CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR AND COLLOSTRUCTIONAL ANALYSIS

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Konstrukciona gramatika i kolostrukciona analiza (*Construction Grammar and Collostructional Analysis*) is a book by Vladan Pavlović, a full professor at the English Department of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš. Published by the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, the book builds on Professor Pavlović's extensive work in the field of construction grammar. Prior to this publication, he had already contributed with several works, including his MA thesis *Sintaksičko-semantička analiza konstrukcija sa glagolima složene prelaznosti u engleskom jeziku* (2006) (*Syntactic and Semantic Analysis of Constructions with Complex-Transitive Verbs in English*). The current book reflects his long-standing interest in constructionist approaches, which began before 2006 and has continued to develop over the years.

Collostructional analysis represents a set of quantitative (statistical) corpus-linguistic methods designed to examine the relationships between words and grammatical structures they inhabit. While closely related to construction grammar, it is not restricted to this framework alone (see Pavlović, 2021: 77; Tošić Lojanica, 2021: 108).² Pavlović carefully structured the book to familiarize the reader with the topic, offering a comprehensive overview of concepts related to the main subject. Collostructional analysis can be linked to cognitive approaches to grammar, as it is normally related to constructionist approaches, which represent a part of cognitive-functional linguistics (see Belaj & Tanacković Faletar, 2013: 21; Pavlović, 2021: 15). Therefore, the author begins the monograph by discussing the theoretical foundations of constructionist approaches in the first chapter titled *Konstrukcioni pristupi –*

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² Using low keys (e.g. construction grammar), we refer to the cognitive-linguistic approaches to grammar, while using capital letters (e.g. Construction Grammar), we refer to a particular theory within constructional approaches (in this case, a theory by Adele E. Goldberg).

teorijske osnove (*Constructionist Approaches – Theoretical Basics*). Following this, Pavlović explores statistical and corpus analysis in the second chapter *Kvantitativni zaokret u kognitivnoj lingvistici i veliki elektronski korpusi* (*Quantitative Shift in Cognitive Linguistics and Large Electronic Corpora*), which is in accordance with the quantitative nature of collostructional analysis. The third chapter *Kolostrukciona analiza – Teorijsko-metodološke osnove, tipovi i primeri upotrebe* (*Collostructional Analysis – Theoretical-Methodological Foundations, Types, and Examples of Use*) serves as the central chapter of the book, directly addressing the main topic. It discusses different types of collostructional analysis and provides illustrations of how each type can be conducted. The fourth chapter *Kolostrukcioni ogledi* (*Collostructional Experiments*) includes four papers in which the author analyzes three different constructions. The final chapter *Zaključak* (*Conclusion*) summarizes the main purpose of the book. Each chapter contains various subchapters that focus on a specific subtopic. Additionally, the book includes lists of tables, diagrams, illustrations, and abbreviations, as well as a preface and a bibliography.

In the chapter *Konstrukcioni pristupi – teorijske osnove* (*Constructionist Approaches – Theoretical Basics*, pp. 13–53) Vladan Pavlović introduces construction grammar and emphasizes its role in analyzing syntax and semantics across various languages. He distinguishes between broader and narrower interpretations of construction grammar, paying special attention to how the notion of construction has been understood and studied within various theories of linguistic analysis. Pavlović discusses the evolution of constructionist theories and contrasts them with generative grammar, emphasizing the importance of idiomaticity and the continuum between syntax and the lexicon. He refers to traditional theories that separate syntax from the lexicon, argues that idiomatic expressions do not fit neatly into this dichotomy, and emphasizes the need to view language through a more integrated, symbolic lens. Pavlović specifically refers to Goldberg's Construction Grammar, including its principles and the significance of constructions as fundamental units in the mental lexicon. The chapter also reviews contributions to construction grammar by Serbian authors and provides a brief overview of Pavlović's own research within the field.

In *Kvantitativni zaokret u kognitivnoj lingvistici i veliki elektronski korpusi* (*Quantitative Shift in Cognitive Linguistics and Large Electronic Corpora*, pp. 55–75) Pavlović explores the factors behind the quantitative shift in cognitive linguistics (and construction grammar) and emphasizes the increased use of quantitative data and statistical analysis. The author reflects a view in the literature (referring to Stefanowitch, 2011) that cognitive linguistics should adopt a more scientifically rigorous and methodologically valid approach, ensuring that its claims are empirically testable and less theoretically ambitious. The chapter also provides insight into the historical development of electronic corpora, starting from the Brown Corpus in the 1960s to modern examples like the iWeb Corpus and Serbian language corpora. The author reviews the use of statistical tests in corpus linguistics and provides various resources and courses for learning about quantitative methods. Finally, Pavlović concludes that while the quantitative shift enhances pattern detection and scientific rigor in linguistics, it also poses risks like over-reliance on quantitative data and

marginalization of under-studied languages, recommending a balanced integration of qualitative and quantitative methods.

In the third chapter, *Kolostrukciona analiza – Teorijsko-metodološke osnove, tipovi i primeri upotrebe* (*Collostructional Analysis – Theoretical-Methodological Foundations, Types, and Examples of Use*, pp. 77–120), Pavlović defines collostructional analysis as a quantitative corpus-linguistic method designed to explore the relationship between words and the grammatical constructions they appear in. He presents three main types of this analysis: simple collexeme analysis, which assesses individual word-construction associations; distinctive collexeme analysis, which compares word usage across constructions or language varieties; and covarying collexeme analysis, which examines co-occurring lexical units within the same construction. These approaches reveal statistically significant associations between lexical items and constructions, as well as patterns that reflect subtle differences in their meaning and usage. The chapter demonstrates the application of simple collexeme analysis to two syntactic structures, such as the ditransitive *V N2 N3* construction and imperative construction. Distinctive collexeme analysis is illustrated by analyzing differences between constructions like *V N2 N3* and *V N3 to N2*, which vary in their implications of effort and transfer, as well as *get N2 V-en* and *have N2 V-en* constructions. Covarying collexeme analysis is demonstrated using the *It BE ADJ to V* and *V2 N2 into V-ing* constructions. The illustrated analyses have been drawn from the relevant literature such as Gilquin (2006), Gries and Stefanowitsch (2004), Hilpert (2014), Stefanowitsch (2006), Stefanowitsch and Gries (2003), Wulf, Stefanowitsch and Gries (2007), etc. Additionally, the chapter explains that this method addresses diachronic language changes and synchronic variations, showing its broad applicability in understanding language structure and change. Despite its strengths in providing empirical insights into language patterns, collostructional analysis faces criticisms by authors such as Schmind and Küchenhoff (2013), regarding its methodological strictness, technical demands, and cognitive validity, which have led to ongoing refinement and debate within the field.

The fourth chapter, *Kolostrukcioni ogledi* (*Collostructional Experiments*, pp. 121–171), presents four studies using collostructional analysis in syntactic corpus research. The studies explore three different syntactic constructions and examine how culturally influenced conceptualizations are reflected in language use. The first and third studies are the translated versions of previously published works (see Pavlović, 2020a; Pavlović, 2020b), while the second and fourth studies are original and published for the first time in this monograph. The first and the second paper focus on the analysis of the *too ADJ to V* construction, using distinctive collexeme analysis. The first paper focuses on identifying differences across American, British, and Indian English, while the second paper employs the same theoretical and methodological framework and builds upon the first paper since it includes a fourth variety – Canadian English. The aim of these papers is to analyze cultural differences reflected in this construction by examining collocational patterns in the GloWbE corpus. The results show that collocational patterns vary between English varieties, reflecting subtle differences in cultural conceptualizations unique to each variant. The third

paper analyzes the *ADJ enough to V* construction and their cultural implications in American and British English, (AE and BE respectively). Using the GloWbE corpus, the study analyzes the frequency and statistical significance of various ADJ-V pairs in AE and BE. For instance, some results reveal that certain ADJ-V pairs, particularly those involving adjectives related to intelligence or its lack (e.g. *smart*, *stupid*, *dumb*) are highly distinctive in AE, whereas such pairs are less frequent and statistically significant in BE. These findings suggest that the *ADJ enough to V* construction reflects subtle cultural differences between AE and BE, with AE favoring direct and informal expressions and BE leaning towards more reserved communication styles. The analysis employs a distintive collexeme analysis, focusing on the statistical significance and frequency of ADJ-V pairs across these English varieties. The author states that this type of distinctive collexeme analysis is quite rare, as it typically involves the analysis of individual lexemes rather than pairs. Pavlović (2021: 142, 163) explains that, apart from this study, the only instance of distinctive collexeme analysis conducted in this manner is found in the first paper presented in this section and states that this kind of analysis is called *(multiple) distinctive collexeme analysis of co-varying collexemes* (see also Pavlović, 2020a). The final paper in this chapter presents the analysis of the *V N2 into V-ing* construction. The aim of the paper is to reevaluate the previously observed differences in the use of the construction *V N2 into V-ing* between British and American English, focusing on causal interpretations of this construction. The corpus used includes a broader and more balanced set of data compared to earlier studies, with sources from COCA, GloWbE, BNC, and their relevant subsets for both American and British English. The analysis employed was a distinctive collexeme analysis. The results challenge the previous conclusions of British English using more forceful verbs and American English favoring more persuasive ones, showing subtle patterns where both varieties use a mix of verbal persuasion and physical force. The conclusion emphasizes the need for careful consideration of regional differences and suggests using more diverse corpora to provide a more comprehensive understanding of linguistic constructions.

The fifth chapter, *Zaključak* (*Conclusion*, pp. 173–177) represents a synthesis of the entire monograph, focusing on the theoretical frameworks, quantitative methods, empirical studies and the motivation behind writing the book. It addresses the limited availability of resources on construction grammar in Serbian, particularly Goldberg's Construction Grammar, and emphasizes the aims to bridge this gap by presenting both foundational and advanced material. Another aim refers to encouraging scholars in Serbian and foreign philologies to explore construction grammar, even if they are hesitant about quantitative methods. Emphasizing the quantitative shift in cognitive linguistics, the book argues that quantitative methods now surpass the qualitative ones in significance and precision, thus improving the scientific status of linguistics. It supports collostructional analysis as a valuable quantitative method for studying word-grammar interactions, revealing patterns often missed by traditional descriptive statistics. However, it also warns against overreliance on quantitative data, which can lead to trivialization and fragmentation of research. Therefore, a balance between quantitative and qualitative methods is considered ideal. The book

stresses the importance of large electronic corpora in providing comprehensive data, while addressing issues of underrepresentation and imbalance. It promotes the study of cross-linguistic and sociolectal variability over seeking universal linguistic principles, aligning with cognitive-functional linguistics. Additionally, it calls for improvements in teaching corpus linguistics and quantitative methods in Serbian education, emphasizing the need for more courses and resources in these areas.

The contributions of this monograph are numerous. It can be seen as pioneering, being one of the first books in this field in Serbia, besides J. Vujić's monograph (2016). Since it has been written in Serbian, it provides an invaluable source of translated terminology and, in addition, it serves as a source of relevant literature. The book is comprehensive and thorough, covering not only collostructional analysis, but also related fields such as cognitive grammar and quantitative methods. Consequently, it serves as an invaluable resource for both newcomers and experts in the field. Additionally, it offers concrete examples of how construction grammar, which can be abstract for beginners, might be applied in empirical studies, thus bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and practical application. Building on this foundation, future publications could explore the application of collostructional analysis to Serbian constructions using Serbian corpora.

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