



## Idiomatic and Formulaic Language: Learning, Processing and Representation

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Formulaic language, encompassing a vast range of phrases, idioms, collocations, multiword expressions, constructions and patterns, is now well-established as a topic of interest in studies of vocabulary, lexicography and psycholinguistics. In other words, many approaches now recognize that it is not only “words” (however defined) that occupy space within the lexicon, but also a range of units of varying size and fixedness. These units contribute to the efficient use of language, playing an important role in “native-like” communication (Pawley & Syder, 1983), and fulfil a range of communicative, social and interpersonal functions (Schmitt, 2017; Wray, 2012). The “processing advantage” offered by formulaic language is robustly supported in the literature, and has been demonstrated for a wide range of phrase types (e.g. Carrol & Conklin, 2020).

Despite the rise in interest over the past two decades (or more), the exact nature of how such units are represented in the mental lexicon remains unclear...

Dr. Gareth Carrol

*Guest Editor*





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