Description

This seminar is concerned with the analysis of idioms (e.g. *kick the bucket, spill the beans*) and other fixed expressions (e.g. *by the way, I was wondering if*) in language use. The seminar provides an overview of current research on prefabricated chunks of linguistic expressions in usage, acquisition, and change and considers the theoretical implications of this research for the theory of grammar and first and second language acquisition.

Materials

All readings are on wordwise. Enrollment key for wordwise:

Requirements

Term paper (due 28.03.2014)

presentation

Assignment(s)

Readings


Course schedule

14.10.  Introduction

21.10.  Some general principles of grammar

28.10.  Nativelike selection and nativelike fluency
        Pawley and Syder 1983: 191-208

4.11.   Grammatical frames and classification of prefabs
        Pawley and Syder 1983: 208-220

11.11.  Prefabs in corpora
        Erman and Warren 2000: 29-50

18.11.  Pragmatic functions of prefabs and transitivity

25.11.  Idioms and constructions
        Croft and Cruise 2004: 225-250

2.12.   Meaning of prefabs and transitivity
        No reading, student presentations of assignment

9.12.   Construction grammar
        Goldberg 2003: 219-223

16.12.  Prefabs and constituent structure
        Bybee and Scheibman 1999: 575-594

6.1.    Formulaic language in L1 acquisition
        Tomasello 2000: 156-163

13.1.   Formulaic language in L2 acquisition
        Wray 2002: 172-198

20.1.   Translation of idioms and prefabs
        Fiedler 2007: 115-132

27.1.   Student presentations

3.2.    Student presentations
Additional readings


