

## Building a parallel constructicon: A case study of Judgment\_communication constructions in English and German

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The nascent subfield of constructicography, i.e. the building of constructicons, largescale inventories of constructions, has seen much success since its inception (Lyngfelt et al. 2018a). Multiple constructicon projects have set out to describe the grammar of a range of languages following the principles of construction grammar (e.g. Ziem et al. 2019, Perek & Patten 2019), including English, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese, German, and Russian. These projects have allowed precious new insights on the grammar of these languages, such as the kinds of form-meaning pairs they contain, at what level(s) of generality they are best captured, and how to best describe their properties and the relations between them. Following these insights, some researchers have also waded in multilingual constructicography (e.g. Lyngfelt et al. 2018b, Tavares 2022), i.e. constructions aligned across languages. Up to now, however, research in this area have been comparatively rather piecemeal and typically involves aligning existing constructicon resources in different languages that have been compiled separately. Such an alignment often turns out to be very challenging because constructicon-developing efforts differ substantially not only in terms of their aims, scope, and their level of granularity, but also with regard to the descriptive apparatus that they use.

In this paper, we propose an alternative approach to multilingual constructicography that consists in identifying and describing fine-grained constructions in a given semantic field for two languages (English and German). Taking corresponding semantic frames from German and Berkeley FrameNet as a starting point, we illustrate our approach by using the Judgment\_communication frame. In each language, we compile an exhaustive list of lexical items evoking this frame (here verbs, e.g. *blame*, *praise*, *condemn*, for German, *loben*, *sich mokieren*, *verleumden*, among others), and we identify the valency constructions of each item, i.e. sets of overtly expressed frame elements paired by their syntactic realisation (for instance “Communicator V Evaluatee *for* Reason” for *belittle*, e.g. *The hare belittled the tortoise for his slow ways*, or “Communicator V *über* Evaluatee” for *spotten* ‘sneer’). We then identify valency constructions shared by a number of items (as well as lexical idiosyncrasies) to arrive at low-level generalizations indicating what we call “conventionalized windowings of attention over the frame”. Subsequently, we attempt to situate these constructions within the larger network of each language by describing the abstract argument structure construction that they inherit from and by identifying some of their sister constructions. Finally, we compare the two languages by matching each construction for its nearest equivalent(s) (if any), identifying divergences in distribution, semantics, pragmatics, or any other aspect of their usage.

We conclude by reflecting on the theoretical and methodological implications of our study, arguing that the low-level constructions addressed establish a level of constructicographic analysis that deserves closer attention. As specific configurations of semantic roles, they generalize over LU-specific valency patterns, showing that a pattern is (more or less) productive for several LUs; at the same time these patterns constitute a sub-domain of argument structure constructions with its own habitat both in a language-specific constructicon and in a multilingual construction resource.

## References

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