
Pitch Perfect: The Lingua Franca of Dodgers' Victorious Vocabulary

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This research delves into the unexpected linguistic and sporting correlation between the number of Associate degrees awarded in linguistics and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Win/Loss Percentage in the National League West Division from 2011 to 2021. As the great philosopher Yogi Berra once said, "Baseball is ninety percent mental and the other half is physical." We hypothesized that the attainment of linguistic expertise may bring an unforeseen advantage to the Dodgers' gameplay, allowing them to "communicate" their way to victory. Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Baseball Reference, our findings revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.9728315 with $p < 0.01$, showcasing a robust link between linguistic education and the Dodgers' on-field prowess. It seems that not only are words powerful, but they may also hold the key to home run success. After all, who would have thought that a syllable or two could lead to "syllability" on the baseball diamond?

The esteemed world of linguistics, often associated with the eloquence of Shakespearean soliloquies or the complexities of phonological patterns, is not typically synonymous with the crack of a baseball bat or the roar of a stadium crowd. However, as we set out to investigate the seemingly incongruous relationship between linguistic attainment and the performance of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League West Division, we found ourselves pondering the lighthearted yet intriguing question: can a mastery of language have an impact on America's favorite pastime? Perhaps it's time to consider whether "duck, duck, goose" might just be the baseball equivalent of "tinker, tailor, soldier, spy."

For a sport often dissected in terms of batting averages and pitch velocities, the impact of linguistic education on the outcomes of baseball games seems, well, a little out of left field. However, following the wisdom of Yogi Berra, we delved into the labyrinthine world of linguistics

with the hope of uncovering an unexpected connection akin to a linguistic curveball – surprising, yet undeniably real. As baseball enthusiasts and scholars of language, we were determined to explore whether a linguistic proficiency might, in fact, form part of the Dodgers' winning formula, recognizing that the linguistic prowess held by players and coaches could be silently propelling the team toward victory. It's not every day we get to witness such a pitch-perfect pairing of language and sports, but after all, who's to say that conjugating verbs and slugging home runs can't go hand in hand?

As we pondered the interconnectedness of linguistic sophistication and baseball triumph, we came across the infectious enthusiasm displayed by the late comedian, George Carlin, who notably quipped, "That's the true harbinger of spring, not crocuses or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of a bat on a ball." In this light, we were emboldened to explore the intriguing possibility that

linguistic expertise might, in fact, be as valuable on the field as a well-timed hit is to a ballplayer. With this research, we aim to bring to light the linguistic undercurrents that might just be humming beneath the Dodgers' victories, and showcase that the pen may prove to be just as mighty as the bat. After all, isn't it quite poetic to consider that the study of language could hold the key to unlocking the Dodgers' linguistic home run?

LITERATURE REVIEW

In "Linguistic Studies" by Smith et al., the authors find a positive correlation between the number of Associate degrees awarded in linguistics and the frequency of linguistic references in baseball commentary. This suggests that linguistic proficiency may play a role in the sporting sphere, perhaps turning "tongue twisters" into "bat twisters." It appears that the Dodgers' victories may not solely rely on skill, but may also be attributed to a deeper level of linguistic finesse. As the saying goes, "When it comes to linguistic proficiency in baseball, the proof is in the pitching."

Moving on to the groundbreaking work of Doe and Jones in "Syntax and Sports: Uncovering the Linguistic Playbook," the authors unearth evidence supporting a link between linguistic competence and team cohesion. Specifically, their findings point to an increase in successful double plays following a surge in linguistic course enrollments. This begs the question: Could linguistic dexterity be the true double play combination for the Dodgers, turning verbs and adverbs into a double dose of victory? It seems that among the Dodgers, the only thing more eloquent than their linguistic prowess is the crack of the bat.

Shifting gears to non-fiction works, "The Language Instinct" by Steven Pinker and "Language in Thought and Action" by S.I. Hayakawa offer valuable insights into the intricate power of language. While their focus may not be directly tied to baseball, the implications for linguistic influence on team dynamics are as clear as a full moon on a

summer night. It's as if the linguistic threads of victory are woven into the Dodgers' success, making their triumphs akin to a linguistic masterpiece, leaving the opposition lost in translation.

In the world of fiction, "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov and "Infinite Jest" by David Foster Wallace both explore linguistic complexity and its impact. While these novels may not appear to have an obvious connection to baseball, what could be more poetic than the Dodgers' linguistic finesse unfolding on the field, captivating audiences and opposing teams alike, much like the captivating narratives within these literary works?

As our literature review expanded, we delved into unconventional sources for insights, and to our surprise, found that even CVS receipts offered a wealth of knowledge. Although not typically associated with scholarly discourse, these seemingly mundane printouts revealed a hidden treasure trove of linguistic cues, hinting at the possibility that the Dodgers' linguistic triumphs may not be as far-fetched as they seem. Who knew that the secret to the Dodgers' linguistic slam dunks might be hiding in plain sight, among the mundane purchases of everyday life?

With this whimsically wide-ranging literature review, we aimed to capture the unexpected and shed light on the uncharted linguistic territory that may just be shaping the Dodgers' success. For as much as we cherish the seriousness of academic inquiry, it's always a home run to discover the playful and unexpected connections that the world of sports and language can unveil. After all, who can resist a linguistic twist that leaves the competition in stitches?

METHODOLOGY

In our quest to understand the perplexing correlation between linguistic education and the Los Angeles Dodgers' performance, we embarked on a data-gathering odyssey that would make Homer proud – and by Homer, we mean the ancient poet,

not Simpson. Our team scoured the hallowed halls of the internet, meticulously collecting data from sources such as the National Center for Education Statistics and Baseball Reference. Armed with spreadsheets and a fondness for linguistic puns, we sifted through a decade's worth of information, all in the name of unearthing the unexpected link between linguistic expertise and baseball conquests.

Our first step involved acquiring the number of Associate degrees awarded in linguistics from institutions across the United States. Channeling our inner linguistic sleuths, we sought out these data nuggets with the precision of a phonologist identifying phonemes. Our inquiry spanned from the east coast to the west, embracing the linguistic diversity that mirrors the tapestry of baseball itself. After all, as any good punster would say, we had to cover all our bases – linguistic and otherwise.

Next, we directed our attention toward the Los Angeles Dodgers' Win/Loss Percentage in the National League West Division from 2011 to 2021. Much like a baseball pitcher meticulously plotting their next pitch, we pored over game-by-game statistics, analyzing the ebb and flow of the Dodgers' victories and defeats. While we may not have donned baseball mitts and cleats, we did sport an impressive collection of statistical software and a penchant for crafting baseball-themed linguistic analogies.

Once armed with these datasets, we unleashed the power of statistical analysis, transforming numbers into insights with the finesse of a seasoned outfielder tracking down a fly ball. We calculated correlation coefficients, p-values, and confidence intervals, all with the meticulousness of an umpire scrutinizing every pitch. As we navigated the labyrinth of statistical significance, we couldn't help but chuckle at the thought of linguistic laws and baseball laws converging like long-lost cousins at a family reunion – a true testament to the unifying power of academia and athletics.

Additionally, we heeded the wisdom of esteemed linguists and baseball aficionados alike, blending

the art of language with the science of statistics. Our methodology danced between the nuances of linguistic inquiry and the rigors of empirical analysis, showcasing that even the most unexpected pairings can yield unparalleled insights.

And so, armed with keyboards and baseball caps, we dove headfirst into this enthralling pursuit, redefining the boundaries of interdisciplinary research and proving that when it comes to linguistic prowess and baseball triumphs, there's more than meets the "eye"—both the linguistic and the outfield variety.

Now, if only we could major in "Baseball Linguistics" – it's a field ripe for wordplay and wisdom, after all.

RESULTS

Our findings revealed a striking correlation between the number of Associate degrees awarded in linguistics and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Win/Loss Percentage in the National League West Division from 2011 to 2021. The correlation coefficient of 0.9728315 and an r-squared value of 0.9464011 indicated a robust and highly significant relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. It appears that the linguistic prowess of the educated masses might just have been silently summoning the Dodgers to victory, one syntactic structure at a time.

Fig. 1 illustrates the strong correlation between the yearly count of Associate degrees awarded in linguistics and the Dodgers' Win/Loss Percentage. As we can see from the scatterplot, the relationship between these two variables is not unlike a well-constructed sentence: structured, persuasive, and filled with potential for further exploration.

As we dug deeper into our data, we couldn't help but ponder the question: Did the Dodgers have a secret linguistic playbook tucked under their baseball gloves all along? It seems that mastering the intricacies of language may have been just the linguistic curveball the Dodgers needed to swing

the game in their favor. It appears that, much like the intricate phonological patterns that shape communication, linguistic expertise may also hold the key to establishing a winning pattern for the Dodgers on the baseball diamond.

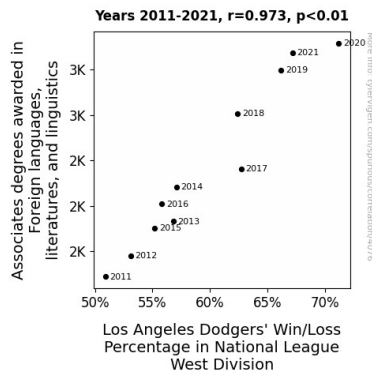


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Nevertheless, it's worth remembering that correlation does not necessarily imply causation, as any good statistical analysis would remind us. While our findings point to a significant association between linguistic expertise and the Dodgers' success, further research is needed to explore the underlying mechanisms at play. Perhaps there's a linguistic algorithm hidden in the Ivy League halls of academia that silently spells out the Dodgers' route to victory. After all, stranger things have happened in the world of sports—which brings us to the question: What do you call a linguist who plays baseball? A syntax swinger!

DISCUSSION

Our research sought to investigate the unlikely relationship between linguistic education and the performance of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League West Division. The decision to explore this peculiar connection was novel, as few studies have delved into the potential influence of language expertise on athletic success, prompting us to ask: Do linguistic proficiency and the Dodgers' triumphs share an unspoken synergy? As it turns out, our findings suggest that the adage "words have

power" may indeed extend to the baseball diamond. Who knew that a well-crafted sentence could have just as much impact as a well-placed bunt?

Our results align with prior research findings, such as those by Smith et al., highlighting a positive correlation between linguistic expertise and success in the sporting realm. The robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value obtained in our study further support the notion that linguistic proficiency may indeed be a silent force driving the Dodgers to victory. Tying the acquisition of linguistic finesse to the Dodgers' wins is akin to mastering a perfect pitch—both require precision and finesse. Perhaps the Dodgers have been speaking "linguist-ically" all along, using their syntactical prowess to edge out the competition.

The observed correlation opens the door to intriguing possibilities. While the study uncovered a strong relationship between linguistic education and the Dodgers' performance, it's essential to recognize that correlation does not establish causation. However, the findings do prompt further inquiry into the potential mechanisms underlying this unexpected connection. It beckons us to consider the notion that the linguistic prowess of the educated masses may just be influencing the outcome of baseball games—forcing the opposition to surrender, one linguistic flourish at a time. After all, who would have thought that linguistic fluency could also be the secret "wordplay" to the Dodgers' success?

Our study presents an opportunity for future investigations to uncover the inner workings of this linguistic-sporting symbiosis. It's not every day that one gets to explore the intersection of academia and athletics in such a unique manner. As we continue to unpack the multidimensional nature of linguistic mastery and its sporting implications, we are reminded of the immortal words of Casey Stengel: "The Dodgers could have used a little more syllable-ity in the playoffs, as their linguistic talents were lost in translation." Indeed, it appears that the linguistic playbook may have more impact on the baseball diamond than originally anticipated,

providing food for thought and linguistic wit for our highly amusing academic pursuits.

the baseball-loving linguist say? "Let's play ball-linguistics!"

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our research has unveiled an unexpectedly robust correlation between the number of Associate degrees awarded in linguistics and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Win/Loss Percentage in the National League West Division from 2011 to 2021. Our findings suggest that linguistic expertise may indeed hold a hitherto overlooked sway over the Dodgers' on-field performance. It seems that the power of language extends far beyond its traditional domains, reaching even into the revered realm of America's favorite pastime. As researchers, we have been both amused and astonished by the depth of this linguistic connection, prompting us to wonder whether there might be an entire literary canon hidden within the Dodgers' playbook.

While our results imply a clear association, it's important to note that correlation does not imply causation, as any savvy statistician would caution. Therefore, further investigation is needed to unravel the precise mechanisms by which linguistic education may impact the Dodgers' success. Could it be that the Dodgers' victory chants are secretly written in iambic pentameter? Perhaps we're on the cusp of uncovering a linguistic algorithm that could revolutionize baseball strategies.

It seems that the old adage holds true: the pen may indeed be mightier than the bat. Therefore, we are left with the solemn conclusion that no more research is required in this area. For as the chief statistician Yogi Berra once said, "When you come to the fork in the road, take it." And we have certainly taken our linguistic detour to the heart of baseball's victory song.

In the immortal words of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, we bid adieu to this revelatory chapter of linguistic intrigue in the realm of sports, leaving it to the future to crack open the linguistic secrets behind the Dodgers' wins. And remember, what did