Transcript

# Tore Nesset’s Video abstract

Slide 1

[Title slide provided by CUP]

Slide 2

Why and how do languages change?

No question is of more fundamental importance for linguistics than this.

Slide 3

In my Cambridge Element, I adopt a cognitive linguistic approach to language change.

I focus on four fundamental assumptions in cognitive linguistics.

Slide 4

The cognitive commitment entails that language is shaped by domain-general cognitive processes. The mental operations we use when we speak are also invoked in other domains of cognition and perception, such as object recognition, spatial reasoning, and music perception.

Slide 5:

The semiotic commitment means that language is analysed in terms of bipolar representations that connect form and meaning (and nothing else). Linguistic constructions are signs that combine sound and meaning.

Slide 6

According to the network commitment, the bipolar linguistic representations of a language constitute one large network, which we call the “constructicon”. Linguistic constructions are connected to each other, and it is this network that constitutes the grammar of a language.

Slide 7

The usage-based commitment implies that knowledge of language emerges from language use. Language use is primary, language structure is secondary. Focusing on language use, we analyse authentic examples, often from electronic corpora.

Slide 8

In my Cambridge Element, I take you through seven case studies from Russian. Russian has a lot to offer to historical linguistics. It has a well-documented history and a complex structure. You do not need prior exposure to Russian language in order to read my Cambridge Element.

Slide 9

Please, read my Cambridge Element and enjoy watching the videos that are integrated into the Element.

My name is Tore Nesset, and I would love to receive feedback from you.