Constructions emerging : a usage-based model of the acquisition of grammar

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Constructions Emerging. A Usage-Based Model of the Acquisition of Grammar.

van Barend F. Beekhuizen

1. The role of cross-situational learning in the acquisition of word meanings is restricted to the earliest phases of lexical-semantic acquisition (this dissertation).

2. The importance of starting-big learning strategies has been overstated in the usage-based approach (this dissertation).

3. Whereas the nativist approach has fallaciously reified the competence-performance distinction using the tools-to-theories heuristics, the usage-based approach, equally fallaciously, discards the competence-performance distinction on the basis of the denial of its ontological veracity (this dissertation; cf. Gigerenzer, G. (1991), 'From tools to theories: A heuristic of discovery in cognitive psychology'. *Psychological Review* **98**(2), 254–267).

4. If learning is the mere after effect of processing language, true reorganization of a body of representations, such as a constructicon, is not possible and language acquisition should therefore not be framed in these terms (this dissertation).

5. The notion of inheritance in construction grammar, hailing from a conception of reified abstraction, is superfluous and should be disposed with at an ontological level, while more scrutiny should be exercised in its analytical application (this dissertation).

6. Computational modeling has a far wider role to fulfill in linguistics than mere delivery of existence proofs: theorizing, hypothesis generation and data exploration all benefit from an algorithmic approach (this dissertation).

7. Linguistics, being a subject at the intersection of so many other subjects (a.o., biological and cultural individual cognition, philosophy, human sociality, culture), does not benefit from a reduction to either.

8. In order to arrive at a more comprehensive understanding of acquisition of linguistic meaning, more attention to semantic typology is needed (cf. Bowerman (1993) 'Typological perspectives on language acquisition: Do crosslinguistic patterns predict development?', in E. V. Clark, ed., *Proceedings of the Twenty-fifth Annual Child Language Research Forum*, CSLI Publications, Stanford, CA, pp. 7–15).

9. If twenty Dutchmen are unable to arrive at a somewhat acceptable equilibrium for the coordination game of getting on and off trains, the country is doomed.

10. Bureaucratization is social grammaticalization. Corrolary: new forms will evolve in insufficiently inhabited social niches.