Book Review: Martine Dalmas, Elisabeth Piirainen, in Zusammenarbeit mit Natalia Filatkina (Hrsg.): Figurative Sprache. Figurative Language. Langage figuré. Festgabe für Dmitrij O. Dobrovol'skij [Figurative Sprache. Figurative Language. Langage figuré. Festschrift for Dmitrij O. Dobrovol'skij]. Tübingen: Stauffenburg, 2014. 335 pp. ISBN 978-3-95809-504-5

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Martine Dalmas, Elisabeth Piirainen, in Zusammenarbeit mit Natalia Filatkina (Hrsg.): *Figurative Sprache. Figurative Language. Langage figuré. Festgabe für Dmitrij O. Dobrovol'skij* [Figurative Sprache. Figurative Language. Langage figuré. Festschrift for Dmitrij O. Dobrovol'skij]. Tübingen: Stauffenburg, 2014. 335 pp. ISBN 978-3-95809-504-5.

Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij is certainly one of the leading phraseologists of our times. His work covers a huge variety of topics, ranging from his early studies on unique components in German phrasemes and the potential of phrasemes regarding text constitution to his later publications on theoretical phraseology, metaphor theory, idiom semantics, cognitive semantics, cultural semiotics, corpus linguistics, lexicology, lexicography, and construction grammar – to mention but a few. It is thus not surprising that the present festschrift, published on the occasion of his 60th birthday, also covers a wide range of topics. Besides the fact that figurative language is indeed the central subject matter of Dobrovol'skij's work, it is probably also due to the diversity of topics addressed in the volume that the editors chose the rather unspecific title *Figurative Sprache/Figurative Language/Langage figuré*. Undoubtedly, the papers in the book all deal with figurative language in the broadest sense – apart from this, however, they are not so much interconnected by a specific topic but rather reflect the honoree's various research interests and the diversity of today's phraseological research in general.

The book consists of three parts: the front matter, the papers, and the back matter. The front matter includes a preface by the editors and a tabula gratulatoria, the back matter contains a list of the contributing authors and a complete bibliography of the honoree's scholarly work. The bibliography comprises no less than 42 pages, an impressive proof of the jubilarian's outstanding research activity. The main part of the volume contains 19 papers by linguists from Europe, Asia and North America. Most of the articles are written in German (13), some in English (4) and French (2). From a thematic point of view, the volume can be subdivided into several sections, among them at least a) cultural history, cultural semiotics, and language history, b) corpus-based and corpus-driven studies, c) Russian figurative language, d) neurolinguistics, and e) crosslanguage constructional variation. Thus, to a greater or lesser extent, the papers all deal with aspects of the jubilarian's research.

The volume is generally well produced and printed, the papers conform to the same style of referencing and font size, so the book looks quite professional overall. Spelling mistakes are rare (I found only six in the whole volume), the papers have obviously been carefully proofread. The vast majority of figures and images (some of them even coloured) are well printed, only some are a bit small and hard to decipher. I will now give a brief overview on the different contributions.

In their paper *L'intraduisible? Dîtes-le avec des fleurs: Botanismes figuratifs et spécificité culturelle*, Antonio Pamies Betrán and Lei Chunyi present a cross-linguistic study comparing the cultural and symbolic background of figurative motivation for three flowers (oleander blossom, lotus blossom, chrysanthemum) in Spanish and Chinese. Being based on the conventional figurative language theory (Dobrovol'skij and Piirainen 2005), the paper is closely related to the honoree's work. On the basis of numerous examples from Spanish and Chinese texts and films, the authors reveal substantial differences between the concepts associated with these three flowers and, consequently, the lexical and phraseological units containing the flower names.

Natalia Filatkina's paper on *Constructionalization, Konstruktionswandel und figurative Sprache (sprach)historisch betrachtet* (the partial use of italics in the title is somehow odd here) combines two of the jubilarian's main research areas: theory of figurative language and construction grammar. Construction grammar has long been a grammatical theory with a clearly synchronic focus – Filatkina's paper is thus quite original since it is one of the first German-language studies to explore the potential of construction grammar for the description of language change. Besides her case study on the idiom *Perlen vor die Säue werfen*, it is primarily the theoretical issues addressed in this paper that are of particular interest: quite rightly, the author states that some fundamental questions concerning the integration of a diachronic perspective into construction grammar (e.g. on the emergence of constructions, the relationship between constructionalization, grammaticalization, and lexicalization etc.) still wait to be adequately answered. It is worth mentioning, however, that in the recent past we have seen quite a boost in research on diachronic construction grammar. Especially the publications by Traugott and Trousdale (2013) and Barðdal et al. (2015) contain important contributions to some of the fundamental questions concerning the integration of diachrony into construction grammar.

Carmen Mellado Blanco's paper on *Die WEG-Metaphorik in der deutschen Phraseologie: ein Typologisierungsversuch* is situated in the framework of cognitive linguistics, especially metaphor theory, another research focus of the honoree. The author investigates German phrasemes based on the image schema WEG (Engl. PATH), one of the classic source domains of conceptual metaphor theory. Taking into account a total number of 142 units containing the constituent *Weg*, she provides an extensive and enlightening analysis of the conceptual metaphors and metaphor models underlying this part of the German phraseological lexicon. What is particularly interesting in my view are her remarks on the periphrastic verbal construction *sich auf dem Weg befinden/sein* – a structure that seems to be an excellent candidate for examining processes of grammaticalization and constructionalization.

The title of Artem Šarandin's paper is *Diachrone Metapher aus Synchron-perspektive (am Beispiel der Hofwechselstrophe Walthers von der Vogelweide)*. The study is based on a more traditional concept of metaphoricity. Through a detailed analysis of various historical encyclopedias, Šarandin reveals substantial diachronic differences regarding the concepts associated with specific animals. The peacock, for example, nowadays primarily associated with pride (cf. the phraseme *proud as a peacock*), was a symbol of wealth, particularly clerical wealth, in medieval times. Quite rightly, the author emphasizes that such diachronic metaphorical variation needs to be taken into account in translations and that only the original text allows an adequate understanding of the content.

Stéphane Viellard also tackles a question in historical linguistics. In his paper on *Apophtegme et proverbe: Sergej Nikolaevič Glinka [1776–1847] et le discours national(iste)*, the author compares different conceptualizations of the term *apophtegme* and sheds light on the use of this phraseme type in the work of Russian historian and essayist Sergej Nikolaevič Glinka. Analyzing various text examples, Viellard concludes that Glinka purposefully made use of apophtegmes – as well as proverbs – to promote a national Russian style of writing, free from foreign influence.

Annette Sabban's paper on *Flüchtige Figuriertheit – Ressourcen für kreatives bildhaftes Formulieren* touches on the jubilarian's early research on the potential of phrasemes regarding text constitution (cf. Dobrovol'skij 1980). Unlike most research in this area, Sabban does not focus on the text as a product but rather on the dynamic character of the formulating process. In this framework, she investigates the emergence of occasional and creative figurativity. It is shown that figurative ad-hoc expressions usually resort to a combination of several resources, amongst others established monolexical and phraseological units and their metaphoricity, the knowledge of contextually relevant scenarios, the speaker's lifeworld etc. The processuality of writing, a quite important aspect in language teaching theory today, has been largely disregarded in phraseological research and cognitive metaphor theory so far. In view of this background, Sabban's paper is particularly relevant since it might give an impulse to further studies on a more systematic basis.

Katrin Steyer (*Ohne Vorliegen von Voraussetzungen. Ein historisches Syntagma im Netz produktiver Wortverbindungen*) provides a detailed corpus-based analysis of the pattern *ohne X von y*. Her starting point is the PP *ohne Vorliegen von Voraussetzungen*. On this basis, she discusses the relationship and interdependence between fully lexicalized, either discursive (*ohne Vorliegen von Voraussetzungen*) or prototypical (*ohne Angabe von Gründen*) word combinations, less specified prototypical schemata (*ohne Hilfe von* SUB$_{FaktorenBedingungen}$) and their underlying, lexically largely unspecified patterns such as *ohne X von Y*. Steyer argues that all

the fully, partially and minimally specified items based on this pattern belong to the lexicon of German and demonstrates that they all share a common semantic feature, namely a causal dimension. Although the study is explicitly not positioned within the framework of construction grammar, there are several potential links between Steyer's approach and construction grammar, especially concerning the highly relevant question of how to distinguish constructions on different levels of abstraction (cf. e.g. Traugott and Trousdale 2013: 13–17).

By analyzing phraseological modifications and intertextual relations in Braun's *Die hellen Haufen*, Barabara Wotjak (†) also refers to the relationship between phrasemes and text constitution. Her paper on *Sprachliche Intertextualität: Idiome und Bildungsfragmente in Volker Brauns Erzählung Die hellen Haufen* stands in line with a number of studies analyzing idiom modifications and/or intertextuality in selected works of a particular writer. Wotjak shows that – just like other 20th and 21st century writers, e.g. Günther Grass and Elfriede Jelinek – Volker Braun makes extensive, purposeful, sometimes even excessive use of these strategies, which can be considered a characteristic feature of literary postmodernism. Apart from the – certainly appropriate – results of her study, Wotjak's paper also reveals some of the general methodological problems concerning studies on phraseological modifications: Above all, it is often anything but easy to identify and classify modified phrasemes in texts, especially if the decision is based on the criteria of lexicographic codification and intuition alone. Some of the jubilarian's papers (Dobrovol'skij 2000 and Dobrovol'skij 2001) provide interesting suggestions for a more objective and more adequate distinction between common and occasional-modified use of phrasemes; a contribution in this volume (Pfeiffer, this volume) also aims in this direction. On the basis of these approaches, one would probably come to different conclusions concerning the status of some of the text examples discussed in Wotjak's paper (e.g. examples (5), (7), (10)).

Dessislava Stoeva-Holm's highly informative paper on *rattern, klappern, knallen: über den Zusammenhang von ontologischem Zoomen und dem kommunikativen Potential von Verbmetonymien* investigates verbal metonymies as a particular form of nomination. Her focus is on the process of metonymization, which she analyzes from a pragmatic-referential and, mainly, from a cognitive-conceptual point of view. Based on a description of the peculiarities of the entity action ("Handlung"), she argues very convincingly that the process of metonymization can be conceptualized as an ontological zooming, which focusses on one particular aspect of a complex action. Hence, verbal metonymies often have an economizing and simplifying effect, which is their central communicative function next to their apparent stylistic and evaluative potential.

Irina Parina's paper *Ein Gentleman vom Scheitel bis zur Sohle: Korpusbasierte Untersuchung und lexikographische Beschreibung der phraseologischen Synonyme*

provides a corpus-based study on nine German phrasemes with a similar or even identical semantic description in monolingual dictionaries. The analysis of corpus data reveals that although the various expressions share the central semantic feature of 'completeness', they typically appear in different lexical and pragmatic contexts and are usually not interchangeable. Hence, the author criticizes quite rightly that these differences between quasi-synonymous (not totally synonymous) phrasemes are not adequately reflected in existing dictionaries, a situation which is especially deplorable from a GFL learner's point of view.

Natalia Ljubimova illustrates the relevance of COOKERY as a source domain for the conceptualization of political and economic processes. In her paper on *Kulinarische Phraseologismen im politischen Kontext: interdiskursives Spiel*, she analyzes the functions of phrasemes with a food or kitchen-related component in political campaigning and newspaper texts. It is argued that phraseological and non-phraseological expressions from the cooking domain, a quite frequent phenomenon in these texts, are particularly relevant in persuasive contexts, due to their expressive nature and their potential in condensing information, deploying attention and thus increasing argumentative power.

Feng Zhu's and Christiane Fellbaum's paper deals with a corpus-driven method of *Automatically Identifying Chinese Verb-Noun Idiomatic Collocations* (VNIC). To identify VNICs in the Chinese Internet Corpus, the authors first extract suitable VP-candidates, then measure both their syntactic and lexical fixedness. Unfortunately, it turns out that while the quantitative measures applied are indeed able to identify verb-noun pairs which are lexically and syntactically relatively fixed, they perform quite poorly in distinguishing literal and idiomatic VNICs. These findings clearly confirm those from other studies and other languages, namely that there is no robust correlation between lexical and/or syntactic idiosyncrasy on the one hand, and semantic idiomaticity on the other. Nevertheless, it is evident that the development of adequate methods for an automatic or semi-automatic extraction of idioms from corpora remains one of the most urgent issues in phraseological research today.

In his paper *G-FOL meets metaphors: Zur Integration von Metaphern in eine Lehr- und Lernplattform für DaF*, Alexander Ziem discusses the long-neglected question of how metaphors can be adequately integrated into dictionaries and platforms for foreign language learning. In this context, he presents the conception of the "German Frame-Based Online Lexicon (G-FOL)", an English-German online dictionary based on the Berkeley FrameNet project, which aims at applying the theory of Frame Semantics to foreign language learning. In a highly accessible and convincing manner, the author illustrates the advantages and the potential of integrating both conceptual and lexicalized metaphors into electronic platforms and dictionaries such as G-FOL. The platform currently (March

2017) provides detailed information on nine semantic frames – it is to be hoped that further entries will be available in the future.

Peter Ďurčo and Oleg Fedoszov investigate the characteristics of *Nichtaffirmative Idiome im Russischen und Slowakischen*. The study mainly focuses on explicitly negated idioms which do not allow for affirmation. On the basis of numerous Russian and Slovakian expressions, the authors illustrate the semantic variety of idioms with an obligatory negation and argue that the reason for the blocking of affirmation is generally the content of the idiom itself.

In her paper on *Delimitation of synonyms within the semantic field* POWER: *смута (turmoil), беспорядки (disorders) and волнения (tumult)*, Ludmilla Pöppel provides a corpus-based analysis of the combinatorial, semantic and conceptual differences between three Russian lexemes with a nearly synonymous meaning. Her central assumption is that different combinatorial profiles and morphosyntactic properties directly reflect different conceptual structures. The general result of her highly informative study is that the three lexemes considered exhibit substantial differences in terms of combinatorics and morphosyntactic behavior. Hence, choosing one of the expressions over the other in a certain context allows the speaker to communicate a particular attitude or opinion towards the event being described.

In her *Notes on "reflexive" meanings*, Galina Kustova investigates how the use of the Russian reflexive pronoun *себя* may affect the meaning of the verb construction in which it is embedded. What is most interesting in the context of this volume are her remarks on idiomaticity in reflexive constructions. Besides some clear-cut idiomatic phrasemes with a reflexive constituent (*прийти в себя*, compare English *to come to oneself*, German *(wieder) zu sich kommen*), which are usually lexicographically codified, there is also a number of verb meanings that are restricted to the use of the reflexive. Although they are usually not considered part of the phraseological lexicon of the language, these constructions, too, are to be regarded as idiomatic.

Alina Israeli's paper on *Nominative and Instrumental Russian Language Repetition: An Expression of Excoriation* deals with a common type of noun repetition used as a predicative in Russian: a nominative noun (N_0^{nom}) followed by the same instrumental noun (N_0^{instr}), as in *дурак дураком*. The whole predicative construction can be assigned the intensifying meaning 'a complete/total N_0'. Through a corpus-based study, the author identifies several semantic restrictions both on N_0 and the verbs used in the predicative construction. While Israeli's paper is not explicitly positioned within the framework of construction grammar, it is still evident that the analyzed pattern represents an excellent example of a phraseological construction in the sense of Dobrovol'skij (2011).

Analyzing the cognitive processes involved in understanding metaphorical language and idioms is certainly one of the most promising issues in research

on figurative language today. In their paper *Zur Verarbeitung figurativer Sprache*, Michael Schecker and Reinhold Rauh discuss the results of an EEG study measuring N400 effects elicited by common, semantically opaque figurative expressions in three test groups: young adults, healthy seniors, and seniors suffering from Alzheimer's disease. To mention but two central results of the study: First, among healthy adults there is a significant difference in N400 effects comparing the processing of literal and figurative expressions. This difference probably reflects the detection of a semantic incongruity in the case of figurative expressions. Hence, the authors conclude that in processing figurative language the hearer first tries to perform the same understanding routines as in literal expressions before resorting to a holistic storage of figurative multi-word units. A second, perhaps even more remarkable result is that for the Alzheimer patients no significant N400 effects could be measured, suggesting that these testees were not able to identify and decode figurative language. It is obvious that this is an extremely important result regarding the communication with Alzheimer patients.

The final paper of the volume is written by Elisabeth Piirainen, co-editor of the festschrift and co-author of several publications with the honoree. Her paper *mettre le pistolet sous la gorge de qqn. – jmdm. das Messer an die Brust setzen: Zum Modellcharakter multilingualer Idiom-Entsprechungen* is based on data of the project "Widespread Idioms in Europe and beyond". It deals with the question under which conditions idiomatic expressions with similar syntactic structures but different lexical specifications can be regarded as a single "widespread idiom". Her database, comprising figurative units from about 95 languages, shows that such interlingual patterns or models, for the expressions in the title [WAFFE AN EIN LEBENSWICHTIGES ORGAN SETZEN], are a lot more frequent across languages than expected so far. Quite rightly, the author voices the hope that cross-linguistic research within the framework of construction grammar might help develop suitable criteria concerning the subsumption or distinction of structurally similar but lexically different constructions.

As is typical for festschrifts and other volumes with a wide range of papers, there are substantial differences regarding the quality and originality of the single contributions. All in all, however, I find the book not only a very successful birthday gift to Dmitrij Dobrovol'skij but also a useful, interesting and multifarious contribution to research on figurative language. Both from a content and a technical perspective, it is a fine example of how festschrifts should be done.

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