

Carmen Mellado Blanco and Fabio Mollica

Editorial (English)

Dear Readers,

In this year's edition, a number of focal points can be discerned. On the one hand, there is a clear interest in collocations from a monolingual and a bilingual point of view, both in the field of colloquial language and in technical languages. Furthermore, collocation research is dealt with in the context of phraseographic and corpus linguistic questions in relation to Spanish, English, and Italian. The contributions on *lexical bundles* in academic English, proverbial markers in German, idiom semantics, and the colloquial phraseology of Syrian Arabic are also approached from empirical and/or corpus-linguistical perspectives. As for the languages studied, the new issue offers stimulating phraseology studies of Genoese dialect, Italian, English, Spanish, German, and Syrian Arabic.

In her contribution to dialect phraseography, **Erica Autelli** (University of Innsbruck, Austria) proposes a set of parameters for the lexicographic description of collocations and idioms of the Genoese dialect and Italian as part of her *GEPHRAS2* project. The author offers interesting solutions for the particularly problematic conception of examples in Genoese, since – as is generally the case with dialects – freely accessible corpora are not always available and the voucher examples have to be formed ad hoc by the lexicographer. The article by **Elena Dal Maso** (University of Venice, Italy) also deals with phraseographic questions of Italian, but in this case the contrast and source language is Spanish. The topic of study here is complex collocations with the structure [verb + adverbial phrase] from the *Diccionario fraseológico multilingüe digital*. These units are located at the interface between idioms and collocations, making their lemmatisation in the dictionaries highly complex. Another paper on the topic of Italian collocations from a lexicographic perspective was written by **Laura Giacomini** (University of Heidelberg/Hildesheim, Germany). It describes the corpus-based behaviour of constituents of simple and complex technical collocations in English and Italian from the field of photovoltaic technology. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of context in the highly productive complex collocations, because it determines the structure and form of the – embedded, argumentative or remote – collocation components. The article by **James O'Flynn** (University of Warwick, England) also focuses on technical phrasemes, but in this case from academic discourse. The article looks at so-called *lexical bundles*, i.e. recurrent multi-word chains with functional properties. These are subjected to a purely quantitative

analysis irrespective of their structural idiomatic status. The corpus-based analysis of English academic texts in the humanities suggests that a small number of lexical bundles ($n=47$) occur in such texts across all genres, levels, and institutions, and can be located using CALL resources.

The empirical study by **Carla Spellerberg** (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany) explores the question of proverbiality, drawing on Arora's 1984 model of proverbial markers in German proverbs. Spellerberg's research aims at establishing a hierarchy of primarily syntactic and semantic proverbial markers, which should constitute an essential aspect of linguistic proverbial definition and ensure successful identification of unfamiliar proverbs in discourse by native speakers. Against this background, even invented proverbs that nevertheless contain recognisable markers are perceived as genuine by the test participants. The semantics of German idioms are explored by **Anna Sulikowska** (University of Szczecin, Poland). On the basis of large electronic text corpora, her aim is to provide a set of tools to distinguish between context-sensitive meaning variants and submeanings. Within the framework of Cognitive Linguistics and prototype theory, the author succeeds in proving that, where idiomatic expressions overlap, borderline cases and continuous transitions of meanings are the norm rather than the exception. The series of papers concludes with the article by **Carmen Berlinches Ramos** (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain) in which the author deals with the phraseology of Syrian Arabic colloquial language, a subject which, up to now, has received little attention. To this end, the author analyses 151 idioms from seven well-known television series by looking at their idiomatic meaning as well as their morphological, lexical, and syntactic features. This corpus-based study reveals striking parallels – especially in somatisms – not only to other Arabic language varieties, but also to some Western European languages.

Six reviews of important publications of the last two years round off the volume. The great thematic breadth of these book reviews – on the interface between Construction Grammar and Phraseology, on anti-proverbs, on modifications in Polish press headlines, on Polish and French phraseology, and on interlingual figurative language – shows the satisfying diversity of current phraseology research in Eastern and Western European languages, and will certainly stimulate the investigation of new topic areas in the future.

We hope you enjoy reading this year's edition!

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