

### Fortunes of National Cultures in Globalisation Context

The international conference on Fortunes of National Cultures in Globalisation Context was held by the Faculty of Eurasian and Oriental Studies at Chelyabinsk State University (CSU, Russia) on 4-5 April 2013. It embraced a wide range of topics concerned with cultural and globalization phenomena, including preservation of languages and national identities, linguistics, cognitive linguistics, international cooperation, etc. Considering that any culture represents an interdisciplinary object of research, the issues of ethnology, political studies, history, psychology, linguistic and cultural studies, philosophy, semiotics and lexicography were all discussed.

Plenary speakers included Nikolay Alefirenko (Belgorod State University), Konstantin Averbukh (Moscow City Pedagogical University), Vera Budykina (CSU, Conference Organizer), Olga Felde (Siberian State University), Zan Hun Ge (Capital University of Education, Beijing), Igor Golovanov (Chelyabinsk Pedagogical State University), Ilan Kernerman (K Dictionaries, Tel Aviv), Valery Kuznetsov (Moscow State Linguistic University), Elvira Sinetskaya (Institute for Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), and Svetlana Ter-Minasova (Lomonosov Moscow State University and President of the National Association of Teachers of English in Russia).



English that select all and only mammals as arguments. On the other hand, as we shall see below, there are plenty of verbs that select 'horse' as an argument.

#### Case study: *harness*, verb

The DVC accounts for the normal patterns for *harness*, verb, as follows:

- 5% **[[Human]] harness [[Horse]]**  
[[Human]] puts harness on [[Horse]] in preparation for riding or driving it, or getting it to pull a cart, carriage, or plough
- 95% **[[Human | Institution]] harness [[{Eventuality 1 | Entity 1} = Resource]] (to [[Eventuality 2 | Entity 2]])**  
[[Human | Institution]] makes use of [[{Eventuality 1 | Entity 1} = Resource]] (in conjunction with [[Eventuality 2 | Entity 2]]) for some purpose

In Pattern 1, the lexicographer faces a dilemma that is a typical issue in DVC research. Prototypically, it is horses that get harnessed, but (as it happens) only 50% of the BNC citations for this pattern involve horses. The remaining 50% involve harnessing other animals: the British National Corpus (BNC) gives us the following examples of animals other than horses that get harnessed:

- dogs (huskies, for pulling sledges)
- oxen
- bullocks
- deer
- donkeys
- reindeer
- camels
- mules

When a speaker or writer talks about *harnessing* a bullock, reindeer, or mule, this is not a linguistic exploitation for effect; they are literally talking about the act of putting one of these animals into a harness in order to ride it, drive it, or get it to pull a cart etc. DVC must account for this regular alternation for the benefit of both language users and NLP applications. Therefore, it might be better to state Pattern 1 as **[[Human]] harness [[Horse | Animal]]**.

However, if **[[Animal]]** is given as an argument alternation of this pattern, the scope is too broad, as it could be taken as implying that it is normal to harness cats, primates, and cows, which is not correct. On the other hand, as we have seen, stating **[[Horse]]** alone is over-restrictive, appearing to rule out dogs, bullocks, oxen, etc. The answer to this apparently irresolvable dilemma is that, whatever semantic type (or set of types) is chosen, it is really only a form of shorthand, encapsulating a set of lexical items that are prototypical in this slot. Semantic typing is helpful as far as it goes, but it is possible to put too much weight on the type, as opposed to the actual lexical items that 'populate' the semantic type.

The DVC Ontology places the semantic type 'Animal' in a hierarchy, as follows:

```

Animate
  Human
  Animal
    Horse
    Dog
    Cat
    Primate
    Cow
  Bird
  Insect
  Fish
  Snake
  Spider
  Cetacean

```

Given this ontological set, by choosing the type **[[Animal]]** as an alternate for **[[Horse]]**, the lexicographer can signal that it is normal for other types of living creatures to be put into a harness (though not birds, insects, fish, or cetaceans, which are separate semantic types, associated with distinctive sets of verbs).

Pattern 2, which refers to the non-literal *harnessing* of abstract resources in order to use them, would once have been considered an exploitation:

**[[Human | Institution]] harness [[{Eventuality 1 | Entity 1} = Resource]] (to [[Eventuality 2 | Entity 2]])**

However, DVC has discovered that this pattern now accounts for 95% of uses of *harness*, verb, in this corpus: a clear example of an exploitation becoming a norm. It will be interesting to compare the relative frequencies of these two patterns in other corpora.

The example below shows a one-off exploitation of *harness*:

Perot wants to take us all back in time and *harness* us behind mules!

The writer is not suggesting that people will literally be forced to wear harnesses and pull carts behind mules: most readers will work out that this is a metaphorical extension of Pattern 1, with the intended meaning that Perot would treat people as no better than beasts of burden, valued for their physical strength only. However, in

other corpora, we may find that

[[Human 1]] harness [[Human 2]]  
has become established as a pattern in its  
own right in certain domains or in a more  
recent time-frame than that of BNC.

## 5. Conclusion

The *Pattern Dictionary of English Verbs* (PDEV) represents a new development in lexical analysis, based on careful empirical analysis of a corpus. We hope that it will take its place alongside other innovative approaches such as FrameNet in accounting for words and meanings. It represents only one of many possible approaches to identifying and explaining patterns of word use and the connection between such patterns and their meanings. If it is successful, PDEV can function as a set of ‘seed’ patterns for semi-automatic expansion over much larger sets of data, including domain-specific corpora, corpora of children’s language, historical corpora, etc. We do not claim that it is possible that any pattern dictionary could account for all and only the meanings of words in any natural language. “All and only” represents a theoretical goal that was exploded as unrealistic and distorting for natural-language research (including lexicography) during the second half of the 20th century. Instead, the aim now is to represent prototypical usage and associate it with prototypical meaning.

PDEV is work in progress and is in the public domain. It can be accessed at <http://deb.fi.muni.cz/pdev/>.

Although it is still only work in progress, we urge you to explore it. Comments and feedback are invited.

## References

- Church, Kenneth W., and Patrick Hanks. 1989.** ‘Word association norms, mutual information, and lexicography.’ In *Proceedings of the 27th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 26–29 June 1989. University of British Columbia. Revised in *Computational Linguistics* 16 (1), 1990.
- Francis, Gill; Hunston, Susan; and Manning, Elizabeth. 1996.** *Collins COBUILD Grammar Patterns 1: Verbs*. London & Glasgow: HarperCollins.
- Francis, Gill; Hunston, Susan; and Manning, Elizabeth. 1997.** *Collins COBUILD Grammar Patterns 2: Nouns and Adjectives*. London & Glasgow: HarperCollins.
- Goldberg, Adele. 1995.** *Constructions: A Construction Grammar Approach to Argument Structure*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Goldberg, Adele. 2006.** *Constructions at Work: The Nature of Generalization in Language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hanks, Patrick. 2012.** ‘How People Use Words to Make Meanings: Semantic types meet Valencies’. In Alex Boulton and James Thomas (eds.), *Input, Process and Product: Developments in Teaching and Language Corpora*. Brno: Masaryk University Press.
- Hanks, Patrick. 2013.** *Lexical Analysis: Norms and Exploitations*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Hunston, Susan, and Francis, Gill. 2000.** *Pattern Grammar: A corpus-driven approach to the lexical grammar of English*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Moon, Rosamund. 1987.** ‘The analysis of meaning’ in Sinclair, John (ed.).
- Rundell, Michael (ed.). 2002.** *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*. Oxford: Macmillan.
- Sinclair, John (ed.). 1987.** *Looking Up: An Account of the COBUILD Project in Lexical Computing and the Development of the Collins COBUILD Language Dictionary*. London & Glasgow: Collins ELT.
- Sinclair, John. 1998.** ‘The Lexical Item’ in E. Weigand (ed.) *Contrastive Lexical Semantics*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: Benjamins.
- Sinclair, John, Patrick Hanks, and others (eds.). 1987.** *Collins COBUILD English Language Dictionary*. Glasgow: Collins.



There were 7 parallel sessions, namely: Theoretical and Methodological Aspects of National Culture Studies in Various Paradigms of Knowledge; National Spiritual Culture: Traditions and Innovations; Cross-Cultural Communication, Cross-Cultural Competence and Globalisation; The Dialogue Between Cultures: West, East and Russia; National Mentality Representation in the Modern Information Globalisation and Preservation of National Cultures in Literary Perception; Lexicography, Terminology Banks and National Identity.

The latter session concerned national and cultural aspects of lexicography and problems associated with the formation of corpora and databases for dictionaries. New tendencies in lexicographic practice were discussed and compared to the Russian tradition of dictionary compilation. These included papers on ‘Professional communication in terms of globalization’ (Averbukh), ‘Terminology system of higher education of Russia: National identity or harmonization?’ (Budykina), and ‘Lingua franca, mother tongue, and pedagogical lexicography: Developing a global dictionary series for learners’ and a masterclass on ‘The current status, changes and prospects in the dictionary world’ (Kernerman). The conference proceedings, comprising 800 pages, are the issue of these discussions.

**Vera Budykina**  
vbudykina@gmail.com