

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kognitive Linguistik  
German Cognitive Linguistics Association

1 English learners' dictionaries from 1942 to 2030

2 Construction Grammar – a new theory of language

3 CASA | Con

4 Why CxG catches the phraseological worm

5 Why CASA | Con is called CASA | Con

# Innovation in English learner lexicography

ALD  
1942

# Innovation in English learner lexicography

## Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

- A.S. Hornby
- first major English dictionary for foreign learners
- reception
- production

ALD  
1942

OALD1  
1948

# Innovation in English learner lexicography

## Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

ALD  
1942

OALD2  
1963

OALD1  
1948

- A.S. Hornby
- first major English dictionary for foreign learners
- reception
- production

# Innovation in English learner lexicography

Thirty years

- without competition
- little innovation

ALD  
1942

OALD2  
196

OALD1  
1948

OALD4  
1974

# Innovation in English learner lexicography

ALD  
1942

OALD2  
1963

OALD1  
1948

OALD4  
1974

LDOCE1  
1978

Longman Dictionary of  
Contemporary English

- clearer layout
- mnemotechnic patterns
- controlled defining vocabulary

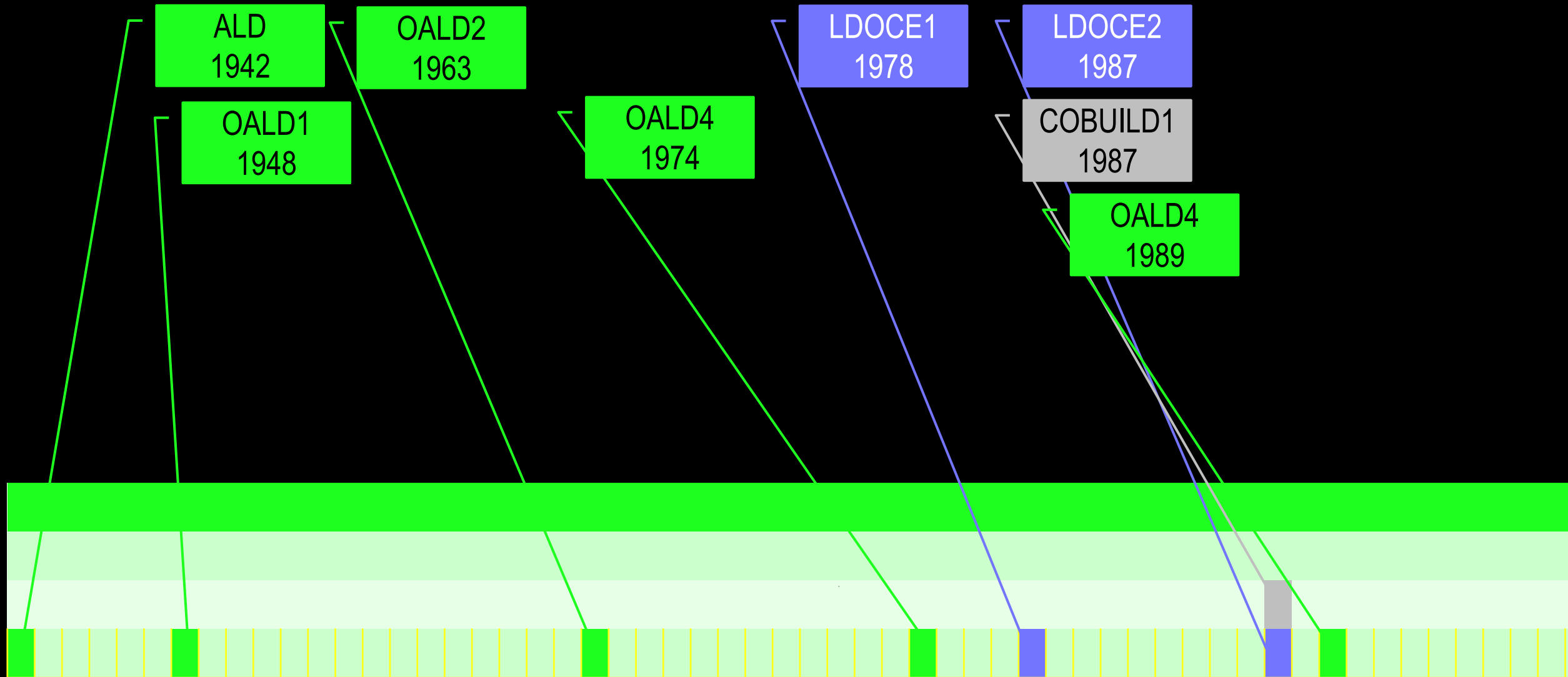
# Innovation in English learner lexicography



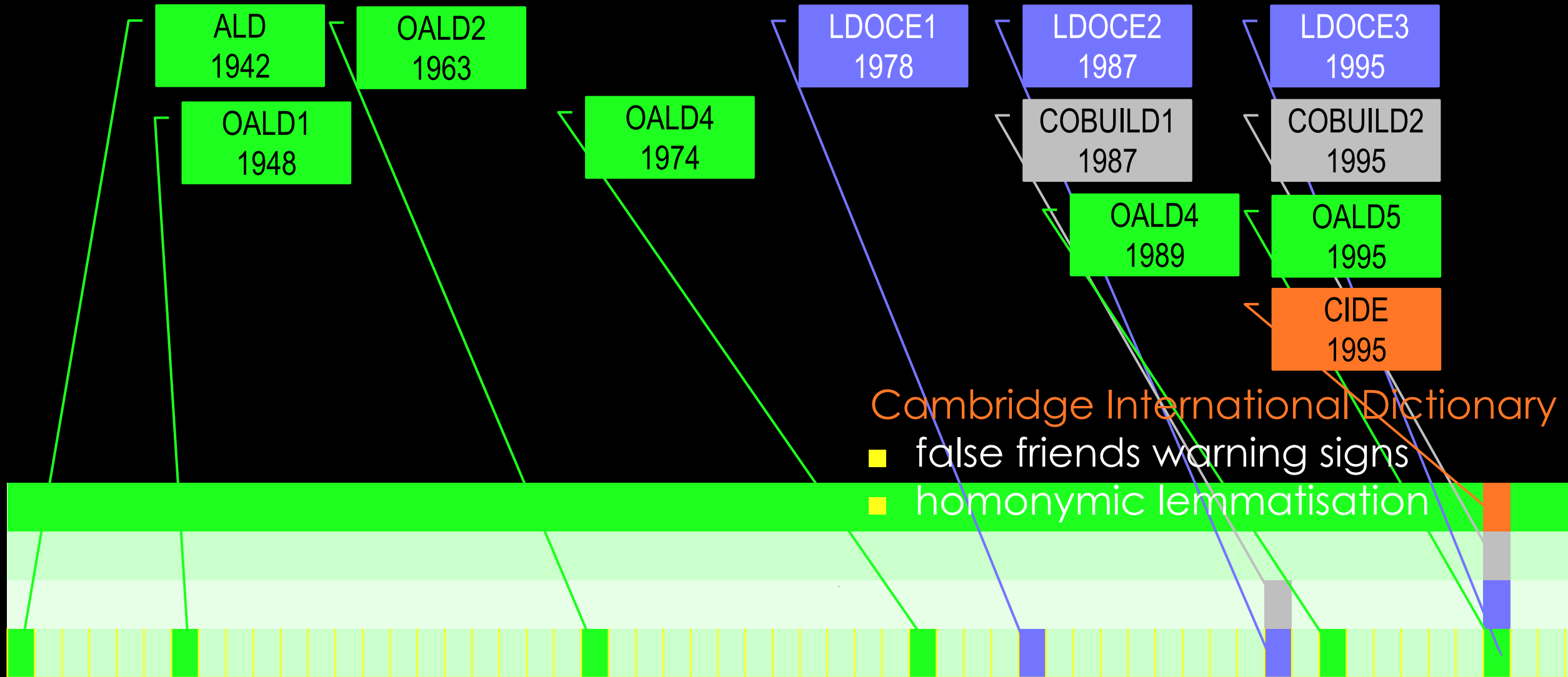
- Cobuild English Language Dictionary
- first corpus-based dictionary
  - extra column
  - transparent patterns
  - sentence definitions



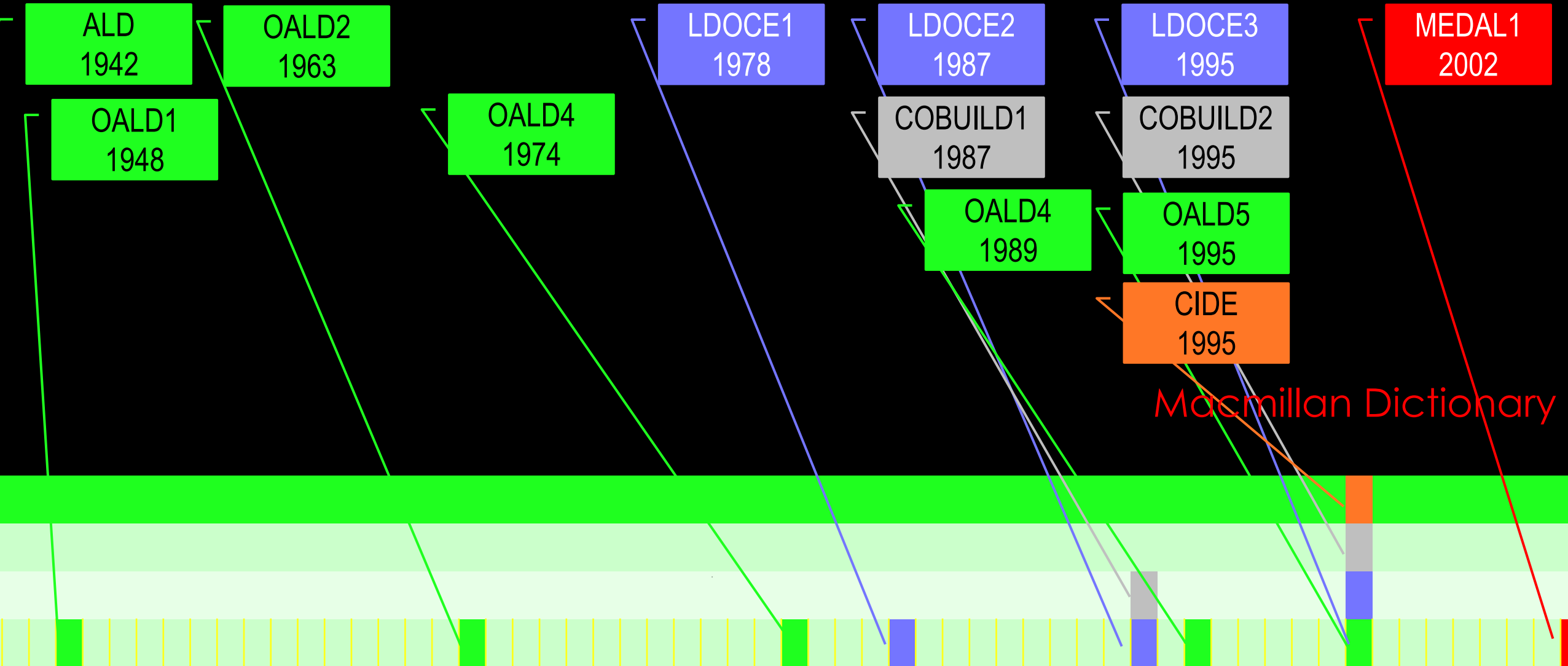
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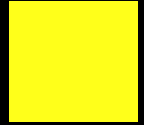


# Innovation in English learner lexicography



# Innovation in English learner lexicography





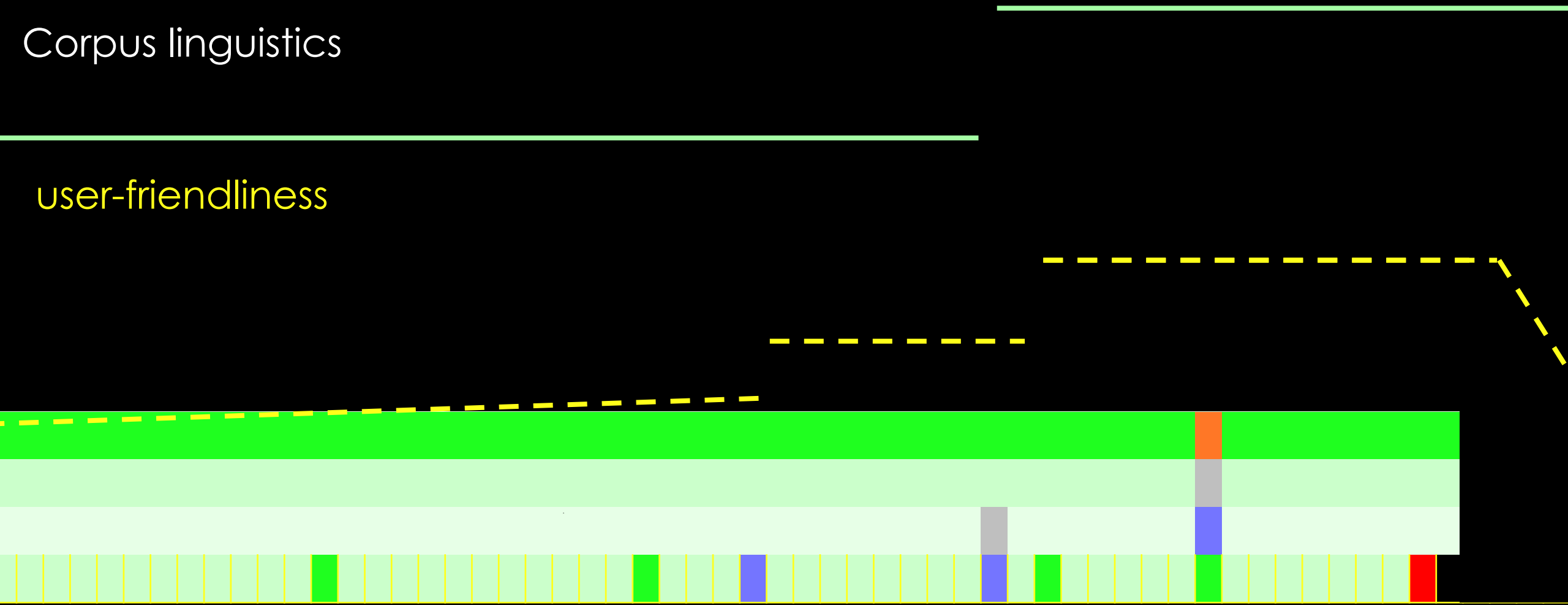
Innovation

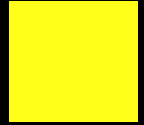
Decline

Descriptive accuracy / authenticity

Corpus linguistics

user-friendliness





# X3

Corpus linguistics

more systematic coverage

Increase of multi-word units

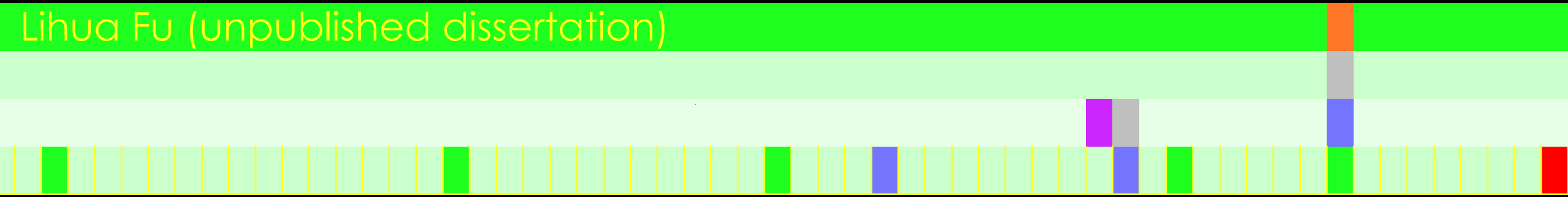
■ bold type

■ collocation boxes

■ from OALD1 to OALD10

■ from LDOCE1 to LDOCE6

Lihua Fu (unpublished dissertation)



# Three key insights from learner lexicography

(BNC as a reaction to Cobuild)

1

Corpus linguistics  
usage-based orientation

2

Importance of multi-word units for foreign learners

- importance of multi-word units in L1-use

3

Specification of syntactic properties of words (verb patterns etc.)

- interrelatedness of lexicon and grammar

1

Corpus linguistics  
usage-based orientation

2

Importance of multi-word units for foreign learners  
□ importance of multi-word units in L1-use

3

Specification of syntactic properties of words (verb patterns etc.)  
□ interrelatedness of lexicon and grammar

CxG: → a new theory of language

→ emerged in the late 1980s and the 1990s

→ Berkeley:

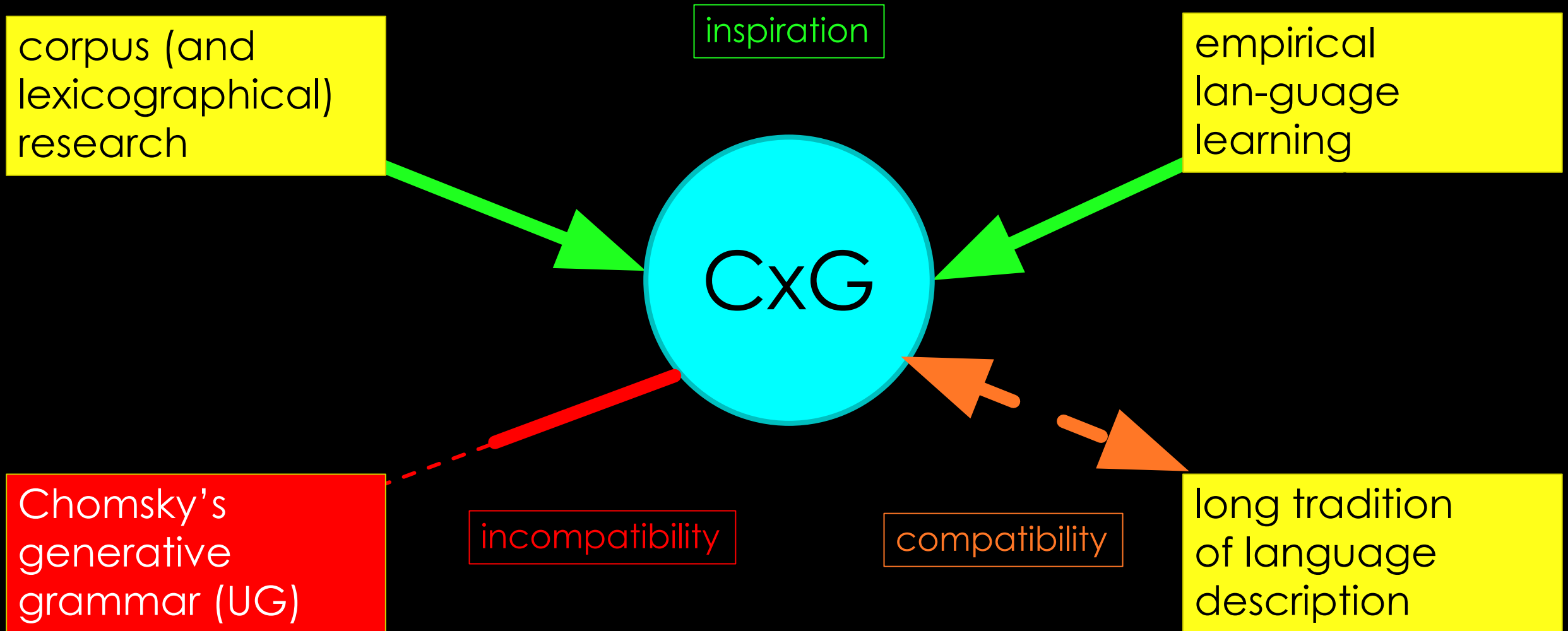
- Charles Fillmore
- George Lakoff
- Adele Goldberg

→ usage-based approach in language learning research:

- Michael Tomasello



# Construction Grammar



# Construction Grammar

Cognitive approach to language

Languages are learnt like other activities

empirical language learning

CxG

UG: genetic pre-disposition to acquire language

Chomsky's generative grammar (UG)

incompatibility

compatibility

long tradition of language description

## Cognitive approach to language

Languages are learnt like other activities

No strict dividing line between lexis and grammar

CxG

Language is determined by use

Grammar is meaningful

Language is a network of constructions

## Adele Goldberg

... a still more inclusive understanding of what constructions are, motivated by a better appreciation of human memory, learning, and categorization. Here, ... constructions are understood to be emergent clusters of lossy memory traces that are aligned within our high- (hyper!) dimensional conceptual space on the basis of shared form, function, and contextual dimensions.

2019:7. *Explain Me This*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.



# Argument structure constructions

(1) She morped him the gorp

DITRANSITIVE CONSTRUCTION

(2) She sneezed the foam off the cappuccino.

CAUSED-MOTION CONSTRUCTION

- Abstract constructions have meaning
- (lexicographically relevant): avoidance of implausible verb senses
- Sentence meanings arise from the combination of constructions

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## Three senses of constructiCon (construct-i-con)

CCN 1

the network of constructions that make up the linguistic knowledge of an individual speaker

CCN 2

the (network of constructions) that make up a language (intended for linguistic analysis)

CCN 3

the (network of constructions) that make up a language (intended for general users = a reference constructiCon)



## CCN 1

the network of constructions that make up the linguistic knowledge of an individual speaker

- tremendous differences between individual speakers Dąbrowska 2016
- important for
  - sociolinguistic and educational research
  - the analysis of learner language (“overuse” – “underuse”)

## CCN 2

the (network of constructions) that make up a language  
(intended for linguistic analysis)

- Frame-Net (database created by Charles Fillmore)
- Frame-Net-based constructiCons for
  - English
  - Brazilian Portuguese Tiago Torrent ...
  - Swedish Ben Lyngfelt ...
  - German Alexander Ziem ...
  - Japanese Kioko Ohara
- cross-linguistic comparison

Lyngfelt, Borin, Ohara, Torrent (eds.) 2018.  
*Constructicography*. Amsterdam/  
Philadelphia: Benjamins

*Lexicographica* 2019

## Two Birmingham projects

1. Susan Hunston Cobuild Grammar Patterns rearranged
2. Florent Perek & Amanda Patten Cobuild Dictionary + Frame-Net

- basically pattern i.e. valency information presented in a CxG framework
- great advantage: linked to a dictionary

- under construction
- [www.constructicon.de](http://www.constructicon.de)

## Object Attribute Construction (Attr: NP)

Export CXN

Name

Semantic function of cxn

Slots

Semantic role of slots

Syntactic function Terminology

Syntactic form

Example

Collo-profile

Sources for collo-profile

General cxn-type

Construction family

Annotators/Date

OBJECT ATTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTION (ATTR: NP)			
An ÆFFECTOR assigns an ATTRIBUTE to an ATTRIBUTEE.			
Slot 1: argument	Slot 2: predicate	Slot 3: argument	Slot 4: argument
ÆFFECTOR		ÆFFECTED-ATTRIBUTEE	ATTRIBUTE
potential subject	choice of terminology	unit in predicate	unit in predicate
NP	V	NP	NP
She called <b>him</b> a fool.			
alphabetical frequency (ass. measures) frequency (order & font size)	<a href="#">account</a> <a href="#">appoint</a> <a href="#">call</a> <a href="#">consider</a> <a href="#">count</a> <a href="#">create</a> <a href="#">declare</a> <a href="#">elect</a> <a href="#">excuse</a> <a href="#">find</a> <a href="#">imagine</a> <a href="#">judge</a> <a href="#">keep</a> <a href="#">label</a> <a href="#">leave</a> <a href="#">make</a> <a href="#">pronounce</a> <a href="#">prove</a> <a href="#">show</a> <a href="#">take</a> <a href="#">think</a> <a href="#">vote</a>		
Valency Dictionary of English, Patternbank			
Active-3-Argument-Structure Construction			
Attribute Constructions			
TRH/03/21			

The English DITRANSITIVE CONSTRUCTION

AGENT makes RECIPIENT receive AFFECTED.

AGENT		RECIPIENT	AFFECTED
Subj	V	Obj: NP	Obj: NP
<p><b>GIVE</b></p> <p>TELL</p> <p>BRING COST OFFER SEND SHOW</p> <p>ALLOW ASK BUY CAUSE COST DO FIND GET GRANT</p> <p>HAND OWE LEND MAKE PAY SAVE TAKE WISH</p> <p>AFFORD AWARD BID BUILD DENY EARN FEED FINE GAIN GUARANTEE</p> <p>LEAD LEAVE LOSE PASS POUR PROMISE REFUSE SELL SERVE SET</p> <p>SHOOT SPARE THROW WRITE</p> <p>etc.</p>			

*I can give you a hint.* COCA-2017-SPOK - *Can I give you a hug?* COCA-2017-SPOK  
*She told me a lot about their relationship...* COCA-2017-SPOK  
*On Air Force One, the president told us a story he has never told before on television ...*  
 COCA-2002-SPOK  
*... spare me the details if that's possible.* COCA-2014-F

Collo-profiles

- very time-consuming
- very corpus-dependent

Alexander Ziem & Tim Feldmüller. 2024.  
 Dimensions of constructional meanings in the  
 German Construction: Why collo-profiles matter.  
*Yearbook of the German Cognitive Linguistics  
 Association*, 203–226.

DECLARATIVE-STMT CXN

WH-INTERROGATIVE CXN

IMPERATIVE-DIRECTIVE CXN

DITRANSITIVE CXN

CAUSED-MOTION CXN

PROTECT-SOMEBODY-FROM CXN

PRESENT-TENSE CXN

GOING-TO CXN

WILL CXN

COULD CXN

DEFINITE-SG-NP CXN

PROPER-NAME CXN

DEMONSTRATIVE-SG-NP CXN

PREMODIFIER-OF-NOUN CXN

POSTMODIFIER-OF-NOUN CXN

etc.

collocations

multi-word units

adjuncts

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# Partially schematic constructions

*THE-XER-THE-YER CXN*

Fillmore, Kay & O'Connor 1988

# Partially schematic constructions

GOD-KNOWS-WH CXN

Herbst 2016

- (1) This is the first time I've been down here since **God knows when**. BNC-GWB-1543
- (2) ... I shall be satisfied just to stop worrying about schedules, cargoes, ... port dues and **God knows what else**. BNC-HWP-2308
- (3) I feel guilty though **God knows why** I should. BNC-HWP-1378
- (4) And for the rest of the winter until only **the Bundesbank knows when**. BNC-CH2-5097

## Construction

- slot 1: **God** etc.
- slot II: lexically fixes: **knows**
- slot III: **wh-word**

# Partially schematic constructions

GOD-KNOWS-WH CXN

Herbst 2016

God

goodness  
heaven  
Lord  
Bundesbank

knows

what

how  
why  
where  
when

# Non-idiomatic idiomaticity

*THE-TWO-OF-THEM* CXN

Herbst 2016

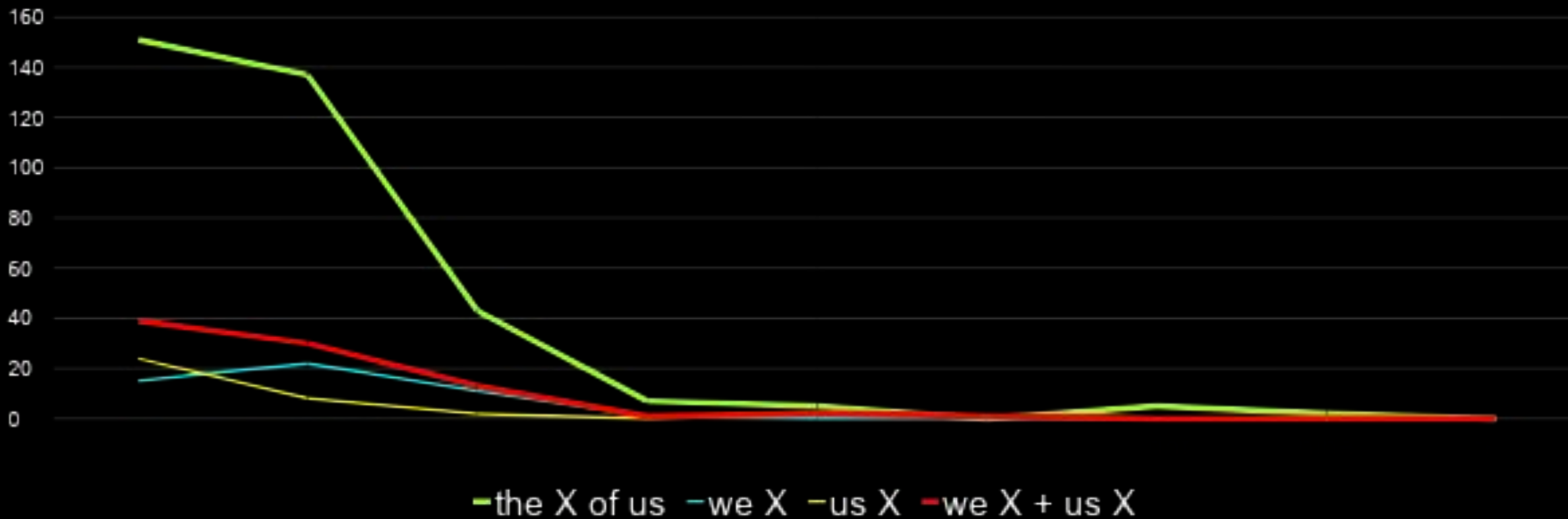
the NUM of PRON

- prototype of a construction
- partly schematic
- lexicographical problem
- meaning

THE-TWO-OF-THEM CXN

Herbst 2016

## The PRON of NUM-construction



—the X of us —we X —us X —we X + us X

## Stefan Gries

... unlike the transformational generative paradigm, both Cognitive Grammar and Construction Grammar are highly compatible with phraseological research.

...

Given the cognitive linguist's cognitive commitment "to make one's account of human language accord with what is generally known about the mind and the brain ..." (Lakoff 1990: 40), it seems to me as if this theory would be the one which usage-based phraseologists would work with best.

.2008: 15 & 22 Phraseology and linguistic theory. Sylviane Granger & Magali Paquot (eds), *Phraseology*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins.

- 1 Frequency
- 2 CxG: phraseological units not an addendum

Phraseological units (often):

- partially schematic constructions
- fixed lexical elements
- low-level instantiations of more general constructions

# Drive-me-crazy as the baby in the family of resultatives

## SUBJECT-ATTRIBUTE CXNs:

*Trump calls climate change “a Chinese hoax”.  
Some call him mad.*

COCA-2017-MAG  
BNC-KA2-38

## RESULTATIVE CXNs:

*It was the suburbs that elected Biden president.  
Fred watered the flowers flat.*

NOW-22-09-01-US  
*Goldberg/Jackendoff 2004*

## DRIVE-ME-CRAZY OBJECT-ATTRIBUTE CXNs:

*Enough to drive us all bananas.  
BNC-CH1-96*

*I mean, Donald Trump drives them crazy.*

OCA-2017-SPOK

Adele E. Goldberg & Ray Jackendoff. 2004. The English Resultative as a family of constructions. *Language* 80(3)



# Drive-me-crazy as the baby in the family of resultatives

## The BrE *DRIVE-ME-MAD* CONSTRUCTION

Something or someone can cause a person or animal to become furious or despaired.

ÆFFECTOR	verb	ÆFFECTED	
	DRIVE	<p><b>me</b></p> <p>(det prem) noun</p> <p>you her him them etc.</p>	<p><b>mad</b></p> <p>crazy</p> <p>insane</p> <p>wid daft batty bonkers crackers demented quackers</p>
type of cxn	3-argument ASC		
relation	inherits from ADJECTIVAL RESULTATIVE CXN		

Joan Bybee 2010: 22-23 *Language, Usage and Cognition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

# Drive-me-crazy as the baby in the family of resultatives

*drive me crazy*

*drive me round town*

*elect someone as President*

*elect someone President*

*elect someone as President*

*elect someone to the White House*

CAUSED-MOTION CXN

OBJECT-ATTRIBUTE CXN

*put the dishes in the kitchen sink*

*let me put it this way*

*as she puts it*



---

inherits from:

- RESULTATIVE CXN
- OBJECT-ATTRIBUTE CXN
  
- CAUSED-MOTION CXN

inherits from:

- RESULTATIVE CXN

- OBJECT-ATTRIBUTE

- CAUSED-MOTION C

Name of <u>cxn</u>	PUT-IT-'SAY'-CXN			
Semantic function of <u>cxn</u>	An <u>AFFECTOR</u> expresses a MESSAGE in A PARTICULAR WAY			
Slots	Slot 1: argument	Slot 2: predicator	Slot 3: argument	Slot 4: argument
Semantic roles of slots	<u>AFFECTOR</u>	ACTION	MESSAGE	MANNER
Syntactic function	potential subject		unit in predicate	unit in predicate
Syntactic form	NP	V	NP	
Example	<i>Let me put it this way.</i> COCA-2019-MAG <i>As Trump put it simply during his inauguration speech, "America first".</i> NOW-17-02-20-AU			
<u>Collo</u> -profile			<b>it</b>  the question the issue the matter etc.	<b>as</b>  how mildly bluntly this/that way differently. strongly well simply like this/that crudely clearly. etc.
Sources for <u>collo</u> -profile	VDE, BNC			

In constructional space

- inheritance links
- allostructions?
- metaphorical extension
- Diachronic Construction Grammar

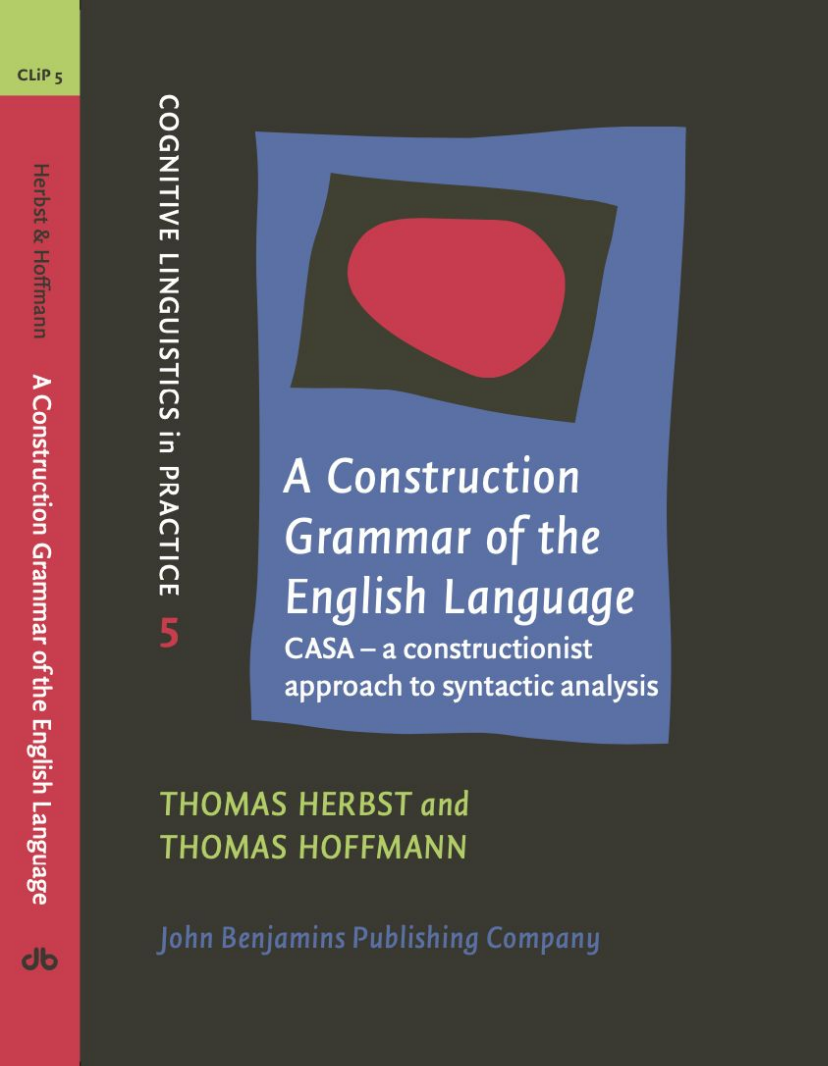
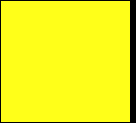
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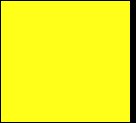
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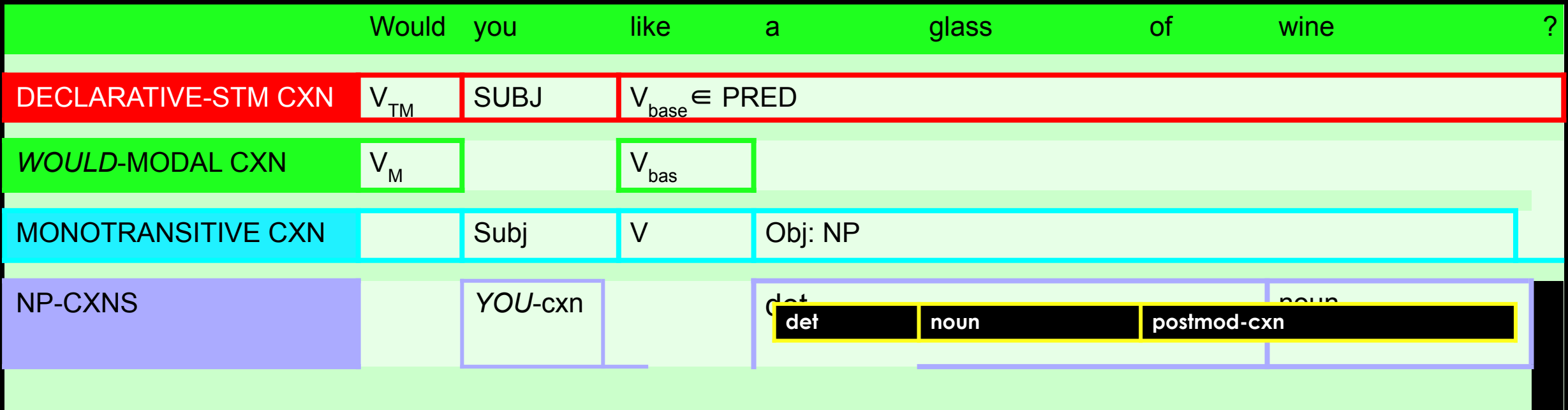
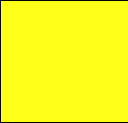


A  
 Constructionist  
 Approach to  
 Syntactic  
 Analysis



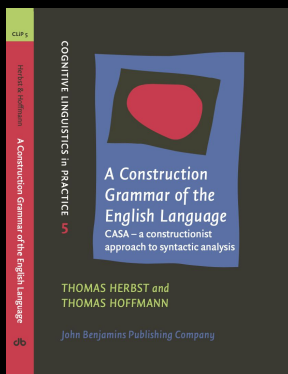
I thought you were going to say something beginning with But.										
DECLARATIVE-STMT	SUBJ	V <sub>TM</sub>								
PAST-TENSE CXN	V-ed									
MONOTRANSITIVE CXN	Subj	V	Obj: clause							
DECLARATIVE-STMT			SUBJ	V <sub>TM</sub>						
PAST-TENSE CXN				V-ed						
BE-GOING-TO-V CXN				BE	going	to	V			
MONOTRANSITIVE CXN				Subj					V	Obj: NP
NP-CXNS	I-cxn	you-cxn					pron	postm-cxn: V-ing-cl		
ARGUMENT-STR CXN							Subj	V	Obj: PP	
PP-CXN								P	NP: meta	





## Integration of phraseological units into syntactic analysis

- chunking
- lexico-grammatical continuum



Thank you very much

Vielen Dank

Hartelijk bedankt

Muiti obrigado

Grazie mille

شكراً جزيلاً لك

Merci beaucoup