

WHAT DO TRANSLANGUAGING AND DIASYSTEMATIC CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR HAVE IN COMMON?

*il tuo cervello come che fa confusione e
mette in mezzo le due lingue*

Beatrice Bernasconi, Eugenio Goria, Paolo Della Putta
Università di Torino

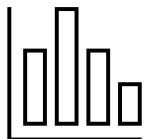
Aims



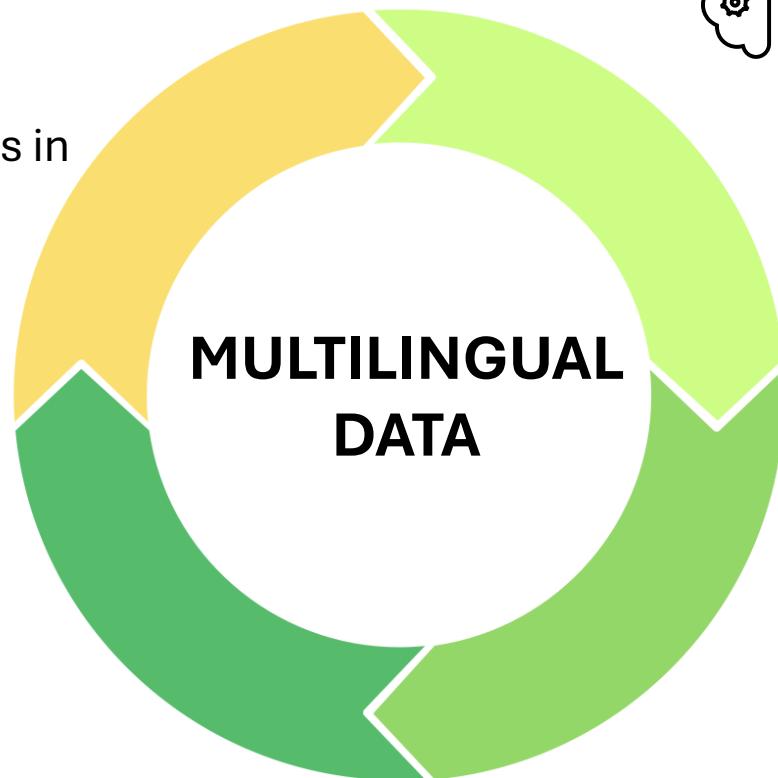
- identify social meanings in multilingual practices
- account for speakers' agency

translanguaging

(Garcia & Otheguy 2014, Li 2018 among others)



- identify regularities in multilingual speech
- describe patterns of language change



- describe the type of linguistic knowledge developed by multilingual speakers

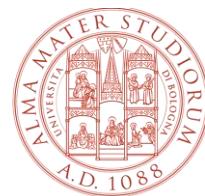
construction grammar

(Fillmore et al. 1988; Goldberg 1995, 2006 among others)

code-switching

(Auer 1999, 2014; Muysken 2000, 2013, among others)

The project DiverSIta: Diversity in spoken Italian



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



Corpus KIParla

L'italiano parlato e chi parla italiano

- **DiverSIta** is a project funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU with the The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)
- the main purpose of the project is to **document** the Italian of **speakers with an international migratory background**
- the data collected within the project will from **two new modules (StraParla-BO and StraParla-TO)** of the corpus **KIParla** (Mauri et al. 2019), which is currently the largest existing corpus of spoken Italian



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



The project DiverSIta



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



Corpus KIParla

L'italiano parlato e chi parla italiano

4 communities in each city (64h of recordings)

Bologna

Turin

2 types of interactions

semi-
structured
interviews

free
conversations

16 hours per community

8 hours - interviews

8 hours - free
conversation



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



Italiadomani
PIANO NAZIONALE
DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO

Studi
Um



The project DiverSIta



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



Corpus KIParla
L'italiano parlato e chi parla italiano

Moroccan (16h)



Peruvian (16h)



Romanian (16h)



Chinese (16h)



Data collection: A community-based approach

- we adopted a community-based approach to data collection

*“Community-Based Language Research, as I define it here, not only allows for the production of knowledge on a language, but also assumes that that knowledge can and should be **constructed for, with, and by community members,***

and that it is therefore not merely (or primarily) for or by linguists”

(Czaykowska-Higgins 2009: 17)

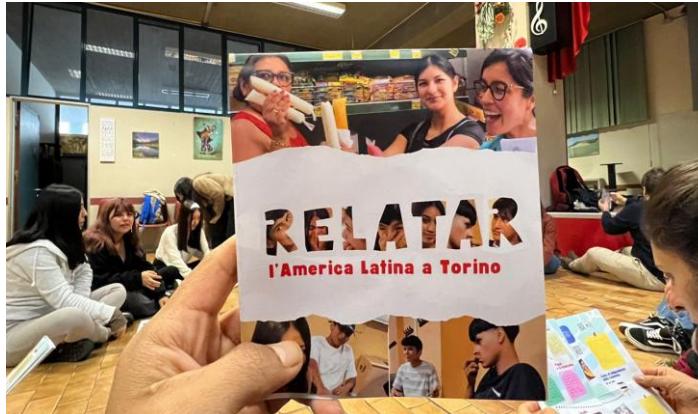
Data collection within the Peruvian community

- **Community:** Progetto Paradero NOMiS (Nuove Opportunità per Minori Stranieri)
- **Participants:** newly arrived young people (ages 14–23) and families from Latin America
- **Activities:**

July 2024

Relatar

creation of a mockup tourist-guide



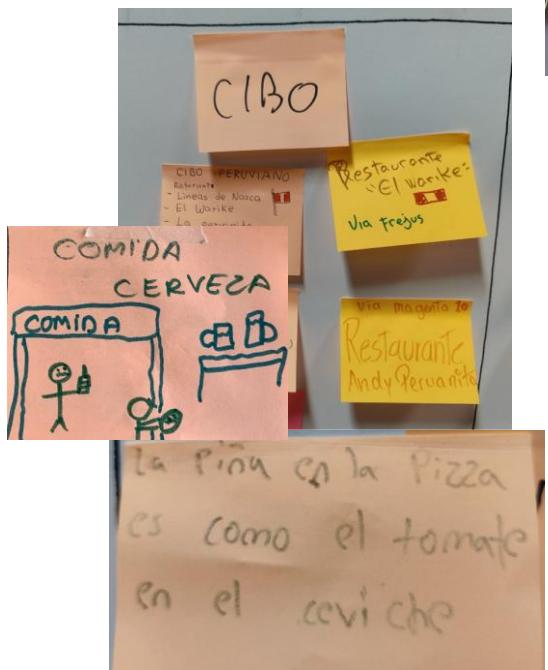
February 2025

World Anthropology Day

guided tour of the neighbourhood



RELATAR: The process



RELATAR: The outcome



Data collection within the Romanian community

- **Community:** Centro di Cultura e Tradizione Italo-Romena (CCTIR)
- **Participants:** young people (13-17 y.o.) from the association, born in Italy, Italian-Romanian bilinguals
- **Activities:** film-making workshop aimed at producing a documentary about the Association and its activities



Multilingual practices

Miguel (M)

Age: 51

time in Italy: 16 yrs

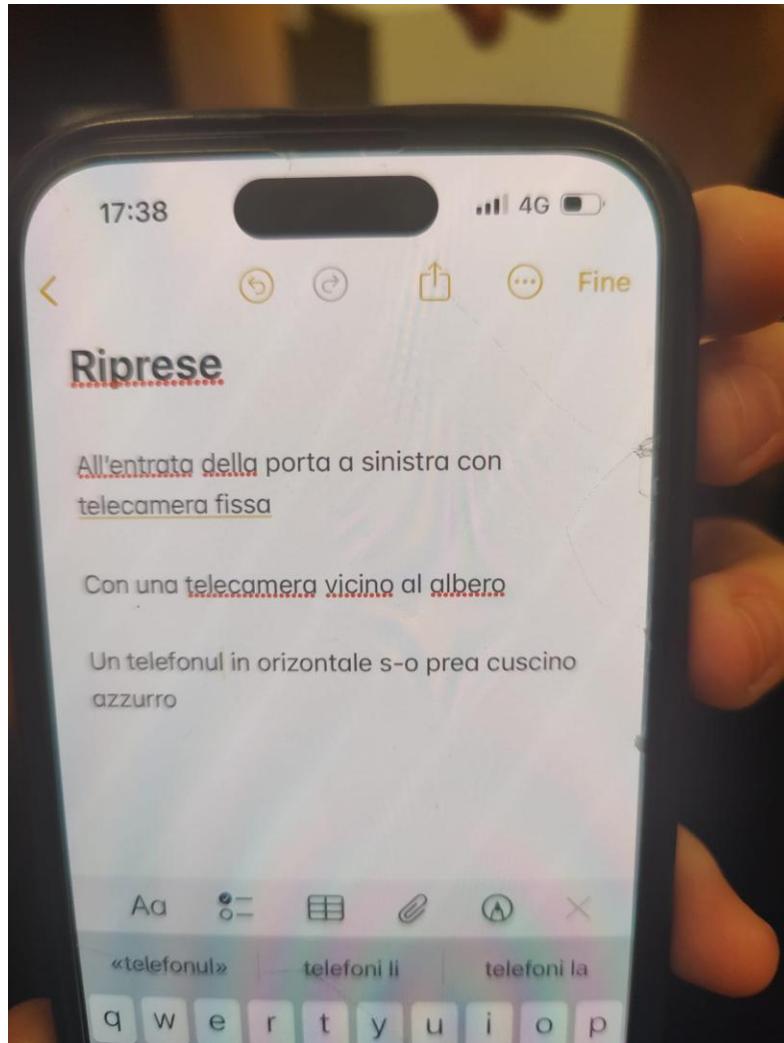
- speakers orient towards multilingual modes



sì parla a- i-sì **#porque** quando uno **#està** qua e >per esem-< io
che lavoro co- (.) **#mi(s) cliente** parla(no) tutti italiano io
dev(o) parlare Italiano. quando viene un compatriota mio (.)
#hablamos #español. anche italiani e: alla fine **combiniamo** [...]
#porque parla **#español** e italiano e combiniamo **#se #combina**

*we speak, yes, because when one is here and for example myself,
who am working with... my customers all speak Italian, I have to
speak Italian. When someone from my country comes, we speak
Spanish, also Italian, and at the end we combine, because we
speak Spanish and Italian, we combine*

Multilingual practices



Irene (F)

Age: 16

Italian-born, Romanian parents

Un telefonul in orizzontale **s-o prea** cuscino azzurro

A phone in landscape orientation above blue pillow

- creative use of Italo-Romanian grammar and spellings
- symbolic representation of mixedness and hybridity
- self-directed

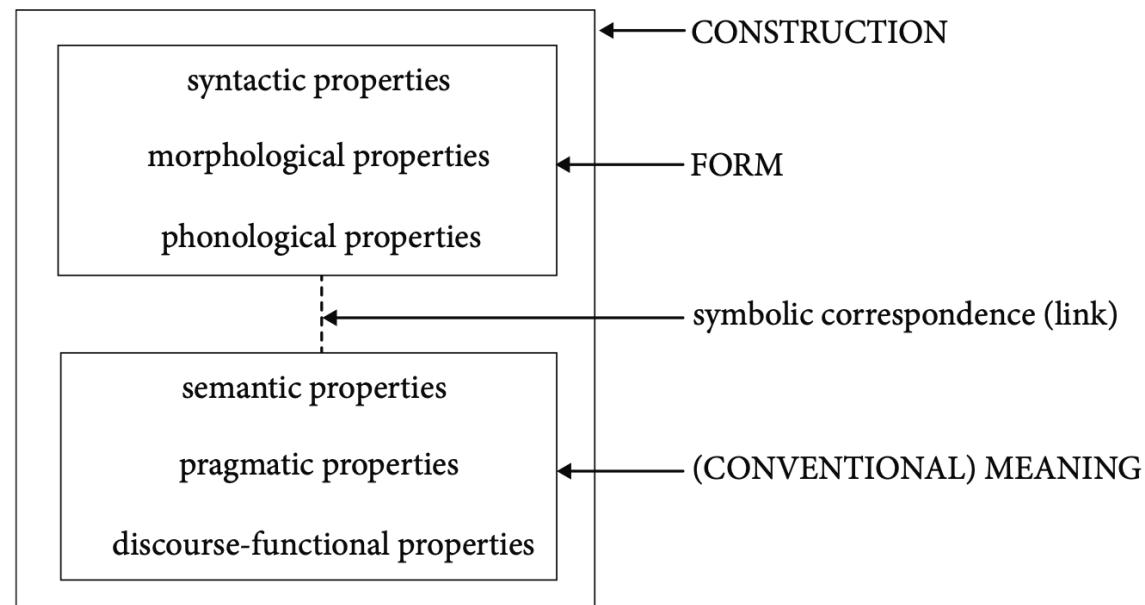
Research question

**WHAT TYPE OF LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE
ENABLES THIS TYPE OF MULTILINGUAL
PRODUCTION?**



Construction Grammar (CxG)

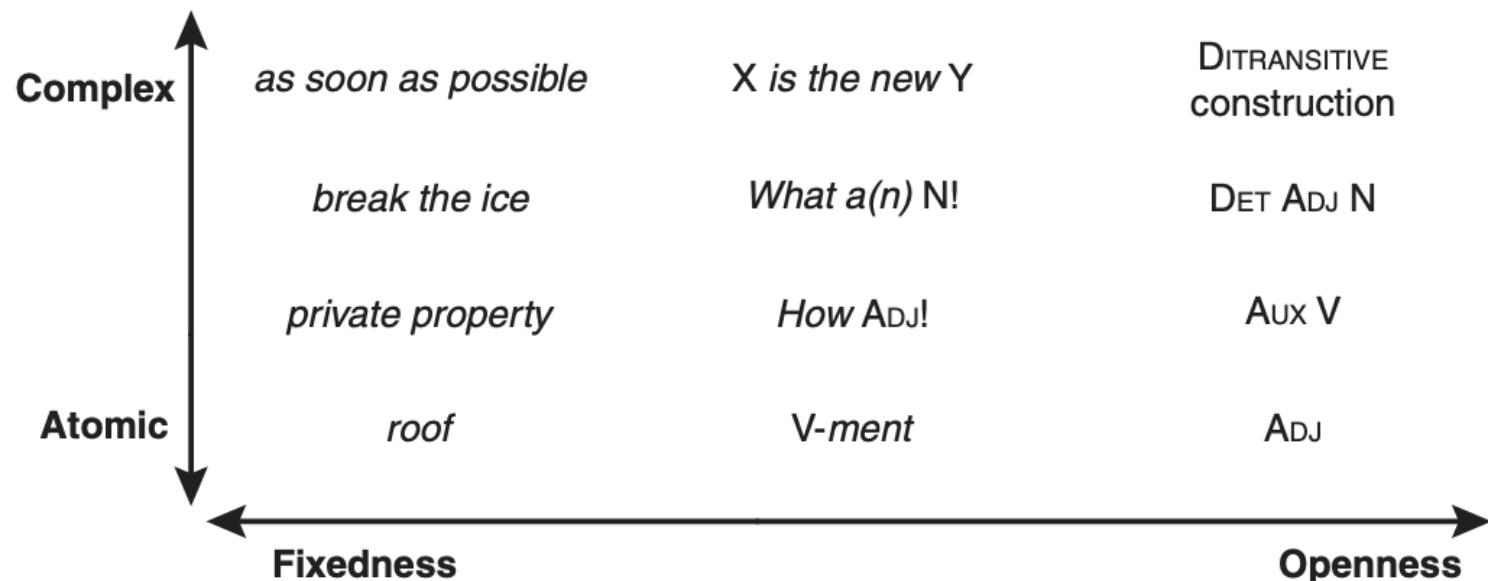
- CxG is a 1. functional 2. cognitive 3. non-modular 4. usage-based theory of grammar
- *constructions* are the basic units of a language
- *constructions* are conventionalized and learned pairings of form and meaning/function



(Croft 2001: 18)

Construction Grammar (CxG)

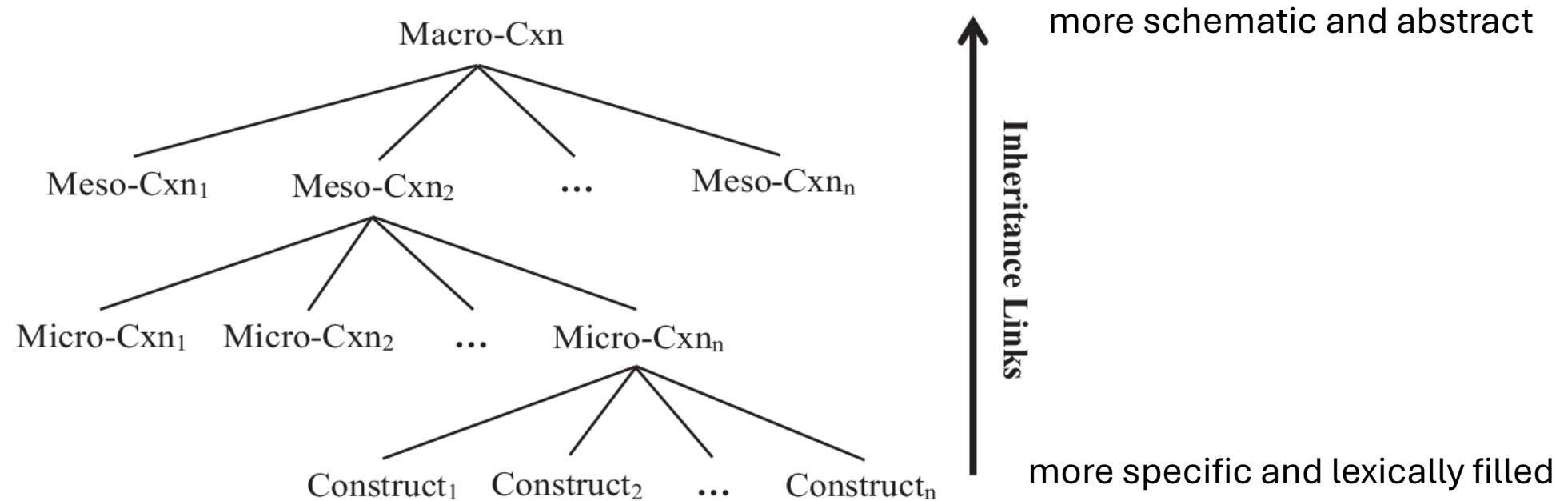
- *constructions* can vary according to their degree of complexity and schematicity
→ lexicon-syntax continuum



(Leclercq 2024: 15)

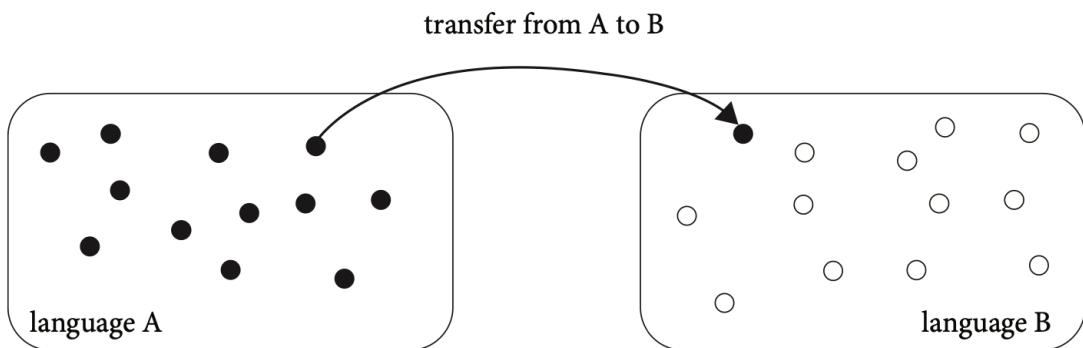
Construction Grammar (CxG)

- *constructions* are organized into networks of overlapping patterns related through shared properties → constructicon



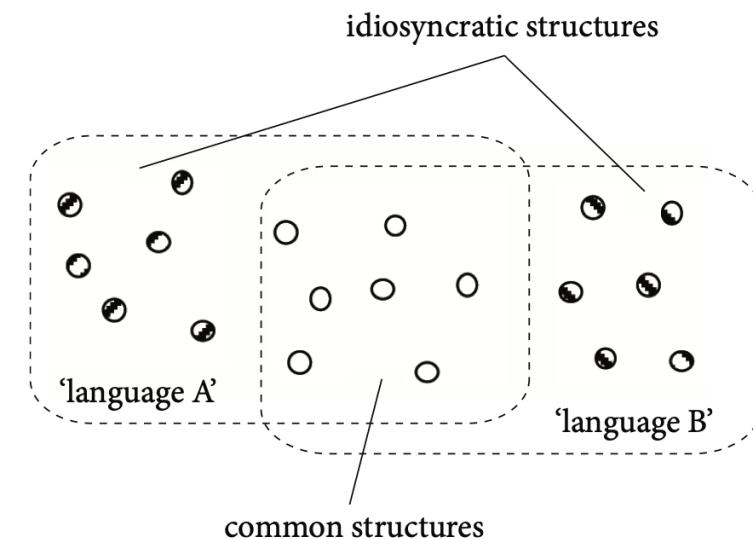
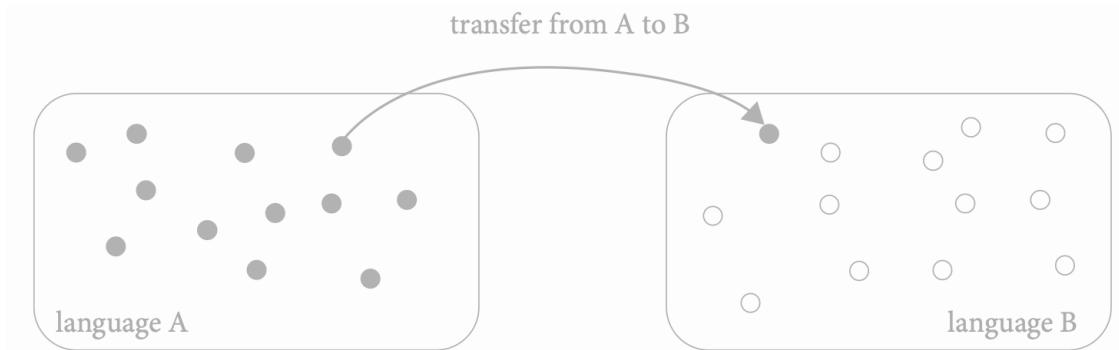
Diasystematic Construction Grammar

- DCxG – branch of CxG that deals with language contact and multilingualism
- *grammars* are community-specific → against a *a priori* definition of ‘language’
- monolingual view on language contact vs. multilingual repertoire (Höder 2018)



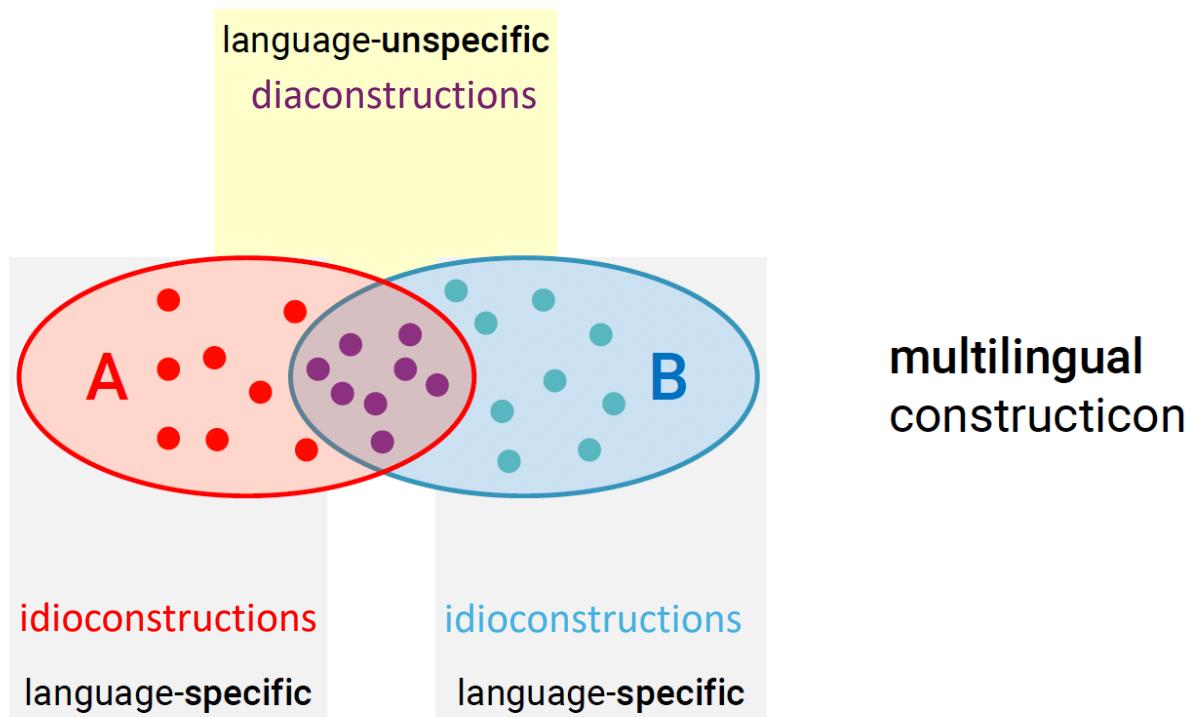
Diasystematic Construction Grammar

- DCxG – branch of CxG that deals with language contact and multilingualism
- *grammars* are community-specific → against a *a priori* definition of ‘language’
- monolingual view on language contact vs. multilingual repertoire (Höder 2018)



Diasystematic Construction Grammar

- *linguistic knowledge* is organized into constructions that contain both **language-specific** and **language-unspecific constructions**



Interim summary

DCxG describes multilingual knowledge as a set of ***diaconstructions*** that are not language-specific

this framework typically applies to cases of **historical language** contact and to **structurally similar languages** (e.g. standard-dialect constellations)
(Boas & Höder 2018; Höder 2021; Van Goethem & Hendrikx 2021 among others)

1. what happens in migration scenarios?
2. what happens with typologically more distant languages?



In search of diaconstructions

Auxiliary + PP

Diorely (F)

Age: 31

time in Italy: 5 months

Miguel (M)

Age: 51

time in Italy: 16 yrs

Diorely e::: #hemos (.) visita:to,
 we visited

Diorely visitato?
 visited?

INT001 sì [sì, visi]tato.
 yes yes visited

Diorely [°sì°?]
 yes

Diorely e::::: il museo::: #*de::: radio #y tecnologia,
 eh the museum of radio and technology

schematic diacxns [Aux + PP] > [HAVE + PP]

schematic idiocxn Spanish [haber + PP]

lexical idiocxn Italian verbal roots

no sì sardegna è bello **#he \$entido** che questo mare è es- (.) bellissimo



no #1' **#han \$emparado** #bueno adesso (esta) (en) scuola scuola #y #en #casa

Modal + infinitive

Diorely (F)

Age: 31

time in Italy: 5 months

#y::: #nada, et- andiamo a la scuo:la per #aprende:r (.) #_un poco [más
(.) #el #i] [dioma #no?] per **#poder parla:re**,

#sin il permesso, no:n=no: #no **#poder lavorare**

#*el marocchino, no: (.) no s- #no **#puede:: [#!pronunciare]** la la e lo
#dice i: (.) [ah.] [molto difficile per=per]

niente na- [:h: #de ahí]::: (.) o altro #lugares, no. [#_no **hemos**]
podido:: (.) visitare.

schematic diacxn [modal + infinitive]

lexical idiocxn Spanish modal *poder*

lexical idiocxns Italian infinitive > *parlare, lavorare, pronunciare, visitare ..*

Verbal periphrases

Diorely (F)
Age: 31
time in Italy: 5 months

Miguel (M)
Age: 34
time in Italy: 5 months

Miguel (M)
Age: 51
time in Italy: 16 yrs

a: #vamos # a: (.) a \$imparar #se[guir impara]ndo #*el i]talia:no per #poder
parlare

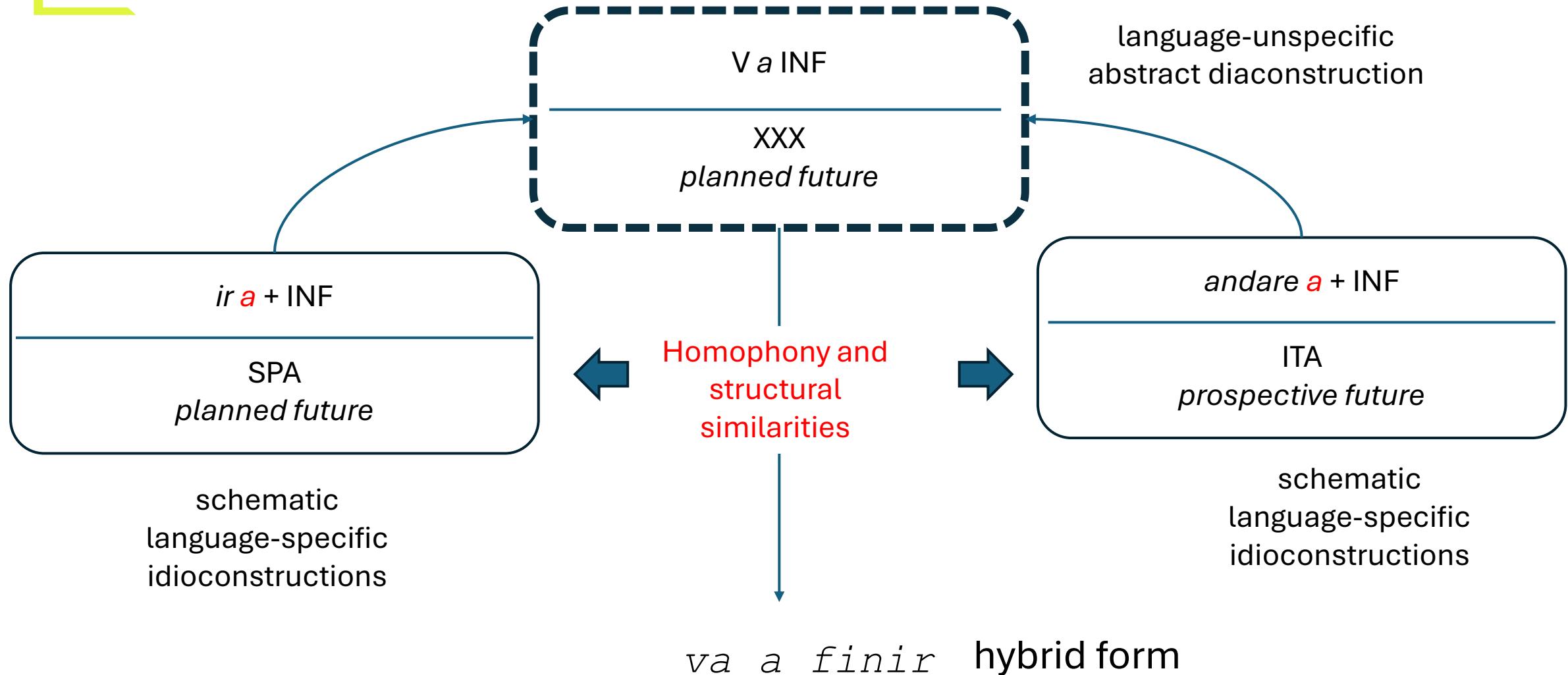
#y:: #yo #le- le #digo a mio marito (.) #así #vamos #a \$parlar ((ride))

[#ya] (.) #cuando::: >#empiezo< a lavora:re m- m (.) >#me #imagino< #que::: (.)
con ami:ci, (.) un sabato (.) o un domenica.

#máximo mezzanotte >#creo #que #va #a finir< (.) mezzanotte

schematic diacxn	[V + a + infinitive]
lexical idiocxn	Spanish verb > <i>ir, empezar</i>
schematic idiacxn	Spanish infinitive form > -ar, -ir
lexical idiocxn	Italian verbal roots > <i>impar-, parl-, lavor-, fin-</i>

Verbal periphrases



Mixed collocations

Abdelrahman (M)
Age: 26
time in Italy: 2 yrs

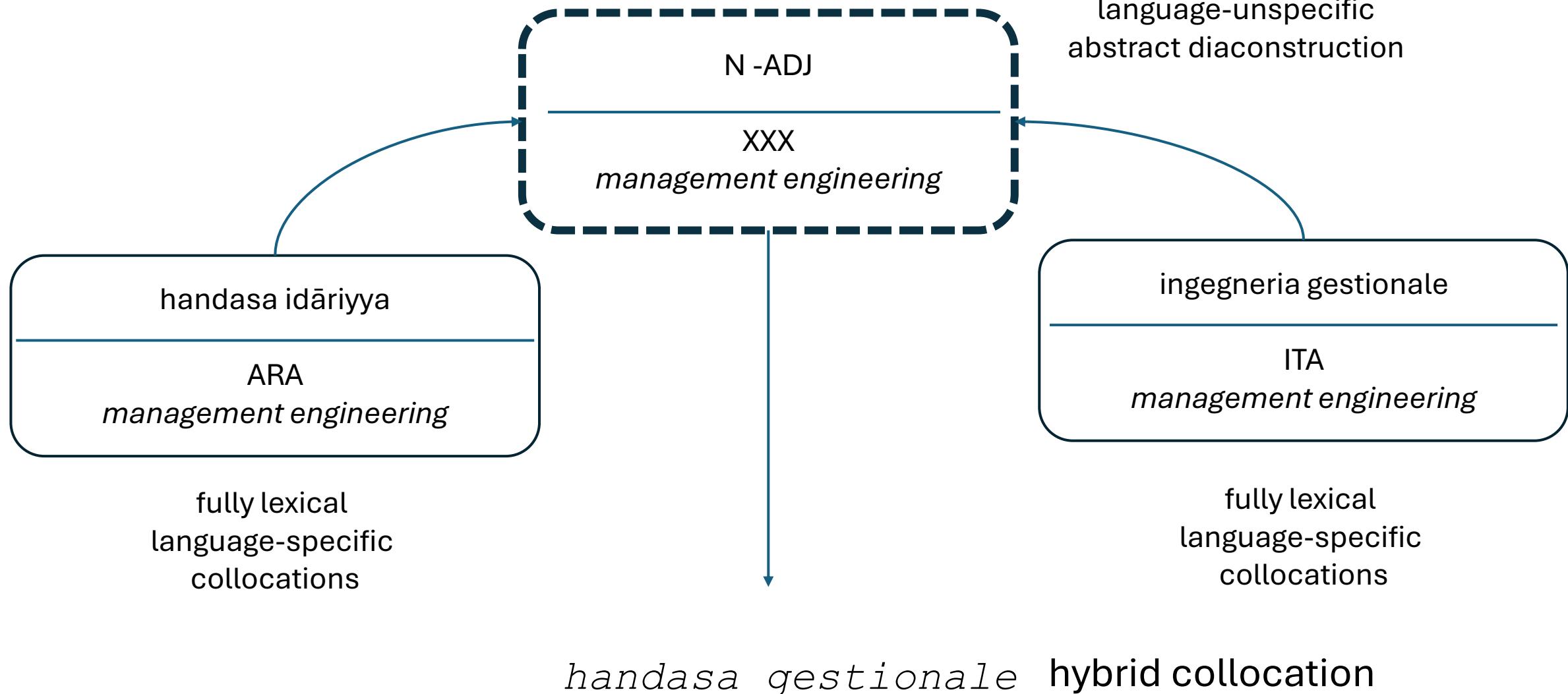
Ikram (F)
Age: 22
Time in Italy: 12 years

f el magesteer, ma tedres **handasa** **gestionale**
in the masters NEG study:2SG management engineering
why don't you study management engineering in the masters?



l-hadd ə:: (.) **rabaʃa:** **elementare**
until fourth elementary
until fourth grade

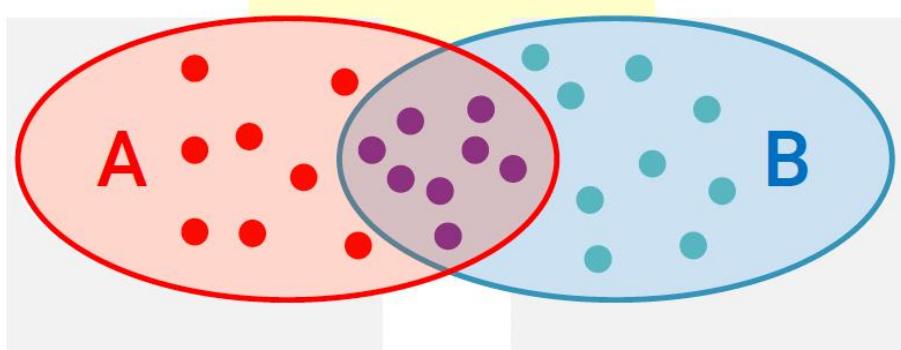
Mixed collocations





Conclusions

Conclusions



Mixed collocations

*Handasa gestionale
como te dico*

Aux PP

Hemos visitato

Mod V

Poder parlare

Bilingual periphrases

Vado a fermar

- at a global level, speakers choose to resort to a multilingual interaction mode that enables them to draw from multiple lexical-grammatical repertoires
- such multilingual mode entails, at the local level, relying on **diaconstructions** that are not language specific and shared across grammars
- a CxG approach allows us to better identify these constructions and build a cognitively sound description of the type of multilingual knowledge that is mobilised in translanguaging

THANK YOU!

beatrice.bernasconi@unito.it

eugenio.goria@unito

paoloantonio.dellaputta@unito.it