

Prosodic features of syntactical constructions?

Some critical notes on the status of prosody in Construction Grammar

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In Construction Grammar linguistic units (constructions) are thought of as pairings of form and meaning of any size, complexity and schematicity. With respect to schematicity, any structural element of a construction can be more or less specific regarding phonological (prosody included), lexical and morpho-syntactic features. This also holds for semantic and pragmatic aspects of constructions (as a whole). Finally, constructions are considered to be holistically represented cognitive units containing information about specifications on any level of description. However, most research conducted so far has been focussing primarily on lexical and morpho-syntactic aspects. Although phonological, and specifically prosodic features are sometimes taken into account, in most cases at least complex constructions are characterized as being specified most notably with regard to lexical and morpho-syntactic aspects. As a result, theoretical and methodological problems concerning the analysis of prosodic features of grammatical constructions have so far been neglected to a certain extent. In my talk, taking the analysis of appositional patterns in spoken German as an example, some of these problems will be discussed.