

ABSTRACTS

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Harald Burger

30 Jahre germanistische Phraseologieforschung

In this article, a summary of some of the most important lines of phraseological research within the last 30 years is given. Although the main perspective is German, many of the problems pointed at here will be general as German contributions to this research field have played a most vital role within phraseological research as such. Subjects such as the “prehistory” of phraseological research, the much-discussed content of the term “phraseology”, the problem of phraseology vs. paremiology, phrasemes in texts, phraseology in dialects and national varieties, and cross-linguistic phraseology are touched upon. In concluding the article, the author regrets the fact that large parts of the English speaking world do not notice the dynamic scientific activities undertaken in the German speaking world with respect to phraseology.

„Ja, ja“, sagte sie. „Kommt Zeit, kommt Rat.“

Zu der Zeit lernte ich, dass die Erwachsenen so zu reden pflegten. Nicht nur mein Vater sprach so, man musste so sprechen, damit man überhaupt dazu gehörte, um zu zeigen, dass man schon trocken hinter den Ohren war. Seit meine Mutter ernsthaft krank geworden und ins Kran-kenhaus gekommen war, hatte ich mir die wichtigsten Floskeln ein-ge-prägt, damit ich sie nach Bedarf anwenden konnte.

Es kommt, wie es kommt.

Jeder Tag bringt Sorgen.

Es könnte schlimmer sein.

Man weiß ja so wenig.

(Håkan Nesser, Kim Novak badete nie im See Genezareth, btb 2004, 11f.)

Elisabeth Piirainen

Europeanism, internationalism or something else?

Proposal for a cross-linguistic and cross-cultural research project on widespread idioms in Europe and beyond

Terms like **Europeanism** or **internationalism** are used rather carelessly in phraseology research, and they are often applied to idioms accidentally observed to have similar lexical and semantic structures in a few languages. The central question as to what idioms actually constitute the so-called “phraseological uniformity of Europe” has never been studied systematically. The present paper describes my first steps of a research project aimed at creating an inventory of factually existing **widespread idioms**. The total set of idioms is subdivided into smaller groups on the basis of their cultural foundations, thus becoming comparable across a great variety of languages. Questionnaires sent to a large number of idiom research experts are producing first results: numerous idioms are spread across at least several dozens of languages. The problem remains that idioms are currently accessible for only a small portion of the approx. 140 European languages.

Stefaniya Ptashnyk

„Unstable“ feste Wortverbindungen: Zur Dynamik des phraseologischen Sprach--bestandes

This article deals with the relationship between stability and variability within phraseology. The investigation focuses on phraseological modifications as occasional units, created for certain texts or communicative situations. They unfold their potential particularly on the level of text constitution as well as pragmatics. At the same time, modifications are also considered as an important means of phraseological derivation: Frequently occurring (common) modifications may become usual and lexicalized in the language system. The investigation on the basis of newspaper examples has shown that such modification mechanisms as development of the phraseological figure, substitution and reduction produce derivatives with an intensified affinity for usualization.

Anna Braasch

Kollokationer som fraseologisk kategori set fra forskellige synsvinkler

The delimitation of collocations as a category on its own can be done along different lines. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the definition and use of the term 'collocation' from various points of view. Collocations differ from free word combinations on one hand and from idioms on the other, having two characteristic features: a certain degree of meaning compositionality and a certain degree of formal, structural and lexical fixedness. These features appear in several combinations which form the basis of different classifications. First, criteria and classifications are discussed; second, the use of the term in lexicographic theory and corpus linguistics is analyzed. The discussion is illustrated by a few examples of lexicographic representation in Danish dictionaries. Finally, an outline of various descriptive approaches with their focus on particular features is presented.

Emma Sköldbberg

När faktorer lyser med sin frånvaro: om några typer av betydelsevariation hos svenska idiom

In this paper, I explore certain types of semantic variation that recur in 36 Swedish idioms when used in contemporary newspaper material (slightly more than 33.7 million running words). The semantic analysis of the idioms is influenced by studies of lexemes. The idioms are described according to the principle of factor analysis, meaning that I have attempted to differentiate semantic factors that can be considered building blocks in the internal semantic structure constituting the conventionalized meaning of the idioms. Definitions of the expressions were then based on the semantic factors. One type of variation entails the manifestation of a specific semantic factor in certain cases when the idiom is used. Other times, the relevant factor is absent. In a different type of variation, one particular semantic factor is replaced by another. The study reported here should be useful in a variety of ways, including as a basis for comparison between how semantic variation appears in different types of fixed phrases and lexemes.

Lisbeth Falster Jakobsen

Frasemer som konstituent i løbende tekst

Phrasemes are prefabricated items on the expression side as well as the content side. On the content side their imbedding in a text depends on the syntactic slots which the phraseme provides, from valency slots somewhere in the sentence construction to an independent function as a texteme. On the content side the dependency consists in the semantic consistency with the text world. The most interesting phrasemes are those which have a double content layer. Here the literal content does not fit into the isotopies of the text world, and the embedding is made via the idiomatic content layer which the recipient of the text is presupposed to be familiar with. If the phraseme has a semantic transparency, it may be the paradigmatic point of departure for variations of the various constituents of the phraseme. It may also be enlarged by constituents which match the isotopies of the primary text, whereby it reinforces the coherence of the content. Various functions of phrasemes and phraseme variation in running text are demonstrated.

Lars Brink

Hvor mange fraser er der i dansk?

It is my intention to put aside all tiresome discussions of phrase terminology, take the terminology of Brink 2004 for granted, and produce some new *empirical* facts about phrases, answering questions like: How many phrases are there in Danish – in total and with individuals? What is the numeric relation between idioms and collocations? Are idioms most often metaphorical? The investigation is a continuation of Brink 1979, and an updated version of the largest Danish dictionary is used as a base from which test samples are taken. Some statistical signification tests are carried out with a favourable result.

Astrid Jensen

Coping with Metaphor A cognitive approach to translating metaphor

The present article focuses on the translation of metaphor by expert translators, young professional translators and non-professional translators. The approach adopted here treats translation of metaphor as a conceptual rather than a purely linguistic phenomenon, based on the framework sometimes referred to as **conceptual metaphor theory** (CMT), which is based on Lakoff & Johnson (1980) and Lakoff & Turner (1989). The basic assumption behind this study is that translating metaphor requires translator competence,

which among other things entails an awareness of the duality of the metaphor as both a mental concept and linguistic expressions. It is further assumed that translation competence is developed through extensive training and translation experience. The study starts with a qualitative analysis of the metaphorical expressions and translation strategies in the sample texts, followed by a quantitative analysis whereby the frequencies of metaphor transference across languages and across groups are counted.

Per Durst-Andersen

Leksikaliseringmønstre ved verber. Et komparativt-typologisk studie

This paper combines two thematic areas which have been in the focus of linguists' in-ter-est for some years, viz. studies in lexicalization patterns of verbs and gram-ma-tical-ization studies. Instead of comparing lexicalization patterns of different lan-guages I have chosen to compare various stages of the same language, namely Old Russian and Modern Russian. This enables me to analyze the interrelationship between lexi-cal-ization patterns and grammatical categories. The paper argues that it is important to distinguish between naming principle and lexicalization pattern. A language may de-scribe an image or an idea and therefore has to make a semiotic choice between these two different naming principles. Having chosen a specific naming principle a language has to determine which parts of the image or which parts of the idea it wants to focus on or specify. My analysis shows that the Old Russian verb describes the idea, i.e. the ground-propositional structure, whereas the Modern Russian verb describes the image, i.e. the ground-situational structure. Moreover, it appears that Old Russian focuses on the state description without paying attention to the activity description, while Modern Russian takes into account both the state situation and the activity situation, but with the main focus on the former – the latter is only treated in prototypical terms. The shift in naming strategy and lexicalization pattern from Old Russian to Modern Russian can only be explained by the introduction of the new category of aspect, a determinant cate-gory in Modern Russian.

Ken Farø

Können geflügelte Worte "wissenschaftlich" sein, oder gehören sie ins Raritätenkabinett? Eine Diskussion anlässlich zweier Neuerscheinungen

How are we to understand and define *stock quotations* (Germ. *geflügelte Worte*, Dan. *bevingede ord*)? This is in my view far too important a task to leave to the publications collecting a highly interesting but nevertheless often heterogenous material under the header of this term. The material published does, so it seems, often not meet the require-ments of this linguistic category when systematically defined. Two basic criteria must in my view be fulfilled if we are to speak of stock quotations: (1) the speech act *citation* (in broad terms) must be a genuine feature of the linguistic unit, and (2) the lexeme must be *lexicalized*. Other features such as polylexical structure and modification may be optional but they should, I suggest, not be seen as obligatory. Stock quotations are both a lexical as well as a highly pragmatic category as their genuine purpose is to per-form a specific speech act. The discussion of stock quotations is undertaken on the grounds of two new dictionaries of this category, i.e. the German Büchmann (2002) and the Danish Bramsen (2001). Stock quotations do in spite of what is claimed in one of these dictionaries in fact lend themselves to scientific description.