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*Productive Patterns in Phraseology and Construction
Grammar: A Multilingual Approach*

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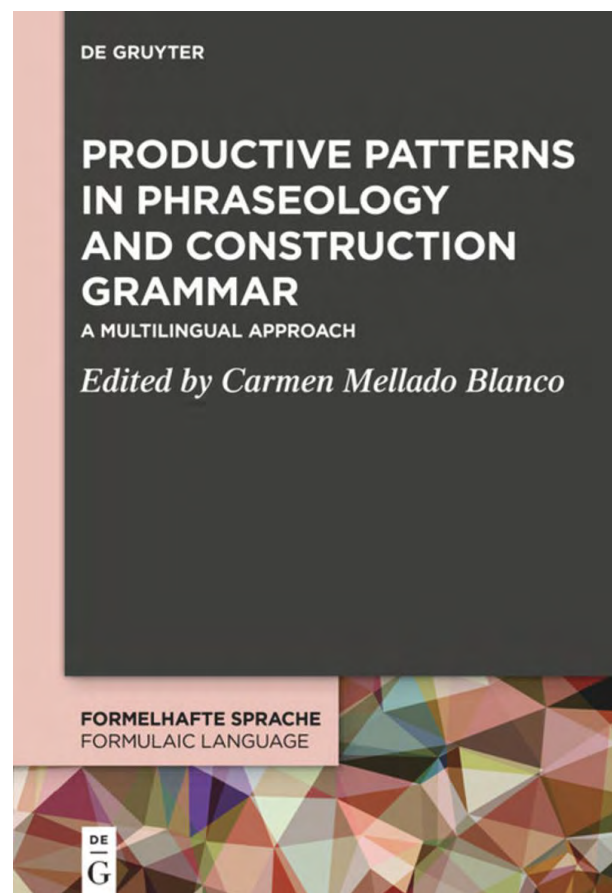
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Palabras clave: Phraseology, construction grammar, productive patterns, EUROPHRAS International Conference.

This book, edited by Carmen Mellado Blanco, contains a selection of contributions to the EUROPHRAS International Conference 2019 Productive Patterns in Phraseology, held in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) on the 24th and 25th of January 2019.

The book, in addition to an introduction by the editor, is structured around two sections: *Productive patterns: monolingual* and *Productive patterns: bi- and multilingual*. The first section contains papers by Pedro Ivorra Ordines, Marie Kopřivová, Fabio Mollica and

Sören Stumpf, Elizaveta Onufrieva, Valentina Piunno, and Kathrin Steyer. The second section, those of Dmitrij Dobrovolskij and Ludmila Pöppel, Laura Giacomini, Martina Häcker, Zuriñe Sanz-Villar, and Lena Stutz and Rita Finkbeiner.

In the introductory chapter, *Phraseology, patterns and Construction Grammar. An introduction*, Carmen Mellado Blanco reviews the fundamental concepts and ideas that underpinned the conference, threading a connecting line between the different contributions to this work. She discusses the most influential theories of patterns, Ebeling and Ebeling (2013), Hunston and Francis (2000) and its relation to “construction” and “phraseologism”, Hanks (2004, 2013) and his rapprochement to “construction” in *Construction Grammar*, and Filatkina’s (2018) concept of “formulaic pattern”. She also addresses the questions of constructional idioms, productivity, and the continuum between true constructions and patterns of coining. In addition, she discusses the role that analogical extensions play in the creation of new patterns through the modification of proverbs, Mieder (2004), snowclones, Pullum (2004), and the reduction of underlying proverbs to patterns. Adding that *Constructional Grammar*, in conjunction with *Corpus Linguistics*, seems to constitute an ideal framework to study this phraseological variation.

Beginning with the first part, Pedro Ivorra Ordines introduces an analysis on constructional idioms adopting the view that phraseological comparisons underlie constructional idioms, given that they can be considered partially lexically filled patterns. The author analyses the [*más feo que X*] (‘very ugly’) construction examining its 1,108 occurrences with intensifying meaning in Sketch Engine’s *esTenTen18* corpus. Under the assumption that *Construction Grammar* is a much more suitable approach for the study of semischematic constructions than traditional *Phraseology*, this contribution aims to describe the five different senses that the construction can adopt, as well as to identify the conceptual fields of the slots that motivate its instances. Considering productivity and creativity are two sides of the same coin, the study

determines whether Spanish speakers use more creative instances of the construction or lexicalised idioms. The author focuses on the highly established [*más feo que pegarle a un padre*] micro-construction in order to analyse its productivity on the basis of its modifications and creative analogical extensions attested in the corpus.

In the second contribution, Marie Kopřivová focuses on the description of conversational routines using Czech spoken language corpora. Such reactions form repeating patterns typical of spontaneous informal conversation. They are not dependent on the specific speaker and represent a strategy by which the conversation partner takes the floor. Search for these patterns is performed in spoken corpora of Czech using the most frequent bigram *to je* ‘it is’ in combination with other word classes. Thus, trigrams to tetragrams are searched for which are repeated in a conversation and whose function can be inferred from the context. The results underline the continuum between phraseologisms and free sequences. The results of the analysis also show that habitual forms of n-grams tend to be stable, and other words, such as discourse markers are rarely inserted into it. From this it can be concluded that these reactions can be used as compact units, enabling speakers to react quickly in a conversation and express their support, agreement or to prepare for opposition to their partners.

Fabio Mollica and Sören Stumpf centre on morphosyntactically and semantically-pragmatically similar constructional phrasemes that can be described as a family of constructions within the framework of *Construction Grammar*. These are constructional phrasemes in which a lexically open noun phrase is specified by a lexically fixed postponed attribute. The constructions have the syntactic pattern [Xnp attribute] and share nearly the same semantics and pragmatics. As an example, three members of the family are characterized by their formal structure and their semantic-pragmatic properties. The aim is to describe these similar constructions with regard to their network-like relationships. The article aims to determine usage restrictions and preferred fillers on

the basis of the German Reference Corpus (DeReKo) and with the help of the tool Lexical Pattern Analyzer (lexpan), which permits an automatic quantification of the lexical fillers.

The fourth study by Elizaveta Onufrieva aims to explore the class of constructional phrasemes in Modern Greek language. The analysis of a group of Modern Greek constructional phrasemes, based on the *elTenTen14* Sketch Engine corpus allows their classification into three structural types, depending on the type of words that appear in their fixed component. The differences between the types of constructional phrasemes suggest that they should be positioned on the syntax-lexicon continuum in an extended rather than a local way. Different constructional phrasemes may have a similar typical meaning and form in this way distinct semantic groups. The study concludes with a description of two Modern Greek constructional phrasemes denoting multitude.

Valentina Piunno proposes a description of a particular type of Italian constructional intensifiers based on *SketchEngine's itTenTen16* corpus. Through the analysis of extracted data, this contribution aims at i) identifying and analysing different types of coordinated constructional intensifiers, ii) showing a formal representation of their syntactic-semantic schemas, iii) classifying them into different types on the basis of their functional, syntactic and semantic properties. The first section contains a brief description of the main types of intensifying strategies identified in the literature, deserving a special attention to Italian lexical strategies. The second section is devoted to the description of the general theoretical framework, and to the analysis and definition of constructional intensifiers. The third section briefly describes the methods of data extraction and analysis. The fourth section is devoted to the analysis of Italian coordinated intensifying constructions, which are classified into completely and partially filled units, according to a set of parameters. Then, the set of coordinated constructional intensifiers is evaluated against the presence of an abstract scheme, semantic and syntactic analysability, semantic predictability, productivity, and schematicity.

Kathrin Steyer deals with a specific type of lexeme, namely binary preposition-noun combinations containing temporal references like *am Ende* [at (the) end] or *für Sekunden* [for seconds]. The main characteristic of these combinations is the recurrent internal zero gap. Despite the fact that the omission of the determiner can often be explained by grammatical rules, the zero gaps indicate a higher degree of lexicalization. The author interprets these expressions as minimal phraseological units with holistic meanings and functions. The corpus-driven exploration of typical context patterns shows that a) even such minimal expressions are based on semi-abstract schemes and b) temporal expressions can also fulfil modal or discursive functions, usually with fuzzy borders and overlapping structures. In the case of modalization or pragmatization one can regard such PNs as distinct lexicon entries.

The second section starts with Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij and Ludmila Poppel's description of a family of Russian constructions on the basis of parallel corpus data. The authors study the phrasal template *nu i X* (literally: well and X). The two basic groups of *nu i N* consist of constructions expressing surprise, bewilderment or admiration, and those with a negative nuance. Constructions in both groups are located on a continuum that spans between idioms and free word combinations. Another aspect of the study concerns the degree of language specificity of the Russian constructions under analysis. The corpora used were *OPUS2* parallel corpus (English, German, Russian and Swedish) and the Russian National Corpus subcorpora of parallel texts. The analysis shows that the pattern *nu i X* is a language specific unit of the Russian constructicon, and that the degree of language specificity is more important for bilingual lexicography, teaching of foreign languages and translation studies than the degree of idiomaticity.

Laura Giacomini studies the way in which multiword terms, intended as phraseological units of terminology, can be classified from a morphological and variational perspective. The author illustrates how a frame-based approach to terminology can be applied to



analyse terms and variants, and how this lays the ground for the compilation of a tagset for multiword term annotation and extraction from a specialised corpus. This study is carried out in the semantic field of “thermal insulation”, but validation tasks hint at the cross-domain feasibility of the proposed method. The author finally draws general conclusions about the advantages provided by the use of frames in terminology, especially when detecting phraseological units, with observations on data in English and Italian.

The purpose of the contribution by Martina Häcker is a diachronic study of the conventions in epistolary Middle English. Around 1400, French was replaced by English in all letters, except for communication involving the clergy. This raises the question of the transfer of French and Latin epistolary conventions into English letter writing, in particular whether and to what extent English letter formulae are loan translations. To answer these questions a database consisting of four Middle English family correspondences written in England in both Middle English and French was investigated. The analysis shows that letters contain a high number of formulae that are calques of French ones. The author also provides a plausible scenario for the acquisition of letter writing formulae. It appears that both French and Latin letter composition was taught by tutors with the help of manuals, while in the case of English, it is likely that after a period of ad hoc translations by bilinguals (most likely tutors), the formulae became conventionalized and spread quickly. The competent use of the formulae by illiterate authors, since letters were regularly dictated and read out aloud, indicates that formulae seem to have also been acquired via this oral input outside the classroom.

Zuriñe Sanz-Villar provides an initial analysis of PU translations in texts translated from German into Basque by trainee translators at the University of the Basque Country (Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea). To this end, a small learner translation corpus (LTC) has been created. The study pays special attention to PUs that are interesting from a translational point of view, like verb preposition collocations in

German. This is either because they are either challenging from a trainee’s perspective or because they are interesting in terms of analysing the possible interference that the source language, German, as well as an intermediary language, in this case Spanish, may exert on the translations. The goals in this first attempt to analyse student translations of PUs in the language combination German-Basque are to create a small corpus and to extract phraseologisms, in order to analyse and discuss the translation of some of those PUs, and to reflect on the possible implications of these findings in the translation classroom.

The final paper by Lena Stutz and Rita Finkbeiner researches lexically partly fixed and partly open phraseological constructions that allow for the productive formation of new instances. A crucial question is how one can determine the degree to which a given phraseological construction serves as a productive pattern for the formation of new instances. This corpus-based study examines the filler potential of the German phraseological construction [X *kam, sah und Y*]. Carrying out slot analyses with the open-source corpus linguistic tool Lexpan, contrasting the construction with its Latin equivalent [*veni, vidi, X*], the authors show that while both constructions are productively used in German and allow for a variety of fillers, [X *kam, sah und Y*] has the status of a true phraseological schema, while [*veni, vidi, X*] is to be classified as a modificatory pattern according to Stumpf’s (2016) distinctions.

This book is of interest to researchers that are working with patterns through the lens of Pattern Grammar, Construction Grammar or Phraseology. It provides insight into current research trends, their mutual relationships, and objectives. The editor has performed an outstanding work of curation, and the sum of all contributions creates a homogeneous representation of the field across the different theoretical and conceptual perspectives.

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