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Editorial

Linguistic research has dealt with the semantics of lexics in general and of phraseology in specific time and again, and rightly so. The present volume offers the desired spectrum as far as the languages examined are concerned, by presenting articles on Russian, English and others. At the same time, studies on rare and small languages and languages in the process of getting extinct remain a continuing desideratum. While quite a number of studies have investigated such languages from a general point of view, only few have taken on a phraseological perspective. One reason for this surely is that these languages lack the aspects of teaching and teaching materials.

Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij und Elisabeth Piirainen in their article address the old but important questions about motivation, particularly of idioms and therefore the nature of their transparency, and propose a typology in response. Unfortunately, Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij had to finish this article by himself due to the untimely death of Elisabeth Piirainen in early 2018. We are very grateful to Martine Dalmas, Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij, Antonio Pamies und Joanna Szerszunowicz for writing an obituary to honour her memory.

American proverbs are the focus of Claudia Lückert's contribution. Lückert identifies the greater part of lemmas in the examined corpus of proverbs as over-represented and from this concludes that there exists a strong cognitive association of these words with the proverb representation.

John M. Jeep addresses a much mentioned research gap, that of language history. In doing so, Jeep focusses on alliterating word pairs in the later works of Hartmann von Aue, which are assigned to Middle High German.

Irina V. Zykova tackles the question of synesthetic transfer by examining corpora of English and Russian phraseological units. She works on the background of the significance of cognition in general and searches for new connections between figurative language and synesthesia as an expression of human cognition. As far as the connection between cognitive mechanisms and culturally shaped phraseological units is concerned, further research studies are surely required which attempt to mediate between general human cognitive mechanisms and culture-specific expressions.

The question of language development and learning support in relation to phraseological units is and has always been a topic of great significance. Marios Chrissou proposes the continuous work on difficulty levels of phraseological units, which however implies considerable efforts regarding the provision of teaching materials until each common and less common language pair has been addressed.

The Yearbook concludes with eight book reviews on recent interesting publications in the area of phraseology.

May the Yearbook help to expand the current knowledge and perspectives of phraseology, which so far have remained limited individually, regionally or by language-specific research traditions, and contribute to the promulgation of the current state of research.

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