

## Partially filled constructions. Types, function and lexicographic representation

Valentina Piunno (Roma Tre University)

valentina.piunno@uniroma3.it

This investigation proposes a corpus-driven description of partially filled constructions (PFCs), a subtype of phraseological units characterised by a low degree of lexical specification and a high degree of semantic predictability. PFCs contain both fixed and empty slots, showing different levels of productivity, and may be associated with different syntactic structures (either at the phrase-level or at the sentence-level). In (1) the PP *alla mano* ('at the ready', *lit.* at the hand) represents the fixed slot acquiring the peculiar meaning of 'ready to be used' only in combination with nouns denoting 'devices':

- (1) [X<sub>NOUN<Device></sub> + *alla mano*]='X ready to be used'
- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| armi <i>alla mano</i>      | 'weapons ready'          |
| pistola <i>alla mano</i>   | 'guns ready'             |
| documenti <i>alla mano</i> | 'documents at the ready' |
| carte <i>alla mano</i>     | 'papers at the ready'    |

As prototypical constructions, PFCs are pairings of form and function, since their semantic/syntactic configuration can convey particular semantic/pragmatic values. PFCs are language-specific, but the phenomenon occurs in several languages and deserves special attention from both theoretical and applied viewpoints.

Through the analysis of authentic data extracted from an Italian corpus, this contribution aims at i) identifying and analysing a set of PFCs, ii) classifying them according to syntactic and functional criteria, as well as the degree of predictability, lexical variation and schematicity, iii) providing a lexicographic representation of such syntactic-semantic patterns.

### References

- Barðdal, J. (2008), *Productivity. Evidence from Case and Argument Structure in Icelandic*, Amsterdam-Philadelphia: Benjamins.
- Bybee, J. (2010), *Language, Usage and Cognition*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Fillmore, Ch.J., Kay, P., O'Connor, M.C. (1988), "Regularity and idiomaticity in grammatical constructions: the case of let alone", *Language*, 64: 501-38.
- Goldberg, A. (2003), "Constructions: a new theoretical approach to language", *TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences*, 7, 5: 219-224.
- Goldberg, A. (2006), *Constructions at work*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mellado Blanco, C.  
(2020), Esquemas fraseológicos y construcciones fraseológicas en el continuum léxico-gramática. In Sinner, C., Tabares Plasencia, E. & Montoro del Arco, E.T. (eds.), *Clases y categorías en la fraseología española*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang. 13-36.

Michaelis, L.A. (2019), *Constructions are Patterns and so are Fixed Expressions*.

In Busse Beatrix/Möhlig-Falke, Ruth (eds.), *Patterns in Language and Linguistics*. Berlin New York: de Gruyter, 193-220.

Piunno, V. (2020), *Le combinazioni di parole parzialmente riempite in alcune lingue romanze*.

Schematismo e predicibilità semantica. In Mellado Blanco, Carmen (ed.), *Romanica Olomucensia. Nuevas aportaciones de la Gramática de Construcciones a los estudios de fraseología en las lenguas románicas*, 32/1, 143-171.

Schafroth, E. 2020. *Fraseologismi a schema fisso - basi teoriche e confronto linguistico*.

In Mellado Blanco, C. (ed.), *Romanica Olomucensia 32(1): Nuevas aportaciones de la Gramática de Construcciones a los estudios de fraseología en las lenguas románicas*, 173-200.