
Language in Contrast

**Diachronic, variationist
and cross-linguistic studies
4-5 December, 2015
Paris**

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Book of Abstracts

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Conference Aims

This conference will be a forum for contrastive studies (with an emphasis on English). The theme of contrast is intended to include any inter- or intra- linguistic variation. Therefore, studies that contrast different geographic, sociolinguistic, or historical varieties just as studies that contrast entire languages are welcome. From comparative grammar to variationist sociolinguistics and critical discourse analysis, the use of contrast in language science is an established heuristic. By confronting different languages or varieties of the same language, the organizers hope to bring to light previously unnoticed phenomena or to gain improved understanding of well-known phenomena. Studies on any facet of English are welcome (from phonetics to pragmatics, from a diachronic or synchronic perspective, concerning acquisition or translation, quantitative analyses, etc.), the only requirement being that the study be empirical and contrastive in approach:

- comparing languages;
- comparing one language variety with one or more regional or sociolinguistic varieties;
- comparing contemporary language with one or more historical varieties.

Plenary Presentations

Eric Corre & Debra Ziegeler
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3

Weird features of Habitual Aspect From Slavic to Singlish

Earlier studies on tense and aspect in Colloquial Singapore English (Singlish), such as Ho and Platt (1993), have associated the use of past tense with a purely perfective function, indicating its more frequent occurrence with ‘punctual’ lexical aspect as well as with perfective grammatical aspect. Other studies, such as Bao (1995, 2005) have discussed the transfer of perfective aspect as an entire system from Mandarin Chinese, in which the aspect marker *already* is used as a calque of Mandarin *le*. Thus there is an interlocking perfective aspectual system in Singapore English in which some functions are carried by the under-grammaticalised (or hypo-grammaticalised) use of past tense, while others are represented by *already*. The exact boundaries of the two-part system have not yet been examined in sufficient detail to be able to determine precisely how the functions are distributed. However, a further problem to confound the situation is the use of past tense appearing in environments which may be considered grammatically *imperfective*, such as in marking present habituals, or even in referring to potential events which have not yet taken place, such as future anteriors and future plans. Langacker (1997) makes a clear distinction between habituals, in which actual instances of an event type have been observed, and generics, which may acquire a truth value without the need for any observed event to have taken place, e.g. *This door opens to the inside* (see also Lenci & Bertinetto’s 2000 examples). The present study re-examines earlier research (Ziegeler 2012) on Pasts-for Presents (PFPs) in Singapore English, and investigates the proportion of habitual vs. generic uses in which PFPs may appear in a restricted corpus of Singlish data.

This use of a past tense with a pure perfective function, as well as in imperfective habitual contexts in Singlish, is reminiscent of what happens in Slavic (and some Baltic) languages, where past habituals are

naturally expressed by imperfectives, but also, more surprisingly, by *present* perfectives, with a special meaning of “illustrative vividness” (Forsyth 1970) of the event. In Russian, it will be shown that the way genericity/habituality is expressed conforms to general patterns (imperfective marking by default, Dahl 1995, Carlson 2012), but that present perfective marking in habituais is common in certain types of discourse. As stated by Monnesland (1984): “The traditional view that iterativity automatically triggers the Ip_f. aspect in Slavonic, is (...) far from the truth” (73). The Slavic languages are different in this respect: some authorize P_f. verbs to normally perform the function of habituais (the “perfective group”, Monnesland), others more marginally (Russian). Thus, contrastive analysis of Slavic and SE should throw light on the grammar of habituais and generics.

Martin Hilpert

University of Neuchâtel

Meaning Change in a Petri Dish

Constructions, semantic vector spaces, and motion charts

This talk will explore how the visualization tool of motion charts, i.e. ‘animated’ scatterplots that show temporal developments, can be used for the analysis of meaning change in linguistic constructions. In previous work (Hilpert 2011, 2013), motion charts have been used to represent diachronic frequency trends and also changes in the relative similarities between sets of linguistic units. An approach of this kind can reveal different kinds of developments, for instance that a verb diachronically gravitates towards one syntactic pattern, at the expense of a different pattern. It can also be shown that in a set of constructions, two members become more and more similar whereas the remaining members dissimilate. The present talk will build on these studies but present a new application of motion charts that is geared towards the analysis of meaning change.

Anatol Stefanowitsch
Freie Universität Berlin

Should Cognitive Linguistics be Contrastive?

Contrastive linguistics seems to be forever falling out of favor, but never to disappear. With the notable exception of research on motion events, it has never gained a prominent status in Cognitive Linguistics – unlike the typological perspective, which, while not widely adopted is widely respected in the community. In my talk I will discuss the potential of contrastive analysis for the central aims of Cognitive Linguistics. I will show that only a contrastive perspective allows us to tease apart the influence of two major factors influencing language structure from a cognitive perspective – conceptualization and usage. In conclusion, I will discuss reasons for the relative lack of contrastive research in our community. One of these is the monolingual habitus that Cognitive Linguistics shares with almost all linguistic theories and that posits a problem not only in the research of individual languages but also in the study of language contact and multilingualism.

Benedikt Szmrecsanyi

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Contrastive Probabilistic Grammar

The talk is concerned with the comparison of syntactic variation patterns in regional varieties of English, and applies the idea of a dynamic probabilistic grammar (Bybee & Hopper 2001; Bod, Hay & Jannedy 2003; Gahl & Garnsey 2004; Gahl & Yu 2006) to the realm of cross-varietal variation in World Englishes. I specifically rely on the variation-centered, usage- and experience-based probabilistic grammar framework developed by Joan Bresnan and collaborators (Bresnan et al. 2007; Bresnan 2007; Bresnan & Ford 2010), which assumes that grammatical knowledge is experience-based and partially probabilistic. The empirical analysis is based on naturalistic production data covering nine international varieties of English (British English, Canadian English, Irish English, New Zealand English, Hong Kong English, Indian English, Jamaican English, Philippine English, and Singapore English). Three syntactic alternations in the grammar of English will take center stage:

- (1) The particle placement alternation
 - a. verb-object-particle order (V-DO-P): *you can just [cut]_{verb} [the tops]_{direct object} [off]_{particle} and leave them.* (ICE-GB:S1A-007)
 - b. verb-particle-object order (V-P-DO): *[Cut]_{verb} [off]_{particle} [the flowers]_{direct object} as they fade.* (ICE-CAN:W2B-023)
- (2) The genitive alternation
 - a. the *s*-genitive: *[Singapore]_{possessor}'s [small size]_{possessum} meant it could be quick to respond to changes in economic conditions* (ICE-SIN:W2C-011)
 - b. the *of*-genitive: *the [size]_{possessum} of [the eyes]_{possessor} is to help them at night.* (ICE-GB:W2B-021)

- (3) The dative alternation
- a. the ditransitive dative variant: *That will give [the panel]_{recipient} [a chance]_{theme} to expand on what they've been saying.* (ICE-GB:S1B-036)
 - b. the prepositional dative variant: [...] *and that gives [a chance]_{theme} [to Bhupathy]_{recipient} to equalise the points at thirty all.* (ICE-IND:S2A-019)

The analysis (see Szmrecsanyi *et al.* to appear) will show that cross-varietal contrasts are quantitative and probabilistic in nature, rather than qualitative. This is another way of saying that the varieties of English under study do share a core probabilistic grammar which is, however, subject to indigenization at various degrees of subtlety, depending on the abstractness of the syntactic patterns studied.

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Plenary Presentations

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Session Presentations

Christophe Bechet

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The English Substitutive Complex Prepositions and Crosslinguistic Constructional Overlap

1. Introduction

This paper will study the influence of French on the emergence and development of substitutive complex prepositions (henceforth CPs). As they are attested in many European languages (Hüning 2014: 433), many CPs crosslinguistically show degrees of identity in terms of form and/or meaning. Cases in point are the English substitutive CPs *in place of* and *in lieu of*, which derived from the French *à la place de* and *au lieu de*, respectively, and which will serve as a case study in the present paper. CPs will be conceptualized as constructions as defined in the Construction Grammar framework, in keeping with Fagard's view (2009: 98) that CPs lie on the lexicon-syntax continuum.

2. Data and method

Previous work on substitutive CPs has mainly focused on the grammaticalization and pragmatic development of the constructions (Schwenter & Traugott 1995, Hoffmann 2004, 2005), even though Schwenter and Traugott (1995: 252, 258) are explicit as to the French origin of the constructions. The approach taken up in previous work will be wrapped up in a contact-induced interpretation.

As a first step to determining constructional overlap (Wasserscheidt 2014) between the English and French CPs, the in-depth qualitative analysis of Bechet (2014) will serve as a basis to trace back the grammatical development of the constructions within the two languages. As a second step, on the basis of exhaustive diachronic corpus data from CLMET3.0 and 19th and 20th century texts from the Project Gutenberg, distinctive collexeme analysis will be used to (i) determine whether there is semantic overlap between the English and French constructions and (ii) rule out possible analogical development with the CP *instead of*. The variable chosen to run the distinctive collexeme analysis is the verb

that triggers the substitution in the construction (e.g., the verb of substitution *substitute*).

3. Expected results

If French has exerted continuous influence on the development of the English substitutive CPs, it should appear in the constructional preference for certain verbs in English and which would appear as preferred collexemes in French too. However, it appears that *instead of*, *in place of* and *in lieu of*, when used as CPs (and not as subordinators), can be used interchangeably. A first distinctive collexeme analysis should shed light on semantic differences among these three CPs in preparation for a cross-linguistic comparison of the results.

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Husbands and Wives in English and Japanese

A contrastive, corpus-based approach to the lexical semantics and soci pragmatics of some translational equivalents

Within the context of the study of language and gender, I wish to ask the following question: "How do we talk about married men and women in various languages?" As a first approach, a contrastive analysis of several English and Japanese translational equivalents for *husband* (*otto*, *shujin*, *danna*) and *wife* (*okusan*, *tsuma*, *kanai*, and *nyoubou*) was undertaken based on data collected from two comparable corpora created by crawling the Web: the enTenTen12, an English corpus containing 11 billion words, and the jpTenTen11, a Japanese corpus with 8 billion words. The specific questions addressed are:

- 1) How do speakers refer to married men and women?
- 2) In what ways do we describe them?
- 3) What are they most frequently said to do, and what is most often done to them?
- 4) The way we talk about it, what do we give them, and what do they give us?
- 5) The way we talk about it, what do we do together with them?

In an attempt to address these five questions, I examined the lexical collocates of each term within a range of syntactic constructions used to refer, modify, express agentivity, and so on.

Overall results show that, in both Japanese and English, collocates of terms for married women primarily pertain to the semantic fields of physical appearance and sexuality, the capacity for childbearing, and subservience, while the results for married men are more varied, with trends involving the semantic fields of power, personality traits, physical appearance, and virility/sexuality. Results for the Japanese terms distinguish *tsuma* (for which collocates relate to sexuality and

subservience) from *kanai* (lit. “in the house”; many collocates refer to subservience or obedience but none to sexuality). Similarly, *Otto* and *danna*, but not *shujin*, are used to describe a powerful, sexual, and often unfaithful husband. *Shujin* (lit. “master”) conveys respect and formality, and does not collocate with words for sex.

These results are argued to contradict Ide’s (e.g. 2004) argument that women are not subordinate to men in Japanese culture, but that men and women simply play distinct, complementary roles necessary to achieve balance. Instead, I will argue that these results suggest that the two gender roles, as expressed in Japanese, may be complementary but that they are not valued equally.

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Contrasting Discourses of Asylum Seekers in Parliament Debates A quantitative analysis

1. Introduction

This study examines the contrast in discursive construction of migrants; to what extent can political parties formulate a distinct ideological discourse towards the “other”. The context of this study evokes formal institutional discourse of liberals and labors about “asylum seekers” in Australian parliament debates. This contrast reflects two conflicting discourses; one problematized asylums seekers as a threat within the receiving society, the other pertaining the saving of human lives.

2. Data

Data were extracted from Australian parliament ‘Hansard’ speeches (the edited transcripts of debates), exclusively from Question Time, officially known as “Question without Notice”. The questions are pre-arranged while replies are instantly and spontaneous. Therefore, the corpus forms a sample of naturally occurring language. The criteria for selecting the propositional units are the references to asylum seekers either explicitly or implicitly.

3. Method and Analysis

The method adopted for this study is Behavioral Profile approach (Geeraerts *et. al.* 1994, Gries & Stefanowitsch 2006, Glynn & Robinson 2014) known also as Manual Sentiment Analysis (Read & Carroll 2012). This method consists of the manual annotation of a sample, for semantic and extra-linguistic features. In this case, the sample was determined through manual unitizing of instances referring to asylum seekers. The choice of the features was based on Bednarek’s (2007) work on evaluation and attitudes. The last and important step in the method is the use of multivariate statistics. The study here employs mixed effects logistic regression.

4. Results

The predominant themes comprised the political parties discourses are: illegality and racialization. The asylum seekers were objectified within a racialized discourse of illegality when termed as “unauthorized boat arrivals”. The results draw on how the political discourse is only redressed the inherent biases: politicians exhibit a more negative and even discriminative attitude toward the “other”, moreover they are re-engaged into a popular and promoting humanitarian discourse which serves to confront the institutionalized practices. These results show how difficult it is to disregard dominant discourses.

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ICE-IPAC French Learners' Speech Productions in English Towards a classification of deviant forms

When it comes to English productions of French speakers, the most frequent pronunciation errors at the segmental level seem to be due to the influence of the spelling Capliez (2011). The present research paper deals with the deviant forms in the French learners' productions. This study aims at accounting for the deviant forms but also at classifying them based on the previous works realized in IPFC (Racine et al. 2011, 2012). The ICE-IPAC corpus was created in order to analyse these differences in several tasks, i.e. repeating and reading word lists, a formal and an informal conversation (Lacoste et al. 2014, 2015).

Contrary to the pilot study, in which we were focusing solely on some segmental phenomena, in the present work we are giving a more comprehensive view of the deviant forms produced (Andreassen et al. 2015). They will be organized according to phonetics & phonological phenomena. In order to account for the differences in the productions of French and native speakers of English, we performed some acoustic analysis that testify of the deviant forms that French speakers are likely to make as they are under the influence of their L1 (Durand & Przewozny 2012). The results show us not only an inter-speaker variation, but also an intra-speaker variation.

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English *now* and Mandarin *le*

Evidence for the contrastive meaning of *now*

This study contrasts the English deictic adverb *now* with the Mandarin final particle *le*, which is used clause-finally in Mandarin Chinese to indicate a change of state and mark the current relevance of the situation (Li & Thompson 1982). Although in bilingual dictionaries, *now* is generally associated with its accepted Chinese equivalent *xianzai* ‘now’ (e.g. MDBG), we put forward the idea that *now* differs in use and function from *xianzai*, and that it is in fact closer to the Chinese final particle *le*.

In order to verify this hypothesis, we used a set of bi-directional parallel corpora: a bilingual narrative corpus (with an original English corpus of 268.000 words and its Chinese translation; and an original Chinese corpus of 491.000 characters and its English translation) and a bilingual film corpus (52.000 original English words; 95.000 original Chinese characters). We examined the correspondences of temporal *now* in the original and translated Chinese texts.

Although the most frequent correspondence of *now* is *xianzai* ‘now’ (MC value of 43%), which is also a deictic marker referring to speech time, we found that many occurrences of *xianzai* as correspondences of *now* are combined with the final particle *le*. Moreover, a number of occurrences of *now* have only *le* as a correspondence in the Chinese text. It appears that translations of *now* are often infelicitous without the presence of *le* in Chinese or of another contrastive marker conveying change of state or inchoation (verb, adverb, etc.).

The fact that *le* corresponds to a particle signalling change of state and current relevance in Chinese suggests that temporal *now* shares these functions. *Now* has often been described as a contrastive marker coding an opposition between the current situation and an antithetical prior or

future situation (Fryd 1991). However, our study suggests that the contrastive meaning of *now* is not contextually determined but, on the contrary, that it is inscribed within the semantic program of *now*. We examine the shared functions of *now* and *le* in order to determine to what extent *now* might, like *le*, be considered to be an aspectual marker with a perfect meaning signalling current relevance and coding change of state and inchoation.

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Rethinking Grammaticalization

Adaptation vs. Exaptation in Language Change

In a seminal paper devoted to junk in language, Lass (1990) distinguishes three possible scenarios for items which, for some reason or other, have outlived their usefulness: survival as such, disappearance, or recycling as something else. This last process, he calls “exaptation”, a term borrowed from evolutionary biology. The present paper explores possible differences between exaptation and adaptation in language and attempts to draw a line between the two processes of functional renewal in grammaticalization through a comparative study of the emergence of infinitive TO and that of auxiliary DO in English, based on data drawn from various periods in the history of English, as well as French in the case of DO.

Adaptation is defined in the present paper as a form of rationalisation triggered by an initial mismatch between the source and its new environment and involving a pre-established path of change from source to target. One such case is the reanalysis of infinitive TO from adposition to I(NFL) caused by the N-V reanalysis of the old IE nominal infinitive. Where adaptation can be viewed as a process of normalization, exaptation, on the other hand, is an experimental form of innovation which is made possible by the original internal and distributional features of the source category. No pre-existing path is involved and no transitional stages as such are observed, a fact which is confirmed by the possible existence of competing modes of redeployment for the same source. This can be illustrated by the rise of auxiliary DO out of a disused causative verb which came to be redeployed with the development of configurational case as a periphrastic form in inverted structures. The development of periphrastic pronominal forms in French out of the existing paradigm of personal pronouns with the same effect of maintaining the SVO word order in questions however shows that exaptation also applies to forms and

structures which are still in use, thereby disqualifying the notion of functional uselessness as a necessary condition for exaptative change in linguistics (e.g. Lass, 1997).

Exaptation can therefore be characterized as a type of change involving sources which have either lost their original distinctive features and/or whose formal features are directly compatible with those of their new functional category. Where adaptative reanalysis is a form of adjustment coerced by a change in the environment of the form, as in biology, exaptation is a free "opportunistic" redeployment of material for some other use. In this new extended definition, exaptation is no longer the marginal phenomenon it is usually shown to be in linguistics, as in biology. It becomes the driving force in language change.

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English and Latin Corpora of Medical Terms

A comparative study

1. Focus of study

Our study is based on comparison of the terminological corpora of medicine in English and Latin. English medical terms (anatomical and clinical) are studied from confrontational and contrastive viewpoints (analogies, parallels, similarities with Latin vs. differences in English/Latin vocabularies).

2. Data & Methods

Parallel corpora are a valuable source of data and were the principal reason for the revival of contrastive linguistics that took place in the 1990s (Salkie 2002). In our study we apply methods of contrastive linguistics to the terminological corpus of medicine, respecting the specific signs and developmental peculiarities of individual terms as well as their universal signs/characteristics. Terminological units are studied from descriptive, semantic and partially also from historical aspects. The study presents selected data (terms) divided into different groups, e.g.: English medical terms of Greek origin, for instance *bregma* [brɛɡ'mə] - front of the head / *bregmatic* - pertaining to the bregma; *chorion* [kɔr'e-on] - outer extraembryonic membrane / *chorionic* - pertaining to the chorion; *diabetes* [di'ə-be'tez] - diabetes / *diabetic* - pertaining to or affected with diabetes. These terms have preserved the original ancient Greek form up to now with some modification according to phonetic and morphological rules of English.

3. Analysis

Comparative analysis of two languages in the field of terminology has shown that language similarities and differences in English and Latin terminological corpora have an impact on the practice and theory of terminology. Results show not only morphological and semantic shifts, but also historical development in some terms of the studied corpus

based on codified medical handbooks and dictionaries (Terminologia Anatomica. International Anatomical Terminology; International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, Stedman's Medical Dictionary). The studied corpus contains approx. 7,000 anatomical and clinical terms used in classes of Latin medical terminology in medical students.

4. Expected Results

Contrastive linguistics, which studies similarities and contrasts between two or more languages, can be useful for the teaching e.g. of English-Latin medical terminology. Medical terms derived from classical languages present another "foreign" language (specifically its vocabulary and grammar rules because syntax is not addressed in terminology studies). In medical language, a high number of English medical terms are equivalents of Latin ones in terms of their semantic (and partially also morphological) aspects. English is a language historically and culturally linked with Latin. Emphasis of differences can serve to evoke interest in medical students and enable them to remember things better. The expected results also have a theoretical purpose contributing to understanding of specific linguistic typological, differences as well as of universal features.

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Denoting place in English and Czech

Methodological challenges of corpus-driven contrastive study of typologically different languages

The aim of this paper is to explore possibilities and limits of the n-gram analysis method in cross-linguistic research (Ebeling & Ebeling 2013, Granger 2014). The study is focused on two typologically different languages: the isolating nature of English and highly fleective Czech with fairly free word-order constitute for the n-gram method a substantial challenge as previous research (Čermáková & Chlumská 2015) has shown. English and Czech differ greatly in terms of n-gram frequency and type distribution; consequently, establishing the appropriate correspondence (based on comparable units of meaning) in terms of the n-gram length between the languages is difficult (cf. Lefer & Grabar 2015). Our n-gram based research in children's literature texts has shown that place denoting n-grams (n=3+) in English are substantially more frequent than in Czech. Working with a hypothesis that place as a semantic feature is not expressed in this genre in English more often than in Czech, we aim to explore what the corresponding units of meaning in Czech look like compared to the most common English place n-grams (e.g. *on the top of the*).

To analyse the correspondence, the research was based on comparable corpora of the two languages and the English-Czech parallel translation corpus (InterCorp). The analysis was limited to the genre of children's literature and was conducted in two steps: (1) the most frequent 4-grams were extracted from the BNC subcorpus of children's literature, (2) spatial expressions, most frequently prepositional phrases such as *at the bottom of, the far end of*, were manually sorted out and examined as to their translation equivalents in the parallel corpus. The analysis has indicated that place is expressed differently in Czech in terms of the formal realization (e.g. space is frequently denoted redundantly which is

for Czech typical in the use of verbal prefixes and corresponding prepositions e.g. *clambered over the back of his seat* translates as *přešel přes opěradlo*). Formally, due to the language typology, the spatial phrases tend to be shorter than in English (e.g. 5-gram *at the head of the* translates usually as 2-gram *v čele*; 4-gram *at the back of* translates as a single word *vzadu*). The n-gram method based on comparing the same lengths of n-grams is thus not directly applicable to contrasting English and Czech, however additional use of comparable corpora supported by parallel translation corpus yields valuable insights into the patterning of the two languages.

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Diagnostic Causative Types of the Transitive *into -ing* Constructions in English

The so-called transitive *into -ing* constructions, as in ‘*Torres tricked her into signing a blank document*’, is considered as one of innovative emergence. This study aims at investigating the transitive *into -ing* constructions in the following ways: (i) to explore the history, trends and characteristics of the transitive *into -ing* constructions from corpus data such as COHA and COCA, and (ii) to show its causative types and distribution in accordance with Stefanowitsch (2001), Gries and Stefanowitsch (2004, 2010).

Stefanowitsch (2001) has proposed three kinds of causative properties—Manipulate, Trigger and Prompt—with *Make*-causative constructions. These causative types were also applied to the transitive *into -ing* constructions in Gries and Stefanowitsch (2004). Their study, however, did not provide enough examples to examine their causative meanings. Therefore, this study attempts to statistically prove the causative distribution of the transitive *into -ing* constructions. To this end, this study chose five kinds of matrix verbs—*goad*, *trigger*, *force*, *lure* and *scare*—from COHA and COCA based on Grice and Stefanowitsch (2010). A total of 1,603 sentences were selected for the analysis of three causative types. All sentences were tagged by reading the context of each sentence and referring to the criteria of Stefanowitsch (2001). In order to ensure statistical verification, a one-way ANOVA test was adopted to measure the average not only of each matrix verb group but also of all examples of each matrix verb grouped into three units of year, namely 1800s, 1900s and 2000s.

Some of the findings that this study made are: (i) the matrix verb *trick* turns out to be the most productive verb to contain all causative types synchronically and diachronically. (ii) With respect to the *Manipulate* and *Trigger* configuration, some matrix verbs statistically significantly

are grouped into clusters. (iii) With regards to *Prompt* configuration, the findings objectively prove Stefanowitsch's(2001) argument that this configuration is distributed less than other configurations, therefore; it is difficult to find and analyze the real data. (iv) Clustered matrix verb groups reveal that they share some *-ing* gerunds. What is more, some co-occurred *-ing* gerunds from each matrix verb show its tendency according to three units of year. The relation of co-occurrence can also be displayed through software, named NodeXL, which analyzes word-networks. In addition, figures from NodeXL also help understand the results of the statistical verification as well as the relation between matrix verbs and co-occurred *-ing* gerunds.

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Predicting is not explaining

Targeted learning of the dative alternation in English

An alternation may be seen as a core construction exhibiting variation in its syntactic realization. Our aim is to both predict and explain how native speakers of English choose an alternant over another in any given context.

Transgressing discipline-specific borders and drawing inspiration from the latest developments of semiparametrics for a modern targeted learning (van der Laan & Rose, 2011), we adapt an approach that has proven successful in biostatistics and apply it to the well-travelled case study of the dative alternation in English. The dative alternation is characterized by sentence pairs with the same verb, but different syntactic patterns, e.g. *I gave a book to him* (prepositional dative) vs. *I gave him a book* (double-object dative).

Predicting means building an algorithm that poses as a native speaker of English when she formulates a construction involving a dative alternation. The objective could be to deceive a native English speaker sitting in front of a computer and trying to figure out whether his or her interlocutor is also a native English speaker. To do so, the player can only rely on limited information, namely a transcribed construction involving a dative alternation with contextual information. The algorithm does not need to tell us how the dative alternation works. Telling us how the alternation works falls within the scope of explaining it. Explaining the dative alternation in English means uncovering what drives the choice of one dative alternant over the other.

This is certainly a multi-faceted challenge, one that cannot be exhausted and yet is worth being taken up for itself through a specifically designed analysis. To the best of our knowledge, however, such a targeted approach has not yet been carried out in previous accounts of the dative alternation (Baayen 2011; Gries 2003; Theijssen, ten Bosch, Boves, Cranen, & van Halteren 2013). We depart from traditional statistical methods such as logistic regression (Speelman, 2014) or naive discriminative learning (Baayen 2011).

We use the dative dataset (Baayen 2013; Bresnan, Cueni, Nikitina & Baayen 2007), which contains 3263 observations and 15 variables. The essence of our approach hinges on causal analysis and targeted minimum loss estimation (TMLE). Through causal analysis, we operationalize the set of scientific questions that we wish to address regarding the dative alternation. Drawing on the philosophy of TMLE, we answer these questions by targeting some versatile machine learners. We derive estimates and confidence regions for well-defined parameters that can be interpreted as the influence of each contextual variable on the outcome of the alternation (prepositional *vs.* double-object), all other things being equal.

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Subject-Verb Agreement in English and German Semantic and syntactic concord reconsidered

Agreement is generally syntactically driven in both English and German, but English also allows semantic agreement, for example with collective nouns (cf. 1a) while German does not (cf. 1b):

- (1a) **The police has/ have** arrested the thief.
(1b) **Die Polizei hat/ *haben** den Dieb
The police:3SG have.PRES:3SG/ have.PRES:PL the thief
verhaftet.
arrest:PCPL.
“The police has/have arrested the thief”

This has led some researchers to characterize agreement as semantically driven in English and syntactically driven in German. However, the contrast between the two languages is less absolute than (1a,b) suggest. For example, German allows semantic agreement with coordinated noun phrases (cf. Goschler 2014), while English does not. Also, both languages allow a choice between syntactic and semantic agreement in the case of quantifying-noun constructions (cf. 2a, b):

- (2a) A group of policewomen **has/ have** arrested the thief.
(2b) Eine Gruppe **Polizistinnen hat/ haben**
A group:3SG policewomen3 PL have.PRES:3SG / have.PRES:PL
den Dieb verhaftet
the thief arrest:PCPL.
“The police has/have arrested the thief”

Where German allows a choice, this has been shown to depend on factors like distance, word order, semantics of the head noun and construal (Goschler 2014). For English, similar factors have been identified psycholinguistically (Berg 1998) and corpus-linguistically (Levin 1999).

However, there is as yet no systematic contrastive study of a construction that allows variation in both languages taking into account all factors simultaneously. In my paper, I will present such a study. On the basis of comparable English and German newspaper corpora, I compare constructions with quantifying nouns of the form [*a number/bunch/heap of* NPL] and their German equivalents [*ein(e) Reihe/Menge/Haufen (von)* NPL]. I show that there is indeed variation in both languages, and the factors influencing it are the same in both languages. Thus, the dichotomy of English as a semantic agreement language and German as a syntactic agreement language cannot be upheld. The variation is generally more restricted in German, though, suggesting that the dichotomy must be reconsidered in terms of a continuum from semantic to syntactic agreement. I discuss my results in the light of usage-based cognitive grammar approaches and argue for a variationist usage-based account to this phenomenon, that relates this continuum to differences in the construal of the category of number.

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Modal auxiliaries and full inversion. A French-English study

Full inversion in English and French is a non canonical word order that undergoes many constraints already identified in the literature. Most of these constraints are comparable in both languages (cf. lexical subject, absence of negation, intransitive verbs). But some constraints seem to be more language-specific.

In English, for instance, one of the constraints clearly identified bears on the use of modal auxiliaries (Coopmans 1989, Chen 2003 *inter alii*), although it is still debated how strongly restricted the use of modals is in such syntactic context.

- (1) *Down the hill may roll the baby carriage. (Coopmans 1989, 729)
- (2) *Following the description should have been a selected list, not to exceed one page in length (Chen 2003, 178)

For Coopmans 1989, the syntactic category “Modal auxiliary” is illicit in locative inversion. For Chen, only modals followed by perfective HAVE are illicit, as in (2). In French, no constraint bearing on the use of modals in full inversions has been identified, although Fuchs 2006 signals a tendency for verbal phrases with light temporal and/or modal determination.

Using a parallel corpus of naturally occurring sentences, based on examples taken from various contemporary sources (novels, web sites etc) (350 in English, 270 in French), this study will show the Modal-Auxiliary constraint applies:

- in both languages, although not necessarily in the same way ;
- according to the modality expressed and the type of inversion at stake (eg. whether it is ‘locative’ or not).

In other words, to the issue of how restricted the use of modal auxiliaries is, I will claim that full inversion reduces the range of their semantic values. That reduction comes from the pragmatic parameters at stake in the discourse context. In the enunciative framework in which this work is situated, the incompatibilities put forward prove to be coherent with the hypothesis that full inversion encodes a non-speaker-based predication.

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Mixed Input and Attitude Effects on the Acquisition of English Spelling and Vocabulary

Despite the emergence of a diverse range of English varieties in the 20thC, British and American English are still considered today to be the two most powerful varieties and the reference norms for teaching and learning English worldwide. The learners' simultaneous exposure to these two distinct dialects will undoubtedly have consequences on the overall acquisition of the English language.

This study seeks to investigate the effects of exposing EFL learners to both British and American varieties concurrently. Indeed, even though sharing several similarities as a result of their common origin, the latter display various phonological, orthographic, lexical and grammatical distinctions.

Firstly, we start by contrasting the two dialects and outlining some of the most pertinent variations. Secondly, we attempt to examine the learners' orthography as well as vocabulary to find out whether it is mostly British, American, or a mix of the two. Our working hypothesis is that the learners' exposure to contrasting input leads to mixed and unstable output. In other words, they will eventually acquire a variable hybrid dialect which combines the characteristics of both varieties.

Thirdly, although it has been established that attitudes towards the target language affect the learning process, this study will seek to demonstrate the correlation between the learners' attitudes towards British and American English and the choice of the variety they use. We hypothesize that, as a consequence of the global rising influence of American English, the learners are rather inclined towards the latter.

To answer these questions, we put together different tests which we have administered to 120 tertiary students of English as part of a questionnaire. The first test was meant to determine the learners' attitudes towards British and American English and their ability to recognize associated accents. The second and third tests sought to identify the orthography of ten common English words which are spelled differently in the two dialects, and to reveal the vocabulary they would naturally employ in situations where British and American English make use of two distinct words for the same concept. The data collected from these tests will be analyzed using univariate and multivariate statistics.

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Final particle *but* and regional variation

Discourse markers used in sentence-final position are quite common in Northern English (Beal, Burbano & Llamas (2012) and completely inexistent in Southern English. But a close examination of Southern British data reveals a different picture, as exemplified in (1):

- (1) She went and picked our Kia up and went back to Bill's . Then she 's saying where is everybody when she comes and we're both in pigging bed! Yeah I know, **but**. I know, but we shouldn't have to borrow mother when I had to get back, to borrow my wages off Jes to get her tax for her car which left us with no money!
(BNC, KB1)

The purpose of this paper is to provide a more complete picture of the regional distribution of final particle *but* in three regions of Great Britain: the south, the north-east of England and Scotland. The analysis will be pursued in the spoken demographic section of the *British National Corpus* (BNC-SD), in the *Newcastle Electronic Corpus of Tyneside English* (NECTE) and in the spoken part of *The Scottish Corpus of Texts and Speech*.

The final particle *but* is said to be devoid of semantic meanings but a close analysis of the data will show that it is far from being the case. The syntactic behaviour will also be analysed, according whether the particle is preceded by a pause or not. The analysis will be complemented by the examination of the degree of subjectification of *but* in the different regions, relying on Traugott and Dasher's (2002) subjectification cline. The interactional forces which are expressed in conversation will be understood in terms of discourse strategy: It will be shown that the syntactic position of the marker considered is responsible not only for

the management of recipient turns but also contributes to incite a specific contribution from the interlocutor (Ford and Thompson 1996). The results show that there are two categories of semantic values that can be attributed to sentence-final *but* : the category of discursive values and the category of the expressions of the speaker's attitude, the new meaning of a filler being more developed in Geordie English and the original meaning of contrast being more persistent in Southern English. Syntactically, the particle is an IP-adjunct in Geordie English and it has a mixed behaviour as an orphan or an IP-adjunct in Scottish English and in Southern English. The degree of subjectification is more advanced in Geordie English, Scottish English standing second and Southern English lying third.

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Grammatical gender variation in Old English inanimate nouns

The present paper is a usage-based study that explores the notion of nouns of variable gender by distinguishing them from other types of gender-variation in Old English texts. It also explores the factors behind various grammatical gender assignments. It is focused on the corpus comprising around 80 Old English native nouns assigned to several genders in the three dictionaries selected for the analysis. The dictionary data on grammatical gender are confronted to the markers found in the *Dictionary of Old English Web Corpus*, an online database consisting of at least one copy of every surviving Old English text.

In this study, I argue that some important developments in the usage of the formerly gender-sensitive markers in the discourse might have influenced the latter to a certain degree. Or, they might be a reflection of variability as an internal feature of the nouns analysed. This study deals with the notion of variation as a cover-term for *disagreement*, which reflects the discontinuity of the link between a controller and its agreement targets, and, on the other hand, for *variability*, maintaining the agreement on the cognitive level and allowing the transition from one gender to the other depending on the choice of the speaker.

The corpus shows that only one tenth of the nouns analysed is subjected to variability. However, this is not the impression one might get from their respective dictionary entries with no particular explanation or criterion for the multiple gender assignment provided. The purpose of this study is thus to attempt to provide such an explanation through the notions of disagreement and variability.

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Contrasting Identities

Style-shifting in a postpunk singing accent

The paper investigates the issue of adopting a given accent of English for the purposes of rock singing. As Trudgill (1983) observes, Americanisation phenomenon became less noticeable among British vocalists with the arrival of new wave and punk rock in the 1970s. The two main tendencies in the singing accent, i.e. Americanisation on the one hand, and the use of some working class features on the other, mingled and coexisted to create a conflict of identities. Since that time, changing trends in popular music singing styles have been noticed (Simpson 1999, Gibson 2005, Beal 2009).

With Trudgill's observations and predictions as departure points, this article's aim is to analyse selected features of contemporary rock singing on the basis of a British postpunk group, New Model Army, and its vocalist, Justin Sullivan. The focus is on the potential Americanisation and the influence of the regional accent (the band being formed in Bradford, though the vocalist speaks standard BE), as well as the working class accent (typical of punk rock since the 1970s).

The quantitative analysis is based on three records from different periods in the band's history: *Vengeance* (1984), *Thunder and Consolation* (1989) and *Between Dog and Wolf* (2013). Three phonetic features have been selected for the analysis, each of which exemplifies a different potential influence and can be indexed as "working class", "northern" and "American", respectively: $eɪ \rightarrow \text{æ}ɪ$, $\Lambda \rightarrow \text{ʊ}$, $aɪ \rightarrow a:$.

The results show very weak influence of American English (the absence of rhoticity, only 7% of monophthongisation on *Thunder and Consolation*, even less on the other two albums). This goes in line with the attitude Sullivan has with regard to the USA, as expressed in some of

his songs, which confirms Coddington's (2004) discussion of the effect a singer's attitude may have on the chosen accent. The influence of a northern accent is absent from Sullivan's spoken language; yet, in his singing accent it accounts for 7%-20% of cases. The weakest influence may be noticed on *Thunder and Consolation*, the most *neutral* album with regard to phonetic stylization. The influence of a working class accent changes drastically from more than 40% (*Vengeance*) to almost 0% (*Between Dog and Wolf*), which can be correlated with a changing musical style.

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Contrasting cultures and languages

A multifactorial profile-based account of SHAME in English, French and Polish

1. Introduction

The present study investigates the concept of SHAME from a cross-linguistic and cross-cultural perspective. This concept, overarching the field of negative self-evaluative emotions, is operationalized through two lemmas realizing it: ‘shame’ and ‘embarrassment’. Their usage is analyzed in four communities of British English, American English, French and Polish. The study has two goals, one descriptive, the other methodological. Firstly, it aims to identify the conceptual structuring of the two lexical categories relative to their respective socio-cultural contexts. The result will be four sets of culture-sensitive usage profiles. Secondly, the study further advances corpus-driven quantitative methodology for the description of intersubjectively-grounded abstract concepts (Krawczak 2014).

2. Hypothesis

With respect to the descriptive dimension, the study will test a specific hypothesis concerning cross-cultural variation in conceptualizing SHAME. The ideas of individualism and collectivism (Triandis 1995) are expected to affect the way in which SHAME events are conceptualized and externalized. Accordingly, in the Anglo-Saxon world, whose members are relatively more independent, such emotions are more likely to be experienced as a result of one’s own actions and regardless of the presence of audience. In the comparatively more interdependent society of Poland, by contrast, negative self-evaluation and the resultant emotions, will more commonly arise due to other people’s deeds and in the presence of witnesses. Finally, in France, which is a Western community and yet, historically, predominantly Catholic, the

conceptualization of SHAME is expected to be a combination of individualistic and collectivistic values.

3. Methodology & Data

To test the above hypothesis and to identify the culture-specific construals of the lexical categories, the study employs usage-based methodology. More specifically, the method used can be termed configurational, profile-based or multifactorial usage-feature (Geeraerts *et al.* 1994; Gries 2003; Glynn 2009; Gries & Stefanowitsch 2006; Glynn & Fischer 2010; Glynn & Robinson 2014) analysis. The method permits the identification of frequency-based patterns of language use, taken to be indicative of conceptual and cultural tendencies in profiling reality. The data were extracted from the fiction components of the British National Corpus, the Corpus of Contemporary American English, the Polish National Corpus and Frantext. Equal numbers of the adjectival instantiations of ‘shame’ and ‘embarrassment’ in the four communities were extracted from the corpora, amounting to approx. 800 contextualized observations. The data were manually analyzed for a range of usage-characteristics that served to operationalize the constructs of individualism and collectivism: cause, temporal scope of the cause, emotion and cause type, audience. Next, multivariate statistical modeling was applied in the form of exploratory (correspondence analysis) and confirmatory (logistic regression analysis) techniques. This produced verifiable language- and culture-specific profiles of SHAME.

4. Results

The results provide quantitative support for the hypothesized cultural continuum ranging from the English communities through France to Poland along the dimension of individualism-collectivism. Among some unexpected patterns of use is the approximation in usage between the Polish exponents of ‘shame’ and ‘embarrassment’, both of which emerge as based in the immediate interactive situation.

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Post-colonial (American) English Presence on the North-Western Pacific Island of Kosrae. A cross-linguistic analysis of the overlaps and divergences of Kosraean English compared to standard

Kosrae is the most remote island of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), with a population of less than 7,000 inhabitants, located in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Guam. FSM is an independent sovereign nation consisting of four states in total: Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. Having passed through the hands of Spain, Germany and Japan, the United States gained administrative control of FSM after WWII, as commissioned by the UN. The FSM became an independent nation in 1986 while still retaining affiliation with the US under a 'Compact of Free Association'. Now both Kosraean and English are considered to be the two official languages and the variety of Kosraean English which has arisen proves for an interesting comparative study.

In order to obtain the relevant data, I spent three months on the island of Kosrae, interviewing 90 local speakers, ranging in age (16-70), occupation, sex and time spent off island. The 45 minute long interviews were informal but supported by participant information to capture relevant data and conversations were guided in a way that aimed to reveal language and cultural attitudes. With reference to these samples, I examine the effects of American English on the language use in Kosrae. This paper aims to present a broad analysis of phonological, morphosyntactic and pragmatic features, such as pro-dropping, discourse markers and other practices in order to demonstrate the similarities and differences between the two varieties, which are coming to shape the variety developing on Kosrae. Having transcribed conversations using the tool Elan, I will put particular focus on [h] deletion and insertion, a rare occurrence found in a variety of post-colonial American English which I believe is of particular interest. I assess the presence of English in Kosrae with reference to sociological

influences, past and present. First, I discuss the extralinguistic factors which have shaped the English that is currently used on Kosrae, including migration between US and FSM, and English as a language of administration, social media usage and visual media presence. Secondly, I assess the use of English in this community in light of Schneider's (2007) 'Dynamic Model', with reference to America's contribution as an 'exploitation colony' as defined by Mufwene (2001). Finally, an overview of the salient linguistic characteristics of Kosraean English, based on the data collected will be presented and compared to features associated with standard American English in view of examining overlap and divergence. The overall objective is to present a cross-linguistic description of a hitherto unexamined English emerging in a postcolonial environment with a juxtaposed contact variety.

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Secondary Predication

Resultatives, depictives and Talmian patterns

1. Introduction

On the matter of secondary predication, a massive amount of work has been directed towards the fact that resultative constructions ((1)a) are a far more productive construction in languages like English vs. Romance and the relevant correlation that this shows with respect to the event integration patterns noted since Talmy (1985) *i.a.*. In contrast, depictive secondary predicates [DEP] (e.g. (1)b) have received considerably less attention.

2. Goal

We will attempt to broaden the focus of these earlier efforts to encompass DEPs by focusing on relevant connections between types of secondary predication (resultative/deictive) and the semantic component encoded in V (manner vs. direction conflation patterns). We will also push this approach further to capture the fact that English resorts to an adverbial element to express what is conveyed by the depictive AP predicate in Spanish (2), a language belonging to a different type according to the Talmian typology.

3. Data

As a first step in our research, we will compare English and Spanish depictive constructions found in the ACTRES parallel corpus (Izquierdo *et al.*, 2008). The constructions paired are [internal]subject-related (they encode a state/property of the DP); they are complements/attributes (encode an overt or covert element articulating a SC-like configuration);

they are omissible. They part ways on the temporal/eventive situation of the state (DEPs characterize the DP in relation to the process denoted by the verb, “but as a concomitant, not a result, of the process” (Halliday, 1967:63)).

- (1) a. The river run dry. Cf. *El río corrió seco.
b. John entered the room naked. Juan entró a la habitación desnudo.
- (2) a. Juan entró {arrogante/arrogantemente}.
b. Juan came in {*arrogant/*boastful/arrogantly/boastfully}

4. Analysis

Assuming that Spanish conflates the directional component in the verb, the secondary predication can remain a non-directional relation; accordingly, the reading is depictive rather than resultative. By contrast, as English typically leaves the directional component to be expressed by a satellite element (AP); hence, the fact that secondary predicate gets a resultative reading is expected. Pairings like (3) suggest so: whereas in English the sequence DP-ergative verb-AP renders a (long-studied) resultative construction; in the Spanish construction the AP only gets to convey the state/manner in which the subject traverses the path conflated in the verb (oddities remaining strictly conceptual/encyclopaedic). Eventually, English admits DEPs with (Latin) borrowed path-conflated verbs; however, the construction is restricted to few specific APs (4) and, crucially, the state rendered is (unlike Romance DEPs) not coextensive with the event conveyed by V (rather, initial/result states apparently not viable in Spanish).

- (3) a. Men {go/ run/ grow} wild, violent, crazy, loose, indifferent.
b. Los hombres {van/ corren/ crecen} salvajes, violentos, locos, sueltos, indiferentes.
- (4) a. He entered the room {naked/ *triumphant/ *quiet/ unprepared/ uninvited/ unannounced}.
b. Entró al cuarto {desnudo/ triunfante/ callado/ desprevenido/ *(sin estar) invitado/ anunciado}.

5. Conclusions

The data analysed indicates that the relation between secondary predication and event (manner/direction) integration patterns may be much more relevant and generalizable than often assumed, both in syntactic and semantic terms.

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Lexicalization patterns and change of state predication

1. Question & Goal

Talmy's (1985, 2000) crosslinguistic typology of lexicalization patterns represents a rather influential work in linguistics and especially one which has been implemented in different frameworks and problems. We will build on these patterns—especially in their attempt to identify and relate lexically encoded and syntactically construed meaning components—to cast light on some visible divergences between English and Romance in the derivation of change-of-state [COS] predicates built on property denoting roots [PD√]. We will focus on the significant productivity of DV formation in Romance (syntactic realization) in comparison to English tendency towards analytic phrases (V+Adj) and their convergence on the aspectual division between DVs. As a second goal, will set out to account for the seeming lack of non-resultative analytic COS.

2. Data

Corpus data (of which this is a representative sample, mainly oriented to hits regarding V+Adj/DV+Adv combinations) was obtained from queries in American/British English and Spanish corpus resources (COCA, Corpusdelespanol, CORDE, CREA). Experimental data was obtained from questionnaires presented to native informants of Iberian and American varieties of Spanish and American English, essentially targeted to grammaticality judgements over different verb/modifier combinations, resultative reading/implications, counterfactual/scalar interpretation under negation, etc.

3. Analysis

Spanish and English DVs divide into two natural aspectual/eventive classes. Specific aspectual parameters (boundedness, incrementality, gradability, homogeneity) and tests (partiality/totality/intensive

modifiers, negation [scope], in/for X time, resultativity) on corpus and experimental data converge in a partition that can be argued to ensue from the (open/closed) scale yielded by the PD $\sqrt{}$, although this lexical specification can be eventually neutralized constructionally (cf. Author 2012,2013 and references therein; cf. Kearns 2005, Hay, Kennedy & Levin 1999 *i.a.* for a semantic approach on the relation between scale boundedness and telicity). Interestingly, whereas English synthetic COS (DVs) reflect this split (1), analytic forms ((2)-(5)b) seem confined to resultative/telic predication, even when combining atelic/unbounded verbs like *grow* (6), unless comparative morphology is added.

- (1) a. {endulzar/ alargar/ enriquecer/ entibiar} {#completamente/
#a medias/ bastante/ demasiado}
sweeten/ lengthen/ enrich/ warm
{#completely/ #halfway/ enough/ too much}
b. {enrojecer/ blanquear/ secar/ ensordecer} {completamente/ a
medias/ #bastante/ #demasiado}
reddden/ whiten/ dry/ deafen
{completely/ halfway/ #enough/ #too much}
- (2) a. {enloquecer/ secar/ impacientar/ silenciar/ agriar/ viralizar/
enceguecer/ engordar}.
b. go {crazy/ dry/ impatient/ silent/ sour/ viral/ blind/ *fat}.
- (3) a. {enriquecer/ acercar/ achicar/ enfurecer/ alistar/ empeorar/
emborrachar}.
b. get {rich/ close/ small/ furious/ ready/ worse/d drunk}.
- (4) a. {enrojecer/ palidecer/ endurecer/ ranciar/ solidificar/
transparentar/ empeorar}.
b. turn {red/ pale/ tough/ rancid/ solid/ transparent/ worse}.
- (5) a. {envejecer/ alargar/ fortalecer/ agrandar/ ensanchar/ achicar/
cansar/ acostumar/ aburrir/ enfriar}.
b. grow {old/ large/ strong/ big/ wide/ small/ tired/ accustomed/
bored/ cold}.

- (6) a. The gap {widened/ #grew wide} but it isn't wide [though].
b. The sky {darkened/ #{went/ turned/ grew/ got}dark}, but it isn't dark [though].

Under the premise that DVs involve a MOTION+PATH combination, and that APs conform to Talmy's definition of *satellite* (2000:102), we will argue that the (open/close) specification of the PD $\sqrt{}$ is crucial in DVs, for it translates into a structural difference in the configuration of the PATH encoded in V—inherent telicity/resultativity conforming to structures where the boundedness of the scale translates into a bounded path involving an endstate (PD $\sqrt{}$ =Goal), as opposed to homogeneous/non-resultative COS where the unbounded scale maps into a Path that is coextensive with the motion event (route/direction; cf. Jackendoff 1996), allowing property degree to correlate with degree of change. In turn, when the direction of the transition/COS is not lexicalized in V but realized independently (AP), the property is necessarily interpreted as Terminal Ground.

3. Results

Path lexicalization patterns naturally accommodate the significant productivity of DVs in Romance, whereas the lexicalization pattern of Germanic languages is to be related to the fact that the construction with Path encoded by a satellite (AP) is preferred. Yet, we also argue for the linguistic relevance of this typology by demonstrating that the aspectual configuration of COS predicates and the delivery of two aspectual verb classes is sensitive to this difference (i.e. whether Path is combined in the verb or realized independently). Thus, a crucial differentiation is drawn not only from the formal implications of property scales, but also from the alternative ways in which motion/change can be encoded/construed.

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‘Becoming Australian’

Assimilation of Melbourne Australian English features by members of the Italian and Lebanese communities

Over the last century, Australia’s urban landscape has dramatically changed with the settlement of European and Middle-Eastern migrants in cities such as Melbourne and Sydney. The main groups of non-Anglo migrants were initially Italians and Greeks (after World War II), followed by Turkish and Lebanese refugees in the Eighties. The complex dynamics of migrant urban settlement, the deep social changes in the lifestyle of later generations of migrants and their multicultural social networks have deeply affected the communities’ progressive convergence towards Melbourne Australian English.

This paper presents the initial results of a phonological study of three generations of Italian- and Lebanese-Australians in Melbourne. *H-dropping*, the omission of word-initial /h/, was once a relatively common phenomenon in New Zealand and Australian Englishes, but today appears to be obsolescent (Bell and Holmes 1992, Horvath 1985). I use this feature to assess the extent to which migrant communities have assimilated their Englishes towards the local norm.

The data collection in Melbourne (2009-2010; 2011) has led to the creation of a corpus of recorded interviews of over 150 speakers. For the purpose of this study, a selection of 60 speakers was used for quantitative analysis of [h]. For statistical tests, H-words were first categorised by word type; following Bell and Holmes’ (1992) study, auxiliaries and third-person pronouns were excluded from the analysis. Ethnicity, gender, generation, work environment and neighbourhood were the main factors that showed [h] variation in my statistics.

The analysis shows that Italian settlers tend to /h/-drop more than the first and second Australian-born generations. The first Australian-born generation, having experienced heavy discrimination, tried to sound like ‘ordinary’ Australians and thus show almost no /h/-dropping. Finally, the second generation shows a major split between boys and

girls, the boys /h/-dropping with a higher frequency than their parents and the girls having no such feature in their speech.

On the other hand, the Lebanese do not show /h/-dropping as [h] is part of the Lebanese Arabic phonological system; first-generation Lebanese-Australian boys, however, tend to show low levels of H-dropping, which might suggest that a pan-ethnolect variety of Australian English could be present in Melbourne.

The results support Schneider's (2007) *Dynamic Model* of the evolution of postcolonial Englishes which predicts progressive assimilation followed by community-internal differentiation. Therefore, a migrant community's degree of linguistic integration into a new sociolinguistic environment can be observed through its level of both assimilation towards *and differentiation from* features from the host language.

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A comparison of the way-construction and the fake reflexive resultative construction. A diachronic Construction Grammar account.

This paper presents a comparison of recent changes in the way-construction (e.g. *Babe Ruth homered his way into the hearts of America*) and the fake reflexive resultative construction (e.g. *My sister drank herself to death*) from a diachronic Construction Grammar perspective, conducting a collostructional analysis focusing primarily on the notion of exemplar clouds (see e.g. Bybee, 2013).

The investigation into the two constructions was conducted using the tagged COHA corpus (<http://corpus.byu.edu/coha/>), using data from 1820 to the present day, in order to compare and contrast contemporary varieties of English with 19th Century English. A simple collexeme analysis was applied to these data in order to determine whether the attracted collexemes to each construction matched the exemplar clouds found in the frequency data. Simple collexeme analysis is part of a larger family of linguistic methods known as collostructional analysis (see e.g. Stefanowitsch & Gries, 2003), which studies the relationship between words and the constructions they occur in, and is widely used in constructional approaches to language (Stefanowitsch, 2013: 290).

The investigation found clear evidence of semantic clustering both in the repelled and the attracted collexemes of both constructions, though this clustering occurs around different semantic frames in each construction. These semantic constraints can also be seen in the zero collexemes of each construction. Verbs merely describing a type of motion (*WALK*, *GO*, *COME*, *MOVE*) are dispreferred in both constructions, as are transitive verbs (*READ*, *PLAY*, *SELL*). Verbs which are strongly attracted to one construction are zero collexemes in the other (i.e. they are not attested in the other construction at all), for example *DRINK* in

the *way*-construction, and *MAKE*, *FIND*, and *FEEL* in the fake reflexive resultative construction.

In the 19th Century, on the other hand, the semantic and syntactic constraints governing the two constructions looked rather different. The *way*-construction in this time period showed a preference for transitive, rather than intransitive, verbs, and verbs found in this time period denoted motion, before the construction expanded to license verbs only tangentially related to motion (Mondorf, 2010). Thus, the exemplar clouds for the *way*-construction in the 19th Century look markedly different to their modern counterparts, showing a preference for transitive verbs. In the corresponding exemplar clouds of the fake reflexive construction, verbs which encode an undesirable consequence such as *DRINK* and *EAT* occur much less frequently (as a percentage of total words in the corpus) in the 19th Century than in more modern varieties.

This study is in contrast with others (e.g. Mondorf (2010)), who does not focus on the function of each verb in the construction. My data show that the fake reflexive resultative construction serves primarily to encode the unintended consequence of an action, while the *way*-construction encodes deliberate motion, often despite an obstacle, to a goal.

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The Influence of Culture on Language

A contrastive study of English and Tibetan

The relation between language, culture and thought is one of the most controversial areas of modern linguistics (Brown & Lenneberg 1954, Pinker 1994, Lucy 1997, Wolff & Holmes 2011). The stronger version of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis has been disproved, but many researchers advocate a weaker version of linguistic relativity.

It is often argued that the structure of a language can impact the thought patterns of its speakers, and subtly correlates their culture. One of the most salient grammatical specificities of Tibetan is the encoding of evidentiality in its verb phrase (Tournadre & Sangda Dorje 1998), whereas English seems to render this notion mainly with lexical tools. Aikhenvald (2004) offers some hypotheses on the link between culture and the grammaticalisation of evidentiality. However, this paper argues that grammar encodes semantic domains that are typically universal. The evidence between the cultural specificities of a linguistic community and the grammar of a language is too weak to argue that a culture can cause the emergence of a grammatical category, such as evidentiality. Grammaticalisation is a process of automatization of some schematic and specifying semantic domains, and does not entail that a specific culture has a clearer conceptualization of this domain (Melac 2014).

The lexicon however seems to reflect a culture more directly. The persistent myth of the expansive vocabulary for snow that Inuit speakers should possess (Pullum 1991) reminds us that a thorough analysis of a language's lexicon is necessary before drawing any conclusion. This paper is mainly based on a four-year investigation of the most common words used by Lhasa Tibetan speakers (Melac, Simon & Robin 2014), which necessitated a systematic comparison with the English lexicon, partly examined in a 10-hour contrastive corpus that was collected in

Cambridge and Lhasa (the Cambridge Student Corpus and the Tibet Student Corpus). In this preliminary phase of the investigation, the researchers' first-hand knowledge of Tibetan and English was correlated with the data in the corpus and lexical frequency lists. This contrastive study revealed that four parameters are particularly relevant to illustrate the link between a culture and the lexicon of its language: existence, frequency, conciseness and preciseness.

These contrastive data suggest that language change is motivated by two separate functional niches. Universal and pervasive cognitive processes of meaning specification seem to trigger grammaticalisation, whereas recurrent (and possibly culture-specific) semantic contents seem to trigger lexicalisation.

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Linguistic Encoding of Gender Asymmetry in West Slavic Languages and English

The problem of linguistic representation of maleness and femaleness is receiving growing attention, particularly within various feminist theoretical frameworks. The current research does not primarily seek to explore the nature of bias in favor of men leading to women's linguistic invisibility. Instead, it examines selected ways in which gender asymmetry gets mapped onto the system of occupational terms both in West Slavic languages (Slovak, Czech, and Polish) and English, a representative of the so-called genderless languages.

The study investigates exceptions to general patterns of symmetrical “transcription” of sex into linguistic choices, including **parallel designations for women and men, with a semantic difference**, e.g., English *governor*, the chief executive of a state in the US, an official appointed to govern a colony or territory, or a member of a governing body) – *governess*, a woman employed to educate the children of a private household, Slovak *kňaz* (masc.), a priest, a clergyman in Christian churches who is authorized to perform various religious rites – *kňažka* (fem.), a priestess in the pagan sense, a non-Christian spiritual leader, Polish *sekretarz* (masc.), typically a head of an administrative governmental office or international organization – *sekretarka* (fem.), a personal assistant who performs clerical tasks for a boss or an organization, and **lexical gaps (Ø)**, e.g., Slovak *hlásnik* (masc.), an armed guard and night watchman – Ø (fem.) and Czech *letuška* (fem.), a person whose job is to ensure the safety and comfort of passengers aboard commercial flights – Ø (masc.).

This paper draws on Micháľková (2009, 2014). The corpus database is comprised of 6,133 Slovak personal nouns. They were identified among more than 60,000 entries in a prescriptive monolingual dictionary of the codified standard Slovak language *Krátky slovník slovenského jazyka*

[Concise Dictionary of Slovak Language], 2003. Sixteen semantic categories were further established and examined, *Descriptions based on one's occupation* – the class of personal nouns under investigation in the current paper – being one of them; and the one with the strongest representation: It contains 1,754 lemmas, the majority of which are masculine forms (1,059). While more than half of the masculine forms co-occur symmetrically with feminine counterparts, a significant number of vocational terms engage in asymmetrical relationships. Polish, Czech and English data come from various studies.

It is argued that Slovak lemmas belonging to the sphere of employment engage in symmetrical relationships more readily than lexemes belonging to most of other semantic categories. The asymmetrical gender relations in Slovak are primarily manifested by lexical gaps and parallel designations, with a semantic difference. Characteristically, feminine lexical gaps are more frequent than the masculine ones. The isolated lexical gaps seen in Slovak seem to be dissimilar from Polish examples discussed in this study in that Polish is less prone to feminize the previously masculine occupational terms. Comparison of our findings about Slovak gender asymmetry with Dickins's (2001) Czech language data indicates that while both Slovak and Czech gravitate towards gender symmetry, Czech seems to exhibit a lesser degree of systematicity than Slovak. English tends to create gender-neutral vocational terms, an option linguistically unavailable in the examined West Slavic languages.

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Contrasting Motion Events with Verbs of Sound Emission in English and Serbian

On the background of the theoretical approach of Beavers et al. (2008), the paper contrasts English and Serbian VPs involving a sound emission component with respect to their capacity to combine with directional phrases and receive motion interpretation. The aim of the paper is to provide an exhaustive syntactic and semantic classification of such motion events.

Two factors are identified as central to this classification:

1. Argument structure.

In the default case in English, a sound emission verb may combine with a directional PP to yield motion interpretation (1a). The cases where the external argument of the VP is at the same time the emitter of the sound are ruled out in English (1b).

1. a. The cart rumbled down the street. (unaccusative interpretation)
b. *Peter screamed down the street. (unergative interpretation)

In the default case in Serbian, combining a sound-emission verb with a directional phrase yields an interpretation in which the sound undergoes a (possibly abstract) motion in the specified direction (2a). Another interesting case is when the subject of motion is another participant, the incremental theme of some process other than the sound emission (2b).

2. a. Marija se/je do-viknula do kraja
Marija.NOM REFL/AUX do-shouted.PFV till end.GEN
ulice.
street.GEN
'Marija shouted (down) to the end of the street.'

- b. Marija je do-škripala do kraja
Marija.NOM AUX do-creaked.PFV till end.GEN
ulice.
street.GEN
'Marija reached the end of the street (while) creaking' /
'Marija creaked till/to the end of the street'

2. Overt realization of class P elements (Talmy 1985, Gehrke 2008)

The obligatory element of class P in English is the directional PP (1a). In Serbian VPs involving a causal relation between the motion and sound emission, overt realization of the prefix (another class P element) related to the directional PP yields (3a). Only in those cases when the causal relation is indirect (an implicature), such VPs are well-formed (3b).

3. a. Zubi su (*pro/ od/ do/ za-) škripali
teeth.NOM.PL AUX (*pro/ od/ do/ za-) screeched.PFV
o tanjir.
against plate.ACC
'The teeth screeched against the plate.'
- b. Zubi su pro-škripali kroz
teeth.NOM.PL AUX pro-screeched.PFV through
hodnik.
hall.ACC
'The teeth screeched through the hall.'

The research is based on the contrastive corpus compiled via a three-step methodology:

- a) The original class of sound emission verbs (VSE, Levin 1993) was used as a starting point for establishing a class of Serbian VSE via available lexicographic sources, which resulted in a prominent lexical class of Serbian VSE (134 verbs).

b) The original class of English VSE was revised against WORDNET (<https://wordnet.princeton.edu/>). (the number of verbs was changed from 119 to 123)

c) The sentential corpus was compiled as an empirical base for the study. The sentences were selected according to contextual equivalency criterion due to complexity of argument structure within VSE motion events. The corpus itself is a combination of literary and online sources (BNC, CCA), and contains 1000 contrastive examples.

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What is in a cluster?

A study on Polish and English word-initial clusters

For over a century, phonological theory has relied on the measure of sonority in determining consonant cluster well-formedness. Starting with seminal works of Sievers (1901) and Jespersen (1913), the proposed sonority hierarchies (e.g. Clements 1990, Steriade 1990, Trask 1996, Vennemann 1988, Wiese 1988) have been mainly based on a single criterion of manner of articulation, although some phonotactic models have systematically combined several phonological features beyond sonority (e.g. Dziubalska-Kołaczyk 2014). The analysis pursued here draws on the observation of Orzechowska & Wiese (2015) that phonological features rather segments determine phonotactics in a given language. We provide a close inspection of word-initial consonant clusters in Polish and English in terms of four features; (1) complexity, (2) place of articulation, (3) manner of articulation and (4) voicing, with the goal of determining their preferability in phonotactics.

In the evaluation of clusters, each feature (e.g. voicing) is instantiated by a range of parameters (e.g. voice in C1, voice cluster-finally, voice agreement). For each parameter, patterns (e.g. +/-voice in C1, +/-voice in C-final, no/partial/total agreement) are established. The number of clusters in a given language adhering to a particular pattern is determined, which allows to observe which patterns contribute to a preferred feature configuration in clusters. For instance, English clusters tend to start with a voiceless segment (70%) and end with a voiced one (93%), while in Polish voice agreement is preferred; the majority of clusters (69%) agree in the voicing feature [+voice].

An exhaustive inventory of initial clusters for the two languages was compiled on the basis of handbooks, dictionaries and corpora. Some clusters appearing in isolated words, e.g. English /θw ʃm ʃn zl/ found in

thwart, *schmalz*, *schnapps*, *zloty* were not taken into consideration due to their obviously foreign status. The resulting list of 432 and 54 clusters in Polish and English, respectively was used in the analysis. We firstly broke up clusters into features, according to the IPA categories, and next searched for a preferred feature setting for each language. In such a way, we demonstrated that different sets of preferences govern the structure of word-initial phonotactics in Polish and English. Generally, place and voice features were shown to be particularly relevant for Polish; presence of one or more coronal(s) in a cluster, presence of a coronal cluster-finally and [+voice] agreement throughout a cluster. In English, preferences preserving the sonority-based profile were observed; cluster size (CC), increase in articulatory opening, and [-voice] cluster-initially.

The proposed approach constitutes an alternative to existing models of phonotactics as it is not based on a priori assumptions on cluster structure. It allows to trace idiosyncratic properties of clusters and formulate phonotactic preferences for a given language. This phonotactic measure complements other approaches by stating what clusters are like rather than what they should be like.

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**Cross-language variation in female-male acoustic differences
The case of Parisian French and American English speakers**

Many studies were conducted on acoustic differences between female and male voices (Klatt & Klatt, 1990; Simpson, 2009; Whiteside, 2001). However, they were generally led on speakers of only one language, and focused on a single acoustic parameter. The present study is an acoustic analysis of dissyllabic words or pseudo-words produced by 10 Northeastern American English speakers (5 females, 5 males) and 10 Parisian French speakers (5 females, 5 males). Vowel formant frequencies, spectral centre of gravity of voiceless consonants, mean f_0 , f_0 range, VOT, H1-H2 intensity differences, words' duration as well as consonants/vowels' temporal distribution were measured. Significant cross-gender differences were obtained for each tested parameter. Moreover, cross-language variations were observed for f_0 range, VOT, vowel formants and H1-H2 differences. These results suggest that cross-gender acoustic differences are partly language dependent and therefore, socially constructed.

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Dialogues in literary fiction and blogs

A cross-genre corpus-driven study on how they compare with spoken data

The idea of comparison of the conversations in literary works, blogs, and the spoken data sprang from two problematic issues. First, there is an ongoing dispute concerning the nature of novelistic speech. Some scholars, e.g. Toolan (1987) as cited in McHale (2011: [15], argue for the presence of mimesis in fiction while others claim that the selection of speech features is limited and the mimesis is a “linguistic hallucination” (Fludernik (1993: 453) as cited in McHale (2011: [15])). Second, the popular opinion among the users of the Internet is that they chat online. The investigation in the area of electronic media and/or literature has already been done by Giltrow, J. & Stein, D (eds.). (2009); Ryan, Marie-Laure. (2001); and Tagg, C. (2012). The aim of my study is twofold: to ascertain whether the three genres (including real-life dialogues) bear a linguistic likeness to one another; and to examine whether dialogues in fiction and blogs bear any similarity to real-world conversations in terms of being built of the chunks of real-life spoken language.

While corpus stylistics is a relatively new discipline (Fischer-Starcke, B. (2010); Mahlberg, M. (2009)), corpus-driven approach to text analysis is a well-established one (Biber, D. (2006); Leech, G. N., Rayson, P., Wilson, A. (2001); Archer, D. (2009)). I have compiled a 12 000 words sample of literary dialogues of the 20th and 21st century British and American writers, and one of the same size containing conversations that are part of blogs dated 2013-14. The reference corpus is a downloadable part of COCA (1.7 million words). The study is predominantly quantitative with the application of specialized corpus processing software - *WordSmith Tools 5.0*. The data, frequent words, key words, and lexical bundles, is compared to display the linguistic characteristics of the two genres in terms of lexis, selected grammatical

features, and phraseology. Next, genre analysis follows with special attention given to spoken and written features. In this part, the study inquires into the most common genres and media present in the language of fiction and blogs. The raw quantitative data demonstrate that literary dialogues resemble real-life conversations in many respects, while the language used in conversations on the net displays predominantly the characteristics of written discourse.

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Language can't help but change

Diachronic, diatopic and diaphasic distribution of *can NEG help but V*

Intralinguistic variation spans across four dimensions: time, space, social status and style. Analyzing a linguistic item through a combination of these dimensions may help to shed light on the complexity of the processes at play in language change. The aim of this paper is to address the diachronic, diatopic and diaphasic distribution of the construction 'can + NEG + help + but', based on COHA, COCA, the BNC and *the Times Digital Archive*. The observation of this construction prompts two questions: what is its status and how can the increase in the use of a *but*-complement, rather than a gerund, be explained?

A quantitative study on COHA shows that *can help* is no longer best described as a negative polarity item and that it has undergone a process of lexicalization, probably so as to improve processibility. This process notably involves obligatorification (Heine & Narrog 2009: 404). *Can* has virtually become the only expression of capacity found in this construction (as opposed to *possible* or *capable*, attested earlier). Negation with *not* has now virtually replaced all other licensors (such as interrogative sentences, restrictive particles, subjects containing negative/restrictive quantifiers, clauses in *if*, *than* or *before*). Finally, instances which do not exhibit univerbation, such as *I could not, despite my fears, help laughing*, have also virtually disappeared.

Regarding the complementation of this construction, Jespersen (1917) noticed that the variant with *but*, rather than the gerund, was primarily used in American English. The complementizer *but*, though a syntactic fossil (cf. López-Couso & Méndez-Naya 1998), is now also frequently used in British English. Its use has increased dramatically at the expense of the gerund in the two varieties over the 19th and 20th centuries. Differences between the two varieties persist though, as data suggest that

the *but*-variant remains rather formal in British English, while it is pervasive in American English. The comparison between different sections of COCA unveils semantic and pragmatic distinctions between the two variants, which, in turn, help to account for the success of the *but*-variant. The diachronic evolution of *can help (but)* reveals how factors related to pragmatics and improved processibility can combine to induce rapid linguistic change and may even cause the revival of a syntactic fossil.

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**Polysemy in the Lexical Field Of *House*
An English-Serbian-Hungarian Cognitive Linguistic Study**

In Cognitive Linguistics, polysemy is considered to be a fundamental feature of human language and is based on the extension of meaning from the primary (literal) sense via metaphor or metonymy. Drawing on Conceptual Metaphor Theory (Lakoff and Johnson 1980) and Conceptual Metonymy Theory (Radden and Kövecses 1999), the paper presents a contrastive analysis of several lexemes pertaining to the lexical field of *house* in English (*house, home, window, door, wall, roof*) and their Serbian and Hungarian counterparts (*kuća, dom, prozor, vrata, zid, krov* and *ház, otthon, ablak, ajtó, fal, tető*, respectively) with the aim of establishing interlinguistic and intercultural similarities and differences between the meaning extensions of these lexemes.

The analysis is based on material taken from monolingual dictionaries of English, Serbian and Hungarian (*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, Macmillan English Dictionary, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary; Rečnik srpskohrvatskoga književnog jezika* Matice srpske, *Rečnik srpskoga jezika; Magyar értelmező kéziszótár, Magyar szinonimaszótár, Magyar szókincstár*), with occasional illustrations from electronic corpora. The paper relies on dictionaries as the main source of material because, as Ide and Wilks (2006) claim, any enumerative approach to word senses involves using one of several equally subjective sources: namely, either dictionaries (paper or machine-readable), parallel corpora, or native speaker intuition. In addition, both Koller (2004) and Geeraerts (2010) stipulate that “the initial set of metaphor candidates may be extracted from existing reference works like dictionaries and thesauri” and may later be confirmed by look at the data from electronic corpora. Therefore, the procedure of metaphor and metonymy identification employed in the paper is based on these principles and a somewhat adapted procedure developed by the Pragglejaz Group (2007) and modified in Radić-Bojanić and Halupka-Rešetar (2014a, 2014b),

which comprises the following steps: (1) establish the basic meaning of the lexeme; (2) establish the relationship of all other meanings of the lexeme in the dictionary entry with the basic meaning; (3) establish the basis of each transfer of meaning; (4) list examples from the dictionary entry that exemplify the transfer of meaning; (5) if there are no examples in the dictionary entry, find examples in the corpus.

Despite the fact that the languages analysed belong to different language families (Indo-European vs. Uralic) and groups (Germanic vs. Slavic), the results reveal numerous similarities between the metaphoric and metonymic extensions of meaning of the given lexemes, which can be attributed to the common European cultural frame these languages appear to share. Some minor crosslinguistic differences have also been noted in the ways in which metaphors and metonymies operate in English, Serbian and Hungarian. A detailed analysis of this lexical field in other (non-)European languages is required in order to support the conclusions reached in this paper.

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Multi-level variation

Co-occurrence of dialect features online

Language variation online is a recent topic of interest for sociolinguists who look for evidence of real-world dialects on social media (Eisenstein 2011). However, sociolinguistic research in social media has focused primarily on regiolects rather than on ethnolects such as African American English (AAE). In addition, most studies of online language variation such as Eisenstein (2011) focus on lexical variation which only constitutes one level of differentiation among dialects. Within a single dialect, what is the role of each level of variation in contrasting the dialect from other variants?

This work-in-progress will study how AAE contrasts with Standard American English (SAE). We choose AAE as a contrastive dialect because it presents multiple levels of variation in its phonological, lexical and syntactic features (Green 2002). These three levels are present in social media data, and it remains to combine them in the context of a single dialect. Following Stewart (2014), we would begin with a dataset containing several million American English tweets recently obtained through Twitter's Application Programming Interface (API), i.e. only tweets containing English text that were sent from within the boundaries of the continental United States. We would query this dataset for a set of phonological, lexical, and syntactic features that have been known to typify AAE. While it may seem impossible to extract phonological features from written language, studies such as Eisenstein (2013) have demonstrated a connection between orthographic and phonological variation. We will then analyze co-occurrence between the features to determine (1) whether AAE users tend to exhibit all three levels and (2) if not, which levels tend to co-occur. For example, there may exist a significant overlap between syntactic and lexical features, with phonological variation forming a separate category of users. We would perform this analysis on the utterance and speaker level to account for the construction of the dialect on these two different levels.

This analysis would require additional user-specific data, obtained by mining the most recent tweets sent by each of the AAE users.

In this study, we intend to estimate the degree to which each level of variation works to contrast AAE from SAE, because this finding can be compared with future studies of online language variation. For example, Nigerian English exhibits both lexical and phonological variation, of which one type may be more contrastive in social media. In addition, the findings of this study can be applied to future study of linguistic appropriation, by which non-native speakers “borrow” features of another dialect for purposes of performative identity expression (Cutler 1999). If we determine which level of language variation is most representative of a particular dialect, we can predict that this level is the most likely to be borrowed by non-native speakers.

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**Can Yanis hit the door instead of knocking on it?
Semelfactivity in Modern Greek, Polish and English.**

In accord with the general linguistics theory (Chomsky 1982, 1988) the semantic structure of an event (D-structure) is realised differently in different languages on the phonological and morphological levels (S-structure). Following that idea, the semantic category of semelfactivity must be realised in all three languages in question: Modern Greek, English and Polish. The comparison is even more interesting when their aspectual systems are considered: i) neither grammatical aspect nor aktionsart are 'grammaticalised' (English), ii) only the grammatical aspect is 'grammaticalised' (Modern Greek) and iii) both grammatical aspect and aktionsart are 'grammaticalised' (Polish).

The research is based on a small corpus of equivalent (Fisiak 1990) sentences (in the three languages in question) realising the set of events that depict different possible (aspectual) variations of 'hitting' or 'knocking on' the door. The source sentences were selected from the Polish National Corpus (NKJP) and arranged in pairs - every sentence has been matched with the opposite sentence (from the aspectual point of view) and complemented, wherever necessary. Afterwards, these sentences were translated into English and Greek and evaluated by native speakers. The key issue at this point was to maintain the situation type of an event, on the one hand, and to find their opposition, on the other. The questions that arise here are i) how, if it at all, does the aspectual internal semantic structure of an event affect the morphological, morphosyntactical and/or syntactical structure of a language and ii) how the languages contrast a single blow on the door from a series of blows. In order to find the answers, the sentences will be analysed according to the grammatical, lexical and syntactical means used to realise the events in question. After that, all three systems are compared.

The expected results shall show that both English and Polish possess lexical and/or grammatical means to differentiate hitting from knocking while in Greek both eventualities can hardly be contrasted without extensive periphrastic means. Furthermore, the opposition is not neutralised by the iterativity or habituality only in English.

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Poster Presentations

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A Comparative analysis of actuality adverbs in Turkish and English

This study aims at providing a comparative analysis of actuality adverbs in Turkish and English in terms of the contrastive relations they establish in a given discourse. We will have a specific focus on *In fact*, *Indeed*, *Actually* in English and their corresponding adverbs in Turkish *Aslında*, *Gerçekte* and *Gerçekten*.

There is a stock pile of research on the discourse adverbs marking actuality or the truthiness of a proposition in many European languages including *in fact*, *indeed* and *actually* in English *en fait* in French; *eigenlijk* in Dutch, and *namligen* and *I själva verket* in Swedish. (Schiffren, 1987; Traugott, 1999, Oh, 2000; Traugott and Dasher, 2002; Aijmer and Simon-Vanderbergen, 2004; Mortier and Degand, 2009). Most of the findings of these works underline a cross linguistic feature that although they appear to share a similar semantic content, they differ from each other in terms of the pragmatic meaning they reflect and the discourse relations they establish in discourse. Oh (2000) and Aijmer (2007) provide a pragmatic analysis of *infact*, *indeed* and *actually* in terms of contrastive relations and they conclude that *in fact* and *indeed* have similar meaning extensions when it comes to epistemic stance and expressing a counter expectation. *Actually*, on the other hand, functions to strengthen the truthiness of a given proposition most frequently.

I will try to describe the pragmatic meaning of these adverbs using the translation method as described in Aijmer (2007). The observations are based on a small corpus consisting of 10 texts (books) in various genres translated into Turkish by bilingual speakers of English and Turkish. (narrative texts, argumentative texts, journalistic texts, etc.)

Depending on the findings, I will argue that the discourse relations that these adverbs establish vary depending on the correlation pattern they hold (but...in fact /in fact...but, etc.) I will also try to provide a pragmatic negation test to determine whether all these adverbs function to

emphasize actuality in discourse: In fact and actually are not acceptable under metalinguistic negation while indeed is acceptable.

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Food for Human Traits Metaphors

A Comparative Study of Tunisian Arabic, English and French

Through its relatively abundant presence, the investigation on food-related terms has achieved such scholarly legitimacy that invites calls to orient linguistic research towards this miscellaneous domain. Studies cross at the food domain because it stands as “a system of communication, a body of images, a protocol of usages, situations and behaviour” (Barthes, 1979 quoted from Belasco, 2008: 15). This claim places the food domain a candidate par excellence to represent a subject matter for diverse and sometimes complementary investigations. “Food identifies who we are, where we came from, and what we want to be” (Belasco: 2008). This can be made possible through the language. The present study shares this scholarly attention to food with the aim to study the images depicted to portray the food experiences from a cognitive perspective.

We have two main objectives in this paper. First, the study will compare food metaphors used to describe human traits in Tunisian Arabic, English and French so as to look for similarities and differences. Second, it will attempt to define in a precise way the role of the cultural element in metaphorical thought and to clarify the role played by the socio-cultural context in shaping food metaphors use and understanding. The expressions under investigations were extracted by selecting items belonging to the source domain of food and then by sorting out the metaphorical expressions in which they occur (q.v. Stefanowisch 2006). these expressions are found in language dictionaries and specialized dictionaries. Electronic data online was also consulted. Part of the French data was collected from CNRTL and part of the eEnglish data was collected from the BNC. The Tunisian Arabic expressions, and because of the scarcity of written documents in this language, were collected, however, after conducting interviews to speakers of this language. Speakers of TA were first given Food TA expressions and

asked whether to know them or not and then in a second stage they were asked to provide other expressions they know about the food domain.

The conceptualisation of human traits in terms of food types represents a common feature shared by the three languages. It appears that people's experiences with food serve to frame less delineated domains. People qualify the food essentially on the basis of deliciousness before they move to depicting details such as the shape, the colour, the smell etc. This experiential is abundantly exploited in the three languages to frame human traits. The conceptual metaphor A HUMAN BEING IS FOOD is common to them but each language uses its own food type to qualify human beings. Relying essentially on the conceptual metaphor theory (Lakoff & Johnson 1980) and the works done by Kövecses (2005) which specify the aspects of metaphors involved in variation, the present paper shows that, by selecting its particular food type to frame knowledge about human beings, each language conveys the knowledge of its users and uses the cultural filters to constrain or to allow the mapping.

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Cross-linguistic Regularities of Conceptualizing Vision Process in English and Russian

The hypothesis of the study is that the semantic structure of English verbs of vision in comparison with Russian verbs coincides only in part because of mismatch of semantic structures in English and Russian verbs of vision. The contrastive analysis of verbs inside the languages shows that their semantic groups are distinguished on different principles. The contrastive analysis of English vision verbs was carried out with the help of experimental procedures on the basis of the elaborated for this particular group of verbs meta-language. This meta-language includes the following semantic parameters that help to distinguish differential shadows of verb meanings: semantic roles that comprise the frame of the verb, semantic syntax of the role in the position of the Subject (Force, Application of Force, Control at different phases of the predicate, circumstantial information). English and Russian verbs of vision were collected from books and corpus sources. Electronic variants of books were searched for different forms of a particular verb. A sentence was that minimum of context that allowed to see the parameters of the situation which demanded the usage of this particular verb. If the sentence was not enough to formulate the hypothesis concerning the differential parameters of the situation and consequently the semantic structure of the verb a wider context was analyzed.

The research was carried out on 2000 English occurrences. Examples were taken from novels of English authors of XX and XXI centuries. Russian vision verbs were taken from Russian national corpus and translated variants of English books. The collected data was observed which allowed to formulate the hypotheses of differential meaning of vision verbs in the form of description of usage parameters. Verifying tests were comprised so as to check whether the formulated differential information is felt (recognized) by native speakers (mostly “statement ->

logical conclusion” tests in combination with others.) Native speakers were instructed how to assess tests using a 5-point scale. Each test was assessed by not fewer than 5 native speakers on truth or limitation of verb usage with their commentaries.

The information received from the data allowed to make decisions concerning the cognitive basis of vision verbs. The verbs that belong to the group of "looking" report about the orientation of the look: *to look* means to direct the view at anything, anyone, at a certain point in space, to see something. Based on these characteristics, this group can be divided into two subgroups. The first subgroup includes the verbs that inform about the direction of look. These are the most frequently used verbs like *look, stare, gaze, glance, peer* and rarely used verbs - *ogle, peep, peek, gaze*. The second subgroup includes the verbs that inform about collecting and retrieving information as a result of the Visual process. These verbs include such pretty frequently used verbs as *watch, observe*, and also less frequency verbs as *scan, scrutinize, search, seek, survey, eye*, as well as *examine, inspect, study*, when they are used in the sense of vision.

Cross-linguistic regularities of conceptualizing vision process in English and Russian can be illustrated by comparison of the semantic structure of the verb *look* and two Russian verbs "*смотреть*" and "*глядеть*". In English the verb "*look*" presents information about the work of the organs of vision and control over the viewing direction with the aim of selecting subjects for the perception or the perception of the object itself. In Russian these shadows of the meaning are expressed by two different verbs. The phase of direction is nominated by the verb *глядеть*, while the phase of perception with a certain purpose is expressed by the verb *смотреть*. What is more, the verb *смотреть* covers both phases. That is why there is restriction for the use of the verb *смотреть* in the sentence **И пошел он, куда глаза смотрят*.

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Interpretation of English Phrasal Verbs Containing Spatial Particles into Russian

The aim of the present research is to reveal the role of particle semantics within English Phrasal verb (the Verb Particle Construction) containing spatial particle (originally preposition of spatial proximity) and its influence on the ways of translating such constructions into Russian. We don't discuss difference of terminating these linguistic units as adverbs or prepositions or particles here. We view them as parts of phrasal verbs which are semantic wholes despite their structure of a phrase. That was the reason to exclude V+ prep + N/NP constructions (*was sitting at my window; sat down beside her; etc.*) from the list under study.

Most spatial particles used within English phrasal verbs denote dynamic spatial information: ahead, down, out, off, etc., while those expressing static spatial correlation are less frequent. When phrasal verb contains particle of the latter type the information it adds to the verbal meaning is non-spatial or functional, which can be explained by the ability of prepositions of spatial proximity to denote functional properties:

*Mary **was beside herself** with joy when she heard the good news. (MPVPD) – Mental space.*

*The committee were willing to listen to your ideas before, but **have balked at** your latest suggestion. (MPVPD) – Functional space.*

Having studied the data provided by Macmillan Phrasal Verbs Plus Dictionary we selected 16 phrasal verbs containing particles of spatial proximity: *be off, keep off, live off, brush off, bunk off, call off, chase off, ease off; live by, come by, get by, go by, pass by, scrape by, zip by; keep at.*

The data (732 occurrences in total) provided by parallel Russian National Corpus and Abbyy Lingvo Dictionary (evidently based on

parallel corpus) give grounds to define two main ways which translators choose while translating such verbs into Russian:

1. When English phrasal verbs contain spatial particles denoting dynamic spatial information they are mostly translated into Russian by means of combination of a verb and spatial adverb or by means of a verb with prefix:

The snow blew in our faces so we could hardly see. We **brushed off** and went in to have lunch. - Мело прямо в лицо, так что нельзя было раскрыть глаза. Мы **почистились** и пошли завтракать.(RNC) – in translation the verb contains prefix “по”.

2. When English phrasal verbs contain spatial particles denoting non-spatial (functional) information they undergo lexical transformations in the process of translation:

But the stranger had got up: unwillingly he had been summoned to an occasion he couldn't **pass by**. – Но незнакомец неохотно поднялся, словно прозвучал приказ, которого он не мог **ослушаться**. (RNC) – the Russian equivalent “ослушаться” means “disobey”.

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English and Ukrainian Slang

The Pathway to Comparison and Lexicographic Rendering

Slang is a linguistic phenomenon provoking constant interest both among professional linguists and amateurs. The reason for it is that slang “is ourselves at our most human – not at our best, but at our most real” [Green 2008]. At the same time slang ingenuity, its belonging to humor culture prevents from its adequate multilingual lexicographic rendering. Slangisms are designated as untranslatables, too “ethnic” to be compared or adequately rendered. Our claim is that slang can and should be translated. What is required – is a reliable tertium comparationis. Its psycholinguistic and linguistic peculiarities are at issue in the presented work.

About 60000 English and 10000 Ukrainian entries from corresponding slang dictionaries have been analyzed with a view to compile a bilingual dictionary (in print). To obtain unbiased information the study has been done separately for each language.

As follows from English slang analysis, slang is very thematic, which means it’s basically a lexicon of synonyms. It questions and deals with themes like sex, drugs, violence, rudeness, abuse, racism [Green 2008].

As proved by our tentative study both English and Ukrainian slang concentrate within the same semantic domains. Its mechanisms correlate with primeval instincts ruled by “childishly simple-minded censors” (Freud’s terminology). The primeval worldview preconditions a special value system with human survival and successful reproduction being the most valuable. The most dangerous for the survival is the remarkability or maladjustment of racial, national, intellectual-emotional, social, etc. peculiarities of human beings seen as a potential danger for the survival

and – consequently – actively nominated by English and Ukrainian slang.

The universal essence of the phenomenon potentiates its bilingual rendering in dictionaries. The common factors underlying slang existence in different languages of the world suggests the idea of an ideographical taxonomy providing a means for the dictionary structure.

The ideographic (hierarchical) approach is the most appropriate pathway for the studied phenomenon juxtaposition. Words are kept in semantic memory in a form of a tree. Hierarchies provide conceptual skeletons; information about individual lexemes is hung on this structure like ornaments on a Christmas tree” [Miller 1990].

The content of the branches is well balanced judging from the percentage adequacy in Ukrainian and English languages correspondingly. The slangisms allocation on parallel “branches” of the common “trunk” enables their adequate comparison. The taxonomy developed serves a source for detecting both the cases of the excessive lexicalization and the lacunas. For example, Ukrainian slang doesn’t provide words nominating expert in a definite sphere (equivalents to English *salt* ‘*an experienced veteran in any calling*’), but suggests general experts’ nominations: *huru*, *dynozavr* that can easily be compared with the corresponding English ones: *artist*, *whiz*.

Considering its universality elaborated taxonomy may serve a tool for multilingual lexicography.

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Language in Contrast

Diachronic, variationist, and cross-linguistic studies

Paris 2015

This conference will be a forum for contrastive studies (with an emphasis on English). The theme of contrast is intended to include any inter- or intra- linguistic variation. Therefore, studies that contrast different geographic, sociolinguistic, or historical varieties just as studies that contrast entire languages are welcome. From comparative grammar to variationist sociolinguistics and critical discourse analysis, the use of contrast in language science is an established heuristic. By confronting different languages or varieties of the same language, the organizers hope to bring to light previously unnoticed phenomena or to gain improved understanding of well-known phenomena. Studies on any facet of English are welcome (from phonetics to pragmatics, from a diachronic or synchronic perspective, concerning acquisition or translation, quantitative analyses, etc.), the only requirement being that the study be empirical and contrastive in approach

