

# Grammar and Language Use

MA.AA.SW10

Time: Mo 10:15-11:45

Room: SR 224

Instructor: Prof. Holger Diessel

Office hours: Die. 14:30-15:30

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## Description

This seminar is concerned with the analysis of idioms (e.g. *kick the bucket*, *spill the beans*) and other fixed expressions (e.g. *by the way*, *I was wondering if*) in language use. The seminar provides an overview of current research on prefabricated chunks of linguistic expressions in usage, acquisition, and change and considers the theoretical implications of this research for the theory of grammar and first and second language acquisition.

## Materials

All readings are on wordwise. Enrollment key for wordwise:

## Requirements

Term paper (due 28.03.2014)

presentation

Assignment(s)

## Readings

Tomasello, Michael. 2000. The item-based nature of children's early syntactic development. *Trends in Cognitive Science* 4: 156-163.

Radford, Andrew. 1988. *Transformational Grammar. A first course*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Goldberg, Adele E. 2003. Constructions: a new theoretical approach to language. *Trends in Cognitive Science* 7: 219-224.

Pawley, Andrew and Frances Hodgetts Syder. 1983. Two puzzles for linguistic theory: nativelike selection and nativelike fluency. In J. Richards and R. Schmidt (eds.), *Language and Communication*, 191-226. London: Longman.

Fiedler, Sabine. 2007. Phraseology and translation. In Sabine Fielder. *English Phraseology. A course book*, 115-135. Tübingen: Narr.

Croft, William and D. Alan Cruse. 2004. From idioms to construction grammar. In William Croft and D. Alan Cruse. *Cognitive Linguistics*, 225-249. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bybee, Joan and Joanne Scheibman 1999, The effect of usage on degrees of constituency: The reduction of *don't* in English, *Linguistics* 37: 575-596.

Moon, Rosamund. 1998. *Fixed Expressions and Idioms in English*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

## **Course schedule**

- 14.10. Introduction
- 21.10. Some general principles of grammar  
Radford 1988: **1-7, 17-23, 50-55**
- 28.10. Nativelike selection and nativelike fluency  
Pawley and Syder 1983: **191-208**
- 4.11. Grammatical frames and classification of prefabs  
Pawley and Syder 1983: **208-220**
- 11.11. Prefabs in corpora  
Erman and Warren 2000: **29-50**
- 18.11. Pragmatic functions of prefabs and transitivity  
Moon 1998: Function **215-243**
- 25.11. Idioms and constructions  
Croft and Cruise 2004: **225-250**
- 2.12. Meaning of prefabs and transitivity  
No reading, student presentations of assignment
- 9.12. Construction grammar  
Goldberg 2003: **219-223**
- 16.12. Prefabs and constituent structure  
Bybee and Scheibman 1999: **575-594**
- 6.1. Formulaic language in L1 acquisition  
Tomasello 2000: **156-163**
- 13.1. Formulaic language in L2 acquisition  
Wray 2002: **172-198**
- 20.1. Translation of idioms and prefabs  
Fiedler 2007: **115-132**
- 27.1. Student presentations
- 3.2. Student presentations

## Additional readings

- Bybee, Joan. 2000. Sequentiality as the basis of constituent structure. In: Talmy Givón and Bertram F. Malle (ed.), *The Evolution of Language out of Pre-language*, 109-132. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Bybee, Joahn. 2010. *Language, Usage, and Cognition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dąbrowska, Ewa. 2000. From formula to schema: The acquisition of the English question. *Cognitive Linguistics* 11: 83-102.
- Dąbrowska, Ewa. 2004. *Language, Mind and Brain. Some psychological and neurological constraints on theories of grammar*. Washington: University of Georegtown Press.
- Diessel, Holger. 2013. Construction Grammar and First Language Acquisition. In Graeme Trousdale and Thomas Hoffmann (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Construction Grammar*, 347-364. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fillmore, Charles J, Paul Kay, and Catherine O'Connor 1988, Regularity and idiomaticity in grammatical constructions: The case of *let alone*. *Language* 64: 501-538.
- Gibbs, Raymind W. 1990. Idioms and mental imagery. The metaphorical motivation for idiomatic meanings. *Cognition* 36: 35-68.
- Gibbs, Raymond W. and Nandini P. Nayak. 1989. Psycholinguistic studies on the syntactic behavior of idioms. *Cognitive Psychology* 21(1): 100-138.
- Goldberg, Adele E. 2006. *Constructions at Work. The nature of generalizations in language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hopper, Paul and Sandra A. Thompson. 2001. Transitivity, clause structure, and argument structure. In Joan Bybee and Paul Hopper (eds.), *Frequency and the Emergence of Linguistic Structure*, 27-60. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Kövesces, Zoltan. 1986. *Idioms of Anger, Pride and Love: A lexical approach to the structure of concepts*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Kövesces, Zoltan. 2002. *Metaphor. A practical introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Liu, Dilin. 2008. *Idioms, Description, comprehension, acquisition, and pedagogy*. New York: Routledge.
- Nunberg, Geoffrey, Ivan Sag, and Tom Wasow. 1994. Idioms. *Language* 70: 491-538.
- Schmitt, Norbert. 2004. (ed), *Formulaic Sequences*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins
- Sinclair, John. 1991. *Corpus, Concordance, Collocation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Taylor, John. 2002. Idioms, formulas and fixed expressions. In John Taylor. *Cognitive Grammar*, 539-559. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Wray, Alison. 2000. Formulaic sequences in second language teaching: Principles and practice. *Applied Linguistics* 21: 463-489.
- Wray, Alison. 2002. *Formulaic Language and the Lexicon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.