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Gloria Corpas Pastor · Ruslan Mitkov (Eds.)

# Computational and Corpus-Based Phraseology

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# Preface

## Computational and Corpus-Based Phraseology

Language is phraseological and phraseology is the discipline which studies phraseological units (PUs) and their related concepts referred to (and regarded largely synonymous) by scholars as multiword units, multiword expressions (MWEs), fixed expressions, set expressions, formulaic language, phrasemes, idiomatic expressions, idioms, collocations, and/or polylexical expressions. PUs or MWEs are ubiquitous and pervasive in language. They are a fundamental linguistic concept which is central to a wide range of natural language processing and applied linguistics applications, including, but not limited to, phraseology, terminology, translation, language learning, teaching and assessment, and lexicography. Jackendoff (1997) observes that the number of MWEs in a speaker's lexicon is of the same order of magnitude as the number of single words. Biber et al. (1999) argue that they constitute up to 45% of spoken English and up to 21% of academic prose in English. Sag et al. (2002) comment that they are overwhelmingly present in terminology and 41% of the entries in WordNet 1.7 are reported to be MWEs.

It is not only in the computational treatment of natural language that PUs play a crucial role. Terms are often MWEs (and not single words), which makes them highly relevant to terminology. Translation and interpreting are two other fields where phraseology plays an important role, as finding correct translation equivalents of PUs is a pivotal step in the translation process. Given their pervasive nature, PUs are absolutely central to the work carried out by lexicographers, who analyse and describe both single words and PUs. Last but not least, PUs are vital not only for language learning, teaching, and assessment, but also for more theoretical linguistic areas such as pragmatics, cognitive linguistics, and construction grammars. All the aforementioned areas are today aided by (and often driven by) corpora, which makes PUs particularly relevant for corpus linguists. Finally, PUs provide an excellent basis for inter- and multidisciplinary studies, fostering fruitful collaborations between researchers across different disciplines. While there are some exceptions (e.g. Corpas Pastor and Colson 2019/forthcoming; Granger and Meunier 2008; Mitkov et al. 2018), such collaborations are still generally largely unexplored.

This volume features a selection of regular papers accepted after rigorous reviewing and presented at the international conference “Computational and Corpus-based Phraseology” (Europhras 2019). The conference was jointly organised by the European Association for Phraseology (EUROPHRAS), the University of Malaga (Research Group in Lexicography and Translation), Spain, the University of Wolverhampton (Research Group in Computational Linguistics), United Kingdom, and the Association for Computational Linguistics, Bulgaria, and was sponsored by EUROPHRAS, the Sketch Engine, the University of Malaga, and the University of Wolverhampton. Europhras 2019 provided the perfect opportunity for researchers to present their work,

fostering interaction and interdisciplinary collaboration. The papers in this volume cover a number of topics including general corpus-based approaches to phraseology, phraseology in translation and cross-linguistic studies, phraseology in language teaching and learning, phraseology in specialised languages, phraseology in lexicography, cognitive approaches to phraseology, the computational treatment of multiword expressions, and the development, annotation and exploitation of corpora for phraseological studies. We have deliberately not grouped the contributions around specific topics – as many of them cut across more than one of the above listed topics – but have instead opted for presenting the papers alphabetically according to the (first) family name of the (first) author.

Every submission to the conference was evaluated by three reviewers. The reviewers were either members of the Programme Committee, consisting of 56 scholars from 24 different countries, or one of the 16 additional reviewers from 3 countries, who were recommended by the Programme Committee. The conference contributions were authored by a total of 150 scholars from 27 different countries. These figures attest to the truly international nature of Europhras 2019.

We would like to thank all colleagues who made this wonderfully interdisciplinary and international event possible. We would like to start by thanking all colleagues who submitted papers to Europhras 2019 and travelled to Malaga to attend the event. We are grateful to all members of the Programme Committee and the additional reviewers for carefully examining all submissions and providing substantial feedback on all papers, helping the authors of accepted papers to improve and polish the final versions of their papers. A special thanks goes to the invited speakers, namely the keynote speakers of the main conference (Sylviane Granger, Miloš Jakubíček, Natalie Kübler, Kathrin Steyer, and Aline Villavicencio), the invited speakers of the accompanying workshop on Multiword Units in Machine Translation and Translation Technology (Jean-Pierre Colson and Aline Villavicencio), and the tutorial speakers from Lexical Computing. Words of gratitude go to our sponsors: EUROPHRAS, the Sketch Engine, the University of Malaga, and the University of Wolverhampton.

Last but not least, we would like to use this paragraph to acknowledge the members of both the Organising Committee and Programme Committee, who worked very hard during the last 12 months and whose dedication and efforts made the organisation of this event possible. All those who have contributed are listed (in alphabetical order) on the following pages. We would like to single out several colleagues for competently carrying out numerous organisational and reviewing-related tasks and being ready to step in and support the organisation of the conference both on weekdays and during the weekends – in fact, whenever needed. Our big ‘thank you’ goes out to Rocío Caro Quintana, Maria Kunilovskaya, Francisco Javier Lima Florido, Desiré Martos García, Tharindu Ranasinghe Hettiarachchige, and Shiva Taslimipoor.

September 2019

Gloria Corpas Pastor  
Ruslan Mitkov

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# Organisation

Europhras 2019 was jointly organised by the European Association for Phraseology (Europhras), the University of Malaga (Research Group in Lexicography and Translation), Spain, the University of Wolverhampton (Research Group in Computational Linguistics), United Kingdom, and the Association for Computational Linguistics, Bulgaria.

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