

ABSTRACT: Proper Nouns in Fixed Verbal Expressions

This contribution aims to provide an analyze the functioning of proper nouns (anthroponyms and toponyms) in fixed verb phrases. These phrases present characteristics that define them as fixed expressions: they are polylexical structures, they present a global meaning that produce a semantic opacity or idiomaticity and elements cannot be substituted by other elements of a paradigm. The phrase presents a verb form with its complements, among which a proper noun appears. They are short sentences with syntax similar to simple free sentence syntax. The proper name performs syntactic functions in line with the type of proper name (anthroponym or toponym). There are some syntactic structures that are frequent and that add intensity to the meaning of the phrase, among these structures are comparison (with *comme*) and coordination. At the syntactic level, it is the verb that constitutes the structure of the sentence. At the semantic level, on the other hand, the essential element is the anthroponym or the toponym. The verb is semantically almost empty, which emphasizes the meaning of the proper noun. The proper noun is used with a subjective and figurative value. If the proper name is real (*Jean, Arthur, Paris. Espagne ...*), the meaning is formed by a historical, religious, mythological, cultural or popular evocation. Sometimes we form fictitious proper names (*Niort, Montretout, Cachan ...*) through puns or calembour.

KEYWORDS: *fixed verbal expressions, anthroponym, toponym, syntactic structure, semantics*