

second type of essay that merits discussion involves the replication of a published experimental study. Experimental research in Construction Grammar is still in its infancy, but there are quite a few studies out there that do not require the use of specialised software or expensive machinery. Studies such as Benigni and Goldberg (2000), Gurevich et al. (2010), or Dąbrowska (2010) can be replicated, that is, repeated with similar or identical stimuli but with different participants, using your own computers and props that you can make from office materials. Do not worry that simply repeating an existing study might not yield anything of worth: the replication of studies is a very important part of science, and besides that, retracing the steps of experienced researchers makes you learn a lot. A third type of essay uses corpus data to study variation in the use of a construction. Studies of this kind take a construction and explore how it varies with regard to structure and to meaning across varieties, and perhaps across different groups of speakers, or across different periods of time. Doing this does not necessarily require that you are already familiar with corpus-linguistic methods, but it certainly requires you to take the plunge and get the skills that enable you to answer your research question. For starters, you might use online resources such as Mark Davies' suite of corpora (<http://corpus.byu.edu>), which allow you to collect data via a web page, without any need for specialised software. Wiechmann and Fuhs (2006) point towards useful pieces of software for the analysis of conventional corpora. If you decide that you want to pursue corpus linguistics in more depth, Gries (2009) is a highly recommended resource. As it is needless to say, these suggestions do not begin to cover the spectrum of studies that could be done. Follow your interests, ask for advice, and be ready to learn.

To conclude, this book hopefully leaves you wanting to find out more about Construction Grammar. As was pointed out earlier, the theory is under development, which means that many issues still need to be worked out. Also, connections between Construction Grammar and related fields of inquiry are currently being developed. It therefore remains to be seen what the future holds for Construction Grammar. At the same time, if you would like to play a part in shaping that future, there is ample opportunity.

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