

Phraseology 2009 in Japan

The international symposium on phraseology will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2009, at the Uegahara campus of [Kwansei Gakuin University](#), preceded by lectures on lexicography on Thursday, July 9 and lectures on corpus linguistics on Friday, July 10.

The international symposium is entitled as “Exploring the possibilities of phraseology as a new linguistic discipline with an interdisciplinary perspective.” The panelists of the symposium and the lecturers on corpus linguistics and lexicography are from Czech Republic, Poland, China and Japan. We would like to offer you an opportunity to open your eyes widely to see how linguistic descriptions and theories have been developed in our own country, in Eastern Europe, and on the Asian Continent.

There are many possible ways to do linguistics and the popular ways to do linguistics have changed over time. When we look back at the history of linguistics here in Japan, we are struck by the overwhelming influence of linguistics developed in America, especially after World War II. The emergence of American structural linguistics in the 1920's was followed by transformational generative grammar at the end of 1950's, and now many linguists are under the strong influence of cognitive linguistics and construction grammar. All these disciplines, however, have not been wide enough to cover the interest in the area now being developed as phraseology, and of course, nobody has the right to claim that phraseology has to have its theoretical basis on one or the other of these “established” ways to do linguistics.

Phraseology is a newly emerging area of linguistics and it is fast becoming an interdisciplinary area of linguistics and cultural studies. John Sinclair says in his preface to *Phraseology: An interdisciplinary perspective* (edited by Sylviane Granger and Fanny Meunier (2008), John Benjamins), “phraseology has been a neglected area of language description, at least in Western traditions of scholarship, for a long time.” One of the possible reasons he gives for the “rapid increase in interest in phraseology” is the development of corpora as the data-source of linguistic analysis.

Lexicography also has an inseparable relationship with phraseology. How a word or a grammatical category is related to another word or a grammatical category is one of the

main concerns of the lexicographical analysis. It is interesting to note, as is stated in Cowie's and Sinclair's works, that the importance of the collocation, which is the starting point of the recent development of phraseology, was first conceived and put into practice in English education and in English dictionaries in Japan in the early 20th century.

To sum up:

July 9, 2009. Lectures on lexicography 13:30 – 17:30.

July 10, 2009. Lectures on corpus linguistics 13:30—17:30.

July 11, 2009. Symposium on phraseology. 13:30—18:00.

Please come and join us.

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