

**Paolo DiMuccio-Failla (University of Hildesheim)**

**Title**

A theory for a usage-based cognitive lexicography

**Abstract**

The talk focuses on the theory behind the PhraseBase project, in particular on the theoretical approach at the core of the *phrase-based active dictionary* (PAD) model, which merges usage pattern lexicology (in the English tradition) and cognitive lexical semantics. This approach aims to describe and explain conventional (non-creative) language production by studying normal *word usage patterns* (WUPs), first introduced by Sinclair and later adapted to automated natural language processing by Hanks. It is based on Sinclair's thesis that normal WUPs constitute (univocal) extended lexical units, and also Hanks's insight that WUPs of verbs coincide with their argument structures and semantic preferences, selected from a consistent taxonomy of concepts. Accounting for extralinguistic pattern features, a conjecture is made about the way in which WUPs activate conceptual structures. The theory also adapts and incorporates Langacker's schematic model as well as Brugman and Lakoff's radial networks. According to the PhraseBase approach, collocations play a crucial role in these networks, and can be employed to identify univocal WUPs on the grounds of their idiomaticity. The talk illustrates the theory behind PhraseBase and introduces its ontological component by using the example of the verbs *paint*, *malen*, and *dipingere*.