

An eye for an eye: A multilingual look at the phraseology of eye

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Previous studies have shown the productive nature of *eye* and how it enters into patterns of a more or less non-compositional nature (e.g. Sinclair 1991, Więclawska 2012). This paper adds a contrastive dimension and explores the cross-linguistic phraseology of *eye*. Following a survey of uses in the bidirectional English-Norwegian Parallel Corpus+ (ENPC+), the contrastive analysis reveals that, while the two languages overlap in many of their uses of *eye/øye*-expressions, differences also emerge, particularly with regard to the number of recurrent patterns recorded and their conditions of use. English has more recurrent patterns with *eye*, but Norwegian has by far the most frequent pattern, viz. *Få øye på* (lit.: ‘get eye on’, i.e. *catch sight of*). To gain better cross-linguistic insight, the English-Norwegian part of the investigation is supplemented with data from other (European) languages. Drawing on unidirectional data from the English-Swedish Parallel Corpus and the Oslo Multilingual Corpus the study further reveals that although *eye*-expressions are found across many European languages, there seems to be less cross-linguistic overlap than in the case of English and Norwegian.

References

- Sinclair, John. 1991a. Shared knowledge. In J.E. Alatis (ed.), *Linguistics and Language Pedagogy: The State of the Art*. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics 1991. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press. 489-500.
- Więclawska, Edyta. 2012. *A Contrastive Semantic and Phraseological Analysis of the HEAD-related Lexical Items in Diachronic Perspective*. Rzeszów: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego.

Corpora

English-Norwegian Parallel Corpus (ENPC).

<<http://www.hf.uio.no/ilos/english/services/omc/enpc/>> The extended version of the ENPC – the ENPC+ – is described in J. Ebeling & S.O. Ebeling (2013), *Patterns in Contrast*. Amsterdam: Benjamins,.

English-Swedish Parallel Corpus (ESPC).

<<http://www.sol.lu.se/engelska/corpus/corpus/esp.html>>

Oslo Multilingual Corpus (OMC). <<http://www.hf.uio.no/ilos/english/services/omc/>>