

Constructions A Construction Grammar Approach To Argument Structure

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Constructions A Construction Grammar Approach to Argument Structure This paper delves into the intricacies of argument structure the way verbs and their associated arguments subjects objects etc are organized in a sentence through the lens of Construction Grammar Construction Grammar a prominent theory in linguistics argues that language is not solely governed by abstract rules but also by specific linguistic units called constructions which are pairings of form and meaning This approach offers a fresh perspective on argument structure emphasizing the role of memorized languagespecific patterns in understanding how verbs interact with their arguments Construction Grammar argument structure syntax verb argument construction linguistic pattern language acquisition crosslinguistic variation Argument structure the organization of verbs and their associated arguments is a fundamental aspect of sentence structure Traditionally this organization is explained using abstract rules of syntax However Construction Grammar offers an alternative view proposing that argument structure is primarily driven by constructions languagespecific pairings of form and meaning These constructions represent specific patterns of verb usage providing a framework for understanding how arguments are selected and positioned This approach sheds light on the cognitive processes involved in language acquisition and processing recognizing the importance of both lexical and grammatical information in understanding verb argument relationships Conclusion The Construction Grammar approach to argument structure offers a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of how verbs interact with their arguments By moving beyond abstract rules and focusing on languagespecific patterns this approach provides a powerful framework for explaining the dynamic and multifaceted nature of argument structure This perspective opens up new avenues for investigating language acquisition crosslinguistic variation and the cognitive mechanisms involved in language processing The intricate 2 interplay of constructions and lexical information highlights the interconnectedness of form meaning and usage leading to a richer understanding of the human language faculty

FAQs

1 How does Construction Grammar differ from traditional approaches to argument structure Construction Grammar differs from traditional approaches by focusing on languagespecific patterns constructions rather than abstract rules While traditional theories rely on universal syntactic principles Construction Grammar emphasizes the role of learned memorized patterns in understanding how verbs interact with their arguments This approach acknowledges the inherent variability and complexity of language recognizing that language is not merely a system of abstract rules but also a collection of specific contextsensitive patterns

2 Can you provide an example of a construction in argument structure A classic example is the ditransitive construction which describes the pattern where a verb takes two objects one direct and one indirect For instance Give me the book follows this construction Here give is the verb me is the indirect object and the book is the direct object This construction is not derived from abstract rules its a memorized pattern

with its own specific formmeaning pairing guiding the interpretation and use of the verb give
3 Does Construction Grammar contradict traditional approaches to syntax Construction
Grammar doesnt necessarily contradict traditional approaches to syntax rather it expands
upon them It recognizes the existence of abstract rules governing sentence structure but
emphasizes the crucial role of constructions in understanding argument structure This
approach sees constructions as the building blocks of language providing a foundation for
more complex grammatical structures 4 What are the implications of Construction Grammar
for language acquisition Construction Grammar suggests that language acquisition involves
learning and internalizing specific constructions This means that children acquire language
not only by learning general rules but also by memorizing and adapting specific patterns This
perspective aligns with the observation that children acquire language through exposure to
realworld examples and develop their grammatical understanding through repeated
exposure to various constructions 5 How does Construction Grammar explain crosslinguistic
variation in argument structure Construction Grammar offers a framework for understanding
the variations in argument structure across languages by suggesting that languages
develop unique constructions This means that different languages may have different ways of
expressing the same semantic relationships depending on the specific constructions they
have developed This perspective allows for a more nuanced and accurate description of
crosslinguistic variation acknowledging the influence of languagespecific patterns and the
interplay of universal principles and languagespecific developments

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a comprehensive cognitive account of english morphology and syntax that covers topics such as language acquisition and variation and change

drawing on work in linguistics language acquisition and computer science adele e goldberg proposes that grammatical constructions play a central role in the relation between the form and meaning of simple sentences she demonstrates that the syntactic patterns associated with simple sentences are imbued with meaning that the constructions themselves carry meaning independently of the words in a sentence goldberg provides a comprehensive account of the relation between verbs and constructions offering ways to relate verb and constructional meaning and to capture relations among constructions and generalizations over constructions prototypes frame semantics and metaphor are shown to play crucial roles in addition goldberg presents specific analyses of several constructions including the ditransitive and the resultative constructions revealing systematic semantic generalizations through a comparison with other current approaches to argument structure phenomena this book narrows the gap between generative and cognitive theories of language

construction grammar has gained prominence in linguistics owing its popularity to its inclusive approach that considers language units of varying sizes and generality as potential constructions mentally stored form function units this element serves as a cautionary note against complacency and dogmatism it emphasizes the enduring importance of falsifiability as a criterion for scientific hypotheses and theories can every postulated construction in principle be empirically demonstrated not to exist as a case study the author examines the schematic english transitive verb particle construction which defies experimental verification he argues that we can still reject its non existence using sound linguistic reasoning but beyond individual constructions what could be a crucial test for construction grammar itself one that would falsify it as a theory in making a proposal for such a test designed to prove that speakers also exhibit pure form knowledge this element contributes to ongoing discussions about construction grammar s theoretical foundations

the last decade has seen a rise in popularity in construction based approaches to grammar the various approaches within the rubric construction grammar all see language as a network of constructions pairings of form and meaning construction grammar as a kind of cognitive linguistics differs significantly from mainstream generative grammar as espoused by chomsky and his followers advocates of construction grammar see it as a psychologically plausible theory of human language as such it is capable of providing a principled account of language acquisition language variation and language change research in construction grammar also includes multidisciplinary cognitive studies in psycholinguistics neurolinguistics and computational linguistics the oxford handbook of construction grammar is the first authoritative reference work solely dedicated to construction grammar divided into five sections the book will be an invaluable resource that students and scholars alike can turn to for a comprehensive account of current work on construction grammar its theoretical foundations and its applications to and relationship with other kinds of linguistic enquiry

the present book provides an introduction to the linguistic model of construction grammar offering a full analysis of the grammar of the english language it covers all levels of morpho syntactic form meaning units including sentence types tense and aspect argument structure phrases idioms word and morphological constructions in line with its usage based approach all constructions are discussed using authentic corpus examples in order to illustrate how constructions can be learnt the book draws on authentic data from child language furthermore corpus analysis is used to show which lexical items typically occur in the slots of constructions and make up their collo profile a key feature of the book is that it develops a systematic method for showing how constructions combine to form actual utterances for this purpose so called construction grids are developed which contain all the constructions that make up even the most complex sentences and show points of overlap between them

construction grammar explains how knowledge of language is organized in speakers minds the central and radical claim of construction grammar is that linguistic knowledge can be fully described as knowledge of constructions which are defined as symbolic units that connect a linguistic form with meaning

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this volume provides a much needed critical overview of the field of constructions and construction grammar in the context of singapore english and poses the question of identifying a construction in contact when the lexicon is derived from one language and the syntax from another case studies are illustrated in which the possibility of a merger construction is offered to resolve such problems the book is intended for students of construction theories variation studies or any researcher of contact grammars

studienarbeit aus dem jahr 2016 im fachbereich anglistik linguistik note 1 3 friedrich schiller universität jena institut für anglistik amerikanistik veranstaltung cognitive linguistics construction grammar sprache deutsch abstract for more than 20 years now the concept of constructions has been playing a more and more important role in theories of language acquisition and language use in the 1980s fillmore kay and o conner were the first linguists interested in constructionist approaches and with her two books constructions a construction grammar approach to argument structure and construction at work the nature of generalization in language goldberg eventually paved the way for this alternative view on grammar by now construction grammar has become a wellaccepted descriptive and

processing model that is based on a substantial body of scientific publications however the big interest of construction grammar research in first language acquisition and native speakers language use contrasts the little interest in the branch of second language acquisition it is only recently that linguists have approached the question whether second language learners linguistic competence relies on constructions as well hence it is no surprise that there has been only little interest in application of construction grammar in second language teaching as well in my opinion this is a wasted opportunity if construction grammar is widely accepted in the field of first language acquisition it is also necessary to transfer this concept to second language acquisition and teaching in order to create suitable teaching materials and methods thus this paper is supposed to advocate an applied construction grammar in second language teaching

this volume gives an easily accessible yet comprehensive sophisticated and example rich introduction to construction grammar as it has been developed from the early 1980 s by charles j fillmore and his associates it also provides a succinct account of the historical and intellectual background of the model and shows how construction grammar can easily be applied to typologically very different languages and to a variety of language specific phenomena all of the contributors to the volume came out of the fillmorean school at uc berkeley and have worked consistently on applying and further developing the model in various domains of linguistic analysis the thumbnail sketch by fried Östman is the only extensive introduction published so far to fillmorean construction grammar

addressing a number of issues such as coercion discourse patterning language change the contributions show how cxg must be part and parcel of cognitively oriented studies of language including language universals jacket

includes selected classic and contemporary papers in four areas this text introduces each field providing technical background for the non specialist and explaining the underlying connections across the disciplines

current research within the framework of construction grammar cxg has mainly adopted a theoretical or descriptive approach neglecting the more applied perspective and especially the question of how language acquisition and pedagogy can benefit from a cxg based approach the present volume explores various aspects of applied construction grammar through a collection of studies that apply cxg and cxg inspired approaches to relevant issues in l2 acquisition and teaching relying on empirical data and covering a wide range of constructions and languages the chapters show how the cross fertilization of cxg and l2 acquisition teaching can improve the description of learners use of constructions provide theoretical insights into the processes underlying their acquisition e g with reference to inheritance links or transfer from the l1 or lead to novel teaching practices and resources aimed to help learners make the generalizations that native speakers make naturally from the input they receive

the field of constructionist linguistics is rapidly expanding as research on a broad variety of language phenomena is increasingly informed by constructionist ideas about grammar this

volume is comprised of 11 original research articles representing several emerging new research directions in construction grammar which together offer a rich picture of the various directions in which the field seems to be moving

since its foundation in the 1980 s construction grammar has been crossing the traditionally imposed borders from superimposed levels of analysis to the lexicon grammar continuum the constructionist approach to language has been built by quoting charles fillmore the insistence on seeing specific grammatical patterns as serving given semantic and often pragmatic purposes and in the effort to construct a uniform theory capable of presenting both the simplest and most general aspects of language and the large world of complex grammatical structures in this volume five chapters derived from the plenary talks at the 9th international conference on construction grammar provide a sample of the bridges the insistence and effort of construction grammarians have built in the past three decades with other analytical models namely cognitive grammar and constructional analysis perspectives diachronic construction grammar and applications language pedagogy and natural language understanding originally published as special issue of constructions and frames 12 1 2020

the papers in this volume provide a contrastive application of construction grammar by referencing a well described constructional phenomenon in english each paper provides a solid foundation for describing and analyzing its constructional counterpart in another language this approach shows that the semantic description including discourse pragmatic and functional factors of an english construction can be regarded as a first step towards a tertium comparationis that can be employed for comparing and contrasting the formal properties of constructional counterparts in other languages thus the meaning pole of constructions should be regarded as the primary basis for comparisons of constructions across languages the form pole is only secondary this volume shows that constructions are viable descriptive and analytical tools for cross linguistic comparisons that make it possible to capture both language specific idiosyncratic properties as well as cross linguistic generalizations

in ten lectures on construction grammar and typology william croft presents a unified theory of linguistic form and meaning that encompasses crosslinguistic diversity verbalization and language change croft begins from construction grammar a theory of syntax in which all syntactic structures are a pairing of form and meaning constructions are posited as basic syntactic categories are defined by constructions the internal structure of constructions directly link elements of constructions to the meanings they express constructions across languages can be situated in a space of syntactic variation grammar emerges from the verbalization of experience constructions occur in a probability distribution across the conceptual space of meanings these probability distributions evolve leading to grammatical change in language modeled in an evolutionary framework

the chapters in this book show how the different flavors of construction grammar provide illuminating insights into the syntax semantics pragmatics and discourse functional properties of specific phenomena in romance languages such as castilian spanish french romanian and latin from a synchronic as well as a diachronic viewpoint the phenomena

surveyed include the role of constructional meanings in novel verb noun compounds in spanish the relevance of lexicalization for a constructionist analysis of complex prepositions in french the complementariness of fragments patterns and constructions as theoretical and explanatory constructs in verb complementation in french latin and spanish non constituent coordination phenomena e g right node raising argument cluster coordination and gapping in romanian and variable type framing in spanish constructions of directed motion in the light of leonard talmy s 2000 typological differences of lexicalization between satellite framed and verb framed languages

up to now most research in construction grammar has focused on single languages most notably english this volume aims to broaden the scope of construction grammar towards issues in bi and multilingualism second language learning and generalizations across different languages and language varieties the contributions in this volume show that speakers entertain generalizations across their repertoire of languages which holds important implications for a multilingual construction grammar originally published in constructions and frames 6 2 2014

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