

Contributors

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Deconstructing Constructions

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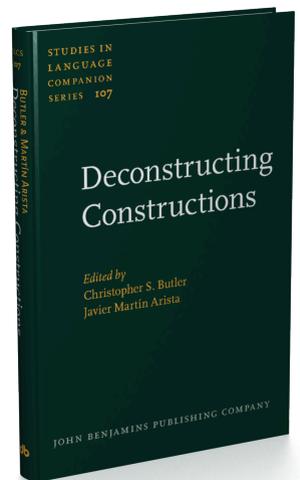
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Contributors

Christopher S. Butler took a first degree in biochemistry at the University of Oxford and taught biochemistry and microbial physiology for some years at what is now Nottingham Trent University, UK, before making a career move into linguistics. He worked at the University of Nottingham from 1971 to 1992; first in the Department of English Studies and later in the Department of Linguistics, where he was Head of Department from 1986 to 1992. He also directed the university's Language Centre from 1986 to 1990. In 1992 he took up the post of Head of English Language and Linguistics at what is now York St John University. From 1994 to 1998 he acted as Director of Research at that institution. He was awarded a Professorship of Linguistics in 1994. In 1998 he took early retirement in order to devote more time to research and writing. In 2000 he was made Honorary Professor in what was then the Centre for Applied Language Studies at Swansea University. His main research interests are concerned with theoretical and descriptive issues in functional grammars, with particular reference to English and Spanish. Much of his work is corpus-based and frequently makes use of statistical techniques. A number of publications, particularly in recent years, are concerned with both of the above aspects, attempting to show how insights from corpus linguistics can help us to formulate more adequate functional grammars. He has published around seventy articles, as well as four books, the most recent of these being *Structure and function: A guide to three major structural-functional theories* (2 vols., John Benjamins, 2003), comparing Functional Grammar, Systemic Functional Grammar and Role and Reference Grammar. He has also co-edited a number of other volumes, including *Nuevas perspectivas en Gramática Funcional* (Ariel, 1999), *The dynamics of language use: Functional and contrastive perspectives* (John Benjamins, 2005) and *Functional perspectives on grammar and discourse. In honour of Angela Downing* (John Benjamins, 2007). He has given presentations, often invited plenary lectures, at many international conferences in Europe, Australia and the USA. He serves on the editorial committees of a number of scholarly journals, and is currently Reviews Editor for *Functions of Language* (John Benjamins). He is a member of SCIMITAR, a research group based in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
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Francisco Cortés Rodríguez is Professor of English Language and Linguistics in the Department of English and German Philology, University of La Laguna, Spain. His areas of research interests are word-formation, lexical structure, the interaction between lexis and grammar within functional and cognitive models, and diachronic lexicology. He has been the head of various research projects funded by the Spanish

Ministry of Education and the Regional Government of the Canary Islands (HUM2005 07651-C02-01, BFF2002 0659; PB1999/136) that dealt with the structure of the lexicon and linking mechanisms in Old English. The research carried out within these projects stems from the application of the theoretical and methodological guidelines for the analysis of historical lexica that were propounded in Cortés Rodríguez, F.J. and R. Mairal Usón "A preliminary design for a syntactic dictionary of Old English on semantic principles", in Díaz Vera, J. (Ed.) *A changing world of words. Studies in English historical lexicography, lexicology and semantics*, 3–46 (Rodopi, 2002). An extensive application of this proposal is offered in the work entitled "Anglo-Saxon verbs of sound: semantic architecture, lexical representation and constructions", *Studia Anglica Poznaniensia* 42 (2006), 249–284 (co-authored with M. González Orta). An important contribution to the understanding of the interface between Anglo-Saxon motion lexical predicates and grammatical structures is to be found in Cortés Rodríguez, F.J. and D. Torres Medina "Old English verbs of running: linking semantic representation and morphosyntactic structure", *Folia Linguistica Historica XXIV/I* (2003), 153–174. Other relevant contributions are devoted to the field of derivational morphology in present-day English and Spanish, as is the case of Cortés Rodríguez, F.J. and M.J. Pérez Quintero "On the syntax-semantics interface in word-formation: The case of –er nominalizations", in Mairal, R. and M.J. Pérez Quintero (Eds) *New perspectives on predicate structure in Functional Grammar*, 213–246. (Mouton de Gruyter 2002). The paper "Derivational morphology in Role and Reference Grammar: a new proposal" *RESLA (Revista Española de Lingüística Aplicada)* 19 (2006), 41–66, is a study that offers a wider perspective on how this topic can be approached within functionally-oriented theories.

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Daniel García Velasco is Lecturer in English Linguistics at the University of Oviedo, Spain, where he teaches courses on syntax and semantics from both a functional and a generativist perspective. He is an active researcher in Simon Dik's Functional Grammar and its successor Functional Discourse Grammar. In 2003, he published *Funcionalismo y lingüística: La Gramática Funcional de S.C. Dik* (University of Oviedo Press) an exhaustive critical presentation of Dik's model in Spanish. He has contributed to the development of the theory in different areas. In 2002, together with Kees Hengeveld (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), he published "Do we need predicate frames?" (Mairal Usón, R. and M.J. Pérez Quintero (Eds), *New perspectives on argument structure in Functional Grammar*, Mouton de Gruyter) an article in which the authors propose to separate lexemes from the frames in which they appear in the lexicon and dispense with the notion of "predicate frame". More recently, he has proposed a new approach to the semantics of lexical items with significant consequences for the organization of the lexicon in Functional Discourse Grammar ("Lexical competence and Functional Discourse Grammar").

Alfa – Revista de Lingüística, 51). The adequacy of this proposal has been tested in a forthcoming article on the process of conversion in the English language (“Conversion in English and its implications for Functional Discourse Grammar”, *Lingua*, 2008). He has also co-edited the volume *The Noun Phrase in Functional Discourse Grammar* (Mouton de Gruyter), together with Jan Rijkhoff (University of Aarhus, Denmark). This book contains a contribution by Daniel García Velasco (“Functional Discourse Grammar and extraction from (complex) noun phrases”), in which the author offers a pragmatics-based approach to Ross’s Complex Noun Phrase Constraint.

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Francisco González-García is Lecturer in English Language and Linguistics in the Department of English and German Philology, University of Almería, Spain. His research interests center on the areas of syntax, semantics, pragmatics and discourse analysis, as well as on functionalist and constructivist approaches. His early work, deriving from his Ph.D. received at the University of Bologna (Royal Spanish College) “The syntax-semantics interface in complex-transitive complementation in contemporary English”, was geared towards an eclectic approach to the syntactic analysis and semantico-pragmatic import of verbless complement clauses in English. This synthesising analysis is outlined in “A modality view of predicate selection in small clauses” (1997; *Texas Linguistic Forum* 38: 101–119). A much more ‘delicate’ version of this account, drawing on the Goldbergian version of Construction Grammar and applied to both English and Spanish subcategorized verbless complement clauses, has been recently published as “Re-constructing object complements in English and Spanish” (in Martínez Vázquez, M. (Ed.) (2003), *Gramática de Construcciones: Contrastes entre el inglés y el español*. Huelva: Grupo de Gramática Contrastiva, pp. 17–58). Over the last few years, he has published a number of articles focusing on argument structure in English and Spanish from a constructionist standpoint. His most recent publications offer a fine-grained comparison of 11 functionalist, cognitivist and/or constructionist models in terms of a list of 36 features (with Christopher Butler, “Mapping functional-cognitive space”, *Annual Review of Cognitive Linguistics* 4 (2006), 39–96), a Goldbergian analysis of passive verbless configurations in Spanish as constructions in their own right (“Passives without actives: evidence from verbless complement clauses in Spanish”, *Constructions* SV1–5/2006), an analysis of coercion via reflexive pronouns in secondary predication in English and Spanish (“‘Saved by the reflexive’: Evidence from coercion via reflexives in verbless complement clauses in English and Spanish”. *Annual Review of Cognitive Linguistics* 5 (2007), 193–238) and a Goldbergian analysis of the family of object-related depictives in English in Spanish (“The family of object-related depictives in English and Spanish: Towards a usage-based, constructionist analysis”, *Language Sciences* (2008; in press). [Available online from www.science-direct.com].

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Pilar Guerrero Medina is Lecturer in English Grammar at the University of Córdoba, Spain. She has mainly conducted her research within a functionalist framework, focusing on the relationship between lexis and grammar on the one hand, and grammar and discourse on the other. In her early article “A prototype approach to transitivity: its implications for the FG typology of SoAs” (in Olbertz, H. *et al.* (Eds) (1998) *The structure of the lexicon in Functional Grammar. Studies in Language Companion Series*. John Benjamins, 215–232) she integrates the notion of prototypical transitivity within S.C. Dik’s Functional Grammar theory. Other FG articles are: “Reconsidering aspectuality: interrelations between grammatical and lexical aspect” (*Working Papers in Functional Grammar* 75 (2001), 1–11) and “Object assignment in S.C. Dik’s Functional Grammar: marginal accessibility in English” (*Odisea. Revista de Estudios Ingleses* 4 (2004), 9–57). A constructionist approach to the study of argument structure has been adopted in two of her later publications: “A constructional account of ‘lexical ergativity’ in English” (in Carretero González, M. *et al.* (Eds) (2002) *A life in words*. University of Granada, 199–215) and “Lexically ergative constructions in English and Spanish” (in Iglesias Rábade, L. and S. Doval (Eds) (2002) *Studies in Contrastive Linguistics*. University of Santiago de Compostela, 465–473). Her most recent work explores the grammar-discourse interface: “Cardinal transitivity in foregrounded discourse. A contrastive study in English and Spanish” (in Butler, C.S. *et al.* (Eds) (2005) *The dynamics of language use: Functional and contrastive perspectives*. John Benjamins, 349–369), which aims to link the semantico-grammatical properties of transitivity to its discourse function in English and Spanish, and “A discourse-based approach to English de-transitivization: middle vs passive” (in Guerrero Medina, P. and E. Martínez Jurado (Eds) (2006) *Where grammar meets discourse. Functional and cognitive perspectives*. University of Córdoba, 133–150).
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Ricardo Mairal Usón has been a Full Professor of English Language and Linguistics in the Department of Modern Languages at the Spanish National Distance-Learning University (UNED) since 2002. His main areas of research interest are the architecture of the English lexicon, the representation of lexical knowledge, linguistic universals and the interactions between lexical semantics, syntax and morphology with particular reference to theoretical models, both formal and functional. He has been the head of various research projects funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education and the Regional Government of Madrid and has additionally participated in other projects that deal with various aspects of language research such as terminology, the compilation of lexical representations and linking mechanisms in Old English, natural language processing and the development of lexical databases for lexicography. He has co-authored or co-edited a number of books including: *Nuevas perspectivas en Gramática Funcional* (Ariel, 1999), *Constructing a lexicon of English verbs* (Mouton de Gruyter, 1999), *New perspectives on argument structure in Functional Grammar*

(Mouton de Gruyter, 2002), *En torno a los universales lingüísticos* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), *Linguistic Universals* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). He has also published over fifty scholarly articles which have appeared in specialised national and international journals. He has served as a scientific committee member for several specialised journals, including *Cuadernos de Investigación Filología*, *Atlantis*, *RESLA*, *Estudios Ingleses de la Universidad Complutense*, *Onomázein* and *Functions of Language*. He has done occasional review work for *Cognitive Linguistics* and *Language Sciences* and has also been a member of the advisory committee of various international conferences on Role and Reference Grammar. He has also lectured extensively as keynote speaker at national and international conferences on Applied and Theoretical Linguistics.

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Javier Martín Arista was appointed senior lecturer in English at the University of La Rioja in 1996; two years after defending his Ph.D. dissertation, entitled *SVO and passive order in English: Synchronic, diachronic and typological perspectives* (Servicio de Publicaciones de la Universidad de Zaragoza). He has been a visiting scholar at the Universities of Sheffield (1996), Pennsylvania (1999), SUNY Buffalo (2000) and Amsterdam (2001) and has delivered lectures by invitation at several European and American universities, including Newcastle, Strathclyde, Sheffield Hallam, Queen Mary London, Copenhagen and Toronto. He delivered a plenary lecture at the 2004 International Conference of the Spanish Association for Applied Linguistics. He has published more than fifty book chapters and articles in journals specialising in theoretical linguistics, English studies and diachronic studies. He has made around seventy presentations at conferences, of which around thirty were international. He has supervised four doctoral dissertations in theoretical linguistics and is supervising another six dealing with Old English derivational morphology. He has taken part in about twenty research projects in synchronic and diachronic linguistics, and at the moment is the leading researcher of the Research Group in Functional Grammars of the University of La Rioja. Dr Martín Arista was a member of the editorial board of *Shakespeare Quarterly-WSB* until 2004; and is currently a reviewer for *ATLANTIS*, *STVDIVM*, *Journal of English Studies*, *Revista de Lingüística y Lenguas Aplicadas*, *Revista Española de Lingüística Aplicada* and *The Open Applied Linguistics Journal*. He is also editor of *RæL-Revista Electrónica de Lingüística Aplicada*. He has been a reviewer of the National Agency for Evaluation and Planning since 1999 and was Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Staff) of the University of La Rioja from 2001 until 2004.

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pure change of state in English: projection, constructions and event structure. Her research focuses on the syntax-semantics interface, lexicology, and pragmatics, mainly from a functionalist and cognitivist approach. She has published articles on ergativity and possessed-raising constructions, markedness and subject prototypicality, nominal aspect, syntactic and semantic valence, and, from a more pragmatic perspective, on the generation of humour. She has been a visiting researcher at SUNY at Buffalo, University of Essex and Queen Mary, University of London, and has collaborated in various research projects on diachrony and functional theories of language. She is a member of the Research Group of Functional Grammars of the University of La Rioja, and she is co-editor of RæL (Revista Electrónica de Lingüística Aplicada [Electronic Journal of Applied Linguistics]).

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Johan Pedersen is Associate Professor in Spanish Language and Linguistics in the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. His research interests are in syntax and semantics, including constructionist approaches to grammar. Of particular interest is Spanish grammar in a contrastive/typological perspective. He received a Ph.D. in Spanish linguistics at the University of Copenhagen (2000) for a dissertation on aspects of the relation between grammar and pragmatics in Spanish, “*Conectores y relaciones gramaticales. El caso de aunque en español*” (Connectors and grammatical relations. The case of *aunque* in Spanish). He has published a number of articles on different aspects of Spanish grammar and linguistics. Selected publications: “Lexical and constructional organization of argument structure. Typological differences” (in Zlatev, J. *et al*, *Studies in language and cognition*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, forthcoming). “Organización léxica y esquemática – una perspectiva tipológica (Lexical and schematic organization – a typological perspective)” (*Papers from the VIII congress on general linguistics 2008*; Madrid, forthcoming). “The impersonal *se*-construction in Spanish. Constructional variation and change” (*Constructions*, 2005, 1, 1–49). “Reflexive intensification in Spanish. Toward a complex reflexive?” (in Fortescue, M. *et al* (Eds), *Selected papers from the XVth International Conference on Historical Linguistics*, John Benjamins 2005). “Construction Grammar and Second Language Acquisition. A cognitive understanding of language in a contrastive perspective” (in Hansen, H.L. (Ed.), *Disciplines and interdisciplinarity in foreign language studies*, Copenhagen: Museum Musculanums Forlag, 2004). “The Spanish connective and verbal mood. Changes in the mood selection of *de ahí/aquí que*” (in Eksell, K. & T. Vinther (Eds), *Explanatory models on language change within the verbal system*, Peter Lang Publishers, 2006). “La base discursiva de la oración compuesta (The discourse basis of the compound sentence)” (in Delbecque, N. (Ed.), *Aproximaciones cognoscitivo-funcionales al Español, Foro hispánico* (Cognitive-functional approaches

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