Romance Perspectives on Construction Grammar
Edited by Hans C. Boas and Francisco Gonzálvez-García
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The chapters in this book show how the different flavors of Construction
Grammar provide illuminating insights into the syntax, semantics, pragmatics
and discourse-functional properties of specific phenomena in Romance languages
such as (Castilian) Spanish, French, Romanian, and Latin from a synchronic
as well as a diachronic viewpoint. The phenomena surveyed include the role of
constructional meanings in novel verb-noun compounds in Spanish, the relevance
of lexicalization for a constructionist analysis of complex prepositions in French,
the complementariness of fragments, patterns and constructions as theoretical and
explanatory constructs in verb complementation in French, Latin, and Spanish,
non-constituent coordination phenomena (e.g. Right Node Raising, Argument Cluster
Coordination and Gapping) in Romanian, and variable type framing in Spanish
constructions of directed motion in the light of Leonard Talmy’s (2000) typological
differences of lexicalization between satellite-framed and verb-framed languages.

“Construction Grammar has become progressively more influential in linguistics
and psychology over the last two decades. But to date, it hasn’t been systematically
applied to the Romance languages. This volume, for the first time, lays the
groundwork. It show by example how grammatical form-meaning pairings are
fleshed out in languages from Latin to French and Spanish, and how they compare
both across languages and over time.”
Benjamin K. Bergen, University of California, San Diego

“We think we know Romance languages, but do we really? The papers in this innovative
volume target some of the toughest grammatical problems that linguists have
encountered – from complex prepositions to parenthetical phrases to fragmentary
expressions – and provide a testament to our ability as language users to adapt
linguistic routines to communicative needs. [...] This engaging volume offers
insights to any scholar of Romance syntax and the lexicon. It also richly illustrates
the way in which Construction Grammar captures the continuum of generality
in language – from fixed expressions to highly schematic (and potentially universal) combinatoric patterns.”
Laura A. Michaelis, University of Colorado, Boulder

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