

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar: Construction Grammar (2AN2080)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Martin Hilpert

Contenu

What do speakers of English know in order to produce utterances that other speakers will understand? Construction Grammar aims to explain how knowledge of language is organized in speakers' minds. The central and radical claim of Construction Grammar is that linguistic knowledge can be fully described as knowledge of constructions, which are defined as symbolic units that connect a linguistic form with meaning. The implications of this claim are far-reaching: In Construction Grammar, not only lexical items, but also syntactic patterns are seen as symbolic, meaningful units. Instead of being meaningless structural templates, syntactic patterns actively contribute to the overall meaning of an utterance. Knowledge of language is thus thought of as a vast repository of interrelated symbolic units, and nothing else in addition. This seminar will flesh out this idea and familiarize students with the central concepts of Construction Grammar, as applied to English constructions. In the process, we will discuss how the theory of Construction Grammar relates to the issues of language processing, language acquisition, and language variation and change.

Forme de l'évaluation

Four different tasks are being evaluated in this seminar.

First, there are obligatory weekly reading assignments. Each week, students will read a text and complete an online quiz (10% of the final grade).

Second, the class requires active participation: be prepared, be present, and contribute to discussions and classroom work (10% of the final grade).

Third, each student will be responsible for a 15-minute presentation of a research article in class. We will schedule the presentations throughout the semester (20% of the final grade).

Fourth, there will be a take-home exam at the end of the class. The take-home exam will be open-book and open notes, and with no time limit (but a deadline). You will be required to reflect on the topics that we talked about in class (60% of the final grade).

Documentation

There is a course book that students are asked to acquire :

Hilpert, Martin. 2019. Construction Grammar and its Application to English. 2nd edition. Edinburgh : Edinburgh University Press.

Other readings will be distributed via Moodle.

Forme de l'enseignement

This seminar will require active student participation during discussions and student presentations. Attendance is mandatory.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Créer une bibliographie sur une question donnée, en se basant sur des cadres théoriques pertinents et en lien avec les connaissances acquises
- Expliquer les modèles théoriques liés au domaine d'analyse donné

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- Comparer et évaluer des modèles théoriques différents dans un cas donné
- Développer une réflexion critique sur des idées reçues concernant les bases des théories, principes, hypothèses et explications dans le domaine donné
- Définir des questions linguistiques pertinentes dans le domaine donné
- Identifier les fondements des théories, principes, hypothèses et explications dans le domaine donné
- Extraire les informations pertinentes de textes complexes sur les thèmes linguistiques
- Développer une argumentation avec un esprit critique
- Présenter les idées thématiques dans la recherche à un public spécialisé et non spécialisé

Compétences transférables

- Discuss complex issues
- Generate new ideas (creativity)
- Carry out a critical analysis
- Manage a project