

Paper Proposal ISFC 2008 Sydney 2008

Title:

Lexico-grammatical patterns and collocations in scientific text

Presenter:

Sabine Bartsch, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies, English Linguistics, Darmstadt, Germany, e-mail: bartsch@linglit.tu-darmstadt.de, URL: <http://www.linglit.tu-darmstadt.de>

Presentational requirements:

data projector

Presentation: Body Description of the main part of the presentation

Studies of scientific text tend to focus on those items that are deemed to convey information regarding scientific concepts, i.e. the focus is frequently on the nouns. In light of the observation that nominalisation is highly indicative of scientific writing and that nominal forms are found with notable frequency in scientific text, nouns have received a lot of due attention. Yet, it is indisputable that verbs are likewise central to the linguistic construal of scientific meaning, especially in view of the fact that verbs typically establish the relations between concepts denoted by nouns (cf. Halliday, Martin 1993). A central issue that arises in this context concerns the realisation of process types by domain-specific verbs and their characteristic participants which are often realized by a highly selective set of lexical items (e.g. 'to cure a layer', 'die Kante wird angefast').

This paper presents a study of characteristic collocations (Bartsch 2004) within the lexico-grammatical patterns (cf. Hunston, Francis 2000) of domain-specific verbs in two corpora of English and German scientific text. The focus of the paper is on the contribution of this set of domain-specific verbs to the construal of scientific meaning based on a study of their characteristic lexical and grammatical patterns.

Presentation: References List of references cited in the abstract

Bartsch, S. 2004. *Structural and functional properties of collocations in English. A corpus study of lexical and pragmatic constraints on lexical co-occurrence*. Tübingen, Verlag Gunter Narr.

Halliday, MAK, J.R. Martin. 1993. *Writing Science. Literacy and Discursive Power*. London, Washington, D.C.: The Falmer Press.

Hunston, S., G. Francis. 2000. *Pattern Grammar: A corpus-driven approach to the lexical grammar of English*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Presentation: Key terms Key terms identifying the field(s) of presentation

Lexico-grammatical patterns, co-occurrence constraints, collocation