
JAMES GARNER

DEPARTMENT OF
LINGUISTICS

MATHERLY HALL 18

MONDAY OCTOBER 1,
2018

LINGUISTICS SEMINARS

PHRASEOLOGY IN LEARNER CORPORA:
COLLOCATIONS AS CONSTRUCTIONS IN L2
WRITING

Findings from corpus-based and psycholinguistic research have highlighted the importance of acquiring a productive knowledge of phraseological units (e.g. idioms, collocations, lexical bundles) for second language (L2) learners. As such, there has been an increasing interest in examining the nature of this knowledge in second language (L2) acquisition. Overall, cross-sectional and longitudinal learner corpus research have provided important information regarding the development of productive phraseological unit knowledge across proficiency levels and over time. However, many of these studies suffer from several limitations that may limit the strength of their findings.

In this talk, I will present a new approach to phraseological unit analysis that defines lexical collocations as constructions (henceforth “collconstructions”) within the framework of Construction Grammar. I will first review the current state of L2 phraseology research in learner corpora, focusing on the different methods that have been utilized for phraseological unit identification and the major findings from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. Following this review, I will lay out the definition of collconstructions and discuss how this definition improves upon current methods to phraseological unit analysis. I will then present a study that examines the development of adjective-noun, verb-noun, and adverb-adjective collconstructions in a corpus of learner writing. I will conclude this talk with a brief discussion of the results and their implications for L2 phraseology research and learner corpus research in general.
