make them of even greater interest as a basis for research, and it will permit the more detailed study of equivalence relations.

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Harald Burger: *Phraseologie. Eine Einführung am Beispiel des Deutschen*, 4., neu bearbeitete Auflage (Grundlagen der Germanistik 36). Berlin: Erich Schmidt, 2010. 239 pp. ISBN 978-3-503-12204-2 (Pb.).

In 1998, Harald Burger first published his introduction to phraseology, which has served as a reference book to many a researcher and student ever since. Aiming at constantly improving *Phraseologie. Eine Einführung am Beispiel des Deutschen*, he has now presented its fourth edition already. In the foreword Burger clearly defines the standards his work is supposed to establish: he stresses the need to introduce terminology, as well as criteria of analysis and categorization, on the one hand, and to provide an account of the actual use of phraseological units in spoken and written language, on the other. He also promises to provide a balance between academic scholarship and readability, in addition to illustrating the theoretical discussion with authentic examples.

The first chapter of the book is dedicated to presenting the main characteristics of phraseological units, namely polylexicality, fixedness, and idiomaticity. The author goes into detail about various aspects of fixedness, also showing that it only constitutes a relative characteristic, since phraseological units do allow for various kinds of intentional and unintentional variation. Burger emphasizes that idiomaticity is optional and applies only to the very heart of phraseology – idioms.

Chapter 2 introduces a possible classification of phraseological units. It ranges from giving a basic categorization to presenting specific types of multi-word units, such as binominals, fixed comparisons or winged words.

In doing so, the author largely relies on the terminology used in Burger et al. (1982), but claims that he has updated it where necessary.

The next two chapters deal with semantic issues, which constitute the main focus of Burger's introduction. Superbly, the author works his way through the often confusing terminology involving the semantics of phraseological units. Anyone eager to understand, say, the difference between *Motiviertheit* ('motivatedness'), *Motivierung* ('motivation') and *Motivierbarkeit* ('motivatability') (Chapter 3) or between *Bildlichkeit* ('imagery') and *Bildhaftigkeit* ('figurativity') (Chapter 4), will undoubtedly benefit from consulting these elaborations. Chapter 4 – *Idiom und Metapher* – focuses on a cognitive perspective concerning the motivation of phraseological units, mainly with regard to Conceptual Metaphor Theory (Lakoff and Johnson 1980). However, Burger warns the reader against an overestimation of cognitive factors in the description of source domains, claiming that a large number of idioms cannot be explained in terms of the very global system of conceptual metaphors. The chapter closes with a description of the differences between metaphoric idioms and single-word metaphors.

Burger then continues by taking a closer look at proverbs, which he positions within the field of phraseology. In this detailed fifth chapter, the author not only comments on the basic characteristics of proverbs and on the similarities and differences between proverbs and other types of phraseological units, but also on the change of function that they have experienced over the centuries. He clearly denies the widespread opinion that proverbs are on the verge of dying out and illustrates how current ways of using them (modifications, anti-proverbs, etc.) keep them alive enduringly.

Chapter 6 presents a detailed discussion of diachronic aspects pf phraseology. The author highlights three possible ways in which diachrony can become relevant to the language user: first of all, when users come across a completely unfamiliar multi-word expression and want its meaning defined; secondly, when they are intrigued by the image underlying a specific phraseological unit and wish to find out more about its etymological source and development; and thirdly, when language users are going through an old text and are confronted with an expression that somehow seems familiar to them, but whose meaning or usage does not correspond to its current one. It is this problem in particular that Burger expands upon, He shows that while a considerable number of German phraseological units have remained stable over the centuries, an even larger proportion has undergone formal or semantic changes, whereas only a few have disappeared entirely.

The seventh chapter is a fairly heterogeneous compilation of considerations revolving around the topic 'phraseologisms in texts'. It starts off with a short passage on where they are usually placed in a text and then briefly addresses the issue of phraseology and cohesion before taking a closer look at modification. Burger lists three forms of modification, dependent on whether form and/or meaning are concerned. The presumption is made that mainly phraseological units with two levels, i.e. with a literal and a phraseological reading, undergo modification. This, however, is clearly open to debate, as on-going studies on modifications carried out by this reviewer suggest the contrary. What follows is a description of the use of phraseological units in specific text genres: in television scripts, in specialized texts, and in children's books.

In his eighth chapter, the author criticizes the way phraseological units are still treated within modern dictionaries. He states that, even though phraseography has clearly pointed out its claims to lexicography, none of the current general dictionaries has sufficiently taken them into account. Burger lists the questions that dictionary users might have in mind when they consult such compilations to find information about phraseological units: How do they find out that they are actually dealing with a phraseological unit?, Under which lemma do they find a specific multi-word expression?, What does it mean?, etc. Burger illustrates convincingly how current dictionaries fail to answer these essential questions.

Phraseologie. Eine Einführung am Beispiel des Deutschen ends with a chapter on the regional differences within German phraseology. Burger – himself born in Germany, but today a Swiss citizen – shows that there is a need to distinguish between expressions that are solely used within Germany and those specific to Austria and German-speaking Switzerland on the one hand, and those which are used among speakers of all three countries on the other. He explains that this distinction is particularly important in connection with phraseography. But the author not only illustrates the regional differences that exist, notably by referring to his own data on Helvetisms, but he also comments on various sociolinguistic aspects of these differences as well as on the stylistic functions of Helvetisms.

In comparison to the third edition, only a few changes have been made. Although the layout is very similar, the new edition is a little more appealing, since a larger number of key expressions have been set in bold print and are therefore more eye-catching. What is more important is the fact that every chapter now ends with a short summary in a separate information box. This clearly enhances the book's readability, particularly for students who need a first orientation in phraseology. At the end of each chapter, Burger also gives

suggestions for further reading, which is one of the major assets of the new edition, notably since the author has considered both the 'classics' dealing with the particular topics and the latest studies published in the diverse fields that he discusses. The current updates, despite being few in number, contribute to the general impression *Phraseologie* conveys to the reader: Burger has lived up to his own expectations in striking the right balance between scholarliness and readability. Explanations, descriptions, and arguments are always simple enough to assure comprehensibility, which makes the book a welcome aid for every seminar on phraseology. However, Burger spares us the simplistic approach and patronizing style of a potential 'Phraseology for Dummies' unfortunately found in many introductions to linguistic subfields. What is more, the author provides a very comprehensive insight into German phraseology, clearly going beyond what one would expect to be thoroughly treated in an introduction. This is particularly true for the last two chapters on phraseography and regional differences. Thus, the book excellently manages to present all the basic technical terms that the reader might come across on a first encounter with phraseology. It also shows where future research could make a valuable contribution and might consequently constitute a suitable starting point for current or prospective phraseologists. It can therefore be concluded that Burger's work is a pleasure to read – not only for the information it presents, but also because of its layout and accessible style.

Despite its superior quality, I would nevertheless like to make some suggestions for future editions. Although Burger includes some of the latest studies in the field of phraseology, cognitive theories are neglected throughout almost the entire book. Only Chapter 4.1 (*Die kognitive Perspektive*) briefly takes into account psycholinguistic and cognitive studies, mainly those by George Lakoff and Raymond W. Gibbs (see, e.g., Gibbs 1994; Lakoff 1987). However, the last decade or so has clearly shown that Cognitive Linguistics has much more to offer to phraseology than Lakoff & Johnson's 1980) approach to conceptual metaphor. For example, one could mention the application of Conceptual Integration Theory (Fauconnier & Turner 2002) in the analysis of phraseological modifications. In addition, some of the elaborations in the second part of the book could be more concise: it would seem advantageous for Burger to abandon some of his illustrative examples in a series or even some of his subchapters. This suggestion goes for passages such as in 7.3.3, where the use of phraseological units and their modifications in children's books are described in great detail, or for the subchapters in 6.2, where the description of phraseology in older texts amounts to a total of eighteen pages, which, in my view, is far more detailed than necessary for an introduction to phraseology.

Irrespective of the question whether one might agree with the author in all aspects, Burger's introduction to German phraseology is decisively an excellent example of how such a book can meet various needs. On the one hand, it manages to be a helpful and basic tool for beginners, while keeping its promise to be readable throughout. This is why it is, at least in my opinion, particularly apt as a course book for seminars. On the other hand, the scope of this book goes far beyond what one would expect from an introduction to phraseology, and this renders this monograph equally interesting and useful to the informed reader. In a great many respects the fourth edition of *Phraseologie. Eine Einführung am Beispiel des Deutschen* is therefore highly recommendable and deserves being assigned a prominent position on the bookshelf of anyone working in the field of German phraseology.

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