

**Federica Casadei e Sabine E. Kösters Gensini (eds.)**  
**Schematic phrasemes: descriptive and theoretical issues**

**volume presentation and call for papers – October 2022**

The landscape of phraseological studies has seen in recent years a growing interest in a particular type of phenomena, which we shall call here schematic phrasemes, consisting of lexically unfilled multiword expressions. These are structures that are phraseological and idiomatic in nature but which show varying degrees of lexical variability, minimal if not nil in cases where the expression includes an argumentative slot whose filling is required (*portare X alla luce, bring X to light*) or where a variation limited to a few synonymic alternatives is possible (*per favore/piacere/cortesia*), broader if the structure includes a partial lexical filling (*ma che X1 e X1*, e.g. *ma che vacanze e vacanze*) or almost only lexically open positions (Det N1 ESSERE (Det) N1, e.g. *gli affari sono affari, business is business*).

The existence of such structures is already pointed out by Lyons (1968), who calls *schemata* those prefabricated expressions that are only partially filled. But it is due to Fillmore, Kay and O'Connor (1988) to have grasped the theoretical importance of including among the non-compositional phenomena not only lexically specified idioms but also lexically open idioms, i.e. schemata such as *the X-er the Y-er* or, at a more abstract level, the schema that produces incredulity questions such as *as him be a doctor?*; that is, schemata that, while being fully productive, convey senses or pragmatic values that cannot be deduced from the form of the expression through grammatical rules. It was precisely from this idea that the Grammar of Constructions originated, which today represents the main reference model for the description of schematic phrasemes.

Despite the recent flourishing of works on schematic phrasemes, especially from the constructionist perspective (cf. Booij 2002; Dobrovolskij 2011; Mellado Blanco 2019, 2020, 2022; Mellado Blanco, López Meirama 2018; Mellado Blanco, Mollica, Schafroth 2022; Michaelis 2019; Piunno 2017, 2020; Schafroth 2020; Steyer 2018; Ziem 2018), several aspects remain to be investigated. From a descriptive point of view, schematic phrasemes are much less investigated than lexically fixed idioms, which traditionally form the core of phraseology; in particular, their interlinguistic description and lexicographic treatment are still lacking. The proliferation of terminology in this field is revealing of the difficulty of establishing which expressions and structures fall under it, what criteria identify their different types, and how lexical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic factors are involved in their genesis and functioning. Even the notion of construction, although promising, does not seem sufficient to account for this complexity: if, as Fillmore, Kay and O'Connor (1988: 506) observe, the *X-er the Y-er* schema underlies both free expressions such as *the more carefully you do your work, the easier it will get*, and idiomatic expressions such as *the bigger they come the harder they fall*, it remains to be understood what makes some, and not others, instantiations of a schema more idiomatic.

Taking these considerations into account, the volume aims to collect contributions on schematic phrasemes that address the most relevant and problematic descriptive and theoretical aspects of this phenomenon, such as, by way of example, the following:

- a possible definition of schematic phrasemes
- criteria for the classification of schematic phrasemes; types and classes of schematic phrasemes; overlaps and differences with other types of expressions (idioms, formulas, etc.)
- schematicity, idiomaticity, formularity: overlaps and differences between these notions
- schematic phrasemes and constructions: descriptive perspectives and open problems
- theoretical approaches and descriptive models for analysing schematic phrasemes
- productivity and frequency of schematic phrasemes
- compositionality and semantic predictability/transparency of schematic phrasemes
- the interlinguistic description of schematic phrasemes
- the lexicographic treatment of schematic phrasemes

- the diachronic perspective in the analysis of schematic phrasemes
- the role of schematic phrasemes in language learning and teaching.

The suggested topics are not intended to be exhaustive; all proposals will be screened by the editors and then forwarded, anonymously, to the referees.

The volume will include contributions in Italian, English, German, French and Spanish.

Two abstracts, one in English and one in the language of the contribution, of no more than 300 words each, should be sent by November 2022 to [f.casadei@unitus.it](mailto:f.casadei@unitus.it) e [sabine.koesters@uniroma1.it](mailto:sabine.koesters@uniroma1.it).

The editors will confirm acceptance of the contribution by December 2022.

The deadline for submission of the contribution is June 2023.

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