



Introduction

The recent decades have witnessed a growing interest in research on fixed expressions of various kind. Many modern approaches favour the broad concept of phraseology in which reproducibility of multiword units is viewed as a defining criterion. If this perspective is adopted, then phraseological stock is rich and varied, as it encompasses collocations, idioms, phrasemes, proverbs, sayings, winged words, formulae and many other types of units. Therefore, analyses of polylexical units are of great importance, since they focus on linguistically specific and – in many cases – culturally embedded language items commonly used in the process of communication. Phraseological units appear across language varieties and are well represented in different forms of discourse, which is reflected in the present collected monograph that contains many studies are of theoretical and empirical character.

The volume is composed of five parts which contain papers discussing various issues relevant both in terms of theoretical development of phraseology and empirical studies on fixed expressions. The first part offers four articles which attest the multiaspectual character of research on phrasemes – units which represent different types and perform various functions. It begins with María Auxiliadora Barrios Rodríguez's contribution titled *Lexical Functions and Pragmatic Functions: a proposal for the formalization of the pragmatemes within the Meaning-Text Theory*. The paper deals with pragmatically restricted phrasemes called pragmatemes. It offers a presentation of different proposals concerning the notion of pragmateme and proposes the definition of the term. The Author questions the adequacy of Lexical Functions in this respect, offering a new tool the Pragmatic Functions. It was inspired by Lexical Functions considered useful for the formalization of prag-

matemes. The areas which can benefit greatly as a result of such an approach are dictionaries used for Second Language Acquisition purposes and Natural Language Processing applications. From a theoretical perspective, the proposal may also serve for the creation of a new taxonomy of illocutionary verbs.

The paper titled *What Can You Give in Italian that You Can't Give in Russian? A Contrastive Study of Constructions with the Light Verbs "dare" in Italian and "davat'/dat'" in Russian* contributed by Tatsiana Maiko discusses light verb constructions in Russian and Italian. It should be emphasized that contrastive research on such language units in these two languages has been neglected. This study analyses constructions formed by the Italian light verb *dare* 'to give' and the Russian equivalent which is the light verb *davat'/dat'* 'to give', with a noun in the function of the direct object. The Author adopts Construction Grammar and the notion of a family of constructions with a view to determining relatedness of LVCs within each language. In the study, productive systematic metaphors that license extensions from the basic sense of the verbs are identified. The analysis allows for indicating convergences and divergences between the constructions of the two languages chosen for comparison.

In his paper titled *Phrasal Verbs, Idiomacity and the Fixedness Continuum*, Antonio Pamies underscores the continuity of fixedness from the perspective of idiomacity on the example of verbal construction. The Author claims that phrasal verbs share more properties with phrasemes than with syntactic combinations. Moreover, the scholar observes that their function resembles that of many Romance and Slavonic prefixed verbs. The study offers a discussion on units exhibiting different degrees of fixedness and idiomacity that range from regular syntactic combinations to completely lexicalized verbs, with an intermediate zone in which several kinds of units are situated, including: light verb collocations, verbal idioms, separable phrasal verbs, inseparable phrasal verbs and compound verbs. The aim is to determine mechanisms on the example of the group of units selected for the analysis.

The onomasiological approach in phraseological research is adopted by Iris Vogel who focuses on idiomatic expressions which contain the names of body parts, described by the scholar as "the interface between nonverbal and verbal communication". Her paper *Representing Gestural Idioms in the Lexicon* presents the challenges of encoding gestural idioms in lexicography. The study, based on a thorough analysis of selected Japanese dictionaries, enabling the identification of patterns for comprehensive description of gestural idioms. The results are of importance not only for lexicography, but also for language learning.

The focal issue of the second part is the dynamic character of phraseological stock. Tetiana Anokhina's paper *The form changes and shifts of meaning of the English MWUs* proposes a particular approach to multiword units change, creation and rearrangement. The aim is to discuss form changes and shifts of meanings of multiword expressions on the example of American English units. The study is corpus-based: the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) is used for excerption of research material. The analysed units are considered as secondary ones providing that their actual meaning is changed, modified or erased. The papers discusses semantic deviation viewed as shift and rearrangement demonstrating mimesis when the initial meaning of polylexical units can be modified to some extent or removed. Semantic shifts are either secondary or post-secondary. In the process of semantic deviation, a brand new conceptual unit appears as result of the deletion of the old meaning of a given figurative expression

The process of phraseogenesis is discussed by Damien Villers whose contribution *Phraseological blunders: when new phrasemes are born from errors* focuses of a particular mechanism. The paper presents a typology of phraseological "blunders", which comprise both errors and mistakes that accidentally modify the standard form, usage, or meaning of a phraseme. The Author describes their causes, such as language pathologies, poor linguistic skills, or mere absence of mind. The article gives an insight into the phenomenon of variation, as it is of importance for determining what is considered as an error. The vital criteria include: frequency ratio, communicational efficiency, and semantic coherence. Phraseological blunders as sources of new phrasemes are exemplified and accounted for with the memetic approach with a view to giving an insight into the "phraseme genesis" process.

The third part contains three papers which focus on the phenomenon of variance in phraseology. Chen Ting in her paper titled *Types and Degrees of Variation in English and Chinese Phraseological Units* presents different classifications of phraseological units in two languages chosen for the analysis: English and Chinese. The author discusses universal reasons for variation occurring in phraseological units and types such as lexical, constructional, grammatical and pragmatic kinds of variation. As English and Chinese phraseological stocks differ in the structure of unit, the Author states that typologically different languages exhibit specific tendencies in types of variation. It is observed that in general, phraseological variation is more typical of English than Chinese and grammatical variation is not characteristic of Chinese. The paper contains a proposal of a model of potential degrees and levels variation of word combinations, including fixed expressions.

Tomáš Jelínek's paper *Multi-word lexical units with repetition of lexemes in Czech and identification of their variants* is devoted to the phenomenon of variability of multi-word lexical units with repetition of lexemes such as *Bůh dal, Bůh vzal* 'the Lord has given, the Lord has taken away'. Based on a large corpus, four case studies are analysed to discuss the extent of variability of the expressions in question. Fixed units with repeated constituents are also discussed on the background of a base of multi-word expressions, with a special focus on their variability. The Author also undertakes to present the process of the automatic identification of multi-word expressions with repeated constituents in Czech texts.

Czech phraseology is also the object of studies in Marie Kopřivová's paper *Variability of Czech verbal phrasemes: Case study of dát ('to give')*. It is focused on the variability of Czech verbal idioms and its representation in a database of a multi-word expressions. The aim is to offer a detailed analysis of the verb *dát* 'to give', one of the most frequent verbal components of Czech verbal idioms. The study is based on SYN2015 which is a representative corpus of contemporary written Czech that contains fiction, non-fiction, and newspapers and magazines, allowing for an automatic annotation of multi-word units.

The fourth part, Reproducibility from a theoretical perspective, contains two papers which shed light on two issues of paramount importance. Wolfgang Eismann's paper titled *Reproduzierbarkeit als unikales Kriterium zur Bestimmung von Phraseologismen. Zu den Verdiensten von Leonid Ivanovič Rojzenzon um die phraseologische Theorie*. The Author observes that although some works on phraseology mention Leonid Ivanovič Rojzenzon (1920–1977), his merits in this field deserve their due appreciation. Rojzenzon was the first to view reproducibility (Russian term *vosproizvodimost*) as the defining criterion of phraseology. The aim of the paper is to show how Rojzenzon defines the term of reproducibility, how the scholar distinguishes reproducibility and quotability and what reasoning he uses to defend his conception of the dichotomic character of reproducibility against critical objections. Rojzenzon's contribution to phraseological studies is invaluable: in the '70s of the 20th century, thanks to him, Samara became a center of research, including that of Russian phraseology. Rojzenzon pioneered in phraseological research, for instance, he initiated studies on gestural phraseologisms.

In turn, Marina Gutovskaya's paper *Phrasemes: Reasons for Reproducibility and Specificity of Sign Functions* analyses mechanisms of phraseologization. The scholar undertakes to discuss reasons for reproducibility of nominative phrasemes on the material of the English and Russian phraseological units referring to speech and related phenomena. The material for the analysis was

excerpted from lexicographic works. The article examines two kinds of reproducible units, i.e. idiomatic phrasemes and non-idiomatic ones. The paper aims to determine the proportions of these two types of fixed expressions in the research corpus. The results of the study conducted by the Author enable presenting the functions of phrasemes.

The fifth part of the volume deals with identification and analyses of phrasemes across language varieties. Ewa Koziol-Chrzanowska's contribution titled *The problems and (some) solutions of identifying key multi-word expressions (MWEs). The case study of Polish Newspeak* has twofold aims: first, to determine problems concerning practical usage of methods of identifying key multiword expressions; second, to propose some solutions. The Author refers to works by Anna Wierzbicka and Raymond Williams: in the paper, the notion of key polylexical items is understood analogically to the key words as viewed by these scholars. The research material represents Polish Newspeak, i.e. the language of propaganda and its mass media in the totalitarian period in Poland. The Author attempts to discuss three difficult stages preceding the analysis proper which are as follows: preparation of an initial list of units supposed to be the key ones, the collection of searchable linguistic data and the choice of the criteria of selecting appropriate texts. The issues discussed in the paper are illustrated with well-chosen exemplification.

Katie Ní Loingsigh's contribution *The principal features and characteristics of Irish-language idioms* contains a presentation of the principal features and characteristics of Irish-language idioms (syntax and semantics), specifically idioms collected from the published work of Canon Peadar Ó Laoghaire (1838–1920), the primary Irish-language prose author of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

In a language, phraseological stocks differ across various kinds of discourse, registers and styles. *Phraseme und Wortverbindungen in der deutschen Wissenschaftssprache* contributed by Daniela Prutscher examines one of them, as her study discusses German scientific language from a phraseological perspective. One of the properties of this variety is special phraseology comprising specific phrases and exemplary formulations. The Author determines current collocations and text routines using a corpus of 500 scientific articles from the period from 2010 to 2017. The analysed texts come from three different the areas, mainly German Studies, Foreign Language Teaching and Medicine.

The papers included in this volume present a panoramic perspective on current research research in the field of broadly understood phraseology. The articles reflect the multispectuality of analyses of fixed expres-

sions, focusing on crucial issues which – although extensively studied – still remain to be further explored. Offering an insight into such problems as kinds of reproducible polylexical units, phraseological continuum, semantics and functions of multiword expressions makes the volume a relevant contribution to phraseological studies. The volume highlights the dynamic aspect of set phrases: changes, shifts and variability, at the same time showing the development of the reproducibility concept from a theoretical perspective.

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