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Elements in Construction Grammar

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THE CONSTRUCTICON

Taxonomies and Networks

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The Constructicon

Taxonomies and Networks

Elements in Construction Grammar

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Abstract: It is one of the central claims of construction grammar that constructions are organized in some kind of network, commonly referred to as the constructicon. In the classical model of construction grammar, developed by Berkeley linguists in the 1990s, the constructicon is an inheritance network of taxonomically related grammatical patterns. However, recent research in usage-based linguistics has expanded the classical inheritance model into a multidimensional network approach in which constructions are interrelated by multiple types of associations. The multidimensional network approach challenges long-standing assumptions of linguistic research and calls for a reorganization of the constructivist approach. This Element describes how the conception of the constructicon has changed in recent years and elaborates on some central claims of the multidimensional network approach.

Keywords: construction grammar, constructicon, grammar network, usage-based, cognitive linguistics

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