

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Construction Grammar

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CONSTRUCTIONIST APPROACHES

Past, Present, Future

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009308731

DOI: 10.1017/9781009308717

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009308717

First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-30873-1 Paperback
ISSN 2753-2674 (online)
ISSN 2753-2666 (print)

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Constructionist Approaches

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009308717
First published online: June 2023

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Abstract: Construction Grammar (CxG) has developed into a broad and highly diverse family of approaches that have in common that they see constructions – that is, form–meaning pairs at various levels of abstraction and complexity – as the basic units of language. This Element gives an overview of the origin and the current state of the art of constructionist approaches, focusing, on the one hand, on basic concepts like the notion of “constructions” while, on the other hand, offering an in-depth discussion of current research trends and open questions. The authors discuss the commonalities and differences between the major constructionist approaches as well as the organization of constructional networks and ongoing research on linguistic creativity, multimodality, and individual differences. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: construction grammar, cognitive linguistics, usage-based linguistics, network approaches to grammar, linguistic theories

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ISBNs: 9781009308731 (PB), 9781009308717 (OC)
ISSNs: 2753-2674 (online), 2753-2666 (print)

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