in favour of the dual mechanism approach where only irregular forms are stored in the associative memory while regular forms are generated by rules. Thus, this approach predicts that irregular and regular forms are processed by different mechanisms (storage for irregulars and rules for regulars). Nevertheless, single mechanism approaches do not agree with this fundamental separation between irregular and regular forms. These single mechanism approaches assert that both irregular and regular forms are produced via a single mechanism (either rules by generative approaches or storage by connectionism). With the aim of testing these anticipations in this research, we will explore whether there is a link between (ir)regularity and word frequency in the English Nominal System. A Corpus-based analysis of Contemporary American English conducted to check whether irregular nouns are generally more frequent than regular ones. Consequently, a comparison between nouns with the highest word frequency and ones with the lowest word frequency is drawn using descriptive and statistical analyses.

Keywords: frequency, associative memory, single and dual mechanism approaches, Contemporary American English

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