



**PHRASALEX** aims to bring together experts in the fields of (computational) lexicography, lexicography for NLP, phraseology, cognitive linguistics, language acquisition and language teaching. Its goal is to reflect on theoretical and methodological aspects related to

- the **phraseological nature of language**,
- the **interdependence of lexis and grammar**,
- and the implications of these perspectives for the **design of (learner's) dictionaries**.

The first **PHRASALEX** workshop, which was held at the University of Modena in September 2019, was inspired by PhraseBase, a project aimed at designing and implementing a novel linguistic information system (LIS). The LIS is made up of a phraseologically disambiguated active dictionary, a phraseologically disambiguated thesaurus/wordnet and a construction grammar covering the mental construction of a language (DiMuccio-Failla & Giacomini 2022). The project is currently carried out by a small team of researchers at the Universities of Innsbruck, Hildesheim and Heidelberg.

The idea at the core of the project is the view of language as a set of lexical units phraseological in nature. Our lexicographic approach is informed in particular by Sinclair's notion of *normal patterns of usage* as the true lexical units of a language (cf., among others, Sinclair 1996), which laid the foundations of the Collins COBUILD English

Dictionary in 1987, as well as by Hanks's Theory of Norms and Exploitations (2013). Our approach distinguishes itself from other lexicographic approaches in that all relevant meaning patterns of a word are systematically and explicitly specified (DiMuccio-Failla & Giacomini 2022/2017a/2017b). The notion of "linguistic restrictions" intended as lexical, cognitive, and conceptual constraints allows us to discern the different sense-specific lexical units of a word and to order them on the basis of their closeness to a prototypical meaning. The project has taken up diverse corpus-based methods for the identification and (in)formal description of phraseological sense patterns in lexicography, gradually adapting them to the specific objectives. The main languages of investigation of the PhraseBase project are, by now, Italian, English and German.

**PHRASALEX II** was a virtual workshop hosted by the University of Hildesheim in July 2021.

The international and interdisciplinary context of **PHRASALEX** fosters interaction and collaboration among participants while promoting exchange of ideas on **topics** close to the project, such as:

- Phraseology-oriented approach to the description of the lexicon,
- Theoretical and methodological issues in electronic learner's lexicography,
- Cognitive aspects of the lexicon and their role in (learner's) lexicography,
- Computational approaches to phraseology, e.g. methods for collocation extraction from corpora,
- Formalisation of lexicographic data,
- Principles of sense disambiguation and ordering in learner's dictionaries,
- Phraseology in learner's lexicography,
- Phraseology and foreign language teaching,
- Data presentation in learner's dictionaries,
- Multilingual approaches to phraseology.

### References:

DiMuccio-Failla, Paolo V./Giacomini, Laura (2022): A proposed microstructure for a new kind of active learner's dictionary. In: *Lexicographica* 38(1), 475-499.

DiMuccio-Failla, P. & Giacomini, L. (2017a). Designing an Italian learner's dictionary based on Sinclair's lexical units and Hanks's corpus pattern analysis. In: Proceedings of the Fifth eLex Conference Electronic Lexicography in the 21st Century. Leiden, Netherlands.

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Hanks, P. (2013). Lexical analysis: Norms and exploitations. MIT Press.

Sinclair, J. (1996). The search for units of meaning. In: Textus: English Studies in Italy 9(1), 75-106.

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