Formulaic Language

Nick Riches

Newcastle University

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Formulaic Language

Nick Riches

Adj + N collocations

Detecting collocations

EXERCISE

"Rule-bending" behaviour

Saving time / effort

Formulaicity in clinical 1/38

Language Nick Riches Introduction

Introduction

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Adj + N collocations

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Theoretical Imps

It's a game of

Who'd a

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

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Formulaic

What is formulaic language?

What's a nice girl like you

Her presentation was all over

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It's a game of two halves

What's a nice girl like you

Her presentation was all over

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(4)

Who'd a

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It's a game of two halves

Her presentation was all over

What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?

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Who'd a

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Nick Riches What is formulaic language?

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Language

It's a game of two halves

What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?

Her presentation was all over the place

Who'd a

"Rule-bending" behaviour

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(1)

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What is formulaic language?

It's a game of two halves

What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?

Who'd a thought it / thunk it

Her presentation was all over the place

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What is formulaic language?

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(5)She's a real character. In fact she's larger than

> He's not very happy at the moment. In fact he's down in

(6)

(7)

For crying out

(5)

(6)

(7)

down in

For crying out

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What is formulaic language?

She's a real character. In fact she's larger than life

He's not very happy at the moment. In fact he's

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down in the dumps

For crying out

She's a real character. In fact she's larger than life

He's not very happy at the moment. In fact he's

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What is formulaic language?

She's a real character. In fact she's larger than life

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- (5)
- (6)He's not very happy at the moment. In fact he's
- down in the dumps
- (7)For crying out loud...

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What is formulaic language?

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Formulaic language is "chunk-like" It "rolls off our tongue"

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Formulaic language is "chunk-like"

It "rolls off our tongue"

It sounds as if it has been stored as a whole

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Formulaic language is "chunk-like"

It "rolls off our tongue"

It sounds as if it has been stored as a whole

It is relatively resistant to manipulation, e.g. *for shouting out loud

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Collocations revisited

Recap

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What are collocations?

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Words which are very likely to co-occur in the same fragment of text - often next to each other

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Words which are very likely to co-occur in the same fragment of text - often next to each other They exist in a

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5/38

Words which are very likely to co-occur in the same fragment of text - often next to each other They exist in a **syntagmatic** relationship.

That's a

That's a weak / feeble cup of tea

That's a powerful / strong cup of tea

That's a powerful / strong claim

powerful / strong argument

That's a weak / feeble excuse

(8)

(9)

(10)

(11)

(12)

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Vhat	is	formulaic	language
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Adj + N collocations

Phrasal verbs

Processing Saving time / effort Theoretical Imps

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That's a

That's a √weak / *feeble cup of tea

That's a powerful / strong claim

strong cup of tea

powerful / strong argument

That's a weak / feeble excuse

That's a powerful /

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(12)

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That's a

That's a √weak / *feeble cup of tea

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powerful / strong argument

That's a *weak / √ feeble excuse

That's a powerful /

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Vhat	is	formulaic	language
eca			

- That's a √weak / *feeble cup of tea
- (9)That's a *weak / √ feeble excuse
- (10)That's a *powerful / √ strong cup of tea
- (11)That's a powerful / strong argument
- (12)That's a powerful / strong claim

Adj + N collocations

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That's a powerful /

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Nick Riches

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Language

Vhat	is	formulaic	language
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Adj + N collocations That's a √weak / *feeble cup of tea

That's a *weak / √ feeble excuse

That's a *powerful / √ strong cup of tea

That's a √ powerful / ?strong argument

strong claim

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That's a √weak / *feeble cup of tea

That's a *powerful / √ strong cup of tea

That's a √ powerful / ?strong argument

That's a ?powerful / √strong claim

That's a *weak / √ feeble excuse

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(12)

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(16)

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(13)She's a serious / keen workaholic

(14)He's a serious / keen sportsman (15)She has high / tall hopes

> He told a high / tall story

Adj + N collocations

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(13)She's a √serious / *keen workaholic

(14)He's a serious / keen sportsman

(15)She has high / tall hopes

He told a high / (16)tall story Adj + N collocations

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(13)She's a √serious / *keen workaholic

(14)He's a ?serious / √ keen sportsman

(15)She has high / tall hopes

He told a high / (16)tall story Adj + N collocations

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(13)She's a √serious / *keen workaholic

(14)He's a ?serious / √ keen sportsman

(15)She has √high / *tall hopes

He told a high / (16)tall story Adj + N collocations

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Language Nick Riches

(13)She's a √serious / *keen workaholic

(14)He's a ?serious / √ keen sportsman

(15)She has √high / *tall hopes

He told a *high / √tall story

Adj + N collocations

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(19)

(20)

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(17)He did / made a decision V + N collocations (18)Could you do / make me a favour

> She's a stern boss who brooks / suffers no dissent

> She's a stern boss who doesn't brook / suffer fools gladly

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(17)	He *did / √ made a decision	Adj + N collocations
(11)	The did / Villade a decision	V + N collocations
		Range of collocations
(18)	Could you do / make me a favour	Detecting collocations
(10)	Could you do / make me a favour	Phon. processes
		Phonological processes
(19)	She's a stern boss who brooks / suffers no	Idioms
	dissent	Properties
	dissent	Phrasal verbs
		EXERCISE
(20)	She's a stern boss who doesn't brook / suffer	Properties of idioms
(20)	Sile 3 a Stelli boss will doesii t brook / Sullei	**EXERCISE**
	fools gladly	Types of idioms Constructional idioms
	.00.0 8.44.7	"Rule-bending" behaviour
		Rule-bending benaviour
		Processing
		Saving time / effort
		Theoretical Imps
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		Clinical relevance
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dissent

fools gladly

He *did / ✓ made a decision

Could you √do / *make me a favour

She's a stern boss who doesn't brook /

She's a stern boss who brooks /

(17)

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V + N collocations

suffers no

suffer

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(20)

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(17)He *did / ✓ made a decision (18)Could you √do / *make me a favour (19)She's a stern boss who √ brooks / *suffers no dissent

She's a stern boss who doesn't brook / suffer fools gladly

V + N collocations

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(17)He *did / ✓ made a decision V + N collocations (18)Could you √do / *make me a favour (19)She's a stern boss who √ brooks / *suffers no dissent (20)She's a stern boss who doesn't *brook / √ suffer **EXERCISE** fools gladly "Rule-bending" behaviour Saving time / effort Theoretical Imps

Range of collocations

Two word Adj + N or V + N collocations

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NTROCUCTION

What is formulaic language

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What are collocations?
Adj + N collocations

V + N collocations

Range of collocations

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Range of collocations

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Two word Adj + N or V + N collocations Multi-word chunks, e.g.

down in the dumps

larger than life

Range of collocations

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Range of collocations

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Two word Adj + N or V + N collocations

Multi-word chunks, e.g. down in the dumps larger than life

Some may contain an "open" slot, e.g.

X read Y the riot act \Rightarrow

Jason read Angela the riot act.

Range of collocations

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Range of collocations

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Two word Adj + N or V + N collocations

Multi-word chunks, e.g. down in the dumps larger than life

Some may contain an "open" slot, e.g.

X read Y the riot act \Rightarrow

Jason read Angela the riot act.

Others may be entire sentences, e.g. That's no way to behave

I couldn't agree more.

What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this

Detecting collocations

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Detecting collocations

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Roughly speaking if two words exist in a collocation, then their chances of co-occurring within a multi-word fragment, are greater than would be predicted from their individual frequencies.

Detecting collocations

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Roughly speaking if two words exist in a collocation, then their chances of co-occurring within a multi-word fragment, are greater than would be predicted from their individual frequencies.

$$\log\left(\frac{p(x,y)}{p(x)\,p(y)}\right)$$

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Phonological processes in formulaic language

Phon, processes

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Adj + N collocations
V + N collocations

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(21)

Could that report **be** any longer? Could NOUN PHR. be any COMP. ADJ.? (= Formulaic sarcastic expression commenting on length of report)

(22)Could that report be any longer? (= genuine request for report to be longer)

Phonological processes

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Phonological processes	Formulaic Language
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(21) Could that report be any longer? Could NOUN PHR. be any COMP. ADJ. ? (= Formulaic sarcastic expression commenting on length of report)	Introduction What is formulaic language? Recap What are collocations? Adj + N collocations V + N collocations Range of collocations Detecting collocations
(22) Could that report be any longer ? (= genuine request for report to be longer)	Phon. processes Phonological processes Idioms Properties Phrasal verbs
(23) They're rolling in money (= Formulaic phrase expressing the fact that they are rich)	**EXERCISE** Properties of idioms **EXERCISE** Types of idioms Constructional idioms "Rule-bending" behaviour
(24) They're rolling in money (= Non-formulaic observation that they are currently rolling in a pile of money)	Processing Saving time / effort Theoretical Imps Syntax-Lexicon division Clinical relevance

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Adj + N collocations

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Phonological reduction = omission / combination of sounds

(25)What do you want to do? 'wa <mark>dʒ ə wan ə</mark> 'dʊː

sounds

(25)

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Phonological reduction = omission / combination of

What do you want to do?

(26)Do yetis have big feet? *dzetis həv biq fizt

'wa <mark>dʒ ə wan ə</mark> 'dʊː

sounds

(25)

(26)

(27)

Phonological reduction = omission / combination of

What do you want to do? 'wa <mark>dʒ ə wan ə</mark> 'dʊː

Do yetis have big feet? *dzetis həv biq fixt

I'd like some fish and chips aid laik səm fif n tfips

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skwixt (Californian English)

sounds

(25)

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Phonological reduction = omission / combination of

What do you want to do? 'wa <mark>dʒ ə wan ə</mark> 'dʊː

Do yetis have big feet? *dzetis həv biq fixt

I'd like some fish and chips aid laik səm fif n tfips

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skwirt (Californian English)

Lets go (w) eat

sounds

(28)

(29)

(30)

Phonological reduction = omission / combination of

What do you want to do?

'wat dz ə wan ə 'dv:

Do yetis have big feet? *dzetis həv biq fizt

I'd like some fish and chips aid laik səm fif n tfips

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Why does phonological reduction happen?

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⇒ greater speed efficiency

Why does phonological reduction happen?

There is a natural tendency towards phonological reduction

e.g. lexical reductions; advert \rightarrow ad, crocodile \rightarrow croc

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Why does phonological reduction happen?

There is a natural tendency towards phonological reduction ⇒ greater speed efficiency

e.g. lexical reductions; advert \rightarrow ad, crocodile \rightarrow croc

But...

Speed/Efficiency \Leftrightarrow Intelligibility

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Idioms

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Idioms

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unpredictable semantics

Idioms are formulaic expressions with non-compositional or

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unpredictable semantics

Idioms are formulaic expressions with **non-compositional** or

The meaning is not predictable from the form

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Idioms are formulaic expressions with **non-compositional** or unpredictable semantics

The meaning is not predictable from the form

My elderly grandmother kicked the bucket last year

unpredictable semantics

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Idioms are formulaic expressions with **non-compositional** or

The meaning is not predictable from the form

My elderly grandmother kicked the bucket last year

Pose a lot of difficulty for L2 speakers of English

Phrasal verbs

verbs:

(31)

English has many idiomatic multi-word verbs called **phrasal**

He was in a bad mood, so he took it out on his wife

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Adj + N collocations

Phrasal verbs

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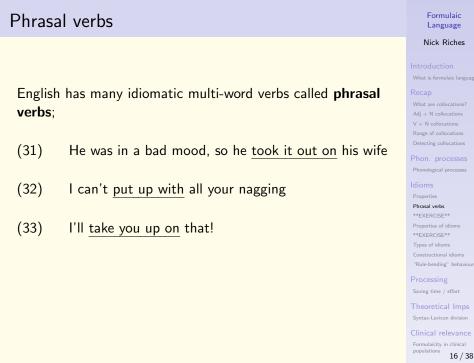
Saving time / effort

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Formulaic Phrasal verbs Language Nick Riches English has many idiomatic multi-word verbs called **phrasal** verbs: He was in a bad mood, so he took it out on his wife (31)(32)I can't put up with all your nagging Phrasal verbs "Rule-bending" behaviour Saving time / effort Theoretical Imps

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Phrasal verbs		Formulaic Language
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		Introduction What is formulaic language?
English verbs ;	has many idiomatic multi-word verbs called phrasal	Recap What are collocations? Adj + N collocations V + N collocations
(31)	He was in a bad mood, so he took it out on his wife	Range of collocations Detecting collocations Phon. processes
(32)	I can't put up with all your nagging	Phonological processes Idioms Properties
(33)	I'll take you up on that!	Phrasal verbs **EXERCISE** Properties of idioms **EXERCISE**
(34)	He <u>takes after</u> his father	Types of idioms Constructional idioms "Rule-bending" behaviour Processing
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Phrasal verbs

(35)

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She pulled off a first in the exam (idiomatic)

Batman pulled off the villian's mask (literal)

Adj + N collocations

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Recap

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Types of Idloms

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Paraphrase the following sentences using phrasal verbs. How idiomatic are they?

- ► The vet euthanased our cat
- ► Edward VIII relinquished his claim to the throne
- ▶ The company took control of its nearest rival
- He arranged accommodation for the visiting speaker
- ► When she regained consciousness she found she had been tied to the chair

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- ► The vet euthanased our cat
- Edward VIII relinquished his claim to the throne
- ▶ The company took control of its nearest rival
- ▶ He arranged accommodation for the visiting speaker
- When she regained consciousness she found she had been tied to the chair

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- ► The vet euthanased our cat (...put down our cat)
- ► Edward VIII relinquished his claim to the throne
- ▶ The company took control of its nearest rival
- ▶ He arranged accommodation for the visiting speaker
- When she regained consciousness she found she had been tied to the chair

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"Rule-bending" behaviour

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- The vet euthanased our cat (... put down our cat)
- Edward VIII relinquished his claim to the throne (...gave up his claim)
- The company took control of its nearest rival
- He arranged accommodation for the visiting speaker
- When she regained consciousness she found she had been tied to the chair

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- ► The vet euthanased our cat (... put down our cat)
- Edward VIII relinquished his claim to the throne (...gave up his claim)
- ► The company took control of its nearest rival (...took over the company)
- ▶ He arranged accommodation for the visiting speaker
- When she regained consciousness she found she had been tied to the chair

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- ► The vet euthanased our cat (... put down our cat)
- Edward VIII relinquished his claim to the throne (...gave up his claim)
- ► The company took control of its nearest rival (...took over the company)
- He arranged accommodation for the visiting speaker (...sorted out the accommodation)
- When she regained consciousness she found she had been tied to the chair

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- ► The vet euthanased our cat (... put down our cat)
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- ► The company took control of its nearest rival (...took over the company)
- He arranged accommodation for the visiting speaker (...sorted out the accommodation)
- ▶ When she regained consciousness she found she had been tied to the chair (When she came to...)

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NON-COMPOSITIONAL SEMANTICS

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NON-COMPOSITIONAL SEMANTICS

Vary in terms of formulaicity / flexibility

Properties of idioms

He kicked the bucket (he died) \Rightarrow

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She spilt the beans (she told the secret) \Rightarrow

He grasped the nettle (she took on a challenge) \Rightarrow

For crying out loud, be quiet! (to register disgust)

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He kicked the bucket (he died) \Rightarrow

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She spilt the beans (she told the secret) \Rightarrow *She upset the beans (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

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He grasped the nettle (she took on a challenge) \Rightarrow ?She grabbed the nettle (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*He knocked over the bucket (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

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For crying out loud, be quiet! (to register disgust) *For shouting out loud...(VERB SUBSTITUTION)

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She spilt the beans (she told the secret) \Rightarrow *She upset the beans (VERB SUBSTITUTION) ?She spilt the secret (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)

He grasped the nettle (she took on a challenge) \Rightarrow ?She grabbed the nettle (VERB SUBSTITUTION) *She grasped the cactus (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)

He kicked the bucket (he died) \Rightarrow

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For crying out loud, be quiet! (to register disgust) *For shouting out loud...(VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*He knocked over the bucket (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*He kicked the pale (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)

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She spilt the beans (she told the secret) \Rightarrow *She upset the beans (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

?She spilt the secret (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)

She clumsily spilt the beans (ADVERBIAL MODIFICATION)

He grasped the nettle (she took on a challenge) \Rightarrow ?She grabbed the nettle (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*She grasped the cactus (NOUN SUBSTITUTION) She boldly grasped the nettle (ADVERBIAL MODFICATION)

He kicked the bucket (he died) \Rightarrow

*He knocked over the bucket (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*He kicked the pale (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)

*He slowly kicked the bucket (ADVERBIAL MODIFICATION)

For crying out loud, be quiet! (to register disgust)

*For shouting out loud...(VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*For crying out really loud...(ADVERBIAL MODIFICATION)

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She spilt the beans (she told the secret) ⇒ *She upset the beans (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

?She spilt the secret (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)

She clumsily spilt the beans (ADVERBIAL MODIFICATION)

??A lot of beans were spilt at the family reunion (PASSIVISATION)

He grasped the nettle (she took on a challenge) ⇒ ?She grabbed the nettle (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*She grasped the cactus (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)
She boldly grasped the nettle (ADVERBIAL MODFICATION)

??At the business meeting the nettle was grasped (PASSIVISATION)

He kicked the bucket (he died) ⇒

*He knocked over the bucket (VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*He kicked the pale (NOUN SUBSTITUTION)

*He slowly kicked the bucket (ADVERBIAL MODIFICATION)

*The bucket was kicked by my grandmother (PASSIVISATION)

For crying out loud, be quiet! (to register disgust)

*For shouting out loud...(VERB SUBSTITUTION)

*For crying out really loud...(ADVERBIAL MODIFICATION)

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Identify the formulaic expressions below. To what extent are they idiomatic? To what extent do they allow for lexical / syntactic modification?

- ► With the best will in the world, I don't think he's suitable for the job
- Jennifer is not reaching her potential and really needs to pull her socks up
- Well, look who's talking!
- ► What's this jacket doing in my wardrobe? It's not mine!
- Not in a million years would I ever consider going out with him!

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they idiomatic?

With the best will in the world (NOT VERY IDIOMATIC)

I don't think he's suitable for the job

Identify the formulaic expressions below. To what extent are

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Identify the formulaic expressions below. To what extent are they idiomatic?

- With the best will in the world (NOT VERY IDIOMATIC) I don't think he's suitable for the job
- Jennifer is not reaching her potential (NOT AT ALL IDIOMATIC) and really needs to pull her socks up (FAIRLY IDIOMATIC)

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- Well, look who's talking! (FAIRLY IDIOMATIC)
- What's this jacket doing in my wardrobe? (EXTREMELY IDIOMATIC) It's not mine!

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- Well, look who's talking! (FAIRLY IDIOMATIC)
- What's this jacket doing in my wardrobe? (EXTREMELY IDIOMATIC) It's not mine! This is whole-sentence idiom with open slots; What's X doing + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE?

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- Well, look who's talking! (FAIRLY IDIOMATIC)
- What's this jacket doing in my wardrobe? (EXTREMELY IDIOMATIC) It's not mine! This is whole-sentence idiom with open slots; What's X doing + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE?
- Not in a million years(FAIRLY IDIOMATIC) would I ever consider going out (SLIGHTLY IDIOMATIC) with him!

bucket

Sentence fragments such as Verb + Noun, e.g. kick the

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Sentence fragments such as Verb + Noun, e.g. $\emph{kick the bucket}$

Multi-word adverbials, e.g. <u>For crying out loud</u>, could you keep that noise down!?

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Sentence fragments such as Verb + Noun, e.g. kick the bucket

Multi-word adverbials, e.g. For crying out loud, could you keep that noise down!?

Whole sentence chunks, e.g. You can't have your cake and eat it

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Sentence fragments such as Verb + Noun, e.g. kick the bucket

Multi-word adverbials, e.g. <u>For crying out loud</u>, could you keep that noise down!?

Whole sentence chunks, e.g. You can't have your cake and eat it

Some idioms have gaps for arguments

- X kicked the bucket
- X read Y the riot act

Const	ructional idioms	Formulaic Language
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		What is formulaic language?
(37)	Tamsin danced the night away	Recap
(31)		What are collocations?
	SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away	Adj + N collocations
		V + N collocations Range of collocations
()		Detecting collocations
(38)	?Tamsin studied the night away	
(/	SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away	Phon. processes
	SUBJECT VERD DET. NOON away	Phonological processes
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(20)	T 1 V 1 1 1 1 1	Properties of idioms
(39)	Jake X-boxed the weekend away	**EXERCISE** Types of idioms
	SUBJECT VERB DET NOUN away	Constructional idioms

(39) Jake X-boxed the weekend away SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away

(40) ?Jake cleaned the weekend away Constructional idloms 'Rule-bending' behaviour SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away

Cleaned the weekend away Saving time / effort Theoretical Imps Syntax-Lexicon division Clinical relevance

?Tamsin

(38)

(39)

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= large-scale idioms with open slots (shown in CAPITALS)

night

away

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(37)danced the Tamsin night away SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away

studied the

SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away

Action / event seems of short duration, i.e. time flies Jake X-boxed the weekend away

(40)?Jake cleaned the weekend away SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN awau

SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN

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?Tamsin

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Action / event seems of short duration, i.e. time flies Jake X-boxed the weekend away

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SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN ?Jake cleaned the weekend away

(40)SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN awauTime is wasted

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Constructional idioms

(42)

Camilla networked her (41)wav SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way to the top LOCATION

> ?Camilla nail-painted her way SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way to the top LOCATION

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networked her Camilla (41)way SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way to the top LOCATION

(42)?Camilla nail-painted her way SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way to the top LOCATION Networking action creates movement to the top

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(43)The old man limped his wav SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way out of the bar LOCATION

The old man walked his? (44)wav SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way out of the bar LOCATION

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The old man limped his (43)wav SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way out of the bar LOCATION

The old man walked his? (44)wav SUBJECT VERB POSS. DET. way out of the bar LOCATION Action creates movement. Effort involved. Movement is roundabout.

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The more I see of humanity, the more (45)The more CLAUSE, the more I love my dog CLAUSE

??The more you touch that cable, the more (46)The more CLAUSE, the more you will die CLAUSE

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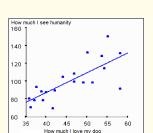
(45) The more I see of humanity, the more The more CLAUSE, the more I love my dog

CLAUSE

(46)

??The more you touch that cable, the more
The more CLAUSE, the more
you will die
CLAUSE

There is a direct CORRELATION between two events



Trick Triches

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Characteristics of constructional idioms

- Display syntactic properties
 - Large can span a whole sentence
 - Open slots (e.g. for arguments)
 - Ability to manipulate tense / aspect, e.g. she's dancing the night way
- Non-compositional semantics

danced the

SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away

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(47)Tamsin danced the night away SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away Intransitive dance takes direct object night.

(48)Jake X-boxed the weekend away SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away

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(47)Tamsin danced the night away SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away Intransitive dance takes direct object night.

SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN

Intransitive X-boxed takes direct object weekend The more I see of humanity, the more (49)The more CLAUSE, the more

I love my dog

X-boxed the weekend away

CLAUSE

Jake

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the more

CLAUSE We have two determiners in a row: the more

The more I see of humanity, the more

danced the

SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN

SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away Intransitive dance takes direct object night.

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Intransitive X-boxed takes direct object weekend

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The more CLAUSE,

Jake

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I love my dog

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Phonological reduction \Rightarrow faster processing In comprehension, high-frequency chunks are also more quickly comprehended

Arnon, I., & Snider, N. (2010). More than words: Frequency effects for multi-word phrases. Journal of Memory and Language, 62, 67-82.

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Syntax-Lexicon division

Chomskyan approach:

• Syntax deals with abstract symbols and very general meanings

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Chomskyan approach:

- Syntax deals with abstract symbols and very general meanings
- e.g. SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT = "one thing acting on another"

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Chomskyan approach:

- **Syntax** deals with abstract symbols and very general meanings
- ullet e.g. SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT = "one thing acting on another"
- **The lexicon** deals with idiosyncratic meanings and arbitrary form-function correspondences

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Chomskyan approach:

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- e.g. /dpg/ = CONCEPT "DOG"

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Essentially words are idioms

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Chomskyan approach:

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Essentially words are idioms

Constructional idioms pose difficulties for this neat division

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(50) Tamsin is dancing the night away SUBJECT VERB DET. NOUN away Action / event seems of short duration, i.e. time flies

- \bullet A range of possible open-class words, in common with abstract syntactic constructions (e.g. SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT)
- We can also manipulate tense and aspect, e.g. progressive is used above

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But, semantically idiosyncratic / non-compositional like the lexicon

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Moreover, they "bend" standard grammatical rules

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Moreover, they "bend" standard grammatical rules

SO WHERE DO THEY BELONG? ...

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Chomksyan Syntax

- ► A strict division is required between syntax and the lexicon
- Syntax = structural rules / the lexicon = idiosyncratic/arbitrary information
- Syntax thought to have an innate component
- Sentence structure looks like a tree

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Construction grammar

- No strict division between syntax and the lexicon
- Constructional idioms are genuinely intermediate
- ► There is no innate linguistic knowledge
- Knowledge of language consists of knowledge of "constructions"
- ▶ These can be abstract (e.g. Subject-Verb-Object), but are often very idiosyncractic, e.g. the 'way' construction

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utterances?

To what extent do clinical populations depend on formulaic

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To what extent do clinical populations depend on formulaic utterances?

Aphasia, Alzheimmers, Autism - Wray, A. (2009). 11 Formulaic Sequences and Language Disorder. The handbook of clinical linguistics, 184 (available on Google Scholar).

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Formulaic Sequences and Language Disorder. The handbook of clinical linguistics, 184 (available on Google Scholar). Williams Syndrome?

Specific Language Impairment?

utterances?

To what extent do clinical populations depend on formulaic

Aphasia, Alzheimmers, Autism - Wray, A. (2009). 11

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Without the rule-based system, language would be limited in repertoire, cliched, and, whilst suitable for certain types of interaction, lacking imagination and novelty. In contrast, with **only** a rule-based system, language would sound pedantic, unidiomatic and pedestrian. (Wray, 1998:64)

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