

# Introduction to Pattern Grammar

# Outline

- The lexis-grammar interface
- A word and its patterns; a pattern and its words
- The Grammar Patterns books and on-line resource

# A generative grammar view

- “Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.”
- A sharp distinction between syntax and the lexicon.

# A systemic-functional view

- Lexis as the most delicate grammar (e.g. Hasan 1987/1996).
- Material: action: disposal: acquisition: iterative: unitary → *GATHER*
- Material: action: disposal: acquisition: iterative: neutral: unmarked → *COLLECT*
- Material: action: disposal: acquisition: iterative: neutral: +vast → *ACCUMULATE*

# A cognitive view

- ‘Cognitive linguistics does not accept the sharp distinction made in generative grammar between syntax and the lexicon.’
- ‘Rather, it contends that syntax and the lexicon form a continuum of constructions ranging from very specific elements (e.g. *cat*, *kick the bucket*) to increasingly more general patterns (e.g. noun, transitive construction).’

(Broccias 2006)

# Sinclair's view

- 'Is it wise to divide language patterning into grammar and something else ... before considering the possibility of co-ordinated choice?'
- (Sinclair 1991)

# Syntax and lexis

- ‘Is it wise to divide language patterning into grammar and something else (be it lexis or semantics or both) before considering the possibility of co-ordinated choice?’
- (Sinclair 1991)

# Form and function

- ‘All levels of grammatical analysis involve constructions: learned pairings of form with semantic or discourse function.’
- (Goldberg 2006)

# Form and meaning

- ‘Soon it was realized that form could actually be a determiner of meaning, and a causal connection was postulated, inviting arguments from form to meaning. Then a conceptual adjustment was made, with the realization that the choice of a meaning, anywhere in a text, must have a profound effect on the surrounding choices...’
- ‘There is ultimately no distinction between form and meaning.’
- (Sinclair 1991)

# Pattern Grammar

# A word and its patterns

- ...to ensure that we get every **possible** bit of information...
- ...it has been **possible** to identify the silk as coming from...
- ...get back on track as quickly as **possible**...
- ...this made an interest-rate cut **possible**
- It is **possible** that this happened when...
- Fishing is **possible** in virtually any weather...
- ...turned out to be the worst **possible** time.
- ...was taken to A&E, the best place **possible**.

# More words with the patterns

- ...to ensure that we get every **possible** bit of information...
- ...every available bit...
- ...every conceivable bit...
- ...every last bit...
- ...every possible bit...
- ...every single bit...

- ...it has been **possible** to identify the silk as coming from...
- ...it will be easier to run...
- ...it's hard to see...
- ...it's very difficult to know...
- ...it was impossible to prove...

- ...this made an interest-rate cut **possible**
- ...have made the track safer...
- ...made a decision inevitable...
- ...made a mum physically ill...
- ...made a normal birth impossible...
- ...made inarticulate people eloquent...
- ...made a complex task manageable...
- ...made the task tougher...
- ...made the situation worse...
- ...made the day special...
- ...made the city famous...
- ...made the task easier...

- It is **possible** that this happened when...
- ...it is unlikely that we will have...
- ...it is inconceivable that the King...
- ...it is likely that in the future...
- ...it is certain that proper growth...
- ...it is clear that it is much easier...
- ...it was obvious that something...

- Fishing is **possible** in virtually any weather...
- ...support is essential...
- ...arguments are inevitable...
- ...a fix on the sun is crucial...
- ...the meaning is uncertain...
- ...the outlook is hopeful...
- ...the vaccine is effective...

- ...turned out to be the worst **possible** time.
- ...the best available price...
- ...the worst conceivable accident...
- ...the worst imaginable insult...
- ...the best obtainable system...

- ...was taken to A&E, the best place **possible**.
- ...the best textbook available...
- ...the worst news imaginable...

# Unique use

- ...get back on track as quickly as **possible**...

# Pattern Grammar: coding

- Grammar coding for Collins Cobuild English Dictionary (1995)
- Simple, transparent, flexible
- *Sara tried hard to build up her daughter-in-law's strength, to prepare her for motherhood.*
- *Sarah tried hard to build...*
  - TRY: **V to-inf**
- *to build up her daughter's strength...*
  - BUILD UP: **V P n**
- *to prepare her for motherhood...*
  - PREPARE: **V n for n.**

# Pattern coding: adjective

- *...we can't be **certain** about religion*
  - v-link AJD **about** n
- *He was not **certain** of failure*
  - v-link ADJ **of** n
- *I am **certain** that some of my readers...*
  - v-link ADJ **that**
- *it is already **certain** that the two transitional years...*
  - *it* v-link ADJ **that**
- *MPs are **certain** to insist on...*
  - v-link ADJ **to-inf**

# Pattern coding: noun

- *Perhaps he'd follow her **suggestion** of a stroll to the river.*
  - N **of** n
- *I have lots of **suggestions** for the park's future.*
  - N **for** n
- *We reject any **suggestions** that the law needs amending.*
  - N **that**

# Pattern coding: verb

- *He suggested a link between class size and test results.*
  - V n
- *I suggest you ask him some questions about...*
  - V that
- *I suggested to Mike that we go for a meal...*
  - V to n that
- *No one has suggested how this might occur*
  - V wh
- *I suggested taking her out to dinner...*
  - V -ing

# A pattern and its words: Pattern and Meaning

- **V n for n / ing**
- The ‘buy’ group (i.e. do something for the benefit of someone)
  - book; bring; buy; carve; collect; cook; do; fetch; find; fix; forge; get; knit; leave; make; order; play; pour; prepare; prescribe; raise; secure; wangle; write.
- The ‘exchange’ group
  - barter; exchange; mistake; substitute; swap; trade; trade off.
- The ‘ask’ group
  - ask; beg; beseech; implore; importune; pester; press; pressure; pump; tap; touch.

# ...continued...

- The ‘praise’ group
  - accept; acclaim; admire; applaud; commend; congratulate; laud; praise.
- The ‘condemn’ group
  - admonish; attack; berate; blame; castigate; censure; chide; condemn; criticize; despise; (not) fault; rap; reprimand; reproach; scold; slam; slate; upbraid; vilify; tell off; tick off.
- The ‘reward and punish’ group
  - arraign; arrest; commit; compensate; console; excuse; execute; forgive; indict; prosecute; punish; recompense; remember; report; reward; sue; thank; try; want; haul up; pay back.

# ...continued...

- The 'leave' group
  - desert; forsake; leave.
- The 'prepare' group
  - brace; clear; equip; fit; free; gird; groom; intend; prepare; prime; qualify; ready; revise; score; steel; train; transcribe; fit out; put up.
- The 'select' group
  - audition; choose; interview; nominate; recommend; recruit; seek; select; shortlist; pass over; rope in; single out.
- The 'pay' group
  - ask; bill; charge; pay; reimburse; cough up; fork out; pay out; shell out.

# ...continued

- The ‘allocate’ group
  - allocate; allow; budget; commit; designate; earmark; reserve; vote.
- The ‘schedule’ group
  - reschedule; schedule; slate; time.
- The ‘search’ group
  - comb; explore; scan; scour; scout; search.

# Grammar Patterns on-line

- Use the Chrome browser.
- <https://hcd.demo.idm.fr/dictionary/grammar>
- Login: Grammar
- Password: Summer\_17
  
- From the University of Birmingham website (verbs only):
- arts-ccr-002.bham.ac.uk/CCR/patgram/

# HANDS-ON

1. Match the pattern to the example. Identify the pattern elements.
2. Find the pattern in the on-line resource.
3. Find the meaning group in the on-line resource.

# The examples

1. *Carter is remembered as the president who...*
2. *He is still recuperating from his operation.*
3. *He tried to frighten people into doing what he wanted.*
4. *He was met at the airport...*
5. *I noticed that a pane of glass was missing.*
6. *It was decided to place her with a foster family.*
7. *People can develop a natural immunity to malaria...*
8. *She could understand his unwillingness to share his room.*
9. *Their fear is that the ship could break apart.*
10. *Wool carpets may increase the risk of asthma in children.*

# The patterns

- a) **at N**
- b) **N of n**
- c) **N to-inf**
- d) **N to n**
- e) **poss N *be* that**
- f) ***it be* V-ed to-inf**
- g) **V *from* n**
- h) **V n *as* n**
- i) **V n *into* -ing**
- j) **V that**



# The answers

1. Carter <b>is remembered</b> as the president who...	<b>V n as n</b>
2. He <b>is recuperating</b> from his operation	<b>V from n</b>
3. He <b>frightened</b> people into doing what he wanted	<b>V n into -ing</b>
4. He was met at the <b>airport</b>	<b>at N</b>
5. I <b>noticed</b> that a pane of glass...	<b>V that</b>
6. It <b>was decided</b> to place her...	<b>it be V-ed to-inf</b>
7. ...a natural <b>immunity</b> to malaria...	<b>N to n</b>
8. ...his <b>unwillingness</b> to share his room	<b>N to-inf</b>
9. Their <b>fear</b> is that the ship...	<b>poss N be that</b>
10. ...may increase the <b>risk</b> of asthma...	<b>N of n</b>

# The answers

1. Carter <u>is remembered</u> as the president who...	V n as n
2. He <u>is recuperating</u> from his operation	V <i>from</i> n
3. He <u>frightened</u> people into doing what he wanted	V n <i>into</i> -ing
4. He was met <u>at the airport</u>	<i>at</i> N
5. I <u>noticed</u> that a pane of glass...	V that
6. It <u>was decided</u> to place her...	<i>it be</i> V-ed to-inf
7. ...a natural <u>immunity</u> to malaria...	N to n
8. ...his <u>unwillingness</u> to share his room	N to-inf
9. <u>Their fear</u> is that the ship...	poss N <i>be</i> that
10. ...may increase the <u>risk</u> of asthma...	N of n