

**Invitation à la soutenance publique de thèse
Pour l'obtention du grade de Docteur en Langues et lettres**

Madame Samantha LAPORTE

**THE PATTERNING OF THE HIGH-FREQUENCY VERB *MAKE*
IN VARIETIES OF ENGLISH: A CONSTRUCTION GRAMMAR APPROACH**



Le mardi 25 juin 2019 à 14H30

Auditoire *Socrate* -242

**Place Cardinal Mercier 10
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve**

In former British colonies, English has adjusted to a new sociocultural environment to give rise to institutionalized varieties of English as a second language called 'New Englishes'. Such varieties develop new conventions, which have been argued to be particularly pervasive at the lexis-grammar interface. This PhD dissertation examines the lexicogrammatical patterning of the versatile high-frequency verb *make* in corpus data of British English and three New Englishes (Hong Kong, Indian, and Singapore English) through a Construction Grammar lens to (i) identify features of New Englishes and gauge whether these features exhibit traces of conventionalization, and (ii) assess whether the degree of social penetration of the New Englishes within the community correlates with linguistic behavior. The Construction Grammar approach allows for a systematic examination of verb patterning at different levels of abstraction, which, in turn, tackles verb patterning from an underexplored angle in Construction Grammar that also contributes to the theorizing of the framework.

Results indicate that different kinds of features emerge at each level of abstraction, which supports the claim that the lexis-grammar interface is prone to innovations. However, the low frequency of most innovations suggests that they are a sign of looser conventions rather than established new conventions. It is also shown that, for the phenomenon at hand, deeper social penetration of New Englishes tends to correlate with linguistic behavior that aligns more closely with that of speakers of British English. It is suggested that this stems from a cognitive representation of language that is closer to that of native speakers of (British) English, underlining the close link between the social and cognitive dimensions of language.

Le jury est composé de Mesdames et Messieurs les professeur-e-s :

Lambert ISEBAERT (UCLouvain), Président

Gaëtanella GILQUIN (UCLouvain), Promotrice et Secrétaire

Sabine DE KNOP (USL-Bruxelles), Lectrice externe

Sylviane GRANGER (UCLouvain), Lectrice

Thomas HOFFMANN (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), Lecteur externe

Magali PAQUOT (UCLouvain), Lectrice