

Cognitive Construction Grammar and online processing

in-person course on Thursday (all day) and Friday morning by
Martin Hilpert

Short CV: Martin Hilpert is Professor of English Linguistics at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. His interests include cognitive linguistics, language change, construction grammar, and corpus linguistics. He is the author of four monographs, including a textbook on Construction Grammar. He is co-editor of the journal *Functions of Language* and associate editor of the journal *Cognitive Linguistics*.



Course description

In this course, we will explore psycholinguistic, corpus-based, and theoretical work that addresses how constructions are processed in the minds of speakers and hearers. We will discuss how the basic assumptions of Construction Grammar relate to general hypotheses about language processing and how these hypotheses can be used to derive predictions that can be empirically tested in behavioral experiments and corpus studies. The course is structured into three parts:

Thursday morning: Construction Grammar and language processing: Assumptions and implications. We will review ideas from Goldberg (2019), Diessel (2019) and Schmid (2020) in order to gain an understanding of current theoretical work in Construction Grammar and its predictions with regard to language processing. The issue of connections between constructions and different types of associative relations will be central to the discussion.

Thursday afternoon: Experimental work on language comprehension. We will begin our investigation of empirical constructional research into language processing with work that adopts the perspective of the listener. We will discuss how constructions allow hearers to process newly formed lexical items, how they are accessed in sentence comprehension, how they are involved in the assessment of grammatical acceptability, and how they can explain which parts of utterances hearers retain in memory.

Friday morning: Experimental work on language production. In the last session, we will review research that has addressed constructions in speech. We will discuss reduction effects and what constructions have to do with them, effects such as syntactic priming, and the results of sentence completion tasks that shed light on the role of constructions.

A folder with readings will be distributed to all participants. It will not be necessary to read everything ahead of time, but the participants are required to read two of the articles and to submit questions for group discussions.

References

- Diessel, Holger. 2019. *The grammar network: How linguistic structure is shaped by language use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Goldberg, Adele E. 2019. *Explain me this: Creativity, competition, and the partial productivity of constructions*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Schmid, Hans-Jörg. 2020. *The dynamics of the linguistic system. Usage, conventionalization, and entrenchment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

