

[INTENSIFYING] as a ground culture-bound category in weather sayings: a cultural linguistic analysis along the West Germanic dialect continuum

[Context] This proposal lies at the interface between work in the emerging field of weather linguistics (Koptjevskaja-Tamm 2015) and work on phraseologisms (proverbs, sayings, etc.) used to denote weather situations (Dundes 1989, Mieder 1996, Burger 2006 among many others) articulated with construction grammar (Ziem 2018). It focuses particularly on units such as those illustrated below in languages and dialects along the West Germanic dialect continuum (Keel 2020), with particular attention to High German, Low German, Flemish and Dutch.

(1a) Es regnet Bindfäden. (High German)

(1b) Dat guet wie ut ammeeln. (Low German)

(1c) 't regent mollejoengen. (Flemisch, West Flanders)

(1d) De regen komt met bakken uit de hemel vallen. (Dutch)

[Research questions] These utterances used not only to name the weather phenomenon in question but also to evaluate it, contain in addition to the classical meteorological verbs (Eriksen *et al.* 2010) NPs, PPs or VPs most often used figuratively and linked to concepts with a strong cultural anchorage. In this context, this paper will aim at addressing the following two research questions. (i) To what extent can we postulate the existence of an abstract construction - in the technical meaning of construction grammar - marking intensity in the weather domain and based on a set of more or less fixed lower-level constructions (Dobrovolskij 2011, 2016)? (ii) How can we model the modes of cross-conceptualization of the phenomenon and its intensity along the considered dialectal continuum?

[Data] The study is based on a corpus of some 200 expressions extracted from the many collections of meteorological expressions produced most often by specialists in folklore or ethnology for documentation purposes, but which have very rarely been the subject of linguistic approaches (or else mainly in a paremiological perspective). All expressions have then been annotated at three levels: denomination of the weather phenomenon, qualification of the intensity, source domain of the figuration.

[Methodology] From a methodological point of view, the analysis starts from the weather frame, as described in FrameNet. It questions the fact that all the phraseologisms of the corpus, without exception, instantiate the so called non-core FE "specification" while the time and place slots (core FEs) are deictically marked. We then suggest a constructional analysis by articulating the constructions of the corpus with the family of intensification constructions. The figurative part of the latter is then approached in cultural terms within the paradigm of Sharifian's cognitive cultural linguistics (2017).

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