

Mehrworteinheiten

in der Generativen Grammatik: Newmeyer (1974)

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- Thema: Modellierung von “idioms” mit der Generativen Grammatik
- repräsentativ für die Transformationsgrammatik
- Transformationsgrammatik: frühe Entwicklungsstufe (ca. 1957–1975) der Generativen Grammatik
 - Standard Theory, Extended Standard Theory, Revised Extended Standard Theory
- später: Government-and-Binding Theory, Minimalism

Aufbau von Newmeyer (1974)

- 1 Introductory remarks
- 2 The transformational behaviour of idioms
- 3 A transderivational constraint on idiom behaviour

Aufbau von Newmeyer (1974)

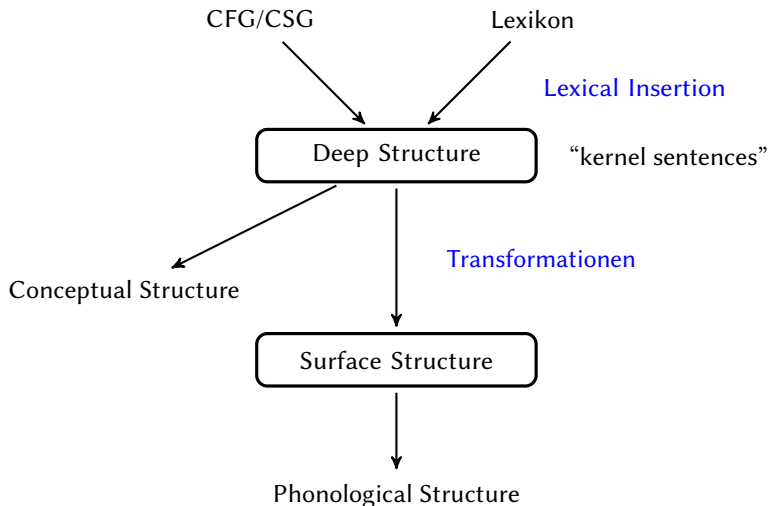
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Leitfragen für die Lektüre:

- 1 Auf welche Art der “Idiome” konzentriert sich Newmeyer? Und warum?
- 2 Welche Form von Regularität betrachtet Newmeyer?
- 3 Welche Hypothese stellt Newmeyer auf?
- 4 Für welche Analyse argumentiert Newmeyer, und welche lehnt er ab?

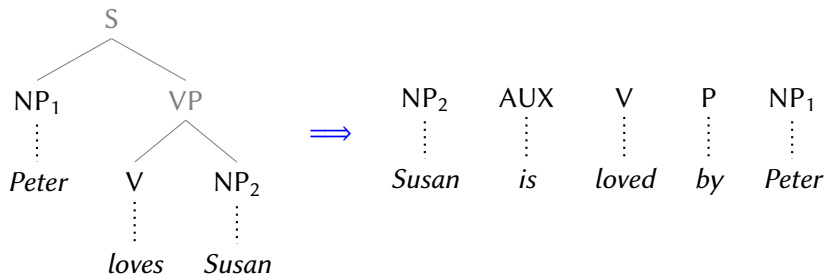
Exkurs: Transformationsgrammatik

Chomsky (1957; 1965)



Chomsky (1957; 1965)

“kernel sentences”



$NP_1 V NP_2 \rightarrow NP_2 AUX V by NP_1$

1. Introductory remarks

*The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate that there is far more regularity to the behavior of idioms than is generally believed. Given the meaning of an idiom and the meaning of its literal equivalent, one can predict – to a surprising degree – its syntactic behavior. I shall demonstrate that the formalization of this fact involves **abandoning the widely held belief that idioms are entered as unit entries in the lexicon**. Instead, the lexical items of which idioms are composed have identical entries to homophonous lexical items in their literal senses. A transderivational constraint relates the actual meaning, the literal meaning, and the lexical items involved.*

1. Introductory remarks (cont.)

Definition of idiom following Fraser (1970:22)

“a constituent or series of constituents for which the semantic interpretation is not a compositional function of the formatives of which it is composed”

Fokus auf “full idioms”: *kick the bucket, toe the line, red herring, butter up*

⇒ “contains no formatives whose ordinary lexical meaning contributes to the semantic interpretation”

“semi-idioms”: *white lie, swallow one’s pride, stir up trouble, float a loan*

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms

A widespread view of the transformational behavior of idioms is that is so chaotic that all that can be done is to specify each idiom idiosyncratically for which rules it undergoes and for which rules it does not undergo. I hope in this section to demonstrate the reverse;

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms

A widespread view of the transformational behavior of idioms is that is so chaotic that all that can be done is to specify each idiom idiosyncratically for which rules it undergoes and for which rules it does not undergo. I hope in this section to demonstrate the reverse;

Was konstituiert “transformational behaviour”?

⇒ Anwendbarkeit “zyklischer” Transformationsregeln:

- Passive
- Unspecified Object Deletion
- Conjunct Movement
- Subject Raising
- Tough Movement
- There Insertion

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: Vorgänger

(Fußnote 3)

Chafe (1968)

- syntaktische Eigenschaften von Idiomen sind bestimmt durch deren **Semantik**

Fraser (1970)

- syntaktische Eigenschaften von Idiomen sind bestimmt durch **Transformationshierarchien** (“frozenness hierarchy”)
- Beispiele:

passivization → extraction

extraction → permutation

permutation → insertion, adjunction

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: Hypothese

Vorannahmen:

- 1 zyklische Regeln sind **semantisch regiert** (government):
Das höchste “Prädikat” entscheidet, ob eine Regel angewendet werden kann oder nicht.
- 2 Idiome haben zwei Bedeutungskomponenten:
M1: idiomatische Bedeutung
M2: wörtliche Bedeutung

Hypothese

Put simply, a cyclic rule operates internally to an idiom only if *both* M1, and M2, govern the rule in question.

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: Passive

	passive	M1 passive	M2 passive
pull one's leg	+	+ ('tease')	+
bury the hatchet	+	+ ('end')	+
spill the beans	+	+ ('divulge')	+
pop the question	+	+ ('propose')	+
burn one's fingers	+	+ ('suffer')	+
kick the bucket	-	- ('die')	+
sit on pins and needles	-	- ('wait')	+
shoot the bull	-	- ('talk')	+
make the scene	-	- ('arrive')	+
blow one's top	-	- ('explode')	+

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: UOD

Unspecified Object Deletion (UOD)

Manche transitive Verben erlauben die Weglassung des Objekts.

(1) Peter ate (the fish)

	UOD	M1 UOD	M2 UOD
Bill thought up	–	– ('devised')	–
John drank down	–	– ('consumed')	–
Fred wrote off	–	– ('debitted')	–
Max cut in two	–	– ('halved')	–
the FBI got wind	–	– ('detected')	–
Selma set fire	–	– ('ignited')	–
Moishe took advantage	–	– ('exploited')	–
Max swilled down	–	+ ('drank')	–
Ira wolfed down	–	+ ('ate')	–
Sam jotted down	–	+ ('wrote')	–
Paula pored over	–	+ ('read')	–

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: CM

Conjunct Movement

Konjunkte können getilgt und als *mit*-PP adjungiert werden.

(2) Jack and Jill got out. \implies Jack goes out with Jill.

	CM	M1 CM	M2 CM
go out	+	+ ('date')	+
come to terms	+	+ ('agree')	+
mixed up	+	+ ('confuse')	+
get the picture	-	- ('become aware')	+
meet one's maker	-	- ('die')	+
be mixed up	-	- ('confuse')	+
be peas in a pod	-	+	-
be birds in a feather	-	+	-

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: SR

Subject Raising (SR)

Eingebettete Subjekte werden zur Subjektposition des Prädikats angehoben. ACHTUNG: Nur bei **nicht-faktiven** Prädikaten!

(3) It seems that Paul is hungry. \implies Paul seems to be hungry.

	SR	M1 SR	M2 SR
turn out	+	+	-
be anybody's bet	+	+	-
strikes my mind	+	+	-
knock sb. flat	-	-	-
make sense	-	-	-
turn sb. on	-	-	-

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: TM

Tough Movement (TM)

Anhebung eines eingebetteten Subjekts zur Subjektposition des einbettenden Prädikats. ACHTUNG: Nur bei “adjectives of facility”!

(4) It is tough to annoy Alex. \implies Alex is tough to annoy.

Auch möglich mit “idiomatic noun phrases which are semantically facilitative”:

- (5) a. It's a pain in the neck to humor Hugo. \implies Hugo is a pain in the neck to humor.
- b. It's easy as pie to solve this puzzle. \implies This puzzle is easy as pie to solve.

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: TI

There Insertion (TI)

Einfügen eines Expletivums in die Subjektposition.

ACHTUNG: Nur bei “predicate of existence or occurrence”!

(6) An old man is on the street. \implies There is an old man on the street.

	TI	M1 TI	M2 TI
come to light	+	+	?
crop up	+	+	?
come to pass	+	+	?

2. The transformational behaviour of idioms: Non-cyclic

Non-cyclic rules

Grob gesagt: Regeln, die nur einmal für den ganzen Satz angewendet werden können.

- (7) a. *The beans, John spilled. (Topicalization)
 - b. *What did John shoot? ANSWER: The bull. (Question Formation)
 - c. *He's building them, castles in the air. (Right Dislocation)
 - d. *The guest finally broke it, the ice. (Right Dislocation)
 - e. *I bought a pig today in a poke. (Adverb Insertion)
 - f. *Tom buried the hatchet and George buried it/one too. (Pronom.)
 - g. *I'll be okay after I let some steam off. (Particle Movement)
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- (8) a. Whose head will the boss bite off next?
 - b. My head, the boss will never bite off.
 - c. That's the man whose head Bill said the boss bit off at lunch yesterday.

3. A transderivational constraint on idioms

Hypothese

Ob eine Transformation auf ein Idiom angewendet werden kann, hängt davon ab, ob die Transformation mit M1 (idiomatische Bedeutung) und M2 (wörtliche Bedeutung) vereinbar ist.

3. A transderivational constraint on idioms (cont.)

Idiom inventory

a list of ordered pairs of semantic representations (M1, M2).

Each pair on this list is called an idiom source. Any item in the lexicon may be marked with the designation of one or more idiom sources.

Transderivational constraint

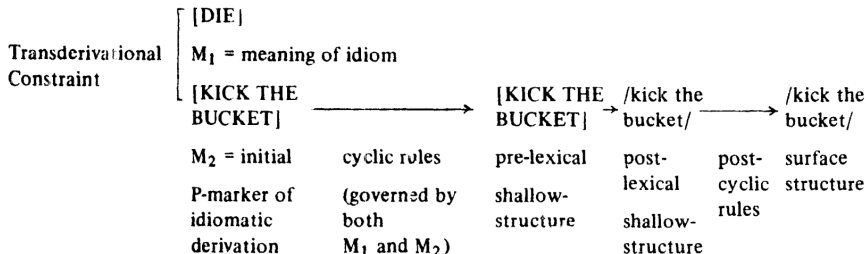
For each idiom source, an idiom with meaning M1 is derived from its paired M2, a subpart of some initial P-marker. Rules applying to structures derived from M2 must obey all the governed conditions of *both* M1 and M2.

3. A transderivational constraint on idioms (cont.)

Condition on lexical insertion

In each idiomatic derivation, there may be inserted at shallow structure for those nodes corresponding to subparts of M2, only those lexical items marked with the designation of the idiom source whose M1 and M2 have governed the application of the cyclic rules in that derivation.

3. A transderivational constraint on idioms (cont.)



Lexicon

/kick/: [KICK]: I.S. -736

/bucket/: [BUCKET]: I.S. -736

/pail/: [BUCKET]

Idiom inventory

I.S. -736: M₁ = [DIE]; M₂ = [KICK THE BUCKET]

3. A transderivational constraint on idioms (cont.)

Radical departure from more traditional treatments:

- Idioms have an integrity only at the level of semantic representation.
- While they function as a semantic unit, they never function as a lexical unit, i.e. they are not inserted as a unit at any one point in the derivation.

3. A transderivational constraint on idioms (cont.)

Radical departure from more traditional treatments:

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⇒ contra lexical integrity analysis (LIA, Fraser 1970):

- Idioms are inserted as a unit.
- **Aber wann/wo?** Deep Structure oder Surface Structure (oder “shallow structure”)? Für alles gibt es Argumente und Gegenargumente.

- [1] Chafe, Wallace L. 1968. Idiomaticity as an anomaly in the Chomskyan paradigm. *Foundations of Language* 4(2). 109–127. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25000002>.
- [2] Chomsky, Noam. 1957. *Syntactic structures*. Den Haag: Mouton.
- [3] Chomsky, Noam. 1965. *Aspects of the theory of syntax*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- [4] Fraser, Bruce. 1970. Idioms within a Transformational Grammar. *Foundations of Language* 6(1). 22–42. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25000426>.
- [5] Newmeyer, Frederick J. 1974. The regularity of idiom behavior. *Lingua* 34(4). 327–342.