Using Corpora to Obtain Social and Cultural Information: A Case Study of America

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Abstract. The subject of the present article has been triggered by the recent rush to apply corpora to a variety of researches. Huge electronic texts are employed to obtain not only data for linguistic investigations, but their application has been extended to other branches of science as well. The present analysis of the proper noun America is an attempt to use abundant linguistic data to determine social and cultural factors related to this particular geographical name. It also aims at distinguishing the attitudinal meaning of America. The research is based on the collocations of the word under analysis derived from the Lithuanian press that is a constituent part of the Lithuanian corpus.