

## Functional shifts in constructions

This paper addresses the relation between constructional categorisation and context, in particular contextual effects on the configuration of constructions, defined as form–meaning pairings. Drawing on European Portuguese data, in particular *se* constructions, I will describe two types of functional shifts: shift in the (discourse) function with consequent shift in the internal configuration of the construction, and shift in the function alone (no changes in the constructional configuration). The latter was observed when a particular construction occurred in a particular context with a non-prototypical function.

The functional shift not accompanied by a categorial shift, in particular, raises some interesting questions for construction grammar. In some of its versions such as Radical Construction Grammar (Croft 2001), the semantic pole of the construction encompasses not only the traditional semantic properties, but also the pragmatic and discourse-functional properties. The representation of functional shifts presupposes the knowledge of the context in which the construction occurred, which is not represented. Although these properties are meaning-making devices, and hence fall rightly within the realms of meaning/function, the interplay between properties and their specificity are not explicit nor explained.

Expanding Givón's (1984) model of functional realms, I attempt to explain how the functional shifts take place. Finally, I will explore other models with explanatory potential with regards to these shifts.