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**Namkil Kang**  
 Far East University,  
 South Korea

## A frequency analysis of *i like to* and *i like-ing*

**Namkil Kang**

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### Abstract

The ultimate goal of this paper is to provide an in-depth analysis of the frequency of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the COCA, BNC, and COHA. The COCA clearly indicates that the type *I like to* was preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans. More specifically, Table 1 clearly shows that in the TV/movie genre, *I like to* and *I like -ing* were the most preferred by Americans. On the other hand, the BNC clearly indicates that *I like to* may have been preferred over *I like -ing* by British people. It is interesting to note that the type *I like to* was the most frequently used one in the fiction genre. This may imply that British writers are fond of writing a good thing to do in the fiction since what characters like to do makes stories interesting and thus encourages readers to finish reading the novel. Additionally, Table 2 clearly shows that the type *I like -ing* was the most frequently used one in the spoken genre. This may imply that *I like -ing* was the most preferable one for British people. When it comes to the COCA, it is noteworthy that the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *I like to call*, *I like to see*, *I like to keep*, *I like to say*, *I like to use*, *I like to go*, *I like to get*, and *I like to make*, in that order. On the other hand, the collocation *I like being* is the most commonly used one in America, followed by *I like having*, *I like doing*, *I like working*, *I like seeing*, *I like watching*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like talking*, and *I like getting*, in that order. In addition, the collocation *I like to think* is the most commonly used one in the UK, followed by *I like to see*, *I like to get*, *I like to go*, *I like to keep*, *I like to know*, *I like to hear*, *I like to make*, *I like to look*, and *I like to use*, in that order. On the other hand, the collocation *I like being* is the most preferred by British people, followed by *I like doing*, *I like watching*, *I like having*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like looking*, *I like driving*, and *I like using*, in that order. Finally, the COHA clearly shows that the type *I like to* was favored over type *I like -ing*. A major point to note with regard to the type *I like to* is that there was no frequency (0 token) in 1810. This in turn implies that *I like to* may have been the most undesired type. A further point to note is that the type *I like to* had the highest frequency (279 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred by Americans. It is noteworthy that there was no frequency (0 token) in the case of *I like -ing* in 1810, 1820, and 1830. This in turn indicates that it was the most undesired type. On the other hand, the frequency of *I like -ing* reached a peak (119 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferable type for Americans.

**Keywords:** COCA, BNC, COHA, *I like to*, *I like -ing*, type, token

### 1. Introduction

As pointed by Murphy (2016, 2019), there is sometimes a difference between *I like to do* and *I like doing*.

1. *I like doing something* = *I do it and I enjoy it*.
2. *I like cleaning the kitchen.* (=I enjoy it)
3. (Murphy 2019: 116)
4. *I like to do something* indicates that I choose to do it (but maybe I do not enjoy it).
5. It is not my favorite job, but I like to clean the kitchen as often as possible.
6. (Murphy 2019: 116)

The main goal of this paper is to provide a frequency analysis of the types *I like to* and *I like -ing* within the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English), BNC (British National Corpus), and COHA (Corpus of Historical American English). We aim to answer the following main questions: Which type is the preferable one in America and the UK? Which type is the most preferred by Americans and British people in eight genres and seven genres? What does the frequency of the types *I like to* and *I like -ing* stand for in the COHA? When were *I like to* and *I like -ing* the most frequently used in the COHA? What is the collocational characteristic of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the COCA and BNC? In this paper, we try to provide a frequency analysis of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in three corpora, answering the above questions.

**Corresponding Author:**  
**Namkil Kang**  
 Far East University,  
 South Korea

Especially, we try to show which verb is the most preferred by Americans and British people. Additionally, we try to show which gerund is the most frequently used in the COCA and BNC. The organization of this paper is as follows. In section 2.1, we argue that the type *I like to* was preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans. More specifically, Table 1 clearly indicates that in the TV/movie genre, the types *I like to* and *I like -ing* were the most preferred by Americans. In section 2.2, we maintain that the type *I like to* was the widely used one. This in turn indicates that *I like to* may have been preferred over *I like -ing* by British people. It is interesting to note that the type *I like to* was the most frequently used one in the fiction genre. This in turn implies that British writers are fond of writing a good thing to do in the fiction. On the other hand, Table 2 clearly shows that the type *I like -ing* was the most frequently used one in the spoken genre. This indicates that the type *I like -ing* was the most preferable one for British people. What this suggests is that British people are fond of saying what they like to do or a good thing to do in the spoken genre. In section 2.3, we argue that the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *I like to call*, *I like to see*, *I like to keep*, *I like to say*, *I like to use*, *I like to go*, *I like to get*, and *I like to make*, in that order. We further argue that the collocation *I like being* is the most commonly used one in America, followed by *I like having*, *I like doing*, *I like working*, *I like seeing*, *I like watching*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like talking*, and *I like getting*, in that order. In section 2.4, the collocation *I like to think* is the most

commonly used one in the UK, followed by *I like to see*, *I like to get*, *I like to go*, *I like to keep*, *I like to know*, *I like to hear*, *I like to make*, *I like to look*, and *I like to use*, in that order. On the other hand, the collocation *I like being* is the most preferred by British people, followed by *I like doing*, *I like watching*, *I like having*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like looking*, *I like driving*, and *I like using*, in that order. In section 2.5, we maintain that the type *I like to* was favored over type *I like -ing*. A major point to note with respect to the type *I like to* is that there was no frequency (0 token) in 1810, which in turn implies that it was the most undesired type. A further point to note is that the type *I like to* had the highest frequency (279 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred by Americans. In addition, it is noteworthy that there was no frequency in the case of *I like -ing* in 1810, 1820, and 1830. This in turn implies that it was the most undesired type. On the other hand, the frequency of *I like -ing* reached a peak (119 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred by Americans.

## 2. A Frequency Analysis of I like to and I like -ing

### 2.1 A Frequency Analysis of I like to and I like -ing in the COCA

In the following, we aim to provide a detailed analysis of the types *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the eight genres of the COCA (1995-2019). Table 1 shows the genre frequency of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the COCA:

**Table 1:** Frequency of I like to and I like -ing in the COCA

Type	All	Blog	Web	TV/M	Spoken	Fic	Mag	News	Acad
I like to	12,315	2,128	1,476	2,973	1,692	1,064	1,568	1,111	303
I like -ing	4,342	747	517	1,201	506	418	434	424	95

An important question that naturally arises is “which type was preferred by Americans?” Table 1 clearly indicates that the type *I like to* was preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans. More specifically, the overall frequency of *I like to* is 12,315 tokens, whereas that of *I like -ing* is 4,342 tokens. This in turn indicates that Americans prefer using *I like to* to using *I like -ing*. Note that I like to do something means that I think it is a good thing to do, but I do not necessarily enjoy it, whereas I like doing something means that I do it and I enjoy it. Thus, Americans tend to prefer a good thing to do even though they do not enjoy it. However, it is worth noting that *I like -ing* was not preferred over *I like to* by Americans. This implies that Americans did not necessarily enjoy something to do.

An important question is “in which genre was the type *I like to* the most frequently used one?” Table 1 clearly indicates that in the TV/movie genre, the type *I like to* was the most preferable one for Americans. More specifically, the type *I like to* has the highest frequency (2,973 tokens) and the highest proportion (24%) in the TV/movie genre. On the other hand, the type *I like to* has the lowest frequency (303 tokens) and the lowest proportion (2%) in the academic genre. Why does this take place in the TV/movie genre? We wish to argue that celebs tell TV/movie audience about what they like to do since TV/movie audience is very much interested in it. It is a good thing to do, but celebs do not necessarily enjoy it. The same applies to the movie genre. Characters often tend to say what they like to do. This interests movie audience and the audience becomes

interested in the movie. It is reasonable to assume that the type *I like to* was the most widely used one in the TV/movie genre since it carries the meaning of “it is a good thing to do”.

It is worthwhile noting that *I like -ing* ranks first in the TV/movie genre. Table 1 clearly shows that the type *I like -ing* was the most frequently used one in the TV/movie genre. This in turn suggests that the type *I like -ing* was the most preferred by Americans in the TV/movie genre. More specifically, the frequency of the type *I like -ing* in the TV/movie genre is 1,201 tokens. Why was the type *I like -ing* the most preferred by Americans in the TV/movie genre? We wish to argue that TV audience is very much interested in what celebs enjoy. What they enjoy interests TV audience and encourages TV audience to do the same thing. That is to say, TV audience shares the same feelings with celebs. Similarly, movie audience is very much interested in movie stars. By sharing what celebs enjoy with them, they are satisfied with their life. Note, however, that the type *I like to* was preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans. Why did this take place? We wish to argue that Americans prefer saying what they like to to saying what they enjoy. This indicates that Americans prefer a good thing to do even though they do not necessarily enjoy it.

It is worth pointing out that the types *I like to* and *I like -ing* rank second in the blog genre. A blog is a shared online journal where bloggers write something about their personal experiences or hobbies. As alluded to in Table 1, in the blog genre, the type *I like to* was the most widely used one after

the TV/movie genre. Why did this happen? We wish to argue that bloggers tend to write something about what they like to do even though they do not necessarily enjoy it. Bloggers share what they like to do with people. Similarly, the type *I like -ing* was the most commonly used one in the blog genre after the TV/movie genre. Why did this take place? We wish to argue that bloggers tend to write what they enjoy and share it with people. A blog is an online journal where bloggers write what they like to do or what they enjoy. Note, however, that the type *I like to* was preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans. This in turn indicates that the type *I like to* is the preferable one for Americans in the blog genre and that Americans prefer what they like to do even though they do not necessarily enjoy it. It is interesting to note that the type *I like to* ranks third in the spoken genre, whereas the type *I like -ing* ranks third in the web genre. More specifically, the frequency of the type *I like to* in the spoken genre is 1,692 tokens. On the other hand, the frequency of the type *I like -ing* is 517 tokens. Why does the type *I like to* rank third in the spoken genre? We wish to argue that people like saying what they like to do even though they do not enjoy it. This is the beginning of daily conversation. By telling other people about what they like to do, their talk starts and becomes more interesting. It is noteworthy that the type *I like -ing* was not so frequently used one as *I like to* in the spoken genre. Why did this take place? This may have happened since Americans preferred saying what they like to do to saying what they enjoy. It is interesting to note that the type *I like to* ranks fourth in the magazine genre, whereas the type *I like -ing* ranks fifth

in the magazine genre. More specifically, the frequency of *I like to* in the magazine genre is 1,568 tokens, whereas that of *I like -ing* is 434 tokens. Why was the type *I like to* the preferable type for Americans? We wish to argue that Americans may have preferred *I like to* since it carries 'it is a good thing to do'. They like it in general. Note, however, that Americans did not prefer *I like -ing*. This in turn suggests that Americans are not fond of saying what they enjoy in the magazine.

Now let us turn our attention to the newspaper genre. The frequency of the type *I like to* ranks sixth in the newspaper genre and that of the type *I like -ing* also ranks sixth. It is significant to note that *I like to* may have preferred over *I like -ing* by Americans in the newspaper genre. More specifically, the frequency of *I like to* in the newspaper genre is 1,111 tokens, whereas that of *I like -ing* is 424 tokens. Why did this take place? We wish to argue that *I like to* may be suitable for conveying a good thing to do to people. Thus, the type *I like to* may have favored over the type *I like -ing*. When it comes to *I like -ing*, it means that I do it and I enjoy it.

## 2.2 A Frequency Analysis of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the BNC

In what follows, we aim to compare the frequency of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the COCA (1995-2019) and that of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the BNC (1980s-1993). Table 2 shows the use and genre frequency of *I like to* and *I like -ing*.

**Table 2:** Frequency of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the BNC (1980s-1993)

Type	All	Spoken	Fiction	Magazine	Newspaper	Non-acad	Academic	Misc
<i>I like to</i>	562	128	135	98	60	47	10	84
<i>I like -ing</i>	238	87	71	23	20	16	1	20

An immediate question is "which type was the preferable one for British people?" Table 2 clearly shows that the type *I like to* was the widely used one. This in turn indicates that *I like to* may have been preferred over *I like -ing* by British people. More specifically, the overall frequency of *I like to* is 562 tokens, whereas that of *I like -ing* is 238 tokens. Most interestingly, the type *I like to* was preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans and British people, which suggests that the type *I like to* was the preferable one for Americans and British people. We take this as indicating that Americans and British people are fond of saying what they like to do or a good thing to do.

An important question is "in which genre was the type *I like to* the most commonly used one?" As indicated in Table 2, the type *I like to* was the most frequently used one in the fiction genre. This in turn implies that British writers are fond of writing a good thing to do in the fiction since what characters like to do makes stories interesting and thus encourages readers to finish reading the novel. It is interesting to note that the type *I like to* was the most preferable one for Americans in the TV/movie genre, whereas the type *I like to* was the most preferable one for British people in the fiction genre. This in turn suggests that Americans preferred a good thing to do in the TV/movie genre, whereas British people preferred it in the fiction genre.

Now an important question that naturally arises is "in which genre was *I like -ing* the most commonly used one?" Table

2 clearly shows that the type *I like -ing* was the most frequently used one in the spoken genre. This may imply that the type *I like -ing* was the most preferable one for British people. What this suggests is that British people are fond of saying what they like to do or a good thing to do in the spoken genre. Interestingly, *I like -ing* was the most preferred by Americans in the TV/movie genre, whereas it was the most preferred by British people in the spoken genre. This in turn implies that Americans are fond of saying what they enjoy in the TV/movie genre, whereas British people are fond of saying what they enjoy in the spoken genre.

It is noteworthy that the type *I like to* ranks second in the spoken genre of the BNC. More specifically, the frequency of the type *I like to* in the spoken genre is 128 tokens. More interestingly, the type *I like to* ranks second in the blog genre of the COCA. That is to say, the type *I like to* may have been the preferable one for British people in the spoken genre, whereas it may have been the preferable one for Americans in the blog genre. This in turn imply that British people tend to say a good thing to do in the spoken genre, whereas Americans tend to say it in the blog genre. From this, it is clear that British people tend to say what they like to do in daily conversation, whereas Americans tend to say it in the online journal where bloggers write something about their personal experiences or hobbies.

It is worthwhile noting that the type *I like -ing* ranks second in the fiction genre of the BNC, whereas it ranks second in

the blog genre of the COCA. This in turn suggests that British writers are fond of using *I like -ing*, whereas American bloggers are fond of using it. It is important to note, however, that the COCA and BNC have one thing in common. That is to say, the type *I like -ing* was the preferred one in the written genres of the COCA and BNC. It is significant to note that the type *I like to* may have been preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans and British people in the blog and fiction genres. This in turn implies that American bloggers and British writers prefer the type *I like to* in the blog and fiction genres. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that American bloggers and British writers are fond of writing a good thing to do even though they do not necessarily enjoy it.

Finally, it is interesting to point out that the type *I like to* ranks third in the magazine genre. More specifically, the frequency of the type *I like to* is 98 tokens, which implies that British journalists are fond of writing what they like to do. On the other hand, the type *I like to* ranks third in the spoken genre of the COCA. This may imply that Americans like saying a good thing to do in daily conversation. Additionally, it is worth pointing out that the type *I like -ing* ranks third in the magazine genre. This in turn suggests that British journalists like writing what they enjoy.

**2.3 A Collocation Analysis of I like to and I like -ing in the COCA**

In the following, we aim to examine the collocation of verbs along with the type *I like to*. Table 3 indicates the frequency and collocation of the type *I like to* and verbs.

**Table 3:** The Collocation of I like to and Verbs

Number	Collocation	Frequency
1	I like to think	1,995
2	I like to call	682
3	I like to see	517
4	I like to keep	386
5	I like to say	320
6	I like to use	316
7	I like to go	311
8	I like to get	293
9	I like to make	247
10	I like to play	226
11	I like to hear	222
12	I like to read	212
13	I like to take	203
14	I like to work	188
15	I like to know	181
16	I like to watch	165
17	I like to look	160
18	I like to eat	156

An important question that naturally arises is “which verb is the most frequently used one along with the type *I like to*?” Table 3 clearly indicates that the collocation *I like to think* is the most commonly used one in America. More specifically, the collocation *I like to think* has the highest frequency (1,195 tokens) and the highest proportion (30%). This in turn suggests that the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferred by Americans. In a word, the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferable one for Americans. It is significant to note that the collocation *I like to call* is the most preferred one after the collocation *I like to think*. The frequency of the collocation *I like to call* is 682 tokens. It is interesting to point out that the collocation *I like to think* is

the most preferred by Americans, followed by *I like to call*, *I like to see*, *I like to keep*, *I like to say*, *I like to use*, *I like to go*, *I like to get*, and *I like to make*, in that order. It is worthwhile noting that the collocation *I like to see* ranks third. This indicates that this expression must be widely used in America since its frequency is high. A major point to note is that the everyday expression *I like to play* ranks tenth. A further point to note is that again, the everyday expression *I like to hear* ranks eleventh.

In what follows, we examine the collocation of gerunds along with the type *I like* in the COCA. Table 4 indicates the frequency and the collocation of *I like -ing* in the COCA.

**Table 4:** The Collocation of I like -ing in the COCA

Number	Collocation	Frequency
1	I like being	872
2	I like having	313
3	I like doing	207
4	I like working	167
5	I like seeing	139
6	I like watching	131
7	I like going	119
8	I like playing	104
9	I like talking	95
10	I like getting	94
11	I like making	92
12	I like looking	85
13	I like knowing	76
14	I like living	71
15	I like reading	71
16	I like hearing	67
17	I like taking	61
18	I like using	60

An immediate question is “which gerund is the most commonly used one along with the type *I like*?” Table 4 clearly shows that the collocation *I like being* is the most widely used one in America. More specifically, the collocation *I like being* has the highest frequency (872 tokens) and the highest proportion (30%). This in turn implies that the collocation *I like being* is the most preferable one for Americans. It is noteworthy that the collocation *I like being* is the most commonly used one in America, followed by *I like having*, *I like doing*, *I like working*, *I like seeing*, *I like watching*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like talking*, and *I like getting*, in that order. This in turn indicates that the collocation *I like being* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *I like having*, *I like doing*, *I like working*, *I like seeing*, *I like watching*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like talking*, and *I like getting*, in that order. Most importantly, the collocation *I like having* is the most preferable one for Americans after the collocation *I like being*. It is interesting to point out that the everyday expressions *I like playing* and *I like talking* rank eighth and ninth, respectively. It is interesting to note that again, the everyday expression *I like reading* ranks fourteenth. We thus conclude that the collocation *I like being* is the most preferred by Americans.

**2.4 A Collocation Analysis of I like to and I like -ing in the BNC**

In what follows, we examine the collocation of verbs along with the type *I like to* in the BNC. Table 5 indicates the frequency and collocation of the type *I like to*.

**Table 5:** Collocation of I like to in the BNC

Number	Collocation	Frequency
1	I like to think	92
2	I like to see	46
3	I like to get	26
4	I like to go	25
5	I like to keep	21
6	I like to know	21
7	I like to hear	18
8	I like to make	14
9	I like to look	13
10	I like to use	13
11	I like to work	12
12	I like to take	9
13	I like to watch	8
14	I like to play	7
15	I like to listen	7

An important question is “which verb is the most frequently used one along with the type *I like to*?” Table 5 clearly shows that the collocation *I like to think* is the most widely used one in the UK. More specifically, the collocation *I like to think* has the highest frequency (92 tokens) and the highest proportion (27%). This in turn suggests that the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferable one for British people. Most importantly, the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferred by British people, followed by *I like to see*, *I like to get*, *I like to go*, *I like to keep*, *I like to know*, *I like to hear*, *I like to make*, *I like to look*, and *I like to use*, in that order. It is worth pointing out that the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferable one for Americans and British people. Americans and British people show the same pattern with respect to the use of the collocation *I like to think*. Additionally, the collocation *I like to see* is the most preferred by British people after the collocation *I like to think*. Similarly, the collocation *I like to see* ranks third in America. It is worthwhile pointing out that the everyday expressions *I like to go* and *I like to hear* rank fourth and seventh in the UK. On the other hand, they rank seventh and eleventh in America.

In what follows, we examine the collocation of gerunds along with the type *I like* in the BNC. Table 6 indicates the frequency and collocation of the type *I like -ing* in the BNC.

**Table 6:** The Collocation of I like -ing in the BNC

Number	Collocation	Frequency
1	I like being	35
2	I like doing	23
3	I like watching	16
4	I like having	12
5	I like going	11
6	I like playing	10
7	I like looking	8
8	I like driving	6
9	I like using	5
10	I like talking	5
11	I like walking	5
12	I like writing	4
13	I like working	4
14	I like wearing	4
15	I like getting	4

An important question is “which gerund is the most frequently used one along with the type *I like*?” Table 6 indicates that the collocation *I like being* is the most

commonly used one in the UK. More specifically, the type *I like being* has the highest frequency (35 tokens) and the highest proportion (24%). This in turn implies that the collocation *I like being* is the most preferable one for British people. It is significant to note that the collocation *I like being* is the most preferred by British people, followed by *I like doing*, *I like watching*, *I like having*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like looking*, *I like driving*, and *I like using*, in that order. Most importantly, the collocation *I like being* is the most preferred by Americans and British people. That is, they show the same pattern with regard to the use of the collocation *I like being*. It is interesting to point out that the collocation *I like doing* ranks second in the UK, whereas it ranks third in America. Interestingly, the collocation *I like going* ranks fifth in the UK, whereas it ranks seventh in America. Finally, the everyday expressions *I like playing* and *I like looking* rank sixth and seventh in the UK, whereas they rank eighth and twelfth in America. We thus conclude that the collocation *I like being* is the most preferable one for Americans and British people.

## 2.5 A Frequency Analysis of I like to and I like -ing in the COHA

In the following, we aim to examine the frequency of *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the COHA (1810-2000). Table 7 indicates the frequency of the types *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the COHA.

**Table 7:** Frequency of the types I like to and I like -ing

Type	I like to	I like -ing
1810	0	0
1820	13	0
1830	28	0
1840	30	1
1850	74	1
1860	92	2
1870	117	4
1880	119	6
1890	114	5
1900	129	4
1910	138	6
1920	156	15
1930	151	18
1940	153	20
1950	205	28
1960	184	24
1970	201	40
1980	195	37
1990	272	90
2000	279	119
All	2,650	420

An important question is “which type was widely used in America from 1810 to 2000. Table 7 clearly shows that the type *I like to* was widely used. More specifically, the overall frequency of *I like to* is 2,650 tokens, whereas that of *I like -ing* is 420 tokens. This in turn suggests that *I like to* may have been preferred over *I like -ing* by Americans from 1810 to 2000. That is, the type *I like to* was the preferable one for Americans from 1810 to 2000. Why did this take place? We wish to argue that Americans preferred saying a good thing to do to saying what they enjoy. As observed earlier, they tend to say what they like to do even though they do not necessarily enjoy it.

There was a steady increase in the figure of *I like to* from 1810 to 1880. That is, there was a rise of 119 tokens for 70 years. After this period, there was a slight decline in the figure of *I like to* from 1880 to 1890 and there was a sudden reduction of five tokens. After 1890, there was a gradual increase in the figure of *I like to* from 1890 to 1950 except 1930 and 1940. There was an increase of 91 tokens in that period, which indicates that the type *I like to* started to be widely used in America. After this period, there was a sudden decline in the figure of *I like to* from 1950 to 1960 (a decline of 21 tokens). After 1950, there were slight fluctuations in the figure of *I like to* from 1950 to 1980. After 1980, the frequency of the type *I like to* increased and reached a peak in 2000. A major point to note is that in 1810, *I like to* had no frequency (0 token), which in turn implies that it was the most undesired type. A further point to note is that the type *I like to* had the highest frequency (279 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred by Americans.

There was a slight rise in the frequency of *I like -ing* from 1810 to 1880. That is to say, there was an increase of six tokens. After this period, there was a decrease of two tokens from 1880 to 1900. Interestingly, there was a gradual rise in the frequency of *I like -ing* from 1910 to 1950 and then there was a slight decline in the frequency of *I like -ing* from 1950 to 1960. After this period, there was a sudden increase in the frequency of *I like -ing* and then there was a sudden decrease in its frequency. Finally, there was a slight increase in the frequency of *I like -ing* from 1990 to 2000. It is noteworthy that *I like -ing* had no frequency (0 token) in 1810, 1820, and 1830. This in turn implies that it was the most undesired type. Most importantly, the frequency of *I like -ing* reached a peak (119 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred by Americans.

### 3. Conclusion

The main purpose of this paper is to provide a frequency analysis of the two types *I like to* and *I like -ing* in the COCA, BNC, and COHA. In section 2.1, we have argued that the type *I like to* was preferred over the type *I like -ing* by Americans. More specifically, Table 1 clearly indicates that in the TV/movie genre, the type *I like to* was the most preferable one for Americans. Table 1 clearly shows, on the other hand, that the type *I like -ing* was the most frequently used one in the TV/movie genre. This in turn suggests that the type *I like -ing* was the most preferred by Americans in the TV/movie genre. In section 2.2, we have maintained that the type *I like to* was the widely used one. This in turn indicates that *I like to* may have been preferred over *I like -ing* by British people. It is interesting to note that the type *I like to* was the most frequently used one in the fiction genre. This in turn implies that British writers are fond of writing a good thing to do in the fiction. On the other hand, Table 2 clearly shows that the type *I like -ing* was the most frequently used one in the spoken genre. This may imply that the type *I like -ing* was the most preferable one for British people. What this suggests is that British people are fond of saying what they like to do or a good thing to do in the spoken genre. In section 2.3, we have argued that the collocation *I like to think* is the most preferred by Americans, followed by *I like to call*, *I like to see*, *I like to keep*, *I like to say*, *I like to use*, *I like to go*, *I like to get*, and *I like to make*, in that order. We have further argued that the collocation *I like being* is the most commonly used one in

America, followed by *I like having*, *I like doing*, *I like working*, *I like seeing*, *I like watching*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like talking*, and *I like getting*, in that order. In section 2.4, the collocation *I like to think* is the most commonly used one in the UK, followed by *I like to see*, *I like to get*, *I like to go*, *I like to keep*, *I like to know*, *I like to hear*, *I like to make*, *I like to look*, and *I like to use*, in that order. On the other hand, the collocation *I like being* is the most preferred by British people, followed by *I like doing*, *I like watching*, *I like having*, *I like going*, *I like playing*, *I like looking*, *I like driving*, and *I like using*, in that order. In section 2.5, we have maintained that the type *I like to* was favored over type *I like -ing*. A major point to note is that in 1810, *I like to* had no frequency (0 token), which in turn implies that it was the most undesired type. A further point to note is that the type *I like to* had the highest frequency (279 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred by Americans. Additionally, it is noteworthy that *I like -ing* had no frequency (0 token) in 1810, 1820, and 1830. This in turn indicates that it was the most undesired type. Most importantly, the frequency of *I like -ing* reached a peak (119 tokens) in 2000, which in turn suggests that it was the most preferred by Americans.

### 4. References

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