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**Widespread idioms, constructions and idiomatic patterns:
Multilingual approaches to conventional figurative language**

The paper discusses new findings for phraseology and related disciplines from the view point of widespread idioms and widespread constructions. The term *widespread idioms* was introduced into linguistics only recently: it is idioms which are spread across a large number of languages, even geographically and genetically distant languages, in a similar lexico-semantic structure. As evidenced by initial investigations, not only idioms but also lexically unspecified constructions can be spread across a variety of languages in the same or very similar semantic-syntactic structure. These are first results of the research project “Widespread Idiomatic and Formulaic Constructions”, which is methodically linked to the project “Widespread Idioms in Europe and Beyond” but currently limited to 30 standard languages. The data are also collected by surveys in collaboration with competent native speakers. Particular emphasis is put on the fact that the participants provide adequate contexts of constructions to ensure the equality of the form-meaning pairs of idioms of different languages.

A particularly relevant class is the so-called *phaseme constructions*. The constructions themselves are characterized by a lexical meaning. Only certain positions in their lexical structure are filled; other positions represent slots that must be satisfied. I would like to introduce the concept of *widespread phaseme constructions* which are hitherto unknown in the realm of theoretical and empirical Construction Grammar research. A subset of common construction patterns has long been known to researchers and repeatedly attracted the interest of paremiologists. These are idioms which share a similar syntactic structure and figurative core meaning, but differ lexically. I suggest the term *widespread idiomatic patterns* for this category. These patterns are examined only marginally in the project.