

Reviewing motivations for constructions

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Over the past 25 years there have been a series of proposals for treating the construction as an integral part of the grammatical description of languages. I will present a review of the arguments for constructions and construction-based grammars, covering the case studies well-known to the field in general, but also bringing in as much as possible less widely-published data. My goals are to come to an understanding of (i) what it means to do claim that some phenomenon in language is a ‘construction’ (or at least what it has meant, over the past decades, to make such a claim) and (ii) why someone doing linguistics in 2009 might want to dabble in construction grammar.