Sense changes and multiword expressions

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Emergence of new n-gram meanings

usage possibilities for n-gram change with time, and a MWE usage may emerge

example *smashed it*

*old use:* destruction/impact, as in (from 1995)

the wind lifted his three-car garage and *smashed it* to the ground.

*recent MWE usage:* meaning ’excelled’, as in (from 2013)

sensational group CEO, totally *smashed it* in the BGT (Britain Got Talent)

question is:

*Can such emergence of an MWE-usage be detected from untagged time-stamped text?*
model roughly: \( P(\text{Usage} \mid \text{Time}) \times P(\text{context} - \text{words} \mid \text{Usage}) \)
Outcomes

Smashed it (sup)

Smashed it (unsup)

words
old: smithereens bits bottle onto phone new MWE usage: !! guys really completely They