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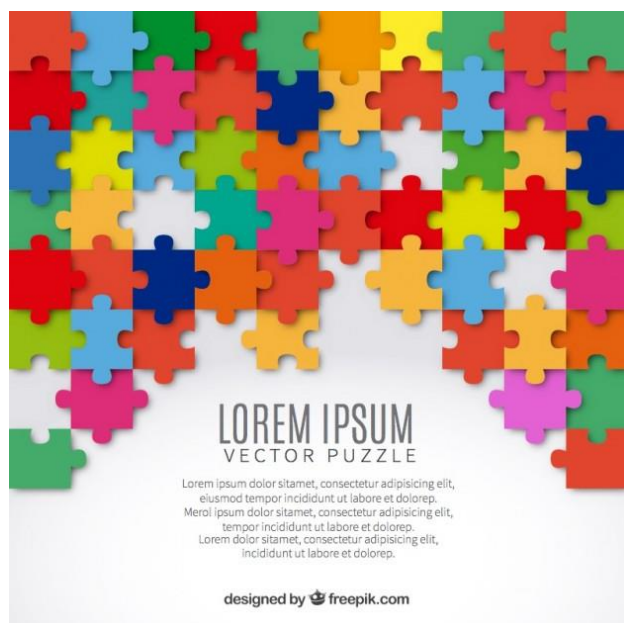
Conference announcement

Idioms in Discourse

Università di Padova (Italia)
Dipartimento di Studi Linguistici e Letterari
4-5-6 giugno 2018

Invited speakers

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Submission of proposals: important dates

15 January 2018: submission deadline

- Proposals to: genevieve.henrot@unipd.it
- Speech Languages: English, French, Italian, Spanish, German

15 February: communication of acceptance from Scientific Committee

Organizing Committee and contacts

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Themes

The importance (both qualitatively and quantitatively) of idioms or phrasemes at a level of *langue* and *discours* is now taken for granted. Their role has long been seen (Bally 1909, Sechehaye 1921) as fundamental in ensuring balance, stability and economy, thus counterbalancing the costly principle of combinatorial freedom (Halliday, Gross 1981, Gross 1996). The massive presence of phraseologisms in all languages would appear to respond to a psycholinguistic need (Tomasello 2013), that of limiting the effort required to construct syntagmatic units, to grasp whole sequences of words more quickly, to broaden the expressive capacities of speakers beyond the use of simple lexical units and to incorporate cultural elements into utterances.

However, although well entrenched in various fields of research, the vast area of linguistic research into phraseology is constantly giving rise to new debates. It constantly creates and refines new concepts and methods: how can one continue to define fixed expressions more effectively? Can one be sure that they correspond to polylexical expressions? Where then do monolexical pragmatemes fit into the picture? How can we measure their degree of fixedness without limiting ourselves to the evidence provided by a *continuum* which defies any attempt at graduation (Mel'čuk, Bolly)? Can one identify a process of grammaticalization, according to which originally free expressions function as "grammatemes"? (Buvet 2012)? What is the role of context in the process of reception on the part of the interlocutor, with regard to semantic opaqueness?

The domain of phraseologisms is constantly broadening its realm (*Langages* 2013) and forming alliances with other disciplines: from psycholinguistics it has taken the modularity of the word and the acquisition process of fixed expressions (Tomasello 2013); morphology and syntax have contributed with their classification of the *patterns* of complex phraseologism formation (Gross, Mel'čuk 2011, 2013); computational linguistics supplies the tools for investigation and for the extraction of phraseological units from ever larger and more varied *corpora* (Xio); language teaching is concerned with awareness of and more effective learning of phraseologisms (Gonzalez-Rey, Tutin, Cavalla, Granger & Meunier, Bolly). Discourse analysis dealing with political, economic, scientific and academic discourse attempts to seek distinctive phraseological units in different text types. Each of these approaches has a different aim, considering learning, comparison of languages, professions based on the knowledge of foreign languages: the different contrastive, psycholinguistic, didactic, terminological and translation perspectives depend on the results attained, which are based to some extent on the development of applications (Mogorrón Huerta 2015). Even ludic practices resort to word play based on fixed expressions: they require the study of processes of deconstruction, variation and restructuring of phraseologisms (Anscombe 2012).

The centrality of the phraseologism as a building block (in terms of economy, expressivity and sociolinguistic identification) coincides with the centrality of discourse as a basic language activity. Two great symmetrical axes of research combine their forces: firstly, we have the reception of the phraseme (finding, extracting, classifying, archiving, recording phraseological units in dictionaries, thesauruses, glossaries, databanks, grammars etc.) and then we find the ability to produce discourse imbued with phraseologisms which are recognized by the speech community.

Emphasis on discourse as a source of phraseologisms will lead to reflection on the following themes:

1. **Theoretical Phraseology:** reflections are invited on the role of phraseological units in discourse.
 - 1.1. **Phraseological Typology:** what is the role of pragmatemes in the dialogic function of discourse? What guarantees the cohesion of grammatemes? The fixedness of these does not always correspond to a polylexical unit. Where do collocation and colligation fit into the scale of fixedness of expressions?
 - 1.2. **Phraseology and discourse analysis:** to what extent do phraseological patterns unify discourse? How and to what extent does phraseology in the text help to define the discourse prototypes and their

typology (general or specialized)? Which cultural content is expressed through phraseology in discourse? What is the role and function of rhetorical figures (including metaphor) in the formation and use of phrasemes?

- 1.3. **The question of « défigement »**, the reason for it, its limits and its semantic and pragmatic potential call for reflection on the notion of « figement ». Variation (or approximation) in daily discourse, terminological needs (in special languages), the search for greater efficiency in discourse based on word play (advertising, humour) would appear to consign the pair “figement/défigement” to a continual dynamic process which could hinder, or even invalidate the description of any phraseological unit.

2. **Applied phraseology:**

- 2.1. **Didactics and phraseology:** there is a need for specific methodologies to teach adult learners how to produce complex discourse. Stress will be placed on scientific and academic discourse, which are central to university education. These methodologies should be linked to pedagogical models and specific methods of acquisition of phraseological units. Thus we invite proposals regarding the current phraseology of the domain in question, either from the point of view of a single language or in a contrastive perspective.
- 2.2. **Translation and phraseology:** proposals will suggest and/or refine translation methods capable of dealing with the problems connected to inseparable polylexical units, in particular in specialised translation.
- 2.3. **Computational phraseology:** large computer *corpora* have already highlighted the phraseological texture of discourse. Yet the development of more effective *software* will support the use of *corpora* as invaluable sources of phraseologisms and as tools for the investigation of their production.

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