



We need everything: the “ultimate lexical resource” approach to build a constructicon

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We think it is a desirable goal to attempt to include all (kinds of) linguistic elements in a lexical resource. Agreeing with Goldberg (2006) and Hilpert (2014) that all meaningful units are constructions (cxn), this ultimate resource is the inventory of cxns, i.e. the constructicon (ccn). In contrast with some other ccn initiatives, we start from a monolingual dictionary, and transform it to a ccn. This decision is consistent with the above goal. From this “ultimate lexical resource” point of view will we review some of the aspects raised by the current workshop.

1. We define a cxn as broadly as possible. We include morphemes, lexemes, MWEs with fixed slots and MWEs with open slots as well. E.g. adopting Hilpert (2014)’s view we do not consider a crucial feature of constructions that they have overt slots or not.
2. As we consider preferably all (kinds of) cxns to be included equally, we do not have to make usually hard decisions on whether particular cxns are to be included or not. Concerning size, we will have about 14000 cxns from the multiword units of our initial dictionary. This is much more than the Russian ccn (Janda et al., 2020) has that is currently the largest ccn with 2200 entries.
3. We are convinced that a cxn entry should be fully formalized, in other words fully machine-readable. This should be accompanied with a derived, easily human-readable format.
4. The representation will handle different levels of abstractness and cxns will have different kinds of relationships forming a network (Diessel, 2023). There will be one kind of unit in the database, i.e. cxns, so all relationships will be between cxns.
5. We do not try to fit cxns into a dictionary model, we do this the other way round: a ccn model is designed which can integrate all dictionary lexemes as they are cxns.
6. In our ccn, users can search using analysed search. As we want to have a ccn which can tell something about as many linguistic units as possible, we allow free text as user input and apply dependency analysis on-the-fly to reveal cxns from the text and present all found cxns to the user.

Our ccn project is an attempt to impement this radical approach and work it out in detail. We will illustrate the above with examples taken from our ccn being prepared and share some of our plans as well.

Using dictionary definitions to identify the semantic profile of an open slot in a construction

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The study addresses the question of how to identify and characterise the semantic profile of the class of words that can appear in an open slot of a construction. The description of the semantic profile of a constructional slot contributes to the identification of the meaning(s) and productivity of the construction, including for constructicographic purposes.