Abs-101
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Contexts of situation in text, in experience, and in the mind

Although Firth's (1957) "context of situation" is often referenced in corpus linguistics studies, no concerted effort has been made to map it onto corpus data. This poster, summarizing a major thread of the author's recent monograph (Philip 2011), does precisely that, demonstrating how Sinclair's (1996) unit of meaning can be regarded as the linguistic realization of the context of situation. Since the unit of meaning can admit variable elements (especially within semantic preference), the poster also makes recourse to the context of situation and its mental representation: in image schemata (Lakoff 1987) and metaphoremes (Cameron and Deignan 2006). Corpus evidence of these cognitive elaborations of the context of situation, in the form of creative variants of idiomatic phrases, is offered to support the main argument of the poster, which is that the context of situation is the place where meanings in the mind and meanings in language converge.

References

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