

Against – Modelling constructions in a constructicon

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The CASA Constructicon of the English Language is a project that is closely linked to the Construction Grammar Approach to Syntactic Analysis (CASA) – a model for the analysis of sentences on the basis of different types of constructions building on blending theory as outlined by Fauconnier & Turner (1996) (Herbst & Hoffmann 2018).

One central component of the CASA constructicon will be to develop a format for the descriptions of verbal argument structure constructions (Goldberg 1995, 2006, 2019) and to combine them with the valency descriptions to be found in the *Valency Dictionary of the English Language* (2004) and the *Erlangen Valency Patternbank* respectively. The purpose of the exercise is twofold: (i) to provide users of the constructicon with information about which verbs belong to (or occur in) a particular construction, and (ii) to explore to what extent it is possible to subsume the verbs occurring in a particular pattern (such as SUBJ – V – OBJ: NP – OBJ: PP_{against}) under one or two (or at least a small number of) generalized argument structure constructions.

Taking patterns with the preposition *against* as an example, we attempt to illustrate the limitations of generalized descriptions and the constructicographic issues arising from these – in particular we will address constructional polysemy and the question of the need for collocational or phraseological specifications (*bear a grudge etc. against*).

References

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