CiLD 2026: Construal in Language and Discourse

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CONSTRUAL IN GESTURE

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NARRATIVE DISCOURSE:
A COGNITIVE POETICS APPRAISAL OF ROMAN INGARDEN'S LITERARY WORK OF ART

The aim of the presentation is to account - using the theoretical tools of Cognitive Poetics, combined with Ronald Langacker's basic insights of Cognitive Grammar - for Roman Ingarden's (1973a, 1973b) conception of the so-called places of indeterminacy of the literary work of art. Following the basic insights of aesthetic cognitivism (cf. Gaut 2007, Aumann 2014; also Gibson 2007), it is claimed that the truth of statements expressed bears upon the work's aesthetic value. This aesthetic value is vividness, which enhances the reader's engagement with the literary work. Following the general assumption of the so-called resonance theory (cf. Stockwell 2020), we assume that Ingarden's places of indeterminacy correspond to those places in a narrative in which the elements, called by Stockwell attractors, attract our attention. For Ingarden, the places of indeterminacy are instrumental in the reader's appreciation of the work's aesthetic quality. The theoretical tools of cognitive poetics make it possible to establish the relationships between truth, the aesthetic category of vividness and the Ingardenian places of indeterminacy, thereby allowing us to see the complexity of the reading process in new light. The presentation examines – through the lens of the concept of expressiveness – the process of meaning negotiation in relation to Lewis Carroll's "nonsensical poem "Jabberwocky."

Key words: Cognitive Poetics, Cognitive Grammar, aesthetic cognitivism, resonance theory, (literary) truth, "Jabberwocky."

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Construal of Cultural Space: Toponyms of the Górale–Lachy Borderland in Narrative Discourse

This paper examines construal as a cognitive and discursive process in the representation of cultural space, focusing on toponyms from the Górale-Lachy borderland. Within Cognitive Linguistics, place names are understood not only as labels identifying locations, but also as meaningful units that reflect how speakers conceptualise space, history, and community.

The analysis is based on selected toponyms functioning in regional narratives and cultural discourse. It explores how these names evoke specific associations, organise knowledge about the region, and contribute to the construction of shared understandings of place. Particular attention is given to how toponyms highlight certain features of the landscape and cultural experience while downplaying others.

The study adopts a qualitative approach, combining elements of cognitive semantics and onomastics. It shows that toponyms play an important role in shaping how the borderland is perceived and talked about, revealing both continuity and diversity within the region. In this way, place names become a key site where language, cognition, and cultural memory intersect.

The paper argues that construal, as reflected in toponymic usage, offers a useful perspective for analysing how meaning is constructed in discourse and how cultural space is linguistically organised.

Keywords: construal, toponyms, cognitive linguistics, borderland, Górale, Łachy, onomastics, narrative, cultural space

Bionote

Joanna Adamczyk holds a degree in Polish Philology from the Jagiellonian University and is currently pursuing her doctoral studies at the Doctoral School in the Humanities of the Jagiellonian University. She is also a graduate of the State Secondary Music School in Nowy Sącz. Her academic interests focus on linguistics, onomastics, cognitive semantics, and discourse analysis, particularly in relation to toponymy, borderland issues, and the interplay between language, space, and cultural memory.

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From concepts to narratives: Comparative construals of Hungarian hazugság and Indonesian bohong

Research on lying has traditionally been dominated by Western philosophical and linguistic accounts that define a lie primarily in terms of subjective falsity, that is, the speaker's belief that the statement is false. This perspective is reflected in Coleman & Kay's (1981) protype model, proposing three defining elements of lying: objective falsity, subjective falsity, and intention to deceive. Their study of American English speakers found subjective falsity to be the most salient element. Subsequent cross-cultural research, however, has demonstrated substantial variation in how linguistic communities conceptualize deception, suggesting that lie may be construed differently across cultures.

This study compares the folk concept of lying encoded in the Hungarian word hazugság and the Indonesian word bohong. The analysis is based on two comparable replications of Coleman & Kay's (1981) experimental design conducted with Indonesian speakers (Adha, 2020) and Hungarian speakers (Adha & Németh T., 2026). In both studies, participants evaluated eight scenarios systematically varying the presence or absence of objective falsity, subjective falsity and deceptive intention.

The comparison reveals distinct patterns. Indonesian speakers primarily construe lying through the factual status of the proposition, assigning greatest importance to objective falsity, followed by intention to deceive and subjective falsity. Hungarian speakers, by contrast, prioritize subjective falsity, followed by intention and objective falsity. The two linguistic communities therefore differ in whether lying is construed primarily as a mismatch between words and reality, or as a mismatch between words and belief.

The paper argues that these differences are not merely lexical but reflect broader construal of deception. Rather than constituting a universal semantic category, lying emerges as culturally situated concept whose interpretation depends on the relative salience assigned to truth, belief, and intention. The findings contribute to research on lexical construal and provide a conceptual foundation for future investigations into how deceptive events are narrated, evaluated, and linguistically structured in discourse.

Keywords: lie, hazugság, bohong, Hungarian, Indonesian

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Coleman, L., & Kay, P. 1981. Prototype semantics: the English world lie. Language 57 (1): 26-44.

Bionote

Ahmad Adha is a research fellow of the Research Group of Theoretical Linguistics and Informatics at the University of Szeged, Hungary. He received a bachelor's degree in English linguistics and a master's degree in linguistics both from Hasanuddin University in Makassar, Indonesia. He received a PhD degree in theoretical linguistics from University of Szeged. He is interested in pragmatics, particularly cross-cultural conception and perception of lying, as well as linguistic manifestations of deceptive communication.

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The Functions and Contexts of Discourse Markers yaʕni (That means/I mean), Wallah (By God), and affirmative particle naʕam (Yes) in Kuwaiti Arabic: A Longitudinal Corpus-Linguistic Study

This study investigates the distribution and pragmatic functions of three recurrent discourse markers in Kuwaiti Arabic—*yaʕni* ('that means/I mean'), *Wallah* ('by God'), and *naʕam* ('yes')—through a longitudinal case study of the political discourse of Kuwaiti politician, academic, and commentator Dr. Abdullah Al-Nafisi. The analysis draws on a corpus spanning 1994–2023, comprising 81 recorded materials, approximately 60 hours of speech. Adopting a mixed-methods corpus-linguistic approach, the study combines quantitative analysis of frequency and distribution using Sketch Engine with qualitative, context-sensitive analysis of the pragmatic functions of the three forms. The results show that *yaʕni* was the most frequent form, occurring 7,047 times, of which 6,025 instances functioned as discourse markers. *Naʕam* occurred 1,372 times, with 604 discourse-marker uses, whereas *Wallah* occurred 498 times, with 490 functioning as discourse markers. These differences demonstrate that raw lexical frequency alone does not accurately represent discourse-marker use, as the three forms differ substantially in the proportion of occurrences that perform discourse-pragmatic functions. The qualitative analysis further shows that the markers exhibit distinct distributional and functional profiles and perform multiple context-dependent roles in organizing discourse and managing interaction. By combining longitudinal corpus evidence with pragmatic interpretation, the study provides an empirical baseline for understanding discourse-marker use in Kuwaiti Arabic and contributes to broader cross-dialectal and cross-linguistic research on discourse.

Keywords: Discourse Markers (DMs); Kuwaiti Arabic; Pragmatics; Political Discourse; Corpus Linguistics

Bionote

Nushour Alduaij is an Assistant Professor of pragmatics and linguistics studies in the Department of English Language and Literature at Kuwait University's Faculty of Arts. She obtained her master's degree in Linguistics Studies, and her Ph.D. in Pragmatics from Essex University, UK 2014, focusing on interlanguage and cross-cultural pragmatics. Her teaching and research interests include pragmatics, semantics, discourse analysis, and applied linguistics. She conducted research and published internationally on Speech Acts theory and Politeness Theory in patient-directed speech in Kuwaiti Arabic, and is currently investigating topics in discourse analysis, corpus linguistics and developmental pragmatics.

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Frame (Re)negotiation and Patient Autonomy in Monolingual and Multilingual Obstetric Consultations

Power dynamics are at the core of any medical encounter. From organisational and institutional exertions of authority (Cicourel, 1999) to microstructures of power within the conversation, they shape the interaction and have the potential to greatly impact care. Similarly, the way participants relate to their context and each other is represented through discourse and speech activities, such as frames (Tannen, 1993). Drawing from Ainsworth-Vaughn's (2001) definition of framing acts as "attempts to constitute the self", the present research examines how participants in obstetric consultations propose, accept, resist, and reshape interactional frames, and how these operations contribute to a broader construal of the patient as either an object of clinical assessment or an autonomous participant in her own care.

The methodology employed uses naturally occurring conversations recorded in obstetrics and gynaecology appointments in a tertiary public hospital in Spain. Appointments are both monolingual, between Spanish speaking providers and patients, and multilingual, including migrant patients and the presence of an interpreter to facilitate communication. Frame shifts occurring in the interactions are analysed using methods from conversation and discourse analysis, such as turn-taking allocation, lexical choices and paralinguistic features of medical and patient discourse. In the case of triadic appointments with interpreters, renditions that diverge from the original utterance of either provider or patient are analysed to detect potential shifts in framing resulting from the interpreting practice. This information will be used to examine how patient agency is fostered (or removed) within the interaction, both individually and in conversation with the rest of participants.

Initial findings point at frame shifts from the providers' side to more conversational tones to build trust with patients. Conversely, attempts at frames shifts and power reclamation are present in the patients' discourse, thereby pushing for a reconstrual of the encounter, and of her own role within it, as more participatory. How the interpreter renders patient narratives and how the provider responds to them (accepting them, partially absorbing them, or redirecting back to the institutional frame) becomes the key site where the construal of patient autonomy is either ratified or foreclosed.

By treating frame acceptance and rejection as operations with consequences for how participant roles and autonomy are conceptualised, this paper aims to depict power shifts within the interaction, contributing to the conversation about patient autonomy and characterising medical discourse when there is, and isn't, a third party mediating the conversation.

Keywords: frame negotiation; autonomy; healthcare; discourse analysis; healthcare interpreting

Bionote

Sofía Antequera Manzano is a PhD researcher in Translation and Interpreting at the University of Alcalá, Spain. Her academic work focuses on public service translation and interpreting, particularly intercultural and interlinguistic mediation in the healthcare setting. Her thesis project examines communication within the obstetric context, with the goal of improving access to high quality interpreting services through the analysis of current discursive practices in multilingual appointments. She collaborates with research projects regarding migrant inclusion and linguistic rights, including the Erasmus+ Project Dialogos and the Spanish national project on healthcare communication Intercomsalud. She has also published several papers regarding the role of interpreters and mediators in the healthcare context.

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From Acoustic Prominence to Construal: Rethinking Qalqalah in Qur'anic Recitation

Within cognitive linguistics, construal depends partly on what becomes salient in experience. While salience and construal have been widely examined in visual, spatial, and discourse domains, the role of acoustic prominence in shaping these processes remains comparatively underexplored. This paper investigates whether qalqalah, a phonological process traditionally associated with an echo-like auditory effect in Qur'anic recitation, functions as a mechanism of acoustic prominence and, if so, how such prominence guides auditory attention and contributes to construal.

Qalqalah involves the audible release of the five obstruents [q], [tˤ], [d], [b], and [dʒ] in specific phonological environments. Traditional accounts have primarily described the phenomenon in articulatory and phonological terms, with less attention paid to its role in enhancement and prominence building. The present study proposes that the acoustic prominence associated with qalqalah serves as a cue that directs auditory attention and increases perceptual salience, thereby influencing how listeners construe the auditory experience of Qur'anic recitation.

Drawing on Enhancement Theory (Stevens, 1989), Schmid's (2010) discussion of salience, and Langacker's (2008) notion of construal, the paper develops a theoretical framework linking acoustic prominence, auditory salience, and construal. More specifically, it asks whether acoustic prominence created by qalqalah gives rise to perceptual salience and, in turn, shapes the construal of auditory experience. In this sense, qalqalah is approached not simply as a phonetic rule, but as a point of interaction between phonetics and cognition.

To explore this relationship, the study presents a pilot acoustic analysis of selected qalqalah tokens extracted from short Qur'anic surahs drawn from the corpus of qiṣār al-suwar, a group of short chapters traditionally associated with frequent recitation and memorisation. The recordings are drawn from the official audio archive of the King Fahd Glorious Qur'an Printing Complex and consist of recitations by prominent Qur'anic reciters. Acoustic analysis is conducted using Praat and focuses on measures associated with prominence and auditory salience, including burst duration, peak intensity, and vowel-like release duration.

Rather than viewing qalqalah simply as a phonetic phenomenon, the paper offers a functional interpretation of the feature as a mechanism of prominence building through which acoustic cues become perceptually salient and shape the construal of recited speech. More broadly, the study raises the possibility that sound itself can function as a cognitive resource for construing experience, thereby extending current discussions of construal beyond conceptual and discourse domains to include acoustic prominence in spoken religious discourse. In doing so, it opens new directions for cognitive phonetics and the study of Qur'anic recitation.

Keywords: qalqalah; acoustic prominence; salience; construal; cognitive phonetics

Bionote

Dr Mashael Assaadi is an Assistant Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Languages and Translation at Taibah University, Saudi Arabia. She received her PhD in Linguistics from Cardiff University and her MA in Linguistics from California State University, Fullerton. Her research interests include phonetics, phonology, semantics, cognitive linguistics, cognitive phonetics, sound symbolism, iconicity, and Arabic linguistics. She is particularly interested in the interaction between sound, cognition, and meaning across different linguistic domains.

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The underwater conceptualiser: Multimodal construal in scuba diving

This exploratory study investigates the complex, yet largely unmapped linguistic domain of scuba divers' communication, a topic critically under-researched within linguistics. Grounded in autoethnographic observation, the paper aims to delineate how communicative intent is adapted to severe environmental constraints. The underwater environment serves as a unique "semiotic laboratory" where the complete obstruction of vocal-auditory channels necessitates a radical reconfiguration of human meaning-making. In this high-cost, high-risk interactional setting, pragmatic efficiency is fundamentally tied to survival.

Aligning with the view of construal as a general cognitive operation, this paper investigates how scuba divers conceptualise, frame, and negotiate experiences through a polysemiotic network. Central to this process is domain activation. Before submerging, divers establish a rigorous common ground through standardised training, creating pre-established cognitive scripts. Drawing on research on mental simulation (Barsalou,1999; Bergen, 2012), this study argues that conventionalised scuba hand gestures serve as minimal triggers designed to activate shared conceptual baseline frames. For example, an "out of air" signal immediately activates a shared mental simulation of the physical emergency, the bodily sensation of air deprivation, and the pre-learned motor scripts required to share an alternate air source.

Because expressive capacity is severely restricted, successful communication relies heavily on these mutual cognitive simulations. However, unpredictable underwater conditions (such as during night dives, in submerged wrecks, or due to sudden emergencies) frequently demand dynamic ad-hoc construal. Integrating Material Engagement Theory (Malafouris, 2013) and the 4E cognition framework (Newen, Gallagher, De Bruin, 2018), the paper posits that the diver's tools actively shape how a scene is construed. Applying Langacker's (2023) concept of profiling alongside Talmy's (2000) foundational work on salience and foregrounding, the study examines how the diver's augmented body functions as an active representational format. For instance, engaging the acoustic affordances of a metal tank provides a tangible mechanism for immediate salience building, while a torch functions as a cognitive extension to actively profile and foreground specific environmental features against a visually degraded background.

When these relatively standard communication cues fall short, the diver's body augmented with scuba gear can be mobilised for ad-hoc pantomime, mapping abstract inferences and evaluations onto gross motor movements to negotiate a new understanding of the scene. Crucially, the transition from baseline shared frames to ad-hoc, material reframing is regulated by the diving heuristic: "stop, relax, breathe, think, act." Under extreme stress, this heuristic acts as an essential cognitive control mechanism, forcing a temporal pause that allows divers to realign mental simulations and consciously structure a scene before attempting to communicate a newly foregrounded reality.

Ultimately, this paper extends the study of construal beyond spoken discourse, highlighting its critical role in survival-driven, materially engaged meaning-making.

Keywords: Multimodal Construal; Mental Simulation; Extended Cognition; Material Engagement Theory; Scuba Diving Communication

Bionote

Rafał Augustyn, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Linguistics and Head of the Postgraduate Programme in Certified and Specialised Translation at UMCS. His research focuses on cognitive semantics, multimodality, intercultural communication and multilingualism, alongside the intersection of cognitive science with translation pedagogy

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and practice. An active translator and interpreter, he is also an avid scuba diver – a passion that directly informs his current research into embodied cognition and multimodal communication in extreme environments.

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Countering the Climate Threats: Counter-Proximisation and the Legitimation of EU Environmental Policy Discourse

There is a well-established scholarship exploring how the construal of threat enables political or public speakers to solicit legitimacy and support for their policies (see Cap, 2017). However, scant attention has been paid to exploring how the discursive construction of response may function as a legitimisation strategy in political and public discourses. To fill this gap, the present study seeks to expand the notion of Counter-Proximisation (Basarati, 2026) by closely examining how the European Union climate policy discourse constructs specific responses to environmental threats. Drawing upon 50 EU climate policy texts published between 2015 and 2025, retrieved from the EU Climate Policy Database, the present study investigates what kinds of responses are construed as controlling or preventing environmental threats such as carbon emissions, climate change, and ecological degradation, and how these response policies reinforce the EU's authority, power, and legitimacy. Analytically, the study will employ the Counter-Proximisation framework, understood as a theoretical and analytical extension of Proximisation Theory (Cap, 2013). While proximisation accounts for how threats are discursively and cognitively brought closer to the audience to solicit legitimacy, counter-proximisation underscores how institutional policies can be construed as effective and necessary responses to such threats.

The study is expected to show that EU climate policy discourse legitimises and justifies restrictive, regulatory, and corrective response policies by framing them as efficient and effective in controlling and downsizing environmental threats. In so doing, the present study expands the theoretical and analytical scope of CP beyond geopolitical and military contexts and demonstrates its relevance to investigating responses in diverse public discourses.

Keywords: Counter-Proximisation; Proximisation Theory; climate policy discourse; environmental threats; policy legitimation.

Bionote

Ali Basarati is an Assistant Professor in Linguistics at the VIZJA University in Warsaw, Poland. His main research interests are in critical and political discourse analysis, with a particular emphasis on how political discourses shape and manipulate public perceptions of various events. He examines the intricate relationship between language and power in different contexts. In addition, Ali studies social movements, exploring how they challenge inequality, prejudice, and discrimination, and offer prospects for better futures. His contributions include works on war representation, legitimisation strategies, threat communication, critical metaphor analysis, future preconfigurations in political discourses, and socio-gender identities.

Melike Alsaç is an English teacher and PhD candidate in Linguistics at the University of Warsaw, Poland. Her research interests include pragmatics, discourse analysis, and intercultural communication. She is a recipient of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education Scholarship, awarded in recognition of her outstanding academic achievements.

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The analysis of selected discourse connectives in their procedural function

In order to live and develop properly every human being requires cooperation with other members of her/his kind. The fundamental factor and process of this development comprises mutual communication either verbal, namely the use of language specific for a particular group of people, or non-verbal, embracing gestures, facial expressions or the body language in general.

The main concern the paper seeks to present is verbal communication, conceived here primarily as an inferential process. Thus the research belongs in pragmatics defined here as cognitive and linguistic assumptions the speaker and listener derives on the grounds of any pre-existing knowledge about those involved and the specific context of their utterance (Wilson, 1994, pp. 40, 41) The assumption underlying the analysis is that interlocutors communicate in terms of attributed intentions rather than in terms of the common code, though the importance of the code is beyond any question. Speakers try to provide the audience with the best stimulus, taking into account the hearers' contextual resources and processing abilities.

Sometimes, however, when they are not quite sure if the stimulus they have supplied will be interpreted as intended, they may facilitate the necessary inferential processes and instruct the audience how the stimulus is to be understood. That type of instruction is encoded in a number of words collectively called discourse markers. The objective of the following work is an analysis of selected English and Polish discourse markers in their function of facilitating inferential processes involved in verbal communication.

Keywords: verbal communication, inferential process, procedural function, discourse markers, Relevance Theory

Bionote

Blanka Bobrowska currently works at the Academy of Applied Sciences in Wałbrzych, where she serves as the Coordinator for the English Philology programme. Her academic interests focus on applied and cognitive linguistics, language pragmatics, and discourse studies in their broadest sense. Her research explores the relationships between language, cognition, communication, and social interaction, with particular attention to how meaning is constructed and negotiated in various discourse contexts. She is actively engaged in teaching, curriculum development, and fostering high standards in language education and linguistic research.

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Construing Space: Evidence from Preposition Use in Two Languages

Although spatial relations are visually available to all observers, prior research has shown that languages differ in how such relations are linguistically encoded (Bowerman & Choi, 2001; Levinson, 2003; Feist, 2008). This variation raises a central question for construal: to what extent do simple spatial scenes license multiple construals? This study examines construal in Moroccan Arabic (MA) and English by investigating the degree to which static spatial scenes invite alternative prepositional encodings.

The study treats variation in prepositional choice as evidence of lexical construal, asking: (1) to what extent are simple spatial scenes open to multiple construals; (2) does openness to construal differ across MA and English; and (3) are individual scenes equally open to competing construals in these languages? Openness to construal is operationalized as the number of distinct prepositions elicited by a given scene.

We elicited free descriptions of 118 visually presented static spatial scenes from speakers of MA and English, then categorized each scene according to the number of prepositions it elicited (e.g., one, two, three, or more) in each language. Findings suggest that unanimous construal is relatively rare in both languages. Furthermore, whereas the dominant pattern in MA was to invite two alternative construals, scenes elicited a broader range of competing prepositions in English. Cross-linguistic comparisons further indicate that the same scenes are not always equally open to construal across languages, suggesting both shared and language-specific construal patterns. Taken together, these findings suggest that spatial relations are construed rather than simply perceived, and that languages differ in the range of construal options made available to speakers. The study also contributes a quantitative approach to construal by using speakers' spontaneous descriptions of concrete spatial scenes to model openness to lexical construal within and across languages.

Keywords: construal, spatial language, prepositions, cross-linguistic comparison

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Feist, M. I. (2008). Space between languages. Cognitive Science, 32(7), 1177–1199.

Bionote

Nihal Bouabida is a PhD researcher in Applied Linguistics and a Fulbright Scholar whose work examines the relationship between language, meaning, and conceptual representation across languages. Her dissertation investigates how spatial relations are linguistically encoded and conceptually organized in Moroccan Arabic and English, drawing on usage-based approaches to spatial language and construal. Through elicited production data and quantitative semantic modeling, her research explores cross-linguistic variation in spatial categorization, semantic salience, and conceptual organization. ---------- Michele I. Feist is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Her research centers around literal and metaphorical uses of spatial language, examined from both a cross-linguistic and an experimental psycholinguistic perspective. She is coauthor of Time, Metaphor, and Language: A Cognitive Science Perspective (with Sarah Duffy, 2024); her research can also be found in numerous journals, including Cognition, Cognitive Science, and Language & Cognition.

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Digital Shift in Turkish Academic Discourse: Metadiscourse in Table Interpretations

This study examines the use of metadiscourse markers in table annotations within Turkish scientific articles from the perspective of digital communication and evolving academic discourse. The data were selected from the DergiPark digital platform and cover various fields in the social sciences (law, psychology, linguistics) and physical sciences (engineering, nursing, architecture). Table captions from a total of 978 articles were analyzed. Ken Hyland's model of interactive (transitions, frame markers,endophoric markers) and interactional (hedges, boosters, attitude markers, self mention) metadiscourse was used as the theoretical framework.

The findings indicate that interactive markers are the most frequently used structures across all fields. However, interactional markers exhibit significant differences across fields. In the social sciences, hedges and attitude markers are used more frequently than in the physical sciences, whereas in the physical sciences, boosters are more prevalent. This reflects the varying forms of knowledge production across different disciplines.

The aim of this study is to reveal the frequency and distribution of metadiscourse determinants used in table interpretations in Turkish scientific articles; to determine how these uses differ between social and natural sciences; and to describe the observed changes in terms of genre, disciplinary discourse, and digital environment within the framework of Hyland's model. Change is the primary focus of this study.

First, a shift in genre is observed: Table annotations are evolving from being a supplementary element of academic articles into a more independent, conjunction-heavy, and directive discourse. Second, there is a shift in disciplinary discourse: In the social sciences, the frequency of avoidance expressions points to a conception of knowledge moving away from definitive judgments; whereas in the physical sciences, the dominance of intensifiers indicates that the emphasis on objectivity and certainty persists. Third, the changes brought about by the digital environment are evident: Digital databases such as DergiPark are indirectly transforming academic writing practices through the searchable, accessible, and hypertextual structure of articles. In conclusion, this study demonstrates that Turkish academic writing is not a static structure but is rapidly evolving alongside digitalization and disciplinary differentiation. Table annotations emerge as a critical genre through which this change can be observed.

Bionote

Ferdi Bozkurt completed his PhD in lexicography, a subfield of linguistics. His primary research areas include lexicography, corpus linguistics, onomastics, sociolinguistics, text linguistics, and pragmatics. He is also interested in examining the role and visibility of scientific influence within these fields. Several of his studies on discourse have been published in academic journals. He has authored two monographs: one in the field of lexicography and the other in text linguistics. In addition, he has contributed book chapters in areas such as pragmatics and corpus linguistics. He has participated in more than ten linguistics-related research projects. Through his work, he seeks to advance an interdisciplinary perspective, particularly by employing corpus linguistic methods as a bridge between different domains of inquiry. https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2209-8673 Faculty of Humanity, Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Türkiye, https://avesis.anadolu.edu.tr/ferdib Şeymanur Öksüz is a young researcher who graduated with a BA degree in Turkish Language and Literature in 2024. In 2025, she began her MA studies in the same field. She is currently preparing her MA thesis under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferdi Bozkurt and continues her academic research. Her primary research interests include corpus linguistics, metadiscourse analysis, discourse change in academic Turkish, digital scholarly communication, and cross-disciplinary language use. She is also interested in current developments in Modern Turkish studies and aims to contribute original and interdisciplinary research to the field. Despite being at an early stage in her

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academic career, she has already presented one paper at an international symposium and continues to develop her academic profile through ongoing research. E-mail seymanuroksuz@anadolu.edu.tr ORCID https://orcid.org/0009-0001-5880-4074

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Who is Listening? Audience Design, Shared Cultural Knowledge, and Olfactory Construal in Saudi Arabic–English Bilinguals

In Langacker's Cognitive Linguistics, construal refers to the ways speakers selectively represent experience through perspective, profiling, salience and domain activation. While construal has been widely explored in visual, spatial and narrative domains, little is known about how the same sensory experience may be construed differently for audiences who do not share the same cultural knowledge. Focusing on olfactory communication, this paper investigates how Saudi Arabic–English bilinguals adapt scent descriptions for Saudi and non-Arab listeners, examining what these adaptations reveal about the relationship among construal, audience design, and intercultural communication. Specifically, it asks how shared cultural knowledge shapes olfactory construal across audiences and what this reveals about construal as a socially situated process.

Data were collected from 137 female Saudi university students, all native speakers of Arabic with advanced proficiency in English. Using a scenario-based Discourse Completion Task and a reflective questionnaire, participants described three scent types—Bukhoor (incense), a favourite perfume and a memory-linked scent to two imagined audiences: a Saudi friend and a non-Arab friend, using only 5–7 words per description.

Drawing on Langacker's notion of construal alongside audience design (Bell, 1984), common ground (Clark, 1996), and communication strategies (Færch & Kasper, 1983), the analysis examines how speakers profile culturally salient meanings and activate different knowledge domains according to assumptions about shared cultural knowledge.

The findings reveal systematic audience-related shifts in construal. When addressing Saudi interlocutors, participants frequently drew on culturally embedded frames associated with Eid, weddings, hospitality and Friday prayers, treating these as naturally shared points of reference. Descriptions for non-Arab interlocutors, by contrast, relied on sensory approximation, comparison and brief explanatory strategies intended to bridge gaps in shared cultural knowledge. Questionnaire responses showed that 75% of participants consciously adjusted their descriptions across audiences, 80% assumed shared cultural knowledge only with Saudi listeners, and 87% believed Arabic provided greater resources for expressing olfactory meanings than English. Notably, many participants recognised that they were doing more than describing scents; they were explaining cultural practices, negotiating understanding, and communicating aspects of identity.

The study demonstrates that sensory experience is not construed independently of social context. Rather, what speakers foreground, background and render meaningful depends on who is listening and on what is assumed to be culturally shared. In this way, the study positions shared cultural knowledge as a central factor in the construal of sensory experience across languages and cultures. By extending Langacker's framework into the underexplored domain of olfaction, it contributes to both Cognitive Linguistics and cross-cultural pragmatics, highlighting how speakers negotiate meaning across cultural boundaries.

Keywords: Construal; Audience Design; Shared Cultural Knowledge; Cultural Frames; Cross-Cultural Pragmatics

Bionote

Dr Ghadeer Damfo is an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Taibah University, Saudi Arabia. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Southampton, UK, and an MA in Applied Linguistics from the University of Reading,

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UK. Her doctoral research explored intercultural academic communication, request strategies, and identity negotiation among Saudi students in UK higher education contexts. Her broader research interests span pragmatics, discourse analysis, and intercultural communication, with particular focus on how Saudi EFL speakers construct meaning across linguistic and cultural contexts. Her current research examines sensory communication, audience design and the role of shared cultural knowledge in shaping pragmatic choices and intercultural understanding.

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Male Names for Trans Women: Metonymic Construal and Identity Construction in Peruvian Social Media Discourse

The study examines how the identity of Peruvian trans women is discursively constructed through the use of masculine proper names employed to refer to them in digital interactions. Against this background, the study aims to identify the metonymic processes underlying the use of proper names and to explain how these contribute to the construction of trans identities in public discourse. The central research question guiding the study is as follows: which masculine proper names are employed, and how do they function as metonymic resources for conceptualising and representing trans women within the context of Peruvian social media?

Theoretically, the study is situated within the framework of Cognitive Linguistics (Lakoff, 1987; Johnson, 1987; Langacker, 1987), and more specifically within research on conceptual metonymy. It adopts the view of metonymy as a cognitive process whereby one entity provides mental access to another within the same conceptual domain (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Lakoff & Turner, 1989; Barcelona, 2003, 2011, 2012, 2019, 2024). In addition, the notion of construal is adopted as the set of cognitive operations that allow speakers to profile, highlight, and render salient particular aspects of a scene or discourse participant. From this perspective, masculine proper names are analysed not merely as referential mechanisms, but as construal resources that activate domains of knowledge associated with masculinity, sex assigned at birth, or previously ascribed identities.

Methodologically, the corpus consists of comments published on Peruvian social media platforms during 2023 and 2024 concerning public trans figures in the country. These comments were extracted using Python-based natural language processing tools. From this material, expressions containing masculine proper names used to designate trans women are identified, and the metonymic patterns motivating such uses are analysed. Particular attention is paid to the activation of conceptual domains, the prominence of specific identity features, and the processes of social evaluation associated with these naming practices.

Preliminary findings suggest that masculine proper names operate as metonymic access points through which trans women are constructed in terms of previously ascribed masculine identities. This process gives rise to specific construals of trans identity and entails various forms of questioning, delegitimisation, or reframing of gender identity. The study therefore demonstrates how metonymy actively participates in the discursive construction of social roles and in the negotiation of ideological meanings surrounding gender and identity in the contemporary digital sphere.

Keywords: Male Names, Trans Women, Construal, Metonymy, Identity, Peru

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Bionote

Frank Joseph Domínguez Chenguayen holds a doctorate in linguistics from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM) and a master's degree in linguistics from both UNMSM and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP). He is currently a university lecturer at the Universidad Tecnológica del Perú. His research interests and academic work are situated within the fields of cognitive linguistics and critical discourse studies. He has numerous publications addressing discourse, ideology, and cognition, particularly from the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis and cognitive approaches to meaning construction (see https://ctivitae.concytec.gob.pe/appDirectorioCTI/VerDatosInvestigador.do?id_investigador=37914 and https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2803-0773). Jeancarlo Joel García Guadalupe holds a Bachelor’s and a Licentiate degree in Spanish Language and Literature. He earned a Master’s degree in Communication Didactics and a PhD in Educational Sciences from the National University of Education Enrique Guzmán y Valle. He is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Linguistics at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM). He has experience as a specialist in research methodology and Spanish language didactics within interdisciplinary research projects. He has presented papers at national congresses on linguistics and education. Her research interests include critical discourse analysis, cognitive linguistics, and academic literacy. Additionally, he was awarded first place nationwide in the 2015 National Teaching Appointment Competition. Master's degree in Informatics with a specialisation in Computer Science from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. Lecturer at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels, with experience teaching a wide range of Computer Science-related courses at various universities across the country. Extensive experience in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) management in both the public and private sectors. Author of scientific publications indexed in Scopus. Recipient of the Innovemos grant awarded by the Ministry of Production in 2021. Finalist in the Startup Perú G8+ competition organised by the Ministry of Production in 2022. Speaker at dozens of conferences held at universities across different regions of Peru. Internet artist with more than 19,000 followers.

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Foregrounding and Backgrounding in Qurʾānic Narratives: Linguistic Characteristics and their Functions

This paper explores the stylistic and structural features of Qurʾānic narratives, with particular attention to how discourse organization and the distribution of foreground and background information contribute to meaning. Building on the narrative model proposed by William Labov, it is shown that Qurʾānic narratives exhibit a systematic structure consisting of five components: abstract, orientation, complicating action, evaluation, and coda. The abstract and orientation introduce the key elements of the story, the participants, the setting, and the situation through marked syntactic forms such as vocatives, emphatic particles, and non-canonical word order. The complicating action, which constitutes the core narrative sequence, is realized through chains of temporally ordered clauses, typically with verb-initial structures coordinated by connective particles. These components represent the main foreground information and are characterized by consistent and identifiable linguistic patterns. By contrast, the evaluation and the coda serve interpretive and communicative functions by clarifying the moral and extending the narrative's relevance beyond its immediate context. Although they lack fixed syntactic forms, they frequently include evaluative language and references to divine authority.

Bionote

Yehudit Dror was awarded her Ph.D. from Erlangen-Nürnberg University, Germany. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Haifa. Her primary interest is Arabic grammar, and in particular the grammar of the Qurʾān. Her current publications deal with grammatical and syntactic phenomena in the Qurʾān, including the functions of particles and pronouns in the Qurʾān, the pragmatics of various syntactic structures, issues of time (tense) and aspect, defining the linguistic features of discourse in the Qur'ān, and grammatical issues in Qurʾānic exegesis.

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Extending linguistic knowledge to multimodal texts in Construction Grammar

Construction Grammar (CxG), grounded in Cognitive Linguistics, assumes that constructions are the fundamental units of linguistic knowledge, organized into hierarchical taxonomic networks that encompass patterns ranging from lexical items to highly schematic syntactic structures. Within this framework, linguistic knowledge consists of an inventory of conventionalized form-function pairings that differ not in nature but in their degree of complexity. Building on Hoffmann and Bergs' (2024) proposal that texts and textual genres can also be treated as constructions, this paper investigates how multimodal textual genres can be represented within the constructional network of Construction Grammar. More specifically, it asks how multimodal resources contribute to the representation of textual constructions as part of speakers' linguistic knowledge.

The study adopts the theoretical framework of Construction Grammar (Hoffmann, 2022) in combination with Conceptual Blending Theory (Fauconnier & Turner, 2002). It also draws on Kress and Van Leeuwen's (1996) account of multimodality and Ribeiro's (2020) view that multimodality constitutes a continuum of communication rather than an exceptional phenomenon. From this perspective, textual constructions are inherently multimodal, since their meanings emerge from the interaction between verbal language and visual resources such as typography, layout, color, images, and graphic organization.

Methodologically, the paper develops a conceptual model for representing multimodal textual constructions within the taxonomic network of Construction Grammar. The proposed model assumes that semantic, pragmatic, discourse-related, linguistic, and visual information function as input spaces that are integrated through conceptual blending, giving rise to a blended space corresponding to a specific textual construction. Rather than describing a particular corpus, the paper offers a theoretical and methodological proposal for modeling multimodal textual genres as complex constructional units.

The paper argues that multimodal textual genres constitute highly complex constructions occupying the upper levels of the constructional network. It further proposes that multimodality characterizes the formal dimension of textual constructions, reflecting the integration of verbal and visual resources within a single conventionalized schema, and therefore should not be extended to lower levels of analysis, such as lexical or syntactic constructions. By integrating Construction Grammar and Conceptual Blending Theory, the study provides a conceptual and methodological contribution toward representing multimodal texts as part of speakers' linguistic knowledge and expanding the scope of Construction Grammar to account for textual organization.

Keywords: Construction Grammar; Linguistic Knowledge; Multimodal Texts

Bionote
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Construal of Visual Meaning: Signers and Speakers in the Interpretation of Figurative and Abstract Images

The aim of this study is to analyse the ways in which visual experience is conceptualised in descriptions of paintings elicited from deaf/Deaf individuals using spoken or sign language.

The study focuses on construal mechanisms and their role in the linguistic representation of visual stimuli, as well as on the influence of communication modality on strategies for meaning construction. The theoretical framework is grounded in Cognitive Linguistics, in particular the concept of construal understood as a set of meaning-making operations involving profiling and figure–ground organisation.

The analysis is supplemented by Mental Spaces Theory and Conceptual Metaphor Theory. It is assumed that meaning does not constitute a direct representation of the visual stimulus, but results from dynamic conceptualisation shaped by linguistic, spatial and narrative resources.

The empirical material consists of spontaneous narratives (descriptions and stories) elicited from two groups of Deaf/deaf individuals based on four paintings (two figurative and two abstract). One group primarily uses sign language, while the other uses spoken language. The data were analysed using a qualitative cognitive-semantic approach, covering strategies of narrativisation, metaphorisation, spatial organisation, affective evaluation and epistemic modality. The analysis examines how communication modality influences figure–ground organisation and the distribution of salience in visual construal. The study contributes to Cognitive Linguistics and research on multimodal discourse by examining how communication modality interacts with visual stimuli in shaping conceptualisation processes.

Bionote

Agnieszka Dłużniewska is Professor at the Institute of Special Education, Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland. Her research focuses on language development and language conceptualization in deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, cognitive and metacognitive aspects of reading, and reading comprehension difficulties. She is particularly interested in the application of Cognitive Linguistics to the study of language, communication, and meaning construction in individuals with hearing loss, as well as in the role of social interaction in language development, educational inclusion, and support for learners with special educational needs.

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Beauty, biology and the market: anti-feminist discourse in the TikTok videos of French manosphere female influencer Thais d'Escufon.

This paper examines the anti-feminist discourse of Thais d'Escufon, one of the main female influencers within the French manosphere, through a critical discourse analysis of her TikTok videos published on her account (@thaisdescufon) between July and December 2024. The study seeks to broaden the scope of the existing scholarship on the French manosphere by answering the following questions: What identities are represented/constructed/prescribed in the videos produced by Thais D'Escufon and how? How are these different identities embedded in, and reproduce, the neoliberal status quo? The analysis employs methodological categories of interdiscursivity, appraisal, and evaluation within the context of the construction of hegemonic gendered roles and sexualities (Krzyżanowski and Krzyżanowska 2024; Krzyżanowski 2016; Motschenbacher 2017; Chouliaraki and Fairclough 1999), focusing on key concepts within the manosphere such as, among others, sexual market value, hypergamy, and feminism (Aiston 2024; Botto and Gottzén 2024; Ging 2017). The findings of this study demonstrate that d'Escufon positions herself as an authoritative expert who frames gender relations through market metaphors and biological essentialism. Her discourse recontextualizes far-right tropes of decline and biological determinism to naturalize gender hierarchies. The study contributes to the scholarship on the fusion between neoliberal self-help discourse and reactionary politics in times of crisis, particularly the crisis of care (Fraser 2022, 2017; Bhattacharya 2017). This research underscores the relevance of a critical approach to online anti-feminist discourse as structured and structuring hegemonic power structures.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, Far-right Discourse, Online Misogyny, Anti-Feminism, Gender Studies, Manosphere, Hate Speech, Social Media Discourse, Authoritarian Neoliberalism, Crisis of Neoliberalism

Bionote

Mehdi Galiere is a senior assistant professor in the Faculty of Humanities at Szeged University, Hungary. He teaches courses on and researches applied linguistics and critical discourse analysis. He published one book: Realities of Critical Pedagogy: A Microethnography of a Parisian Autonomous High School Critical Pedagogy (Springer, 2024).

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Text-semantic construal in argumentative essays in L1 vs. L2 German

The goal of this study is to identify differences in text-semantic construal and thematic development between argumentative essays with a graph-based approach. Graph networks are employed to visualize and compare semantic relations annotated as chains between the nouns used in text-chronological order. The data stems from the "Kobalt-DaF"-corpus (Zinsmeister et al., 2012) containing essays written in German on the same topic by L1 speakers of German and young adult learners with Belarusian/Russian or Mandarin Chinese as L1.

Thematic construal is driven by many factors, including (1) the language structure and typology of L1(s) of a speaker with an impact on the orientation and interpretation of perception which influence construal on all linguistic levels (Slobin, 1996); (2) a conceptualizer's reference point placed inside a semantic "dominion" which are both shifting during ongoing communication controlled by the language user (Langacker, 1993); and (3) proficiency and the language being either a foreign language or the L1 of a speaker (Rørvik, 2012).

Graph metrics reveal quantitative differences between five groups (L1 German, proficiency levels B2 and C1 for both learner groups) in line with both Slobin (1996) and Rørvik (2012). Variation in network density, clustering and average path lengths between groups hint at differences in the structure of and connections within the mental lexicon with networks more clustered by closer semantic relations in less advanced learners as opposed to a more deeply connected mental lexicon in L1 speakers.

From a qualitative perspective, links between patterns of thematic development, which have been identified in a previous study, and different association styles of individuals can be traced in the networks independently of L1 or proficiency group as could be assumed following Langacker (1993).

Keywords: text-semantic construal, lexicon-discourse interface, German as a second language, corpus-linguistics, graph-based approach

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Bionote

Gajaneh Hartz obtained her B. A. in Germanistic Linguistics and Social Sciences and her M. A. in Linguistics at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Currently she is a research assistant at the Junior Research Group "Variability and path-dependence of the lexicon in use in multilingual contexts" at the University of Leipzig in Germany. Her research focuses on the lexicon-discourse interface under internal language contact with corpus-linguistic methods.

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Construing Newsworthiness: News Values Beyond Journalistic Mediation

This paper examines the character reference letters submitted during the Brock Turner sentencing case (2016) to explore the relationship between construal in language and discourse and the construction of news values. While news values have traditionally been understood as criteria through which journalists select and present events as newsworthy, this study argues that they may also function as broader linguistic resources of construal, shaping how speakers represent reality before texts enter the news cycle. The character reference letters provide a unique case study, as they were originally private legal documents intended to persuade a sentencing judge but were subsequently quoted and circulated extensively within news media, becoming central to public debate.

The paper asks whether lay writers implicitly orient to culturally embedded notions of newsworthiness when constructing persuasive discourse, and whether news values can therefore be understood as pre-mediatised construal strategies rather than solely journalistic selection mechanisms. Drawing on News Values Theory and Discursive News Values Analysis, the study reconceptualises news values as rhetorical and cognitive resources through which writers foreground particular aspects of an event, assign salience, and guide interpretation. Values such as personalisation, conflict, impact, negativity, and eliteness are analysed not merely as indicators of newsworthiness but as alternative ways of construing social reality.

Methodologically, the paper adopts a qualitative discourse analytic approach, examining the linguistic construction of news values across the letters and considering how these construals are recontextualised through journalistic quotation and circulation.

The paper contributes to debates on construal and discourse by proposing that news values may operate as devices of construal across varying contexts. Rather than emerging only through journalistic mediation, it questions whether news values are culturally internalised discursive resources that enable speakers to construct persuasive narratives by foregrounding what is perceived as socially significant — extending News Values Theory beyond media selection and into broader discussions of how language construes reality and influences public understanding.

Keywords: Discursive News Value Analysis, Pre-mediatisation, Recontextualisation

Bionote

Dr Kayla Heglas is a researcher and instructor at the University of Birmingham, working at the intersection of applied linguistics, media and communication, and sociology. Her research focuses on news media and political discourse, media framing, and the discursive power of media in shaping public understanding. She is committed to interdisciplinary scholarship and collaborates across departmental boundaries to produce research that is both theoretically rigorous and socially engaged.

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Tracing Passivisability: Conceptual Foundations of the German werden-Passive

The main criteria for passivisability typically represent semantic conditions, such as an agent-patient-relation, atelicity or the exclusion of stative verbs (cf. Zifonun et al. 1997; Eisenberg 2013; Helbig & Buscha 2001). However, evidence from corpora analyses has shown that none of the conditions provided in the given literature are consistent. This paper therefore asks which semantic and conceptual properties determine passivisability, focusing on the German passive construction werden + past participle.

To address this question, a sample of 432 verbs has been created, comprised of verbs that are claimed to lack a passive variant or are deemed borderline cases. Based on the DWDS corpus Gegenwartskorpora mit freiem Zugang (3 billion words URL: https://www.dwds.de/d/korpora/dwdsxl), the analysis investigates whether there is evidence for passive constructions of these verbs or not and examines correlations between passivisability, aspectual structure, and semantic roles in order to uncover the conceptual properties underlying the werden-passive.

First, the analysis shows that passivisability is not determined by a single condition, but rather by a set of of interacting verb-semantic and argument-structural properties. Specifically, passivization requires a subject argument exhibiting control and, depending on whether or not a passive subject is given, either telicity or atelicity.

In a second step, these semantic conditions are traced back to the force dynamics exhibited in a passive sentence (cf. Langacker 1990), yielding a unified account of passives with and without a subject. Both types of passive constructions denote an energy transfer at its maximal extent, representing, respectively, the initial and final points of a force interaction. Consequently, only verbs that conceptually profile the full trajectory of a force interaction are considered passivizable. This approach represents an attempt to provide a unified, conceptually grounded account of restrictions on passivization and proposes that the conceptual properties of grammatical categories can be investigated through their restrictions.

Keywords: werden-passive, passivisability, force dynamics, control

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Bionote

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Punctuation in Cognitive Grammar: The German Colon as a Construal Operator

Construal is a central concept in Cognitive Grammar (CG), referring to the ways in which linguistic expressions structure and perspectivise conceptual content (Langacker 2015). While this perspective has been widely applied to lexical and grammatical structure, graphological form—particularly punctuation—has received comparatively little systematic attention. This paper addresses this gap by modelling the German colon as a symbolic construal operator in written discourse. The study pursues three main aims. First, it seeks to demonstrate how punctuation marks can be integrated into CG as symbolic units that structure scope, profiling, and vantage point. Second, it identifies and systematises recurrent construal operations associated with colon constructions. Third, it examines how these construal operations interact with syntactic form, thereby bridging graphological and grammatical analysis. The theoretical perspective combines a usage-based CG framework with insights from discourse analysis, treating punctuation as part of the symbolic inventory that shapes meaning and interpretation.

The analysis is based on a corpus of 1,000 colon tokens extracted from the Süddeutsche Zeitung. The study combines qualitative analysis with quantitative methods. Each instance is annotated for construal type, syntactic structure, and discourse function, allowing for systematic comparison and statistical evaluation. Particular attention is paid to patterns of asymmetry and dependency across these segments.

The findings reveal four main construal operations encoded by the colon, reflecting systematic ways in which the punctuation mark structures interpretive relationships between preceding and following segments. Quantitative results show a strong clustering of specific construal types, with shifts in prominence for elaboration and perspective accounting for over two thirds of the data. Furthermore, cross-tabulation demonstrates clear syntactic asymmetries between pre- and post-colon segments. These asymmetries suggest that syntactic structure functions as a probabilistic cue guiding the interpretation of construal operations rather than determining them categorically.

By demonstrating that punctuation marks such as the colon serve as construal operators, the paper argues for a broader understanding of linguistic structure in which graphological form plays an integral role in discourse organisation. By examining punctuation through the lens of CG, the study also contributes to a more comprehensive model of grammar that includes graphological form as a meaningful component of linguistic structure.

Keywords: Cognitive Grammar; construal; punctuation; colon; German, corpus linguistics

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Bionote

Franka Kermer is a lecturer in German working within the Cognitive Grammar framework. Her research focuses on construal, punctuation, and the interface between grammar and semantics. She is currently investigating the role of

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graphological form in meaning construction, with particular emphasis on punctuation in German and Finnish. Her work combines corpus-linguistic methods with cognitive-functional approaches.

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Hiding in Plain Sight: Reference Point Construction in English Translations of Dōgen's “Raihai” and Alan Spence's “After Dōgen”

This paper applies Langacker’s (2008) theory of reference point construction to a comparative analysis of three English translations of the Zen master Dōgen Zenji’s tanka poem “Raihai” and Alan Spence’s creative response, “After Dōgen.” The poem stages a fundamental paradox: a white heron conceals itself in a snow field by virtue of its own form, making the most cognitively salient entity in the scene the very one that cancels itself as a perceptual landmark.

I will argue that this paradox generates productive instability in the RP chain and that each text resolve—or refuses to resolve—that instability in ways that encode distinct construals of the poem’s Buddhist epistemology. The translations differ revealingly in how they distribute attention and prominence within the scope of predication. Spence’s concrete poem, by contrast, externalises the primary reference point into its paratextual title and performs the figure-ground oscillation structurally through typography, culminating in a white silence that enacts the heron’s disappearance rather than describing it.

Translation, the analysis suggests, is never merely linguistic—it is a construal, a decision about where the reader (=conceptualizer) stands when they try to see something that cannot be seen.

Keywords: Dōgen, Spence, Buddhist poetry, translation, reference point

Bionote

Monika Kocot, PhD, is Assistant Professor in the Department of British Literature and Culture at the University of Łódź, Poland. She is the author of Playing Games of Sense in Edwin Morgan’s Writing (2016) and co-editor of Moving Between Modes. Papers in Intersemiotic Translation. In Memoriam Professor Alina Kwiatkowska (2020). She has published chapters and articles on contemporary Scottish poetry and prose, as well as Native American writing. Her latest research is on philosophy and spirituality in literature, with a particular emphasis on geopoetics.

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Models of linguistic communication in Polish-Chinese families. Polish-Chinese bilingualism.

The aim of the study was to develop a typology of language communication models and family language policies in Polish-Chinese families. The conscious transmission of a parent's language to a child was considered to constitute a family language policy, encompassing Polish as the inherited language, Chinese as the language of the country of residence, and English serving as a lingua franca. The primary criterion for classification was the degree of parental involvement in the transmission of linguistic heritage.

The typology took two criteria into account: the number of languages used in everyday family communication and the extent to which the parent's language (who is not a native speaker of the country of residence) is passed on. An analysis of the language practices of the Polish-Chinese families living in China identified four models of linguistic communication: Polish-Chinese, Polish-Chinese-English, English-Chinese and Chinese-Chinese.

The Polish-Chinese model is based on the simultaneous transmission of both parents' native languages to the child. In the Polish-Chinese-English model, English is additionally incorporated into family communication, leading to the child functioning in a trilingual environment. The English-Chinese model involves abandoning the transmission of Polish in favour of English, whilst the Chinese-Chinese model entails a conscious restriction of communication with the child to Chinese only.

The typology developed illustrates the diverse language strategies employed by Polish-Chinese families and provides a better understanding of the role of parents in the process of transmitting the inherited language and shaping the multilingualism of children growing up in an intercultural environment.

Keywords: Polish-Chinese bilingualism, Polish-Chinese families, Family Language Policy, bilingual children, Polish-Chinese names

Bionote

Michalina Koniuk, MA, is a PhD student at the Doctoral School of Humanities, Theology and Arts at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Her research focuses on linguistics, with particular emphasis on bilingualism and multilingualism, linguistic and cultural contact, the teaching of Polish as a foreign language, as well as contemporary issues related to the language and culture of China. In her research, she addresses issues of multilingualism in mixed families, family language policies, language contact among Poles in China, and the processes of transmitting the inherited language. She is also interested in issues of intercultural communication and the teaching of Polish to foreigners. She has presented the results of her research in publications devoted to cultural interactions during Polish language courses for students from Africa and language contact within Polish diaspora communities.

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Multimodal Polarization at the EU–Belarus Border: Competing Crisis Frames in Polish Media

The present paper investigates media framing of the 2021 Belarus-European Union border crisis during its early stages. The focus of the analysis is centered on Polish main media corporations and their news websites: the liberal TVN, and the right-wing Republika, and the commercial Polsat.

By investigating these discursive constructions, this paper provides insight into how media use discourse to shape public perceptions of crisis and (de)legitimize specific policy directions or social actors. The research corpus consisted of headlines and leads of articles related to the situation at the Polish-Belarusian border. Headlines and leads were selected because they perform a central framing function: they condense the core interpretive cues of a news story and guide readers' understanding before they encounter the full article.

By design, their role is to highlight what is most salient, making them particularly influential in the construction of meaning. The three-month sample offers adequate empirical material to enable systematic quantitative analysis alongside in-depth qualitative examination.

Methodologically, the study stresses the importance of incorporating methods of multimodal discourse analysis into social science research, arguing that attention to the interplay of all modes of communication is essential for a comprehensive understanding of contemporary media framing. Further, the textual analysis was complemented by natural language processing tools and methods (such as sentiment analysis), which enabled the researcher to quantify the emotional content in text. Combining linguistic and visual analysis, the study distinguishes three major frames, each with their distinct discursive logic and normative orientation: humanitarian, securitizing, and technocratic. Building on the notion of "visual securitization" (e.g., Massari, 2021; Kearns, 2017), the paper proposes the term "multimodal securitization", arguing that the coordinated interaction of word and image produces coherent interpretive segments. Securitization (or its humanitarian counter-framing) does not take place only through the use of speech acts or solely through the use of imagery but through a patterning of modalities that are aligned in a certain way. Hence, multimodal securitization should be regarded as a process in which the verbal text and the visual layer refer and (in)validate each other.

Bionote

Marcin Kosman holds MA degrees in Discourse Studies, Translation and Intercultural Communication, and Psychology. His PhD (with honors) dissertation focused on the electoral campaigns of the Confederation Liberty and Independence. He is presently the principal investigator of the project "The Discursive Construction of Migration and Security. The Perspective of Poland in a Cross-European Dimension," funded by the National Science Centre and partly realised at the University of Antwerp. His main research interests include right-wing discourse, political linguistics, mixed methods research techniques, legitimacy in political discourse, and political communication. He is also the recipient of the START Scholarship from the Foundation for Polish Science (2025) and the Minister's Scholarship for Outstanding Young Scientists (2025-2028).).

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Creativity in Interaction: A Typology of Meaning Construction in Non-Conventional Expressions

This paper develops a typology of how meaning is constructively processed in interaction, focusing on non-conventional and creative expressions in spoken discourse. It addresses how speakers construe experience when conventional lexical resources are insufficient, and how such construals are taken up by interlocutors.

The data consist of German audio-recorded anamnestic interviews with young patients describing symptoms of neurological conditions such as seizures and headaches. These settings demand highly individualized and often non-conventional construals of embodied experience, as the corresponding symptoms are very difficult to describe, even for adults (Gülich 2005). Thus, these interactions serve as a window into interactional meaning-making when formulation is highly context dependent

Methodologically, the study integrates formal linguistic analysis of creative expressions with detailed sequential analysis of their interactional uptake. Three main response types are distinguished: absence of reaction, minimal signals of noticing, and active engagement in meaning negotiation, where the creative expression is explicitly addressed while leaving room for acceptance, modification, or rejection. The study conceptualizes creative expressions as locally emergent construals that outline specific aspects of experience under communicative pressure. In this perspective, construal is not only a cognitive operation but also an interactional achievement, collaboratively negotiated and dynamically adjusted in real time, for real interactional and institutional purposes (depicting and diagnosing the condition).

The analysis combines conversation analysis and construction grammatical approaches. Conversation analysis provides a fine-grained account of how construals are managed sequentially in interaction (Sidnell/Stivers 2012), while construction grammar models creative expressions as ad hoc constructions grounded in a triadic relation between extralinguistic reality, the speech community, and word-formation resources (cf. Hoffmann 2024; Štekauer 2009, 2016).

By linking micro-level interactional processes to the broader notion of construal, the paper contributes to establishing construal as a unifying concept across linguistic levels and communicative settings, highlighting its role in collaborative meaning-making in naturally occurring discourse.

Bionote

Anna is a postdoc at the Bielefeld University (Germany). Her work focusses on factors of how flexible and creative speakers use modifications or figurative language to sharpen their intentions and ad hoc meanings. She compares theoretical frameworks with empirical data from experiments and language corpora. In the CRC “Linguistic Creativity in Communication” (Bielefeld), Anna analyses lexemes and multi-word expressions created in corpora of medical consultations. Patricia Linnemann is doing her PhD in Linguistics at the University of Bielefeld. She is part of the CRC 1646 "Linguistic Creativity in Communication" and is writing her thesis on the interactional dynamics of creativity in doctor-patient interactions, using conversation analysis.

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Framing the enemy in the Polish communist cartoons. A social semiotic multimodal analysis

When surveying the cartoon representations featured in Trybuna Ludu [People's Tribune], a Polish newspaper, the official mouthpiece of the Polish communist authorities, it could be seen that the images were thematically unified, commonly focusing on the post-WW II politics, specifically the Cold War ideology characterised by the opposing worldviews of capitalism and communism. The caricatured images reflected that ideological clash often featuring characters representative of the opposing capitalist block, thus creating a clear frame of reference through which to view and interpret the current politics. The study examines the data set of 25 such caricatured depictions from the year 1950, a year representative of the period from 1944 to 1955, i.e. the period of the building of the Stalinist model of socialism in Poland, and analyses it using an eclectic social semiotic toolkit drawing on Kress and van Leeuwen (2006) and van Leeuwen (2001, 2008) who argued for the importance of interpreting the visual mode of communication, not to the exclusion of other means of meaning making. Following what the said authors prescribe, the research material was investigated in terms of various multimodal semiotic resources, specifically those which visually contribute to the construction of identities of the represented enemies, drawing attention to among other things, the visual semiotic resources and structures which assist in producing metaphorical meaning which the genre of political cartoon heavily relies on. The visual constructions of the enemy were then discussed against the backdrop of the present political circumstances. The study aligns with the research focus on visual communication.

Keywords: Political cartoons, social semiotic multimodality, semiotic resource, communism, visual communication

Bionote

Anna Łazuka-Banach is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Linguistics at the University of Szczecin, Poland. She holds a PhD from the University of Ulster (Northern Ireland) and an MA in English from the University of Adam Mickiewicz (Poland). Her research interests focus on the critical analysis of discourse and social semiotics of visual communication.

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Result-Oriented and Process-Oriented Construals: A Cognitive Grammar Approach to Japanese and English

People can construe the same conceptual content in alternative ways (Langacker 1987). Each language also embodies particular ways of viewing the world (Slobin 1996). This study focuses on noteworthy expressions in Japanese and discusses differences in event construal between Japanese and English. Consider (1). English profiles the result of a complex event, namely drying, whereas Japanese profiles the process leading to that result, namely wiping.

(1) E: I dried myself with the towel.
J: Watashi-wa taoru-de karada-o fuita.
I-TOP towel-with body-ACC wiped
'I wiped my body with the towel.'

On the basis of a substantial body of linguistic data, this study proposes the following hypothesis: English tends to favor result-oriented construal, whereas Japanese tends to favor process-oriented construal (Machida 2025). This hypothesis helps explain several differences between the two languages. For example, when English speakers say "There are apples in the box," Japanese speakers by default use an expression such as (2).

(2) Ringo-ga hako-ni haitte-iru.
apple-NOM box-in enter-exist
literally, 'Apples have entered the box.'

Japanese also has an expression such as "Ringo-ga hako-ni aru (There are apples in the box)". However, speakers choose (2), which evokes a process leading to the resultant state. In other words, the apples are construed not merely as existing in the box, but as having come to be located there through a prior event of entering. Such phenomena can be explained in terms of process orientation. Japanese tends to construe situations by invoking the fictive process through which they have come about, even when that process is not directly observed. From this perspective, Ikegami's notion of Japanese as a BECOME-language (Ikegami 1991) can be reconsidered within the framework of Cognitive Grammar.

Keywords: event construal; Cognitive Grammar; result orientation; process orientation; BECOME-language

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From Borrowing to Belonging: Motivations for the Use of Anglicisms among Polish Youth

The growing presence of English in contemporary Polish has contributed to the widespread use of anglicisms, particularly among young speakers. While previous studies have primarily focused on the linguistic aspects of lexical borrowing, less attention has been paid to the motivations that drive the use of anglicisms and the social meanings attached to them. This paper investigates why Polish secondary school students use English-derived lexical items and how these borrowings contribute to identity construction and social belonging.

The study addresses three research questions: (1) What are the primary motivations for the use of anglicisms among Polish youth? (2) To what extent are these motivations linguistic, social, media-related, or educational in nature? (3) How do young speakers perceive the role of anglicisms in expressing emotions, constructing a contemporary image, and building an online identity? The theoretical framework draws on Cognitive Linguistics, particularly the concept of lexical construal, as well as sociolinguistic approaches to language, identity, and social meaning. The study assumes that lexical choices are not merely communicative tools but also resources through which speakers position themselves socially and symbolically.

The analysis is based on a questionnaire survey conducted among Polish secondary school students. The survey examined linguistic, social, media-related, and educational motivations for using anglicisms, as well as students' perceptions of their role in expressing emotions, sounding up-to-date, and shaping online self-presentation.

The findings demonstrate that the use of anglicisms extends beyond lexical necessity and reflects broader processes of identity construction and social positioning. English borrowings function as symbolic resources associated with modernity, group affiliation, and participation in digital culture. The study contributes to research on lexical construal and youth discourse by highlighting the relationship between language choice and the construction of social meaning in contemporary communication.

Keywords: anglicisms, lexical construal, youth language

Bionote

Marcelina Masłowska is a PhD student at the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School of the University of Bielsko-Biała, Poland. Her research interests include sociolinguistics, language contact, discourse analysis, and contemporary language change. She is particularly interested in the influence of English on Polish, youth language, and the role of linguistic choices in identity construction and social meaning-making. Her current research focuses on the use of anglicisms among Polish adolescents and the motivations underlying their use in everyday and online communication.

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Double Empathy and Construal Misalignment: Toward a Construal-Level Model of Autistic–Neurotypical Communication

Recent developments in autism research, particularly the Double Empathy Problem proposed by Damian Milton, challenge deficit-oriented interpretations of autistic communication by emphasizing the reciprocal nature of communicative misunderstanding between autistic and non-autistic individuals. At the same time, Construal Level Theory conceptualizes human cognition and communication along a continuum ranging from concrete, detail-oriented construals to abstract, generalized construals.

This paper proposes an integrative theoretical framework linking these two approaches and argues that many autistic–neurotypical communication difficulties may be understood as forms of construal misalignment rather than solely deficits in pragmatic competence. The proposed model suggests that autistic communicators may preferentially employ communicative strategies characterized by increased contextual precision, semantic specificity, and reduced reliance on socially inferred abstraction, whereas neurotypical interlocutors may more frequently depend on high-level construals involving implicit social inference, generalized assumptions, and context-dependent pragmatic compression. Misunderstanding may therefore emerge when interlocutors operate at divergent construal levels during interaction. Importantly, this framework conceptualizes communication breakdown as relational and bidirectional, consistent with neurodiversity-oriented approaches to autism. The presentation outlines a mixed-methods research design combining discourse analysis, narrative elicitation tasks, and psycholinguistic measures of linguistic abstraction in three interactional configurations: autistic–autistic, autistic–neurotypical, and neurotypical–neurotypical dyads. Particular attention is given to conversational repair sequences, inferential load, communicative effort, and perceived interactional rapport. The study also explores whether communicative masking in autistic participants may involve strategic shifts toward neurotypical high-level construal styles, potentially contributing to cognitive fatigue and social exhaustion.

By integrating Construal Level Theory with contemporary autism studies, this project aims to provide a novel interdisciplinary account of neurodivergent communication that moves beyond deficit-based paradigms and toward a relational model of communicative alignment. The proposed framework may have implications for autism research, psycholinguistics, clinical practice, inclusive education, and neurodiversity-informed communication training.

Keywords: autistic communication, Double Empathy, construal misalignment,

Bionote

Joanna Mazur-Okalowe, teacher of English in Center for Teaching Foreign Languages and Certification at the Rzeszów University with over twenty-year-long experience of teaching at various levels of education. Interest in autistic communication emerged after years of research into autism done for family and later on also personal reasons. Having first-hand observation and experience, the researcher noticed that all assumptions made about autistic communication were oversimplified and lacked deeper insight into actual reasons for misunderstandings between autists and neurotypical individuals.

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Construal in Legal Discourse: Symbolic and Subsymbolic Processing in the Interpretation of Legal Meaning

This paper examines legal interpretation through the lens of construal, proposing that legal meaning is best understood as the outcome of competing processes of conceptualisation in the cognitive process. Drawing on cognitive science and legal theory, I argue that construal provides a productive framework for explaining how lawyers, interpreting and applying the law construct, negotiate, and contest meaning in legal settings.

In cognitive science, construal refers to the ways the mind represents reality in different ways depending on attention, context, goals, and perspective. While construal has traditionally been studied in relation to social psychology and lexical and grammatical choices, this paper extends the concept to legal discourse, where competing interpretations frequently emerge from alternative construals of the same facts, events, intentions, and legal norms.

The paper focuses on two approaches to legal interpretation, analysed as distinct modes of cognitive processing: symbolic and subsymbolic. Symbolic processing corresponds to rule-based, explicit, and categorically structured legal reasoning. It is characteristic of formalist and textualist approaches in jurisprudence, where meaning is construed through stable symbolic resources such as statutes, precedents, doctrinal categories, and legal definitions. Within this framework, interpretation involves categorisation, rule application, and the systematic manipulation of explicit legal representations.

By contrast, subsymbolic processing refers to pattern-based, context-sensitive, and distributed meaning construction. Here, legal interpretation depends not on explicit rule application, but on tacit knowledge, analogical reasoning, narrative coherence, and salience-driven judgment. This mode of processing is especially visible in judicial reasoning in hard cases, where the outcome of legal interpretation emerges through recognition of patterns across facts, narratives, and institutional expectations.

I argue that legal interpretation, and application of the law requires combination of both modes of cognitive processing and that construal can function as the conceptual bridge between these two interpretive modes. Subsymbolic reasoning foregrounds implicit construal processes involving narrative simulation, salience management, attention, and contextual inference. Symbolic reasoning provides explicit construal through formal categorisation, linguistic coding, and doctrinal framing. Both are involved in arriving at final interpretation, but they are applied in different stages of cognitive processing.

This interdisciplinary approach contributes to ongoing discussions in cognitive science, discourse studies, and legal linguistics by positioning construal as a central mechanism in legal meaning construction. More broadly, the paper argues that legal interpretation offers a rich domain for investigating how symbolic and subsymbolic cognitive processes interact in discourse, narrative, and institutional communication.

Keywords: Construal; Legal Interpretation; Legal Discourse; Symbolic Processing; Subsymbolic Processing;

Bionote

Piotr Milwicz-Cichocki is a legal researcher specializing in the intersection of law, language, and technology. His area of interest focuses on legal narratives, legal linguistics, legal ontologies, and computational law, with a particular interest in how legal knowledge can be structured, interpreted, and applied through emerging technologies. He explores innovative

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approaches to legal reasoning, semantic analysis, and the digital transformation of legal systems. In addition to his academic and research pursuits, Piotr provides legal advice in the field of administrative law, assisting individuals and organizations in navigating regulatory frameworks, administrative procedures, and decision-making.

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Framing the self by framing the other: A discourse analysis of how masculinity is construed in online spaces and the process of construction as ideological

As the process by which speakers and writers linguistically represent and make sense of social reality, construal is important in investigating meaning making in discourse. Unlike construction, which concerns the broader social and ideological production of meaning, construal focuses on the specific linguistic and semiotic choices through which particular representations are foregrounded or backgrounded. Within language and gender studies, analyses of construal have examined the various ways that gendered identities are represented in discourse, while construction has been more closely associated with the ideological processes through which such representations become socially meaningful and consequential (Sunderland, 2012).

Drawing on Van Dijk's (1998) theory of ideology and the ideological square as a discursive manifestation of ideology and sociological and semiotic notions of framing, this paper proposes that repeated patterns of construal may function as a pathway to the construction of gendered identities and social categories. In particular, I explore how different forms of masculinity—thus seeing the plurality of masculinities as significant (Connell, 2020) —are discursively construed and subsequently constructed within online manosphere communities. Through ideological positioning, evaluative language, and multimodal meaning-making, representations of masculinity inevitably become linked to broader beliefs about social status, gender relations, and personal success or failure.

To investigate this process, the study examines posts from the Reddit community r/kitchencels, a subgroup of the manosphere in which users share images of food alongside textual reflections on loneliness, romantic failure, self-improvement, and masculine identity. By employing a multimodal critical discourse analytic approach, the paper explores how images and accompanying texts work together to construct particular forms of masculinity and masculine failure. Special attention is paid to the ways in which everyday practices such as cooking are recontextualized as symbolic resources for negotiating identity, belonging, and resistance to dominant masculine norms. In doing so, the paper contributes to ongoing discussions of language, gender, ideology, and multimodal identity construction in digitally mediated communities.

Bionote

Olga O'Toole received her PhD at the Jagiellonian University's Faculty of Philology. She is a Lecturer in Sociolinguistics and Social Theory at the Institute of English Studies at the Jagiellonian University. She is the author of the book (De-) Constructing Rape Culture and Victim Blaming Online and various academic articles, as well as co-editor of Gender Across Media Landscapes. Her research interests include gender studies, language and gender, critical discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, and the sociology of sexuality.

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(Im)politeness as a narrative strategy in Barbie (2023)

Linguistic research on fictional discourse has shown that telecinematic dialogues mirror real-life interaction and thus provide a rich dataset for examining pragmatic phenomena (Leech and Short, 2007; Dynel, 2012; McIntyre and Bousfield, 2017; Locher and Jucker, 2021, etc.). Within comedy, impoliteness is often employed not only to exaggerate interaction for entertaining effect, but also to construct characters' identities, negotiate power relations or voice social problems (Dynel, 2016; Talebzadeh and Khazraie, 2023).

This paper aims to contribute to this body of research by investigating (im)politeness in Barbie (20023), a live-action movie directed by Greta Gerwig, in which the iconic doll living in a stylized and idealized Barbie Land discovers the complexities of the Real World. As a commercially successful film and pop cultural event, circulating widely through memes, TikTok trends, and fashion aesthetics, Barbie addresses prominent issues, such as feminism, patriarchy, toxic masculinity, capitalism or consumerism. Even though scholars as well as non-academics do not agree on whether the movie is to be seen as a celebration of feminism or its symbolic failure (Gibson et al., 2023) the paper treats it as a valuable primary text in which (im)politeness functions as a narrative strategy that helps construct social critique. Drawing on the latest research on (im)politeness as discussed by Kádár et al. (2021), the paper adopts a qualitative descriptive method to identify and analyze scenes in which (im)politeness emerges through intradiegetic as well as extradiegetic voices. The preliminary results show that mock impoliteness used by the narrator exposes the societal expectations, while for instance positive impoliteness used by Barbie devalues others, such as Ken or discontinued dolls, and simultaneously elevates all the Barbies.

Keywords: (im)politeness, telecinematic discourse, characterization, narrative discourse, Barbie

Bionote

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Definiteness and the construal of abstract domains in C2 English writing by L1 Polish learners

In cognitive linguistics, construal refers to the ways speakers linguistically conceptualise experience. One such area is article use with abstract nouns. In argumentative writing, abstract nouns may appear with the definite article when writers treat them as shared or identifiable concepts (e.g. the environment, the truth, the problem). The presentation asks how proficient Polish learners (CEFR C2) of English as a second language (L2) construe abstract domains through definite article use in argumentative writing.

The study draws on a subcorpus of 30 essays extracted from the Cambridge Learner Corpus. Rather than evaluating learner production against native-speaker norms, the analysis adopts a learner-internal and exploratory perspective, focusing on recurrent patterns in the use of the with abstract nouns such as society, life, culture, development and problem. Concordance-based qualitative analysis of the data revealed two broad patterns. The first involves discourse-anchored definiteness, where the referent is identifiable from the surrounding text. The second involves rhetorically motivated definiteness, where abstract concepts are presented as shared or conceptually bounded despite the absence of clear textual anchoring.

The analysis reveals a recurrent tendency to package abstract domains as unified and collectively accessible wholes, particularly in generalised argumentative claims. Expressions such as the society, the life or the truth frequently appear in contexts where English often favours zero article use or more explicit contextual specification. Rather than representing isolated article misuse, these patterns may reflect broader rhetorical and conceptual preferences in proficient learner writing.

The paper contributes to research on article use in learner English by demonstrating the value of a construal-based perspective on grammatical marking and the relationship between definiteness, abstraction and argumentative style in proficient L2 writing.

Keywords: abstract nouns; articles; definiteness; learner corpus research; L2 writing

Bionote

Anna Pietruszewska is a doctoral candidate in linguistics at the University of Lodz. Her research focuses on the acquisition of English grammatical morphemes by L1 Polish learners, using cross-sectional learner corpus analysis informed by cognitive linguistics. She previously served as an English Lecturer at the English Language Center at Shantou University. She holds an MA in Teaching Mandarin as a Second Language, an MA in International Relations and a CELTA qualification.

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Words of the Year as Cultural Construal: Conceptual Metaphor and Evaluative Framing in Polish and English Public Discourse

The present study explores the potential of Words of the Year as linguistic indicators of cultural construal in contemporary public discourse. Drawing on the principles of Cognitive Linguistics and Conceptual Metaphor Theory, the paper investigates how annual lexical selections in Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States conceptualise major social and cultural phenomena through metaphorical and evaluative framing.

The analysis is based on Words of the Year selected between 2015 and 2026 by major English-language and Polish institutions, including the American Dialect Society, Merriam-Webster (the pioneer in the field), Oxford University Press, Collins Dictionary, Cambridge Dictionary, the University of Warsaw and PWN Scientific Publishing House. Utilising qualitative discourse analysis and thematic categorisation, the study identifies recurring construal patterns related to crisis, social conflict, technology, identity, and digital culture.

The findings suggest that contemporary public discourse is strongly shaped by metaphors of crisis, decay, threat, and psychological destabilization visible in expressions such as “permacrisis”, “brain rot”, “gaslighting”, and “enshittification”. Concurrently, Words of the Year function as compressed narrative frames that foreground culturally salient experiences, anxieties, and values. The paper posits that these lexical selections offer insights into collective conceptualisations of rapidly evolving social realities across Polish- and English-speaking contexts.

Bionote

Agnieszka Poznańska's academic research is centred on translation studies, which she analyses through the dynamic relationship between language, cognition and culture. In addition, the author investigates the rhetoric of marketing and branding, examining the role of storytelling in fostering cultural insight and effective communication. Furthermore, she analyses the phenomenon of the Words of the Year in different cultural and linguistic contexts.

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The dynamic interaction of metaphor and agency in accounts of perinatal loss

Perinatal loss is a uniquely embodied experience (Littlemore and Turner, 2019; 2020) that disrupts parents' "assumptive world" (Üstündag-Budak et al., 2015) as it affects their anticipated future, parental identity, and their trust in a world that is good and safe. This disruption may cause parents to experience a loss of agency. This presentation presents a study of how Flemish bereaved parents exploit metaphors to (re)construe their own agency related to their experience of perinatal loss.

To this end, I collected a corpus of semi-structured interviews (~83h) with Flemish bereaved parents (N = 69, 48 women & 21 men), which were then transcribed and analysed for metaphors following the Metaphor Identification Procedure (Pragglejaz, 2007) at sentence-level (Cameron, 2003). These metaphors were subsequently grouped into broad semantic categories (e.g., MOVEMENT, CONTAINER, REIFICATION) related to their source domain, and were later analysed in more detail to establish the target-source mapping. One of the key findings of my analysis is that the notion of agency emerges across different metaphor categories (e.g., MOVEMENT, BEING ACTED UPON, VIOLENCE AND IMPACT). Bereaved parents may sometimes also use the same target-source mapping (e.g., ISOLATION IS A BELL JAR) to express varying degrees of perceived agency in line with the different aspects of the source concept (BELL JAR) that allow different perspectives. These variations reveal the way in which bereaved parents dynamically position themselves in relation to loss, grief, and support throughout the bereavement process. These findings help to identify key moments when bereaved parents feel particularly powerless and need additional support from healthcare practitioners.

Keywords: Metaphor, metaphor analysis, agency, perinatal loss

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Bionote

Eline Put is a third year PhD researcher in cognitive linguistics at the University of Lille. She is writing her thesis, "Metaphors within the context of perinatal loss in Dutch-speaking Belgium", as part of the PERINAT-project (P.I. prof. dr. Giuditta Caliendo) under the supervision of prof. dr. Maarten Lemmens. Her research interests include conceptual metaphor theory, discourse analysis, and sociolinguistics.

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Objectivizing and subjectivizing lexical encapsulation as construals. A cross-linguistic approach

Encapsulators are abstract, semantically unspecific nouns (such as fact, reason or reality) defined by their phoric ability to refer to predicative chunks of discourse (shell contents), recategorizing them as nouns (Schmid, 2000). By means of construing as nouns events, facts, ideas and utterances, they conceptualize predicates as if they were things (reification; cf. Langacker, 1987), working as signposts of the discourse structure.

Furthermore, encapsulators are good carriers of the addressor's stance in argumentative genres as parliamentary debate (PD). In fact, they evaluate the shell contents (Hunston & Thompson, 2000), by objectivizing opinions (1) or subjectivizing facts and events (2). (1) As the finance secretary has said, the reality is that Scotland cannot afford not to be independent. (2) This generation will have nothing less than the privilege of choosing the future course of our country, in a democratic referendum that is made here in Scotland.

By analysing qualitatively and quantitatively a corpus of three PDs in Catalan, English and Spanish, this study sheds light on three questions: a) How objectivizing and subjectivizing encapsulation are variously construed in PD? b) How do they contribute to the argumentative purpose of PD? c) What cross-linguistic similarities and differences are observed? To answer these questions, firstly, the encapsulators have been identified and semantically classified. Secondly, the objectivizing and the subjectivizing encapsulators have been determined.

Finally, the encapsulators' syntactic patterns and other semantic and pragmatic features have been analysed. The cross-linguistic results lead to establish three types of evaluative operations regarding the degree of implicitness / explicitness (Ribera & Marin, 2028): a) structuring, aimed at orienting the addressee's interpretation; b) objectivizing, related to intersubjectivity, and c) subjectivizing, to rally the unconditional supporters. Quantitatively, the three languages show similar trends due to the homogenizing potential of PD as a distinct genre of political discourse.

Keywords: lexical construal, encapsulation, evaluation, objectivation, subjectivation.

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Bionote

Dr. Josep E. Ribera is a full professor and researcher in the Department of Catalan Philology and in the Interuniversity Institute for Valencian Philology (University of Valencia). His research focuses on referential cohesion devices, including text deixis and encapsulation, and Romance historical syntax, His PhD thesis, La cohesió lèxica en seqüències narratives was awarded the Pompeu Fabra Grammar Prize by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (2009).

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Rethinking Frame Evocation: Construal, Misunderstanding, and Frame Selection in Discourse

Frame semantics has been characterized as a theory of "semantics for understanding," in which lexical items evoke frames that guide interpretation (Fillmore, 1982; Ruppenhofer et al., 2016). However, this assumption presupposes that successful understanding is the default outcome of frame evocation. In discourse, utterances may also give rise to misinterpretation, suggesting that the relation between linguistic form and frame evocation is not deterministic.

This study reconsiders frame evocation from the perspective of construal. I argue that linguistic expressions do not evoke a single fixed frame but make multiple potential frames available. Hearers select one through context-sensitive construal, drawing on co-text, paralinguistic cues, and shared knowledge. Understanding is achieved when the hearer's selected frame converges with the speaker's intended frame; otherwise, misunderstanding arises from divergent frame selection. The argument is developed through qualitative analysis of selected discourse examples from Japanese and English.

Based on this view, I propose an interactional extension of frame semantics that incorporates both misunderstanding and its resolution. The model explains how interlocutors negotiate frame alignment in discourse and converge on a shared interpretation.

Keywords: frame semantics, construal, frame selection, misunderstanding, discourse

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Bionote

Kei Sakaguchi is a lecturer in linguistics at Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo in 2023. His research focuses on frame semantics, cognitive linguistics, and Japanese grammar, with particular interest in adjectives, evaluation, and meaning construction. His recent work explores the extension of frame semantics to account for interactional meaning, including misunderstanding and its resolution in discourse. He is also interested in the role of function words as frame-evoking elements.

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Gauging the meaning construction of video game users across languages and cultures

Video games emerged as a global phenomenon and can be understood as dynamically unfolding multimodal (cf. e.g. Forceville 2021) narratives which feature language as one of the semiotic layers. This paper aims to gauge the meaning construction (cf. Langacker, 2008) among video game users across languages and cultures, and to present one methodological step in that direction.

Game Translation User Research (Deckert et al., 2024) is a multidisciplinary field, drawing on psychology, media studies, analytics, and linguistics. Its main aim is to fill the gap for reception studies focusing specifically on individuals who engage with translated games, whether as active players or passive viewers of gameplay in the landscape of Audiovisual Translation and Media Accessibility. Pursuing this aim, however, requires validated instruments capable of measuring player experience in a cross-culturally reliable way.

This study presents a research instrument designed to address these methodological gaps: PXI-PL, a Polish adaptation of the Player Experience Inventory (PXI) based on Abeele et al. (2020) and in collaboration with the creators of the original PXI. The Player Experience Inventory as a psychometric survey, addresses a fundamental research gap regarding "how specific game design choices are experienced by players, and how these lead to specific emotional responses" (Abeele et al., 2020: 1). Psychometrically validated surveys are psychological tests whose items function as stimuli intended to elicit responses associated with specific psychological constructs. Consequently, their cross-cultural adaptations require not only translation but also rigorous validation procedures, as the same items may not function equivalently across different languages and cultures (Hedrih, 2020: 66-68).

PXI-PL is not the first PXI adaptation. Graf et al. (2022) validated a German version through iterative discussion among translators and experts until consensus was reached. Unlike that approach, which employed a modified direct translation, PXI-PL engaged four semi-bilingual experts proficient in both translation and gaming, who independently back-translated the instrument into English. The original (EN1) and back-translated (EN2) versions were then compared, with discrepancies directly informing the refinement of the Polish items into PXI-PL2. To pretest the translated constructs, two studies were conducted: one with participants recruited from gaming communities on Facebook, and a pilot study via the Prolific platform.

As a validated measurement tool, PXI-PL represents a concrete step towards a comprehensive methodological framework for the systematic investigation of meaning construction in translated gaming contexts. By providing researchers with a reliable means of capturing player experience in Polish, it opens new possibilities for cross-cultural comparisons that can advance our understanding of how translation shapes the way players conceptualise and respond to games.

Keywords: meaning construction in gaming; cross-cultural validation; video game user cognition; translation and cognition

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Bionote

Karolina Sawa is a PhD candidate in the Doctoral School of Humanities at the University of Lodz and a graduate of English Philology from the same institution. Her research interests include game studies, transhuman philosophy, and audiovisual translation. She has been a member of the project on video game translation funded by the Polish National Science Centre – "Experiencing translated video games: a user-centric model". Her PhD thesis, conducted within the framework of this project, examines whether semantic translation errors influence players' reception of video games.

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Language-Specific Construals of WOMAN in Hungarian–English Late Bilinguals

The concept of WOMAN is shaped by both individual cognition and culturally shared conceptualizations. Within Cognitive Linguistics, meaning is understood as a process of conceptualization, while Cultural Linguistics highlights the role of culturally entrenched knowledge structures in shaping conceptual content. The present study investigates whether Hungarian late bilinguals construe the concept WOMAN differently when responding in Hungarian and English, and whether a change of language is accompanied by shifts in the cultural conceptualizations associated with WOMAN.

The theoretical frameworks this study is based on are Cognitive Linguistics (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Kövecses, 2005), Cultural Linguistics (Sharifian, 2017), and Frame Semantics (Fillmore, 1982). These approaches assume that linguistic expressions reflect underlying conceptualizations and culturally embedded schemas. The analysis focuses on the extent to which language choice may activate different aspects of these conceptual structures and consequently lead to different construals of the same concept.

The data were collected from Hungarian university students (N = 57 in Hungarian; N = 52 in English) in 2025, all of whom are native speakers of Hungarian and advanced learners of English. Participants completed a multi-method elicitation task including free word associations, semantic differential scales, sentence completion tasks, and visual elicitation activities. The present paper focuses primarily on the associative responses related to WOMAN and its associated female role categories (MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, DAUGHTER, SISTER, GIRL, and OLD WOMAN).

The findings suggest that participants tend to construe WOMAN differently across the two languages. English responses more frequently focus on individual characteristics, personal attributes, and appearance-related features, whereas Hungarian responses place greater emphasis on relational roles, emotional bonds, and culturally embedded family-based schemas. While several conceptual elements remain stable across languages, notable differences emerge in the salience and organization of conceptual content. These findings suggest that language choice may influence the construal of culturally significant concepts even among speakers with a shared cultural background.

The paper contributes to ongoing discussions of construal, cultural conceptualization, and bilingual cognition by demonstrating that the same speakers may access and foreground different aspects of culturally shared knowledge when operating in different languages. The findings suggest that language functions not merely as a vehicle for expressing concepts but also as a cue for activating alternative construals and cultural conceptualizations of the same social category.

Keywords: construal, conceptualization, cultural schemas, bilingual cognition, WOMAN

Bionote

Schrenk Veronika is a PhD candidate at the Multilingualism Doctoral School of the University of Pannonia, Hungary. Her research focuses on Cognitive Linguistics, Cultural Linguistics, and bilingualism studies. Her doctoral project investigates how culture-shaped concepts are conceptualized and verbalized by Hungarian-English late bilinguals, with particular attention to the concept WOMAN and related female role categories. Her current research interests include conceptual variation, cultural schemas, construal, bilingual cognition, and the linguistic representation of gender-related concepts.

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Mono- vs. bilingualism modulates path motion event construal in L1 German

The construal and linguistic encoding of path motion events varies by language typology. This includes verb-framed vs. satellite-framed languages (Talmy 2000); and the presence or absence of grammatical aspect, which has effects on event sequencing and summarization, some of which, according to Schmiedtová et al. (2011), may also transfer from L1 to L2. Less is known about the impact of internal language contact in 2L1/bilingually raised speakers.

We present an analysis of path motion events as construed by monolingual and bilingual speakers of German (n=175, adults and adolescents) retelling the events witnessed in a prompt video. The data stems from the freely available RUEG corpus (Lüdeling et al. 2024). The video features a dynamic traffic situation with multiple referents moving in different directions with different outcomes. Bilingual speakers are either German-dominant heritage speakers of Russian or Turkish, raised and living in Germany, or English-dominant heritage speakers of German in the US. Russian, Turkish, and English are aspect languages, while German is not; and while Turkish is verb-framed, English, German and Russian are satellite-framed. Russian complex verbs are furthermore especially productive in the motion domain (e.g. Hasko 2010).

Based on manual annotations of path motion event components in two productions per speaker (spoken/written), we find significantly higher rates of manner of motion expression in the German-Russian bilinguals, and conversely less, and less diverse, expression of manner and telicity in the German-Turkish bilinguals. This is in line with the typological status of the respective languages and shows that differences in language typology under internal language contact may impact language production even in core aspects of the dominant L1. At the same time, German-English bilinguals are overall least productive, showing that language dominance may overwrite typological influences, possibly due to higher cognitive load.

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Bionote

Anna Shadrova is leader of the Emmy Noether Junior Research Group "Variability and Path Dependence of the Lexicon in Use in Multilingual Contexts" (2025-2031) at Leipzig University. From 2021-2024, she co-lead the project "Corpus-linguistic Methods" within the Research Unit "Emerging Grammars in Language Contact Situations" at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Her research focuses on cognitive aspects of the lexicon in use and the development of methodological approaches to the qualitative-quantitative interface in corpus data. Her PhD thesis "Measuring Coselectional Constraint in Learner Corpora: A Graph-based Approach" (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, 2020) has been awarded with the Outstanding Dissertation Award in Memory of Wolfgang Hoeppner by the German Association of Computational Linguistics and Language Technology (GSCL, 2022). Gajaneh Hartz obtained her M.A. in Linguistics and her B.A. in Germanic Linguistics and Social Sciences at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Since 2025, she has been a research assistant at the DFG-funded Emmy Noether Independent Junior Research Group "Variability and Path Dependence of the Lexicon in Use in Multilingual Contexts" at Leipzig University. Her research focuses on the lexicon discourse interface under internal language contact with corpus linguistic methods.

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Julian of Norwich's use of GOD AS MOTHER metaphor: From idiosyncratic experience to the metaphorical construal of the divine

The paper adopts a Cognitive Linguistic perspective on the use of conceptual metaphor in religious discourse. In particular, the research question concerns the use of the metaphor GOD IS MOTHER in the Revelation of Divine Love, written by the late medieval anchoress and mystic Julian of Norwich. Interestingly, while in the Middle Ages the Church promoted the view that sinful human beings only deserved God's wrath, Julian paints a distinctly different picture of the relationship. The paper seeks to examine the anchoress's metaphorical construal of God, presented as a tender mother.

The focus of the investigation is twofold. First, it is important to address the question of what might have motivated the mystic's selection of the conceptual domain MOTHER, rather than the figure of the strict father, typical of traditional Christianity of the day. Second, accounting for the cultural underpinnings of Julian's use of the GOD AS MOTHER metaphor helps illuminate the question of her idiosyncratic understanding of the divine.

Overall, the paper underscores the significance of the interplay between cultural and idiosyncratic factors in metaphorical construal of abstract concepts. To capture this interdependence, the analysis uses Kövesces's multi-level view of metaphor, the cornerstone of the scholar's Extended Metaphor Theory. In conclusion, the paper shows how the individual's unique conceptualisation of domains often seen as fundamental to culture may find its way into their metaphorical construal.

Keywords: metaphorical construal of abstract concepts, Extended Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Julian of Norwich

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Bionote

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Construally organizing the abstract: Attentional framing and Gestalt structure in visually enclosed law and linguistics abstracts

This paper presents a construal-based analysis of visually enclosed research article abstracts in law and linguistics. It focuses on cases in which a verbal abstract is presented as a single enclosed whole, sometimes together with additional textual elements such as titles or author lines.

The paper asks how such configurations are construed first as single attentional units and then as structured wholes. Its main claim is that these two moments belong to the same broader construal process: the abstract first emerges through Gestalt grouping and is then further construed through Gestalt structure. The theoretical point of departure is Cognitive Grammar. More specifically, the analysis builds on Langacker's (2001, 2023) account of attentional framing and extends it to higher-order written configurations. Within this perspective, framing is treated as a construal operation of grouping encouraged by Gestalt factors (Langacker 2008). In the present case, the decisive factor is common region, through which visually enclosed abstract material is apprehended as a single higher-order whole. Once established, this whole is further described through a restricted set of Gestalt-based properties. The paper focuses on simplicity and coherence on the verbal side and on continuity and compactness on the visual-organizational side (Wagemans et al. 2012). The empirical material comes from the law and linguistics components of the Discower Corpus of English-language research article abstracts published in Polish journals.

The paper compares a bounded set of visually enclosed abstracts identified in the two disciplines and examines both convergence and divergence in how these configurations are organized. It argues that both disciplines instantiate the same higher-order configuration, but do so through partly shared and partly distinct verbal and visual preferences. In this way, construal offers a productive means of linking attentional framing and Gestalt structure beyond the sentence.

Keywords: construal, attentional framing, Gestalt structure, research article abstract, academic discourse

Bionote

Ariadna Strugielska is Head of the Department of English Language at NCU, Torun. Her research interests include cognitive linguistics, multimodal constructions and academic ELF. She is the leader of an interdisciplinary research group compiling a discipline-oriented corpus of written ELF.

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Ideologised Media Relations and The Practice of Framing Slurs. A Pragmatic Perspective

Slurs, as expressions of disdain or a desire to put down within the confines of a particular utterence, exploit and depend not only upon preexisting knowledge of both a targeted group and one's own group, in relation to both the speaker and potential audience. A frame of reference is often needed, which is ideological in nature, and through which meaning and values are communicated in discourse, acting as justification or explanation for given vitriol.

As such, speakers need a tool with which to not only express a particular set of ideological tenants, but also to frame a slur within it, with as much efficiency as it is possible. Such a tool, I would argue, is an Ideologised Media Relation (eng. IMR, pol. ZRM, Zideologizowane Relacje Medialne), this being a remark which serves as a stand-in for a particular ideology, communicating not only its tenants, but also whoever is it that can be this ideology's friend and enemie.

The latter of these serves the purpouse of building or strengthening group identity, and in this task slurs not only strengthen the Ideologised Media Relation's potential impact, but they also benefit in their offensiveness from an IMR which is consistent internally, in accordance with given values and aims, and in the context of the ideology it represents.

Bionote

An academic from Szczecin, after graduating from University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań, returned to his home city to continue his education at the Doctoral School of University of Szczecin. Interested in the study, oftentimes from a pragmatist perspective, of language, discourse and communicative processes, as well as the broader cultural and social dimensions of said phenomenon. Currently working on a doctoral dissertation on the subject of slurs and ideology.

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Quoting Wisdom: Authority and Moral Construal in Mongolian Surgaal Texts

This paper examines how authority and moral norms are constructed through quotation practices in Mongolian surgaal texts, a traditional genre of didactic wisdom literature. It explores how quoted speech contributes to the construal of social roles, moral values, and authority in a cultural context where knowledge transmission has historically relied on respected figures such as rulers, religious leaders, elders, and teachers. The theoretical framework combines Cognitive Linguistics, particularly the notion of construal, with discourse-pragmatic approaches to quotation and speech act theory.

The analysis focuses on how quoted utterances legitimise advice, frame moral evaluations, and reinforce socially accepted patterns of behaviour. Particular attention is paid to authority figures whose words function as culturally validated sources of knowledge and normative guidance. The study is based on a corpus of Mongolian surgaal texts drawn from classical and contemporary collections. Using qualitative discourse-pragmatic analysis, it identifies recurrent quotation patterns, speech act types, and strategies of authority construction. The findings show that quotation serves as a discursive resource through which moral meanings are foregrounded, social hierarchies are maintained, and culturally significant values are transmitted across generations.

The paper contributes to research on construal in discourse by demonstrating how quotation functions as a mechanism of moral and social meaning-making in a non-Western textual tradition and highlights the role of culturally embedded reported speech in the construction of authority and normative knowledge.

Keywords: surgaal, authority, moral construal, quotation, Mongolian discourse

Bionote

Krisztina Szótér is a PhD candidate in Linguistics at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest. Her research interests include quotation, discourse pragmatics, speech act theory, corpus linguistics, and Mongolian studies. Her doctoral research examines quotation without quotative markers in Mongolian from a discourse-pragmatic perspective. She has published on Mongolian pragmatics, discourse markers, and quotation practices, with a particular focus on the interaction of language, culture, and authority in Mongolian discourse.

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Allostructions reconsidered through construal: Limits of generalizing over Russian passive-related constructions

In Construction Grammar, constructions that compete in terms of semantic function raise the question of whether they can be generalized as a more abstract (schematic) construction. Although constructional generalizations within this framework are usually expected to be grounded in formal similarities, the allostructional approach (Cappelle, 2006) tolerates underspecification of formal structure in constructional generalization. Cappelle (2006) further suggests that the notion of allostructions, that is, variants of a constructional schema (constructeme), may be extended to cases that Lambrecht (1994) treats as allosentences, which can be understood as different strategies for describing the same proposition. In contrast, De Vaere et al. (2020) argue that shared propositional content alone is not sufficient for positing such a generalization and that constructional generalization requires a functional aspect that can be attributed to the representation of the possible general construction. Yet, it remains a question whether a shared semantic aspect that cannot be attributed to the propositional content can serve by itself as a basis for constructional generalization. The goal of this paper is to examine whether similarity in construal—introduced here as a semantic aspect of a construction—justifies postulating a more abstract (schematic) construction and to clarify how such similarity should be represented in the construct-i-con.

In Construction Grammar approaches, including the allostructional approach, relations between competing constructions tend to be understood within a taxonomic model of constructional networks involving more abstract and more specific constructions. This tendency is also visible in Ungerer's (2024) account of vertical and horizontal links within a taxonomy, where relations between constructions at the same level of abstraction are presumed to be representable in terms of a shared schematic construction.

However, Diessel (2023) points out that constructional networks may also involve semantic relations that cannot be captured taxonomically. In the present study, I address this issue through a case study of the Russian copular passive construction and its relation to the transitive construction with OVS word order.

Russian has multiple strategies for presenting the patient participant as more salient than the agent participant, in addition to canonical passive constructions. Both theoretical and experimental studies have suggested that the copular passive construction with an agent argument [NP-NOM COP PASS.PTCP NP-INS] and the OVS transitive construction [NP-ACC V NP-NOM] compete in terms of semantic function. I reconsider these constructions in terms of Langacker's (2019) dimensions of construal.

In light of cognitive mechanisms and discourse functions associated with this construal, I argue that, although the constructions share a construal contributing to the salience of the patient participant, this similarity does not entail a shared schematic construction situated within a taxonomy. I further suggest that semantic similarities captured as non-taxonomic semantic links should also be recognized in discussions of argument structure constructions. This conclusion also clarifies the relevance of construal for Construction Grammar.

Keywords: Construction Grammar; constructional generalization; allostructional approach; passive; word order

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Construal and Emotional Labor in Second Language Teaching: Critical Discourse Analysis of a Novice Teacher's Narrative from the Socio-Cognitive Perspective

In recent years, scholarly inquiry into language teachers' (LTs') emotional labor (EL) and teacher identity formation has generated a substantial body of literature drawing on both discourse- and cognition-oriented perspectives, with interviews serving as the predominant method of data collection. EL is a concept first introduced by Arlie Hochschild (1983) to denote emotion management in the workplace, particularly in service-based professions, where emotional expression is commodified and constitutes a part of the occupational ethic. Considering the challenging and emotional nature of the teaching profession (Hargreaves, 1998), the concept of EL has been applied to LTs' emotion research, as it is reported to be one of the indicators of teacher burnout and attrition. As LTs operate within highly dynamic and context-sensitive environments, examining the multifaceted nature of emotions requires an in-depth understanding of individual experience, which helps explain the prevalence of qualitative studies on teachers' EL. During interviews, participants recontextualize lived experiences by selectively verbalizing aspects of them, an act involving construal, understood as the conceptual organization of experience.

Moreover, as emotions are considered highly abstract, they are often described through conventionalized metaphorical language. This case study explores the professional identity formation of a novice teacher as negotiated within the socio-discursive domain of a public educational institution through a semi-structured interview.

The study addresses three research questions: (1) How does the teacher's discourse reveal the cognitive construal of emotional experiences in teaching contexts? (2) How are emotional experiences recontextualized and discursively framed within the workplace? (3) What conceptual metaphors are used in the teacher's accounts of emotions and the work context? The study proposes an analytical framework for Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) that integrates Fairclough's (1997) three-dimensional model of discourse, Halliday and Matthiessen's (2013) metafunctional framework, and Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) Conceptual Metaphor Theory.

The findings reveal that the participant's construal of work-related emotional experiences is shaped by competing discourses surrounding teacher roles and the ethics of teaching. The ecological impact of the institution on the teacher's well-being and emotional strain is reflected in evaluative lexis, profiling choices manifested in thematic–rhematic structuring, and power relations expressed through orientational metaphors. The findings demonstrate how socio-cognitive knowledge mediating between ecological factors and individual teacher experience may influence emotional labor and professional identity formation.

Keywords: construal, language teachers, critical discourse analysis, emotions, social meaning

Bionote

Szymon Wyrwiński is pursuing a PhD in Applied Linguistics at the University of Wrocław, Poland. His research interests focus on emotions in teaching, teacher emotional regulation, and cognitive linguistics, with a particular emphasis on Conceptual Metaphor Theory. He is also interested in Critical Discourse Analysis and explores how language reflects and shapes emotional experience and social meaning in educational contexts.

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Epistemic stance in spoken L2 English: variation across L1 backgrounds and task types

Epistemic stance, the expression of speakers' commitment to the reliability of information, is central to human communication (Biber & Finegan, 1988). In spoken interaction, epistemic stance is dynamically negotiated through epistemic markers (e.g., I think, probably), which calibrate certainty, signal alignment, and facilitate mutual understanding. It is understood as socio-culturally constructed and shaped by speakers' cultural norms and linguistic backgrounds (Du Bois, 2007). Variation in epistemic marking can also be influenced by speaking tasks with varying interactive and contextual demands. However, as a core pragmatic resource, corpus-based research examining both cross-linguistic and task-related influences on L2 epistemic marking remains limited and fragmented.

This study addresses this gap by systematically examining how L1 backgrounds and task types contribute to variation in epistemic marker use. We ask: How does epistemic marking vary as a function of (a) speakers' L1 background (Chinese, Dutch, French, Greek, British English) and (b) task type (monologue, dialogue, picture description)? Using comparable data from the LINDSEI (Gilquin et al. 2010) and LOCNEC (De Cock, 2004) corpora, we examine three dimensions of epistemic marking: frequency, diversity, and epistemic meaning (certainty vs. uncertainty).

This study shows that L1 background and task type jointly shape the use of epistemic markers, yielding distinct cross-linguistic patterns across tasks. These findings contribute to a view of stance-taking as a sociocultural, context-sensitive construct shaped by typological differences, rhetorical conventions, and sociopragmatic norms, and offer implications for L2 pedagogy of epistemic expression.

Keywords: epistemic stance; learner corpus; cross-linguistic and cross-cultural analysis; speaking tasks

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Bionote

Linsey C. Yang is a PhD candidate in the Department of Language and Communication at Radboud University (the Netherlands). After completing an MSc in Language Education at the University of Edinburgh, she began her doctoral studies at Radboud University, focusing on subjectivity and stance-taking. Her current research investigates variation in stance-taking across diverse linguistic and cultural groups, examining how subjective viewpoints are expressed through different pragmatic strategies in spoken English.

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Constructing Queer Identity Through Language: A Discourse-Pragmatic Study of The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert is regarded as a classic within queer cinema due to its contribution to the mainstream acceptance of queer themes. Although the film focuses on just three main characters, all of whom are drag queen performers, each of them has a distinctive form of self-expression and a different relationship with gender and sexuality. All these differences are reflected in the protagonists' speech. The study will explore how language functions as an identity marker in the construction of queer identity in interaction. The data consist of manually transcribed excerpts from selected film scenes.

The analysis adopts a qualitative discourse-pragmatic approach, focusing on interactional and pragmatic features of language use. Drawing on discourse pragmatics, queer linguistics (Barrett[MS1.1], 2018; Leap, 1996), Bucholtz & Hall's (2005) theory of identity in interaction, and Judith Butler's theory of performativity (1990), I will focus on how identity is framed and constructed through language. The paper will also highlight how participants of the conversation collaboratively shape and interpret meaning through shared knowledge, queer topics, contexts and references.

The analysis will focus on different linguistic features and strategies such as irony, gossip, turn-taking, "mutual teasing" (Leap, 1996), reframing, camp humour, and stance-taking. Through my research, I aim to show which sociolinguistic features enable language to function as a powerful tool for shaping one's queer identity, as well as for fostering a sense of belonging, which is particularly important for marginalised groups such as the LGBTQ+ community.

Keywords: Identity, Queer linguistics, Discourse Analysis, The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

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Bionote

Iga Załuska is a third-year BA English Philology student at the University of Lodz, Poland. They are an emerging researcher with academic interests in gender and queer studies, feminist theory, discourse analysis, film, and popular culture.

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