Kerstin Fischer

Die Interaktion zwischen Konstruktionsgrammatik und Kontextwissen am Beispiel des Satzmodus in Instruktionsdialogen

Abstract

Construction Grammar is a usage-based model of language that allows a unified description of formal, semantic and pragmatic aspects of linguistic units. The semantic/pragmatic side of constructions is taken to constitute a semantics of understanding (Fillmore: 1982), which may comprise pragmatic knowledge of language use as much as culture- and context-specific information. In this paper I discuss the relationship between linguistic and situational knowledge necessary to account for the description of sentence mood, i.e. imperative, declarative and infinitive. As the empirical study shows, speakers decide for a particular sentence mood based on their judgments of situational appropriateness – which in turn are determined by their personal situation models. Thus, speakers' conceptions of the situation may differ. The model presented, which relies on Embodied Construction Grammar (Bergen/Chang: 2005; Chang et al.: 2002), describes the relationship between linguistic constructions and schematic world knowledge, here partly subjective situation construals. Not only can subtle pragmatic distinctions between the sentence moods be accounted for, the model also provides a proposal for the interaction between constructions and situational meaning in general.