

Foreword

Phraseology is a branch of linguistics with a significant tradition reaching back to Charles Bally's *"Traité de stylistique française"* (2 vols., Heidelberg, 1909). Bally's ideas were not extended immediately, but they were taken up by V.V. Vinogradov in the 1940s, leading to the initiation of numerous publications on Russian materials. Phraseology did not, however, become an internationally recognized and expanding area of research until the 70's of the previous century. In the 70's and 80's various scholars (Adam Makkai *"Idiom Structure in English"* 1972 for English, Harald Thun *"Probleme der Phraseologie"* (1978) for the Romance Languages, Harald Burger/Annelies Buhofer/Ambros Sialm *"Handbuch der Phraseologie"* (1982) und Wolfgang Fleischer *"Phraseologie der deutschen Gegenwartssprache"* (1982) for German, to name just a few important publications) gave an overview of phraseology for that era from very different perspectives. Since then interest in phraseology has grown by leaps and bounds, as demonstrated by the abundance of international conferences and new publications in the various special areas of the field.

There are also already summary overviews of phraseology, though none with the status of proper handbooks. Palm (1997) and Burger (1998) represent new introductions to phraseology. 1999 saw the establishment of the *"European Society for Phraseology/Europäische Gesellschaft für Phraseologie"* (EUOPHRAS), a sign of the necessity for international exchange in this area of research. Now that phraseology has evolved into an independent linguistic discipline, an up-to-date handbook representation of recent phraseological research has become a compelling obligation. The *"Handbook of Lexicology/Handbuch der Lexikologie"* (2002 HSK) dedicated a chapter to phraseology, but only under the heading of *"special forms of lexical units"*, so that set phrases as units in their own right were only indirectly included.

In the meantime, comprehensive new bibliographies have appeared (Joachim Lengert: *"Romanische Phraseologie und Parömiologie"* 1999; the Euralex and Europhras Bibliographies in electronic form), awaiting evaluation in a fresh overview of relevant research.

While in the 70s the discussion still raged whether we ought to propagate a *"narrow"* (strict formal-structuralist orientation) or a *"wide"* (including pragmatic, sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic perspectives) conception of phraseology, today there is a general consensus that phraseology encompasses a very broad palette of linguistic phenomena and issues. Similarly, it can no longer be denied that proverbs possess important phraseological characteristics. An interesting issue for phraseology, especially from a contrastive linguistic point of view, is the relationship between word-formation and phraseology, since this relationship manifests itself in different ways from one language system to the other. From this perspective, it is perhaps more important to stress the idiomatic character of word-formation, rather than to draw a strict line between the two areas.

Some authors speak of *"formulaic language"* in a very general sense to avoid confusion with a narrowly structuralist definition of phraseology. The editors of this Handbook consider this terminological caution unnecessary, in light of the increasing use of the term phraseology in the more general sense (compare Article 1). This new Handbook of Phraseology therefore includes the large territory of weakly idiomatic word

groups (collocations and similar phenomena), along with the routine formulae and the linguistic characteristics of proverbs and related sentence-level units, as well as phraseological aspects of texts and text patterns.

The new developments in phraseology have led to a re-evaluation and re-definition of the questions and terminology (see Article 1) which were dominant at the beginning of research in this field. Of continuing interest are morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, and textlinguistic aspects of phraseology. In the meantime, certain special areas of research in phraseology have come to assume a central role, namely: the cognitive basis of phraseology (as an area of Cognitive Linguistics, especially in connection with cognitive linguistic research on metaphor), along with intercultural and cultural semiotic aspects of phraseology.

The empirical basis of research in phraseology has expanded considerably in recent years. The large corpora, initially produced in the Anglo-American language community, but now in Germany, France, Austria, the Czech Republic and Russia as well, are rendering our theoretical assumptions more testable (we can expect new impulses from corpus linguistics for some of the above mentioned areas), but they are also opening new methodological approaches for discovering and distinguishing phraseological phenomena. Especially the area of collocation is becoming more clearly defined through corpus linguistic methods.

The situation is thus in many respects fundamentally different from the era of the Handbook by Burger/Buhofer/Sialm (1982), in so far as they were concerned with initial formulations of relevant issues in many cases. This new Handbook already builds on a basis of broad knowledge and rich research. Summarizing established knowledge is therefore the first goal of the new Handbook. Beyond that, of course, open questions are discussed and desiderata for future research are formulated.

We are nevertheless aware that we have only been able to achieve an approximation to completeness in the areas represented. Delays, which are unavoidable in the undertaking of a handbook, and the special interests of the contributing authors conspire to ensure that all topics do not receive the same kind or the same amount of attention. The coverage and length of the individual articles depends not only on the topics themselves, but also very much on the current research situation and the interests of the authors themselves. It is also in the nature of a handbook that the most recent literature cannot receive as much attention as it may deserve.

The handbook falls into two volumes for technical reasons. The first volume contains chapters I-XIII (articles 1-51), and the second volume contains chapters XIV-XX (articles 52-95) along with the name and subject indexes. All together ninety-six authors contributed to this handbook. In the first volume, following a brief consideration of terminology and classification, fundamental structural, semantic and semiotic aspects of set phrases are discussed. This discussion extends to comprise pragmatic perspectives, initially fundamental pragmatic issues and then text-linguistic matters, including written versus oral discourse. The forms and functions of formulaicity are further investigated under the perspectives of sociolinguistics, language for special purposes, and areal linguistics as well as contrastive and intercultural points of view. In the second volume, the scope broadens to embrace phraseology in individual languages. In addition, cognitive and psycholinguistic aspects of phraseology along with language acquisition come in for attention. The handbook places special emphasis on

the relation between theory and practice and on areas of application: phraseodidactics and phraseography along with computer and corpus linguistic aspects of phraseology. An overview of the historical phraseology of individual languages rounds out the second volume.

Chapter I, which opens the first volume, concerns the *subject area* of phraseology, its range and characteristics, and in relation to them, fundamental issues of *terminology and classification*. On the basis of the articles assembled here, the editors of the volume describe and compare different concepts of phraseology and the terminology used by the authors in their respective articles. They further discuss the desirability and practicability of a standardization of terminology.

The second chapter covers *Structural aspects of set phrases*. It gives an overview of the relevant morphological features of fixed expressions and describes the relationship between word-formation and phraseology, as well as considering the role of orthography for the written instantiation and distinction of set phrases. In regard to syntax, it sketches valence theoretical and generative approaches as well as problems concerning the description of set phrases in Construction Grammar.

The third chapter concerns the *Semantics of set phrases*. It begins with a discussion of the metalanguage appropriate to the study of set phrases. A further section covers the semantic role of single words in set phrases and the motivation of set phrases (metaphor, metonymy etc.), distinguishing sources and types of idiomaticity, degrees of analyzability. A third section contains a treatment of paradigmatic structures in set phrases (semantic fields, synonymy, antonymy etc.). A final section is devoted to Lexical Functions in Meaning-Text Theory as a tool for analyzing restricted collocations.

The fourth chapter addresses *Pragmatic, stylistic, and rhetorical issues in phraseology*. It considers Gricean Pragmatics and Relevance Theory, discussing set phrases and implicature, single stage versus two-stage interpretation. It also contains a discussion of set phrases and politeness theory, including face-threatening acts, power, rapport and inference, finally, from the perspective of Conversation Analysis as well. A second article contains a discussion of stylistic properties and functions of set phrases in discourse, including who uses set phrases, with whom, and to what effect; where set phrases occur in discourse; set phrases as discourse markers, set phrases and deixis and so on. A third section concentrates on the role of set phrases in a central area of discourse analysis, namely argumentation.

Semiotic aspects of set phrases stand at the center of interest in the fifth chapter. This chapter deals with the specific sign character of set phrases from the particular perspectives of syntax, semantics and pragmatics, in so far as set phrases form a secondary semiotic system, while covering the possible embodiment of phraseology in different semiotic directions and traditions. In particular, it considers the relationship between phraseology and paremiology, and the role of frequency analysis.

The sixth chapter, *Set phrases in discourse*, begins with a general consideration of set phrases in reading and listening, writing and speaking. A second article explores the special role set phrases play in the formation and progression of texts, due to their polylexemic structure and their characteristic semantics. From the disciplines of sociolinguistics and discourse analysis, two important topic areas have been chosen for their special significance from a phraseological perspective: adolescent language and city language.

On the topic of *Set phrases in types of texts and conversation* (chapter VII) there are already a number of individual investigations. The articles in this chapter address various types of texts marked by their characteristic use of set phrases: printed and audio-visual texts, spoken political texts, advertising texts, jokes and comics, popular science texts and short personal-interest texts such as horoscopes. Authors address the concept of the “function” of set phrases in general as well as in individual text types.

Chapter VIII, *Phraseology of literary texts and individual authors*, initially addresses the question of specific functions of set phrases in literary texts. Following this general consideration of phraseology in literary texts, it selects just a few exemplary authors who have previously attracted the attention of phraseology researchers, namely Spenser, Emerson, Karl Kraus, Proust, and Dostoevskij. The linguistic description goes beyond a systematic structural analysis to focus on the contextualisation of set phrases, their role in the constitution of larger textual units, particular authorial modifications of set phrases and the relationship between the authors’ usage and that characteristic for their respective language eras. The diversity of the authors chosen serves to demonstrate the various aspects of the term “authorial set phrase”.

Proverbs (chapter IX) are treated both as set phrases and as cultural artifacts or items of folklore. The first section on proverbs as set phrases covers linguistic features of proverbs. It distinguishes proverbs from related units such as idioms, binomials, clichés, sayings, gambits, epigrams, allusions etc. It explores characteristic proverb patterns and proverb frames. It deals with the formulaic properties of proverbs such as prosody, parallelism and imagery. Systematic semantic relations between proverbs such as synonymy and antonymy receive attention. Figurative properties of individual proverbs are treated as well. The section on proverbs as cultural artifacts and items of folklore covers the genesis and evolution of proverbs. It treats proverb occurrence and functions in advertising, in popular songs, in the various media, in literature and so on. A final section covers proverb dictionaries in different language communities, especially from a methodological point of view.

Particular types of set phrases come in for attention in chapter X: first those with a characteristic structure such as binomials, similes and light verb constructions (including contrastive perspectives), then pragmatically fixed types of set phrases, such as routine formulae, slogans and the like. Finally, it addresses issues surrounding formulaicity at the text level.

Chapter XI considers *Set phrases in technical language*. It treats the specific use of set phrases in language for special purposes, especially from the perspective of the relationship between technical language and common language. The articles cover the special features of set phrases and describe the functions of set phrases in two chosen areas: legal texts and economic texts.

Areal aspects of phraseology make up the subject matter of chapter XII. The first article addresses the state of the art and research methods in the phraseology of dialects, based on data from various language communities. It focuses primarily on important results from research on dialect phraseology from a cultural semiotic perspective. The second article – from the perspective of German dialectology – concerns the phraseology of dialects, the collection and description of dialectal set phrases, e.g., in lexical and language atlases, along with questions of language contact. A third article treats standard language differences within German from a phraseological perspective

(Teutonisms, Helvetisms, Austrianisms, etc.). The last article deals with phraseology in the national varieties of English.

The starting point for chapter XIII, *Contrastive phraseology and translation*, is a discussion of central concepts of contrastive phraseology, in particular the notion of equivalence. Various practical applications of research on equivalence are discussed. In the investigation of intercultural aspects of phraseology in the second article, the category of cultural knowledge looms especially large. Certain cognitive structures (from culture specific, everyday knowledge all the way to semiotized secondary signs), which are fixed in the lexical structure of specific set phrases in different ways, are considered. Research results from concrete language comparisons receive attention as well. The third article then focuses on theoretical and practical problems of translation. A successful translation of a set phrase is not necessarily a set phrase. Both literary and practical texts are considered.

The second volume of this handbook begins with chapter XIV, the *Phraseology in individual languages*. It singles out a few languages whose phraseology is already well researched (including phraseology in planned languages) for purposes of exposition, as well as languages for which little research on phraseology exists (e.g. Chinese and Arabic). Of course, a broader palette of languages would be desirable, but limitations of space in the Handbook and the difficulty of finding appropriate authors have reduced the ideal to the possible. Classes of set phrases which occur in the languages in question and their special properties as well as the relationship between phraseology and word formation, culture specific characteristics, conspicuous patterns of metaphor, will be considered. The weighting of these various factors differs by language and author.

Cognitive and psycholinguistic aspects of phraseology constitute the topic of chapter XV. One main topic (first article) in a cognitive approach to phraseological research is the role of image components of meaning in the functioning of idioms and the applicability of the cognitive theory of metaphor to idiomaticity. Many special characteristics of the semantics, pragmatics and syntax of idioms follow from the details of their metaphoric structure. This chapter also considers memorization of set phrases and psychological processes during the production and comprehension of set phrases, on the one hand, in the American tradition (second article), and on the other hand, in the European tradition (third article).

Chapter XVI, *Language acquisition and language teaching*, considers the age-specific development of set phrase use and comprehension. It takes both naturalistic (observation, records) and experimental methods into consideration. Two separate articles treat this topic with regard to first language acquisition and second language acquisition. It also treats the often neglected field of phraseology in first and second language teaching. The article concerning the topic of set phrases in first language teaching contemplates primarily historical, stylistic and pragmatic problems. In the area of second language teaching, by contrast, the acquisition, practice, memorization and adequate use of set phrases are at the center of attention.

The first two foundational articles in chapter XVII, *Phraseography*, deal with the theoretical, methodological and practical problems of monolingual and bilingual phraseography. Further, traditions of phraseography in different language communities are considered. Phraseography has developed in divergent ways in the languages treated

here. The various articles describe not only the historical development of phraseology but also the current situation in monolingual and bilingual dictionaries.

Chapter XVIII, *Computer linguistic aspects of phraseology*, covers set phrases in the context of machine translation, automatic language recognition and production. One of the central problems facing computer linguistics with regard to phraseology is the automatic recognition of set phrases. The focal points of the first article are methods of data collection from corpora, identification of set phrases through coding, and syntactic analysis along with the semantic representation of set phrases in the lexicon. The second article concentrates on set phrases in Natural Language Processing and on recent developments and new methods.

The chapter on *Corpus linguistic aspects of phraseology* (XIX) describes the results of current corpus-based projects relevant to phraseology. From a theoretical perspective, the following must be mentioned: a corpus linguistic approach leads to a new view of many phraseological terms and problems (including frequency, familiarity, stability versus variability and its boundaries, lexicalization, entrenchment). From a lexicographical perspective, the corpus linguistic approach offers more precision in the creation of lemmata, as well as enabling the evaluation of an enormous quantity of empirical material. In this way, it also makes the appraisal and description of relevant semantic, pragmatic and combination characteristics possible. The first article treats corpus linguistic methods with English corpora, while the second article treats those with German corpora. A final article explores the use of the World Wide Web as a resource for research in phraseology.

Finally, in the articles in chapter XX, *Historical phraseology*, we come to basic phraseological questions which can be raised for any language: methodological problems in the study of set phrases and their meaning in historical texts; the development of set phrases; their origins, their gradual entrenchment as a permanent part of a language, and their eventual disappearance from it; lexemic, morphosyntactic and semantic changes. Important issues are also the standardization of written languages and the role of dialect in the genesis of set phrases. In addition, the specifics of monolingual phrase history are explored, illustrating the history of phraseology with the help of the general history of language and culture. Besides considering phraseological and paremiological work in the narrow sense, those lexicological, language-historical and folkloric studies with a phraseological component are taken into account. A few languages have been selected on the basis of apposite available research.

An index of names and subjects in volume two completes the Handbook.

The following writing conventions were established, and they are reflected in most of the contributions: metalinguistically cited set phrases and other linguistic items in italics, meanings and glosses in single quotes, the literal meaning of a set phrase in double quotes where necessary; double quotes also for quoted passages, technical terms and titles of dictionaries. No index of abbreviations was deemed necessary, since standard (scholarly) abbreviations appear in the articles and their bibliographies. Cross-references within the articles themselves, as in: (see Art.), contribute to the inter-relatedness of the individual contributions.

This new Handbook seeks to address a broad and varied readership: linguists, literary scholars, lexicographers, pedagogues, translators, psychologists, ethnologists and sociologists.

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The editors hope that the Handbook of Phraseology contributes to the consolidation and integration of phraseology and advances its development through conceptual research impulses.

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