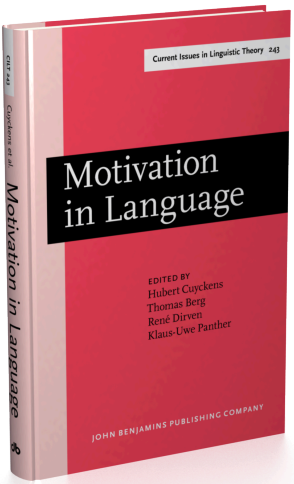
Current Issues in Linguistic Theory
243

Editors' foreword

https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.243.01edi



Pages vii–viii of
Motivation in Language: Studies in honor of Günter Radden
Edited by Hubert Cuyckens, Thomas Berg, René Dirven † and Klaus-Uwe Panther
[**Current Issues in Linguistic Theory**, 243]
2003. xxvi, 403 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights

EDITORS' FOREWORD

This volume contains a collection of papers in honor of Günter Radden, who is currently Professor Emeritus of English Linguistics at the University of Hamburg. The thematic perspective reflected by the title of the volume, *Motivation in Language*, has been chosen to reflect two interconnected aspects of Günter Radden's career as a linguist. First, as surveyed in the introduction "In Search of Conceptual Structure" (Dirven), Günter Radden has never ceased to be captivated by the conceptual intricacies of language. Throughout his career, he has not only shown a boundless enthusiasm for things linguistic himself, but he has also been able to instill this enthusiasm in students and colleagues. It is safe to say, then, that this double *motivation* for Günter Radden's scholarly pursuits resides in *language*. Second, as a psychologically highly-motivated linguist, Günter Radden has always looked for the conceptual factors underlying or *motivating* language use. Early on in his career, he focused on psychological factors motivating learners of English as a Second/ Foreign Language, and on societal motivational factors in sociolinguistic variation. Ever since the advent of Cognitive Linguistics (and even before), Günter Radden's research has been characterized by the belief that the link between the form and meaning of linguistic expressions is often not arbitrary, but cognitively *motivated*, thus reflecting his skepticism about the autonomy of linguistic form.

Motivation in Language tries to do justice to these general two-pronged research interests. As such, the greater part of the papers (Sections 1–3) analyze various linguistic phenomena in which not arbitrary, but cognitively motivated links between an expression's form and its meaning play a role; a smaller set of papers in Section 4 (at least indirectly) point to the role learner and attitudinal motivation may play in applied linguistics domains. At the same time, due care has been taken to include papers on specific topics that are at the heart of Günter Radden's research interests (either because he has published on them himself or because he has taught courses on them).

The papers in the first section "Motivation in Lexico-Grammar" present a discussion of some highly subjectified uses of tense and modal markers

(Langacker), the interplay between a verb's meaning—including its participant roles—and the syntactic and semantic context in which the verb occurs (Taylor, Croft, Vater), the morphological device 'blending' in terms of the cognitive grammar notion 'schema' (Kemmer), and the acquisition of *get-* vs. *be-* passives within a prototype approach to the passive (Meints). The papers in the second section "Motivation in the Lexicon" study the various factors motivating or underlying the range of (semantic) variants that attach to a particular lexical item. As such, the Polish perfectivizing prefix *za-* is shown to be systematically related to the goal/purpose preposition *za* (Tabakowska); the superficially heterogenous looking uses of the preposition *kuom* in Dholuo can be understood as deriving from one basic spatial image schema CONTACT-CUM-SOLID (Reh); and the coexistence, in German, of lexical and grammatical variants of a single word form is accounted for in terms of grammaticalization (Di Meola). A final paper in this section reviews the cognitive linguistic approach to metonymy, which is a conceptual factor *par excellence* in motivating lexical change (Barcelona). The papers in the third section "Motivation in Socio-Cultural Conceptualizations" look at motivating factors in the conceptual content or meaning of linguistic items that can be situated in the socio-cultural domain (Ikegami on the concept of 'language', and Janicki on the concept of 'abortion'), or illustrate how (aspects of) one particular socio-cultural domain (the economic domain) can be understood in terms of the domain of motion. The final set of papers "Motivation in Applied Linguistics" honors Günter Radden's (mostly earlier) work in the domain of Applied Linguistics. Edmonson and House's paper examines, among other things, how the 'relevance' factor contributes to long-term language learning motivation; Sprenger-Tasch's paper looks at the attitudinal factors determining the choice of the language of instruction in the Ugandan school system; Hünig's paper, finally, presents a comparative study of the use of style labels in learner's dictionaries.

A more detailed description of how the papers reflect the volume's title *Motivation in Language* can be found in the introductions to each of the sections.

Leuven, Hamburg, and Duisburg, May 2003
Hubert Cuyckens, Thomas Berg, René Dirven, and Klaus-Uwe Panther