Special Issue

Idiomatic and Formulaic Language: Learning, Processing and Representation

Message from the Guest Editor

Formulaic language, encompassing a vast range of phrases, idioms, collocations, multiword expressions, constructions and patterns, is now well-established as a topic of interest in studies of vocabulary, lexicography and psycholinguistics. In other words, many approaches now recognize that it is not only "words" (however defined) that occupy space within the lexicon, but also a range of units of varying size and fixedness. These units contribute to the efficient use of language, playing an important role in "native-like" communication (Pawley & Syder, 1983), and fulfil a range of communicative, social and interpersonal functions (Schmitt, 2017; Wray, 2012). The "processing advantage" offered by formulaic language is robustly supported in the literature, and has been demonstrated for a wide range of phrase types (e.g. Carrol & Conklin, 2020). Despite the rise in interest over the past two decades (or more), the exact nature of how such units are represented in the mental lexicon remains unclear...

Guest Editor

Dr. Gareth Carrol

Department of English Language and Linguistics, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK

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Languages (ISSN 2226-471X) is now in its eighth year since its inception in 2015. It is an Open Access journal which seeks to stimulate debates on key issues in languages and linguistics. We welcome papers at the cutting edge of different fields, ranging from applied linguistics to descriptive and theoretical linguistics. Submissions may consist of research articles and critical reviews as well as proposals for Special Issues where multi-disciplinary approaches and different perspectives on current issues are explored. We invite you to consider *Languages* as a forum for sharing your work.

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