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Title

The *Phrase-based Active Dictionary* (PAD) as a model for a phraseological children's dictionary Italian-German: A case study on Italian phraseologisms containing verbs of movement and body parts

Abstract

The case study presented here aims to show that the *Phrase-based Active Dictionary* (PAD), an electronic linguistic resource for foreign language learners currently being developed for the languages German, Italian and English by Paolo Vito DiMuccio-Failla and Prof. Laura Giacomini (DiMuccio-Failla & Giacomini, 2022) and a team of researchers can be a useful basis for the conceptualization of a phraseological learner's dictionary Italian-German for children aged 7-11 with L1 German. As DiMuccio-Failla & Giacomini (2022:475ff.) explain in their article, the approach behind their electronic resource is based on Sinclair's (1991: 55–56) thesis that language is phraseological in nature and that words in their typical usage patterns, much more than single words, are the true bearers of meaning and the true lexical units. Those patterns generally have one specific meaning, not considering sub-meanings given by minor extensions and specialisations. The PAD is based on a principle of phraseological word sense disambiguation and presents phraseological usage patterns, in which the typical contexts of normal word usage are provided to the learner (cf. DiMuccio-Failla & Giacomini, 2022:482; 487ff., 490ff.), following therefore also Hanks's conception of the generation of norms (cf. Hanks, 2004:87-88; Hanks, 2013; Hanks/Pustejovsky, 2005).

Some of the current entries in the PAD-dictionary concern body parts and verbs of movement. This consideration led to the idea to conduct a small case study in which a total of about 100 Italian phraseologisms containing both body parts and verbs of movement are collected. Phraseologisms as specific components of the linguistic system of a language are characterised following Burger (2015:11ff.) by identifiable features such as stability, polylexicity, reproducibility/lexicalisation, idiomaticity and expressivity.

The phrasemes are being collected with the help of Sketch Engine and online dictionaries such as the *Dizionario dei modi di dire Hoepli*, *De Mauro* and *Treccani*, and then categorised into different semantic groups regarding the semantic field of emotions.

The case study aims to show that it is possible to use the PAD as a basis for a phraseological learner's dictionary model Italian-German for children as well, as the collected phraseologisms can be organised according to a similar microstructure as the PAD's one, except for the construction, that in this special case is identical to the lexical unit:

- First the phraseologism is mentioned (e.g., *saltare all'occhio*, containing thus the movement verb *saltare* = *to jump* and the lexeme *occhio* = *eye* for the body part). This would be the construction and at the same time the lexical unit.
- Second, a sense field is defined (e.g., *Something is very evident, stands out*).
- Third a definition is given (e.g., *To be very evident, to stand out very clearly, generally used for things that should have remained hidden, for faults, errors, flaws, or of a difference, an improvement and so on*).

- Furthermore examples are given (e.g.: *La sua nuova pettinatura salta subito all'occhio.*).
- Variations or special cases can also be included: in this case, *saltare agli occhi* = *to attack someone physically or verbally* could be both a variation (because the structure changes slightly), and a special case (because the meaning changes).
- Last I propose a literal translation for the phraseologisms (eg, **Ans/ins Auge hüpfen*) with a link to a concrete image. This part of the entry can be seen as the cognitive component of the dictionary.

Matching the phrasemes to a semantic category based on the phraseological (non-literal) meaning (cf. Burger, 2015:13) can function as a general structuring principle for the whole dictionary, which is aimed to be ordered not alphabetically, but according to semantic groups. The semantic groups will be divided into bigger and smaller groups, similar as in Schemann (2011). In this special case, the groups will concern the semantic field of emotions. The bigger groups will be split up into positive and negative emotions, whereas the subgroups will be subdivided into more specific categories (eg. fear, anger, love, appreciation etc.).

References

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Dictionaries:

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- Dizionario Internazionale De Mauro Online: <https://dizionario.internazionale.it/>, last seen 1st June 2024.
- Vocabolario Treccani Online: <https://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/>, last seen 1st June 2024.