The seal of the President of the United States is centered on the page. It features an eagle with wings spread, holding an olive branch and arrows, with a shield on its chest. Above the eagle is a constellation of stars. The words "SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

EFFECTIVE BUT LIMITED:

A Corpus Linguistic Analysis of the
Original Public Meaning of Executive Power

Eleanor Miller & Heather Obelgoner

“Men may intend what they will”

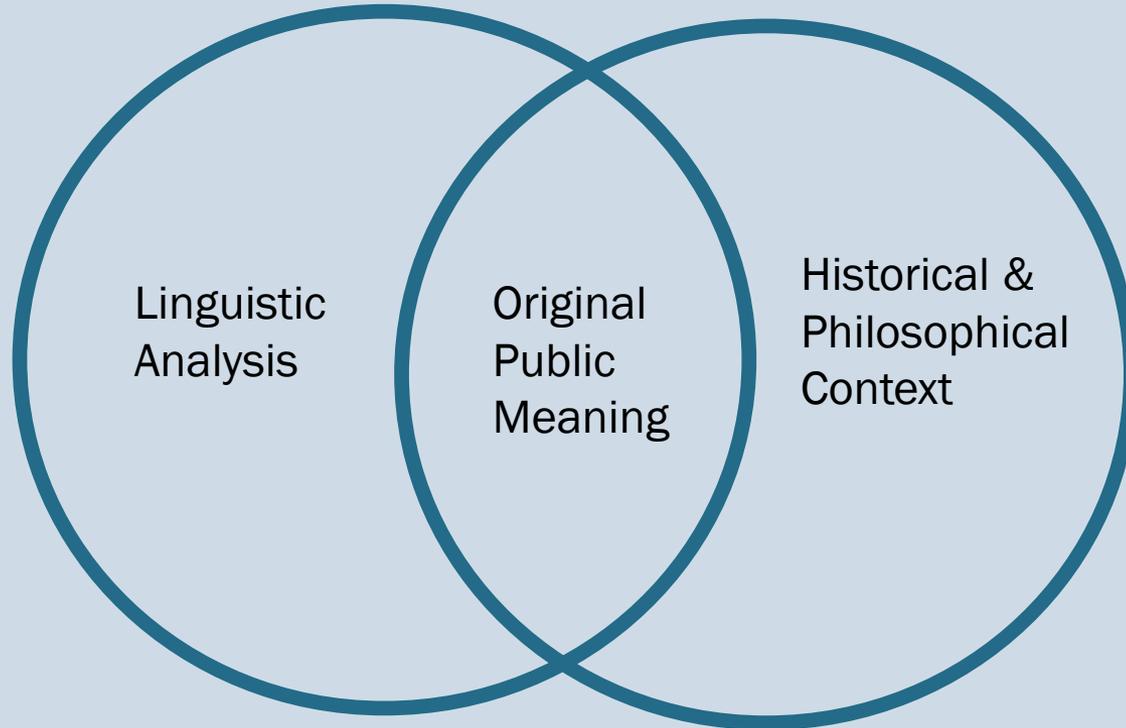
Article II:

The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.

Article I: All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States

Article III: The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish

What is the Original Meaning of Executive Power?



The Power to Execute the Laws

Corpus Linguistics

Linguistic Drift

A linguistic theory which posits that the meanings of words shift subtly over time, altering the way that a word or phrase is perceived by one generation as compared to another.

Linguistic Drift – COFEA Results

Supreme

Whole

All

Chief

Federal

Legislative

Linguistic Drift – COCA Results

Chief

Senior

Top

Marketing

Advertising

Business

Linguistic Methodology

Sense Coding

The process of determining whether a word or phrase has more than one sense and then assigning different numbers to each distinct sense.

Linguistic Methodology

Grounded Theory

Determining and coding senses as they emerge during the data review itself, instead of relying on predetermined sense categories

Concordance Data

BYU LAW
CORPUS LINGUISTICS

COFEA

Matches

KWIC

Full Context

Concordances

Show Expanded Data

Show Tools

KEYWORDS

executive

power

FILTERS

TEXT ID	CONTEXT	
1 fndrs.05-14-02-0356-0001	ressive crops , and to restore them (if possible by any means in my	power) to health & vigour . But two ways v
2 fndrs.99-01-02-10699	en a Messenger dispatched from our Delegates in Congress to the	Executive , & many private letters drop 'd on th
3 fndrs.99-01-02-12157	e Facts) they will if possible give the little Boy every redress in their	power , And whether my Dear Sir you atten
4 fndrs.99-02-02-1337	le of this Country , feel it advantageous , to give [more] Tone to the	Executive , and less to the Senate , it would pe
5 N25568	rting asunder the bonds and shackles of despotic rule and foreign	power , and rising into existence and impo
6 fndrs.01-02-02-0132-0004-...	ary for their accommodation . And such quarter-masters shall have	power , and they are hereby strictly enjoine
7 fndrs.03-17-02-0073	respecting them . For this purpose you will use every means in your	power , and transmit the result of the enqu
8 fndrs.99-02-02-0269	ort his measures because proud to see their order come again into	power , are the only advocates for the line
9 fndrs.99-02-02-1946	are the nerves of the body-politic , & , when acting in unison with the	executive , bring to it , as to the sensorium , tr
10 fndrs.01-06-02-0122	quently our Reputation sported with . Mr. Short did every thing in his	Power , but having no pointed Instructions
11 N12281	eneral Washington . Gentlemen of the city and country , It is in your	power , by a spirited improvement of the p
12 fndrs.06-09-02-0257	have done , and I am sure they will do , to the utmost Extent of their	Power , by general Laws . Some Persons h
13 fndrs.05-06-02-0283	e contrarv . I have iudged it expedient to use all the discretion in mv	power . equally avoiding all appearances o

Sense Frequency Coding

1. As belonging to a Single Governmental Leader (non-royal) (e.g. President, governor)
2. As belonging to the head of a private company
3. As referring to one's autonomy over oneself (akin to will power)
4. As belonging to a body of Governmental leaders (e.g. council)
5. As belonging to the Crown/ Divine power
6. As a division of finite governmental power relating to the allocation of responsibilities between governmental branches

Year	Register	Sense	Freq.
1754	Franklin Papers	4	1
1754	Franklin Papers	1	1
1755	Franklin Papers	1	1
1760	Franklin Papers	4	2
1760	Franklin Papers	1	1
1761	Election Sermon	5	1
1761	Election Sermon	4	1
1762	Political/Legal	4	11
1764	Political/Legal	1	1
1764	book	4	1
1766	Political/Legal	5	1
1766	Election Sermon	1	2
1767	Religious Sermon	3	1
1767	Election Sermon	5	1
1767	Religious Sermon	1	1
1768	Election Sermon	1	3
1768	Personal Letter	1	1
1768	political speech by non-political	1	1
1769	Political/Legal	1	4
1769	Personal Letter from Gov.	1	1

Normalized Frequency Data

