Chapter 1

Idioms

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Abstract goes here

In a previous paper, Sailer (2012), I gave an overview over the development of idiom research in HPSG. Since that paper was in German and published in a Festschrift, its accessibility to a wider audience is rather limited. The planned chapter will follow the structure of this earlier paper, but take into consideration important recent developments in HPSG idiom research and relate it to the development in other formal frameworks, TAG (Abeillé 1995; Lichte & Kallmeyer 2016) and Minimalism (Corver et al. 2016).

The basic analytic challenge of idioms for HPSG is the fact that idioms are perceived as multiword, phrasal units, while the HPSG is strongly lexical, i.e., within the standard formalization of the framework (King 1989; Richter 2004), it is impossible to implement an *en bloc*-insertion theory of idioms. I will show in this paper that HPSG-accounts moved from trying to simulate a phrasal analysis to reaching the conviction that a lexical analysis is, indeed, empirically motivated.

1 Idioms: Approaching a heterogeneous empirical domain

1.1 Empirical domain

Defining the empirical domain of idioms and phraseology. I will aim at a very inclusive definition, i.e., more in lines with "phraseology" than with "idioms" in the strict sense.

1.2 Language-theoretical interest in idioms

- between rule-based and idiosyncratic

- compositional challenge and collocational challenge

2 Predecessors to HPSG analyses of idioms

- Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (Gazdar et al. 1985)

- Semi-formal, influential papers (Wasow, Sag & Nunberg 1983; Nunberg, Sag & Wasow 1994)

- Construction Grammar (Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor 1988)

3 HPSG-analyses of idioms

3.1 HPSG-specific research questions

- Phrasal entities in a lexical framework? i.e., basic problem of phrasal vs. lexical analyses in a framework like HPSG.

3.2 Early lexical approaches

- Krenn & Erbach (1994)

3.3 Phrasal approaches

- S. Riehemann (1997); S. Z. Riehemann (2001); S. Z. Riehemann & Bender (2000)

3.4 Mixed lexical and phrasal approaches

- Sailer (2003), Soehn (2006)

3.5 Recent lexical approaches

- Kay & Sag (ms.)

- Bargmann & Sailer (2016)

4 Recent developments in other frameworks

- TAG: Lichte & Kallmeyer (2016)

- Minimalism: Corver et al. (2016)

- LFG: Findlay (2017)

5 Where to go from here?

5.1 Neglected phenomena

This section will contain short overviews over research that has been done in areas of phraseology that are outside the main thread of this chapter. I will also identify desiderata.

- Variation in nominal parts/possessive idioms (Bond, Ho & Flickinger 2015)

- Literal and non-literal meaning components (Bargann, Gehrke & Richter on *conjunction modification*, Hoeksema & Sailer (2012), …).

- Phraseological patterns

5.2 Challenges from other languages

- Work by Espinal on Spanish and Catalan in comparison to English

- Hebrew (Herzig Sheinfux et al. 2015)

- German (if not already discussed enough in earlier sections)

5.3 Methodological considerations

Brief overview of some corpuslinguistic and psycholinguistic results and the question what they could contribute to the question of modeling idioms in HPSG.

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