

Göteborgsstudier i nordisk språkvetenskap 32

Förflyttning på svenska

Om produktivitet utifrån ett konstruktionsperspektiv

(English Summary)

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Akademisk avhandling för filosofie doktorexamen i nordiska språk, som med tillstånd av humanistiska fakultetens dekanus vid Göteborgs universitet kommer att försvaras offentligt lördagen den 2 juni 2018 kl. 13.00 i sal T302, Olof Wijksgatan 6, Göteborg (gamla hovrätten).



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

TITLE: Motion in Swedish – on productivity from a construction grammar perspective
SWEDISH TITLE: Förflyttning på svenska – om produktivitet utifrån ett konstruktionsperspektiv
LANGUAGE: Swedish and English (English summary)
AUTHOR: Joel Olofsson

Abstract

This thesis comprises four articles, in which I investigate Swedish motion event expressions, such as *Siri springer iväg till affären* ('Siri runs off to the store') and *Siri coolar omkring på stan* ('Siri is cooling around in the city'), from a usage-based construction grammar perspective. More particularly, the thesis uses corpus and experimental methods to explore how such motion expressions are commonly used, on the one hand, and used in novel ways with new verbs, or already established verbs with new functions, on the other.

The former issue concerns a correlation with high token frequency, which, according to usage-based construction grammar (and other cognitive linguistic approaches to grammar), leads to entrenchment; i.e., repeated use of a linguistic string of words with a certain structure presumably strengthens its representation in the minds of speakers. The latter issue concerns more rare uses of motion expressions. This is elaborated in this thesis in terms of productivity, that is, the possibility of using motion expressions with new verbs (or using established verbs in a new way).

The results show that productivity depends on the grammatical properties and frequencies of the specific motion construction, as well as on the context. Not only is there a difference in the degree of productivity among motion constructions, but also in different levels of abstraction in the same construction. Furthermore, the thesis shows that productivity benefits from the fact that motion constructions contribute motion information.

KEYWORDS: motion event, motion verb, construction grammar, Swedish, productivity, usage-based.

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