

Unconventional Constructions in Multilingual Communication: A Construction Grammar Perspective

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Constructions refer to conventional multi-word units with their own form and meaning and their meaning cannot be predicted from general rules of syntax, semantics and pragmatics (e.g., Croft, 2022; Croft & Cruse, 2004; Goldberg, 2006).

- Conventionality and fixedness in at least one item (e.g., morpheme, words) is assumed to be the common aspect of constructions.
- A multi-word expression (MWE) in the UD framework is a type of construction whose elements are fixed.

- There are millions of speakers around the world who speak more than one language (Dođruöz et al., 2021). Constructions denoting grammatical relations (e.g., case marking) could be transferred cross-lingually (Dođruöz & Backus, 2009).
- Within the broader [NN] constructions, [N_vehicle N_location] prototype is commonly used across languages (e.g., Turkish, Dutch, English). However, the same construction has a case marker (i.e., genitive) on the nominal component denoting the location in Turkish (as in example (2)) but there is no case marking in any of the nominal components in the Dutch version (e.g. [trein station]).
- Example (1) is produced by a bilingual Dutch-Turkish speaker who has (probably) transferred the [N_vehicle N_location] construction from Dutch into Turkish without the case marker and it sounds unconventional for native speakers.

Example (1)

[Tren istasyon]-a git-ti-m.
[Train station]-dat go-past-1sg.

Example (2)

[Tren istasyon-u]-na git-ti-m.
[Train station-gen]-dat go-past-1sg.

This goals of this research include identifying unconventional constructions produced in a second language learning setting (Turkish as L2) and classifying their level of fixedness with the goal of developing a construction-based annotation scheme which could be integrated to the UD framework.