

Ling 795 Seminar: Collostructional analysis

San Diego State University

Schedule # 6006

Fall 2023

Mo 4:00pm–6:40pm

LSS-365

Collostructional analysis is a linguistic method that explores how specific words and grammatical constructions preferentially co-occur in language. It involves studying large language corpora to uncover statistically significant patterns in these word-construction pairings, shedding light on how language users convey meaning through collocations. This approach goes beyond traditional collocation studies by considering the role of grammar in shaping these preferences, contributing to our understanding of language variation and usage. We will begin the semester by reading background literature on collocational studies and construction grammar, followed by the foundational papers on collostructional analysis by Gries and Stefanowitsch. Then, based on issues that come up during class discussion, we will dig into the primary literature on other key topics.

Instructor

Prof. Rob Malouf

Website: malouf.sdsu.edu

Email: rmalouf@sdsu.edu

Office hours: Tu Th 1:00–2:00 or by appointment

Real office: SHW 244

Zoom office: SDSU.zoom.us/j/81450093766

SDSU provides disability-related accommodations via the Student Ability Success Center (sascinfo@sdsu.edu). Please allow 10–14 business days for this process.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. Please let me know if you would prefer an alternate name and/or gender pronoun.

Student Learning Outcomes

The goals of this course are for participants to gain experience in:

- applying and interpreting collostructional analysis,

- reading and evaluating the primary literature,
- presenting and discussing research material with peers,
- identifying open research questions,
- applying descriptive and theoretical concepts to novel linguistic data.

Through the term, participants (including auditors!) will present and discuss articles from the reading list, which cover a number of aspects of constructional change.

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. Readings for each will be available through the library or posted on the class Canvas site. The specific readings will depend on the interests of the participants.

Course Design

The reading list will be posted to Canvas. We'll all take turns leading the discussions, but everyone should be sure to read the papers in advance. To help focus on what's most relevant, I will give you discussion questions to keep in mind while you are reading.

In addition to leading and participating in discussions, students taking the class for a grade will also prepare a final research project. The final grade will be based on class participation, homework assignments in which students practice applying constructional analysis, and on the final project:

Project draft	Dec 10	20%
Final project	Dec 17	40%
Assignments	—	10%
Class presentations	—	30%