

## **A theory of inflectional periphrasis at the morphology-syntax interface**

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Inflectional periphrasis is often felt to have a paradoxical status: as Matthews (1991) puts it, a periphrase "is clearly two words, which obey separate syntactic rules (for example, of agreement); Nevertheless they are taken together as a term in what are otherwise morphological oppositions". Arguably, this poses a problem for a lexicalist view of grammar, where it is crucial to be able to identify words (Ackerman, Stump & Webelhuth 2011).

My goal in this talk is twofold. First, I present evidence from various languages showing that periphrasis indeed mixes properties typical of morphology and typical of syntax. Thus periphrasis should be taken at face value by any theory of grammar. I then present a strictly lexicalist theory of periphrasis that solves the apparent paradox. Crucial to the analysis is the recognition that periphrasis involves the same kind of mutual selection relation also found in idioms. With this idea in mind, I combine an HPSG approach to syntax with a PFM approach to morphology to construct a theory of periphrasis at the morphology-syntax interface.