The Syntax of Idioms

– Systematic study of (the syntactic flexibility of) idioms in 14 varieties of Dutch

– Online searchable database

– Focus on functional projections

– Internal syntax (DP structure)
  • Idiomatically Combining Expressions vs. Idiomatic Phrases
  • In ICEs, determiners follow regular syntax
  • In IdPs, definite determiners are semantically vacuous

– External syntax (idioms and phase size)
  • IdPs cannot staddle phase boundaries (DPs are not phases)
  • Some idioms depend on tense, aspect, modality, voice
  • Size of clause-internal phase varies cross-linguistically