

# Structural fixedness and conceptual idiomaticity

Elena Arsentieva in memoriam



Antonio Pamies  
Roza Ayupova  
Chunyi Lei  
(eds.)

EDITORIAL COMARES



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*Granada, 2023*

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Colección indexada en la MLA International Bibliography desde 2005

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*Imagen de cubierta:* mosaico modernista (1908).

Villa Kerylos (Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Francia)

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ISBN: 978-84-1369-716-1 • Depósito legal: Gr. 2031/2023

Impresión y encuadernación: COMARES

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## Preface

As explained in the first contribution of the volume, by Elena Nikulina and Roza Ayupova, the academic and scientific trajectory of Dr. Elena Arsenteva in the domains of bilingual phraseography and comparative phraseology is as rich as it is indisputable. The authors highlight Dr. Arsenteva's pioneering perspective on the organization of phraseological dictionaries, specifically addressing the macro and microstructural aspects. Moreover, the article acknowledges her significant role in fostering the development of a School of Comparative Phraseography and Phraseology at Kazan Federal University. Her former students, her colleagues and all the phraseologists who have met her, also know of her generosity and good heart, apart from her infinite capacity for work. Her untimely demise was a hard blow both for the Kazan phraseological school and for the European Phraseological Society, of which she was a leading member. Dr. Arsenteva's influence is evidenced by her original insights and her mentorship of doctoral candidates, which have collectively contributed to the advancement of research in these fields. This book gathers specialized papers from many countries, dealing with the phraseology of different languages: from French to Chinese, Spanish, Macedonian, Italian, German, Portuguese, Armân, Tatar and, of course, Russian.

Salah Mejri undertakes in *Phraséologie et troisième articulation du langage* a re-evaluation of the theory of the double articulation of language, which overlooks the significance of lexical relevance while aligning the linguistic system with its semiotic potency. Subsequently, exploring the realm of grammatical and syntactic combinatorics involving the lexical unit, a constituent of the third articulation, whose absence would render any utterance impossible. The primary objective of this study is to assess the advantages presented by this novel working hypothesis, particularly in terms of phraseological processing.

In *El código literario cultural en la fraseología de las lenguas romances*, Natalia Med delves into the intricate relationship between intertextuality and the analysis of precedent phenomena within the literary texts of Romance languages, namely Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese. She explores the incorporation of authors' and actors' names,



citations from literary works, and allusions to previous situations, which are overtly or indirectly manifested in phraseological units. These units, in turn, constitute the cultural and literary codes inherent in the languages under investigation. Drawing upon the foundational concepts of Russian linguoculturology, as elucidated by V. Teliya, including cultural text, cultural code, linguocultural competence, cultural connotation, thesaurus of culture, and symbolarium of culture, this study undertakes a linguoculturological analysis primarily centered on phraseological units associated with renowned works of literature by Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Corneille, Proust, Dante Alighieri, Manzoni, Collodi, Camões, Queiroz, among others. Moreover, phraseological dictionaries of the four Romance languages, along with instances of phraseological unit usage in journalistic discourse and colloquial speech, have been considered in the research.

In *Russian idiomatics as experimentation in avant-garde*, Irina V. Zykova examines the processes involved in the formation and functioning of phraseological and paremiological units that constitute two pivotal and interconnected domains. In her research, both processes assume central importance and are investigated through an analysis of literary and artistic works by proponents of Cubo-Futurism (an avant-garde movement that emerged in the early 20th century, and encompassed Russian poets and painters such as David Burliuk, Viktor Khlebnikov, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Aleksey Kruchenykh, Kazimir Malevich, Pavel Filonov, and others. The Cubo-Futurists espoused the imperative of radical aesthetic renewal and the creation of a novel artistic language, that could be labelled 'the idiomatics of the Russian avant-garde'.

In *La question de l'équivalence dans un corpus d'unités phraséologiques macédoniennes et aroumaines*, Joana Hadži-Lega Hristoska investigates the various types of equivalence found within a corpus of Macedonian and Aromanian somatic phraseological units centered around the lexical unit 'head'. Despite belonging to different language families, Macedonian and Aromanian exhibit notable convergences due to their shared geographical location and evolution within the same historical and socio-cultural context. A new classification of equivalence degrees is introduced to accommodate the distinctive characteristics of the bilingual corpus, with several levels which include: *complete equivalence*, characterized by near-ideal formal and semantic convergences between units; *partial formal equivalence*, where the equivalent units display lexical or morphosyntactic differences while maintaining overall formal similarity and conveying a similar image; *idiomatic equivalence*, whereby phraseological units possess a completely different form yet remain fixed and idiomatic; *pseudo-equivalence*, referring to false friends that exhibit only formal, but not semantic, equivalence; and *zero equivalence*, denoting examples lacking an idiomatic equivalent form in the target language. The majority of equivalent units fall within the category of complete equivalents, underscoring the influential role played by the evolving linguistic context in bridging genetically distinct languages.

In *La competencia parémica en estudiantes universitarios de Humanidades*, Julia Sevilla examines the paræmic competence exhibited by undergraduate students in the field of Humanities. Cultivated paræmia such as proverbs and aphorisms, along with folk

parœmias including sayings, proverbial sentences, dialogisms, and proverbial idioms, constitute concise and pithy statements. These popular proverbs have been passed down through generations via oral tradition, from parents to children, and from grandparents to grandchildren. Additionally, they have been disseminated through various textual forms such as repertoires, calendars, literary works, and songs. However, beginning in the latter part of the 20th century, a gradual decline in linguistic competence pertaining to this subgroup of parœmias has been observed. Presently, the elderly acknowledge a reduced use of parœmias compared to their own parents, who themselves reported a decrease in usage compared to their preceding generations. Notably, it is apparent that young individuals employ parœmias less frequently. This research aims to present the findings of a long-term study conducted with undergraduate students in the Humanities, not only to assess their competence in utilizing these linguistic units but also to determine the types of popular parœmias they are familiar with, as well as the variations they may recognize.

In *Complex Cases of Instantial Transformation and Their Transferring into the Language of Translation*, Elena Semushina examines the phenomenon of transformation in phraseological units, focusing on cases that exhibit an instantaneous nature within discourse, as well as their transferability into the language of translation. The study draws examples from authentic texts in Russian and English from the 20th and 21st centuries. It is observed that instancial transformations often occur not in isolation but in combination with one another, exerting semantic and grammatical influences on each other and giving rise to complex instances of contextual realization. Despite the unpredictable nature of these units, their formation follows specific rules grounded in the semantic and grammatical characteristics of the units themselves, as well as the collective cognitive processes involved. The use of the instancial method of transformation, achieved through modifying the structure of the equivalent unit in the target language, introducing new components, and utilizing existing linguistic models, proves to be optimal for adequately reflecting the content of the statement in the language of translation.

In *A linguagem figurada dos números em língua portuguesa* Rosemeire S. Monteiro-Plantin and Maria-João Marçalo investigate the fact that numerals hold a significant position within the semantic realm, serving as a fertile ground for the creation of images, metaphors, and phraseologisms. They play a pivotal role in our social practices and form an essential element of everyday communication. This study focuses on two recurring themes in Elena Arsenteva's research: figurative language and crosslinguistic comparison. The objective is to analyze the usage contexts of Portuguese numerals beyond quantitative matters. The authors examine the figurative language employed with numbers, drawing examples from European and Brazilian Portuguese, while presenting the outcomes of a teaching activity conducted in a Portuguese L2 classroom, drawing on prior research by the authors. In their analysis of lexicalized cultural metaphors involving numerals, they explore the patterns that allow for the interchangeability of numbers within the range of 0-9. Notably, numbers below 10 are more prevalent than those exceeding 10,

with hyperbolic meanings predominantly associated with the latter. The crosslinguistic study of quantitative culturemes, which aims to compare the conceptual connections of figurative language with speakers' cultural backgrounds, proves applicable to the investigation of intra-linguistic pluricentric language variation, particularly in advanced-level PL-L2 classrooms (B2, C1, C2).

In their study, *Las colocaciones y sus trampas: un estudio de corpus*, Antonio Pamies and José Manuel Pazos delve into the complex relationship between collocations and the polysemy exhibited by their constituent elements. They aim to unravel valuable insights through the application of corpus analysis. It is widely acknowledged that lexical polysemy not only shapes the semantic content of words but also significantly influences their syntagmatic behavior, particularly in terms of valence and participation in partially fixed combinations such as collocations. To empirically investigate this phenomenon, the authors focus on the Spanish polysemic word "trampa," which encompasses meanings such as 'trap,' 'cheating,' 'fraud,' 'unpaid debt,' and more. This word serves as a representative example due to its diverse lexical meanings that potentially modify its collocability. The research unfolds in two phases. Firstly, a meticulous search is conducted within a macro-corpus (esTenTen18) to identify and quantify recurring combinations of the word "trampa" with verbs or adjectives. This analysis enables the authors to explore the variations in collocability depending on the specific meanings associated with the base. In the second phase, the authors employ the Log Dice statistic measure to determine whether the identified recurring combinations qualify as genuine collocations or simply free word combinations. The Log Dice measure proves to be an effective tool for identifying and differentiating collocations in the examined corpus. Through their comprehensive investigation, the authors shed some light on the intricate interplay between polysemy and collocability, contributing valuable insights into the ways in which the meanings of a base word impact its collocational patterns.

The study *Somatismos do russo e do português brasileiro: relações linguísticas e culturais*, by Elizaveta Koskevich and Elizabete Aparecida Marques, examines the linguistic and cultural relations between somatisms in Russian and Brazilian Portuguese, focusing on their structural and semantic characteristics. Somatisms are complex lexical items that play a prominent role in both languages. The aim of this research is to analyze and compare the possible differences and similarities in meaning and culture between the somatisms found in the two languages, specifically focusing on idioms formed by the lexical unit *head*. Typically, the meaning of these expressions is metaphorical, and understanding them often requires familiarity with the culture and lifestyle of the respective peoples, as phraseological vocabulary reflects a society's worldview. Portuguese and Russian phraseological units are of particular interest in this regard, as they offer insights into the culture and mentality of both populations. The research data are sourced from a lexicographical corpus, as well as authentic texts available on the Internet, including the National Corpus of the Russian Language, two dictionaries of the Russian language, and one dictionary of Brazilian Portuguese.

In *Idiom variation in the comment's sections of Spanish digital newspapers*, Lucía Luque delves into the emergence of a new form of digital discourse within the comment sections of online newspapers. These text-based computer-mediated communication (CMC) platforms exhibit a notable degree of creativity and linguistic variation. However, the existing literature on this novel discourse genre lacks comprehensive exploration of idiom variation within it. To address this gap, the study analyzes 20 interactions among commentators extracted from various news comments (sourced from the Spanish digital newspapers *El Mundo* and *Okdiario*), whose description deepens in the understanding of idiomatic variation and its manifestations in this evolving domain of online communication.

In *Adjectival collocations with the component of the thematic group "elements of nature" in Russian, English, German and Spanish*, by Albina Kayumova and Rimma Safina, a particular attention is given to the definition and status of collocations within the lexical system. These researchers have also been engaged in comparative and contrastive analyses of collocations centered around a specific "base" (i.e., the semantically central component) or collocations sharing a common thematic domain. This article investigates adjectival collocations whose bases are related to fire, water, earth, and air in Russian, English, German, and Spanish (n=428), with the objective of identifying cases of isomorphism and non-isomorphism across languages (full equivalents vs. partial equivalents). The ratio of the former to the latter varies across languages, contingent upon the specific base of each collocation. While 37% of these collocations are unique to a single language, the remaining 63% have equivalents in other languages (ranging from pairs of languages to all four languages). This study enhances our understanding of cross-linguistic collocational equivalence and its implications, offering insights that may prove valuable for educators seeking to enhance learners' collocational competence.

In *Convencionalidade e fixação fraseológica. Detalhes que fazem a diferença*, Ana María Díaz Ferrero investigates phrase fixedness and variation as crucial aspects of phraseology that demand careful attention during the translation process between Portuguese and Spanish. The aim is to avoid potential mistranslations or inaccuracies. A translator must possess a solid understanding of phraseology to effectively identify the phraseological unit (PU) in the source language and determine whether it is a basic PU, an institutionalized variant, or a freely variable form. Moreover, the translator must select the most appropriate equivalent in the target language, considering the contextual factors and the type of translation required. Besides, the similarities between Portuguese and Spanish morphologies, coupled with a potential lack of phraseological competence, can lead to the erroneous reproduction of source language PUs. To illustrate these interferences, she presents a selection of examples from contemporary texts, demonstrating alterations in the PU fixedness. Based on Zuluaga's proposal, these examples are classified into three groups: 1. changes in the order of components; 2. changes in grammatical categories; and 3. omissions, insertions, or substitutions of components.

In *Tatar Mythology and its Reflection in Phraseological Units*, Gulshat Safiullina aims to investigate the composition of the key mythical creatures found in Tatar folklore and their manifestation in Tatar phraseology. The author systematically analyzes the existing foundation, directly associated with Tatar mythology, to identify the distinctive features of national mythical entities within the realm of oral folk art. The article delves into the beliefs, legends, and folklore surrounding these mythical beings, which have been passed down through generations. Additionally, the study examines idiomatic expressions and proverbs that characterize this conceptual domain. The scientific novelty of this research lies in its detailed analysis of the Tatar mythical pantheon, considering aspects of national mythology that have not been previously explored from a linguistic perspective. The findings reveal that idiomatic expressions and sayings provide abundant material for comprehensively studying the system of religious and/or superstitious beliefs held by the Tatar people.

The chapter *La fraseografía bilingüe español-ruso: pasado, presente y futuro*, by Anna Zholobova, focuses on a detailed analysis of the renowned Spanish-Russian phraseological dictionary authored by Levintova, Vol'f, Movshovich, and Budnitskaya (1985). The study begins with a concise biographical section that sheds light on the backgrounds of the dictionary's authors. The megastructure of the dictionary, encompassing the external component and macrostructure, along with the microstructure and characteristics of the corpus, are thoroughly examined. Additionally, the chapter critically assesses the current state of Spanish-Russian bilingual phraseography, highlighting areas in need of improvement, and deliberates on potential avenues for its future development.

In *'Quien siempre me miente, nunca me engaña': la mentira en la fraseología del español*, Maria Eugênia Olímpio De Oliveira Silva investigates a collection of phrasemes that revolve around the theme of lying. The primary objective is to examine the ideas, judgments, and values conveyed by these linguistic units concerning two fundamental aspects of human existence: lies and the act of lying. The analysis encompasses an exploration of the meanings embedded within the selected phraseologisms, drawing upon theoretical contributions from diverse fields of knowledge that shed light on this multifaceted phenomenon in human, social, and linguistic contexts.

In *汉语熟语分类新解, An Innovative Classification of Chinese Phraseological Units*, Chunyi Lei presents an innovative classification system for Chinese phraseological units, acknowledging the pivotal role of phraseology in contemporary language usage. Various crucial aspects of Chinese phraseology are explored and elucidated, encompassing the status of Chinese phraseological studies in the Contemporary Era, the definition of "Shuyu" (phraseology), its principal characteristics, terminology, and representative taxonomies, both traditional and revised. Given the existence of conflicting viewpoints and confusing terminology within Chinese phraseological studies, a comprehensive evaluation is warranted, particularly in terms of taxonomy reform to enhance clarity, precision, systematicity, and user-friendliness. Building upon the framework of grammatical metaphor, a new taxonomy is proposed for Chinese phraseology, aligning more

closely with Western traditions and employing criteria such as fixedness, idiomaticity, and multilexematicity. Through the presentation of analyzed examples for each phraseological subcategory, it is posited that this taxonomy demonstrates compatibility with the one proposed by Pamies (2007, 2014, 2016, 2017) for Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, and English languages, and can be suitably applied to Chinese. However, acknowledging the uniqueness of each language, certain modifications are necessary within the classification process. This innovative taxonomy is intended to serve as a valuable and enlightening descriptive tool, facilitating comparative studies between Chinese and other languages.

In *Bestiario chino: acerca de la formación de los zoonimos en la lengua china*, Alexandra Magdalena delves into the formation of zoonymic denominations in the Chinese language, specifically focusing on the strategies employed to create new words and incorporate concepts from foreign languages that lack certain verbal expressions. The process of lexicogenesis, which encompasses both universal formative tendencies and language-specific characteristics, plays a significant role in naming these new realities. The objective of this study is to analyze the formative processes employed in Chinese (including both universal features and the idiosyncrasies of this Asian language) within the domain of zoonyms. By examining a diverse repertoire of animal denominations, it becomes evident that the rich and varied Chinese vocabulary pertaining to fauna is shaped by a wide array of word creation methods, with a particular emphasis on onomatopoeia. Additionally, the study acknowledges the role of semantic transfers, which contribute to the lexical enrichment of any language. Employing a contrastive linguistics approach with Spanish, English, French, and Russian languages, we gain insights into the creation of Chinese zoonyms in relation to both specific and universal trends in word formation.

In *Из опыта многоязычной лексикографии крылатых слов (восточнославянские библеизмы в сопоставлении)*, Valerij Mokienko explores the field of multilingual lexicography, specifically focusing on the study of *winged words* and the significance of E.F. Arsenteva's lexicographic contributions. By examining selected dictionary entries from Arsenteva's multilingual phraseological dictionary, the article highlights the potential for expanding the linguistic material, particularly within the Slavic context, through the inclusion of historical and etymological commentary. The aim of this study is to showcase the possibilities offered by Arsenteva's work in terms of enriching the linguistic resources and shedding light on the historical and etymological dimensions of East Slavic Biblicisms. The findings of this research emphasize the importance of incorporating comprehensive historical and etymological analysis into multilingual lexicography, thereby deepening our understanding of these *winged words* and their cultural significance.

In *Collocazioni con verbi di causa in russo e in Italiano*, Julija Nikolaeva presents a corpus-driven analysis of verb collocations that express causation in Russian and Italian. The primary objective is to explore the semantic peculiarities of each language in conveying the concept of causation. Since collocations are often arbitrary and lack imme-

diate formal equivalents across different languages, comparative studies conducted on extensive corpora become indispensable. By utilizing the *National Corpus of the Russian Language*, the *Corpus of La Repubblica*, and the *Corpus of Written Italian*, collocations are extracted and the semantic domains of causative verbs in both languages are delineated. The analysis reveals noteworthy interlinguistic similarities and divergences, providing empirical evidence to support the assumption of arbitrariness and varying degrees of fixedness within the investigated collocations. The latter part of this study focuses on a detailed case study of collocations involving the verbs *причинять /причинить* & *causare*, highlighting important interlinguistic asymmetries.

In *“Wonderful to Hear from You, My Dear Friend” Epistolary Notes Between Elena Arsenteva and Wolfgang Mieder*, the world-renowned paremiologist, Prof. Wolfgang Mieder, delves into the profound connection fostered among scholars worldwide through their research in paræmiology and phraseology. Over the years, the exchange of books, articles, and insights has nurtured a fruitful collaboration between Elena Arsenteva (1956-2022) from Kazan Federal University and the author (born in 1944) from the University of Vermont. Their first encounter took place at the European Society of Phraseology meeting in Loccum, Germany, in June 2002. Subsequent reunions transpired at the society’s gatherings in Basel in August 2004 and Granada in 2010. Another notable rendezvous unfolded at the International Colloquium on Paræmiology in Paris in July 2011. Through these enriching experiences, they discovered that scholarly work extends far beyond delivering lectures and publishing research findings. Conferences serve as invaluable platforms for fostering connections with colleagues, exchanging ideas, and cultivating enduring friendships that span years or even decades. Despite the vast geographical distance between Tatarstan and the United States, Elena Arsenteva and Wolfgang Mieder developed a deep and enduring friendship that transcended borders for twenty years.

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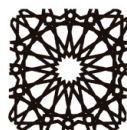
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Dirigida por:  
**Ana Belén Martínez López y Pedro San Ginés Aguilar**

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Studies on phraseological units have developed greatly in the last three decades, including the more peripheral areas of this phenomenon, to such an extent that they are no longer limited to what Zuluaga called *prefabricated combinations*, in fact it is not even so clear that, strictly speaking, all of them are all “units”. Corpus linguistics has contributed enormously to this evolution, providing thousands of empirical data on *variation within fixedness*, exploring less prototypical areas along the lexical-syntactic continuum. The present volume, dedicated to the memory of the great Russian phraseographer and phraseologist, Elena Asentieva (1956-2022), brings together recent studies from various countries, dealing with issues related to the phraseology of various languages (Spanish, English, Russian, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, Tatar, Arabic, Romanian and Macedonian), which are representative of research current trends into this field.



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editorial

ISBN 978-84-1369-716-1



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