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Dynamics at the Lexicon-Syntax Interface: Creativity and Routine in Word-Formation and Multi-Word Expressions

Products of word-formation and multi-word expressions (phraseologisms, phrasemes, set phrases) are well-known to be characterised by both creativity and routine. Despite obvious parallels, however, word-formation and multi-word constructs are often studied independent of each other, by different research communities. Springing from a workshop with the same name that was held at the 45th Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society at the University of Cologne (7.-10.3.2023), the present volume on *Dynamics at the Lexicon-Syntax Interface: Creativity and Routine in Word-Formation and Multi-Word Expressions* brings together different research communities to discuss empirical evidence on the role of creativity in word-formation and multi-word units.

Current frameworks accounting for word-formation and multi-word expressions are divided over the extent to which they see creativity as a central issue in their domains. The volume focusses on dynamics as a central source of such evidence, asking what role creativity plays in the emergence, usage and propagation of lexical patterns, and in the development of 'routine'. At the same time, the contributions discuss in what sense and to what extent 'routine' is a necessary prerequisite for creative use of word-formation and multi-word units. Whereas routine is generally (but not always) captured in terms of morphological (word-formation) and lexical/syntactic/pragmatic (multi-word expressions) fixedness, 'creativity' is defined in different ways in the field, with definitions ranging from seeing creativity at the heart of human (linguistic) cognition (e.g. Chomsky 1964, 1965; Goldberg 2003) to seeing creativity as precisely beyond 'regular' routines (e.g. Dobrovol'skij and Piirainen 2009; Langlotz 2006; Sialm and Burger 2007: 61–104; Filatkina 2018), for instance as an attention-seeking tool or a tool for achieving a pragmatic effect (Arndt-Lappe et al. 2018; Norrick 2007). In this latter sense, 'creativity' is often sharply distinguished from 'productivity', i.e. rule-governed, grammatical behaviour.

In research on multi-word units, creative strategies are usually discussed as 'modifications'. Diachronically, however, modifications may develop into productive patterns. In word-formation research, creative strategies are often labelled as 'extravagant' (Haspelmath 1999), 'extragrammatical' (Dressler 2000), 'analogy-based' (Mattiello 2017), or simply 'creative' (Benczes 2006); again, such patterns may diachronically develop into regular morphological processes ('debonding',

Norde and Van Goethem 2018). Despite these categorisations, the question on what basis patterns are to be defined as ‘creative’ still remains subject to debate. Criteria that have figured particularly prominently are (a) the degree of consciousness with which an expression was formed, (b) the expressive function of a pattern, and (c) structural properties of a pattern (like, e.g., non-concatenative properties). None of these criteria is without its problems, however, as all properties mentioned can also be true of processes that are generally not conceived of as ‘creative’. The contributions in this volume put precisely these questions and approaches center stage and discuss them from the perspectives of word-formation and multi-word units research.

The structure of the volume is as follows. Section A starts with a series of programmatic papers discussing different approaches towards defining and operationalising creativity and routine (with contributions by Alexandra Bagasheva; Raymond W. Gibbs; Vsevolod Kapatsinski; Hans-Jörg Schmid). Sections B and C present studies of novel empirical evidence on the dynamics of creativity and routine; the focus of Section B is more on diachrony (with contributions by Fabian Fleissner; Regina Ruf & Elena Smirnova; Sören Stumpf; Monica Vasileanu & Anabella Niculescu-Gorpin), the focus of Section C is more on synchrony (with contributions by Maximilian Frankowsky & Barbara Schlücker; Stefan Hartmann & Tobias Ungerer; Pedro Ivorra Ordines & Carmen Mellado Blanco; Muriel Norde, Francesca Masini, Kristel Van Goethem & Daniel Ebner; Martin Schäfer). This structure is deliberately independent of the categorisation of phenomena as word-formation or multi-word constructs. To us both the discussions at the workshop and the reading of the manuscripts showed that, despite differences in terms of how pertinent phenomena might be contextualised in the respective research traditions, such categorisation is only of limited value for the issues that are in the focus of this volume.

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