

## SUMMARY

The work presented in this thesis has had as its objective the study and description of the noun collocations with the French-language adjective for "ecological" (or in some contexts "environmental"), i.e. *écologique*, as well as quasi-synonyms thereof that are present in contemporary French.

The thesis consists of two parts, of which the first presents theoretical aspects of fundamental importance to the subject matter adopted, while the second discusses underlying theoretical and methodological assumptions associated with the description of the material gathered. A final part reports on the analysis of particular collocations in different genres of discourse.

In the first part of the thesis, three consecutive chapters are devoted to the phenomenon of neology. In Chapter 1, this subject matter is introduced by reference to the theoretical concepts of such key French representatives in the field as L. Guilbert (1973), J.-F. Sablayrolles (1996, 2000, 2011), S. Mejri (2000, 2005, 2011) and M.-F. Mortureux (1994, 2011). The phenomenon of neology is conceptualised from a diachronic and synchronic perspective, with simultaneous emphasis on the dynamic nature of lexical productivity.

Chapter 2 then introduces classifications of word-formation processes proposed by French lexicologists as formal or semantic neologisms, the enrichment of the language system through borrowings and diverse derivations. The work strives to show that these phenomena remain of current relevance, with the classifications proving their worth as research tools.

Chapter 3 then discusses the mechanisms and principles underpinning the creation of the new lexical units that are so-called neosemantisms, in which the main role is played by metaphors and metonymies, i.e. figures appearing very often in the collocations under analysis. A short outline history is then presented, to show the input of the great philosophers and thinkers into the development of contemporary thought on these figures of speech. Presented after that is the latest research by linguists that has served over recent years to enrich our knowledge on the conceptual and contextual aspects to this universal phenomenon present in every language.

Hierarchical relationships between lexemes, i.e. the phenomena of hypernymy and hyponymy as well as prototype theory are introduced in Chapter 4. It is emphasised how suitable these categories are when it comes to the analysis of the collected material. Chapter 5

then brings in the issue of synonymy, which is of exceptional relevance to the research undertaken, and particular account is taken of synonymy in context.

Chapter 6 of the thesis is devoted to diverse word linkages, with explanations offered as regard the specifics of the distinctions researchers have drawn between idioms, compounds, idiomatic expressions, fossil words, nonsense phrases, loose phraseology and collocations, from the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic points of view. It emerges that systematisation of this phraseology is often indistinct and hard to assign any order to, on account of the sheer wealth of forms.

The first part of the work ends with Chapter 7, which is devoted to adjectives in the French language. These parts of speech play a very important role in the so-called ecological (i.e. environmental) discourse. On the one hand, they define the properties and features of the nouns they go together with in phraseology, and on the other they nuance their significance in context to varying degrees. This phenomenon ensures that it is only possible to refer to quasi-synonyms.

The second part of the thesis begins with Chapter 8, which ushers in the theoretical bases underpinning semantic/discourse analysis in French linguistics. There is a tracing of the development of this new discipline at the meeting point between lexical semantics and discourse analysis, which has its roots in the work of M. Foucault (1971) and M. Pêcheux (1990). The research presented falls within the current being developed by such workers as S. Moirand (2000, 2007) and M. Veniard (2013). A proposal regarding analysis of the use of vocabulary in discourse from the point of view of the so-called lexical-discursive profile was adopted as a methodological criterion for the material studied. A further part of the chapter points to the existing distinctions between text and discourse.

Chapter 9 takes up the issue of the dissemination and popularisation of specialist terms by the media, as well as the motivations behind the creation of so-called "media neologisms". The phenomenon is discussed in depth, in relation to numerous theoretical stances, given its key importance to the work presented here. The part devoted to analysis of the material in turn traces the way in which a specialist term becomes an expression in widespread use, thanks to media circulation.

In Chapter 10, the focus is on accounting for the purposefulness of the subject matter, i.e. the expansion of the vocabulary applied in discourse on the subject of the environment and

“ecology”. The research methods are discussed, along with the criteria used in selecting research material.

Further chapters are devoted to the analysis of the material gathered. This process begins with Chapter 11, which advances the thesis that the hypernym within the studied lexical field is the noun “ecology” and adjective “ecological” derived therefrom. Also discussed is the motivation behind the deployment in collocations of the adjective *durable* (for sustainable) as well as the colour adjective *vert* (green). It emerges that the latter word has not appeared by chance, with an indication being given of the symbolism of this colour as described via an onomasiological conceptualisation.

Chapter 12 considers the semantic relationships present in the studied collocations with the adjectives *écologique/vert* (ecological/environmental or green). This provides for an understanding of their lexical and discursive profile, i.e. the nuances of meaning becoming apparent in context, and to which the user makes reference – in more or less aware fashion – as he/she seeks to achieve his/her communication-related objectives.

The tracing of the use of collocations with the adjective *durable* (for sustainable) begins with a description of the functioning of the collocation *développement durable* (sustainable development) in Chapter xx. This concept created for the needs of administration can be said have been subject to such popularisation that it is now capable of being comprehended by users of all ages. The research carried out reveals that, in other collocations, the adjective *durable* retains the semantic feature of temporality, while at the same time assuming a new feature of *écologique* (ecological or sometimes environmental). This is to say, more precisely, that its contextual significance relates to the protection of the planet and its people/living things. Subsequent sub-chapters then analyse the diverse collocations made with this adjective, with the aim being to reveal the semes appearing in certain contexts. Overall, the aim of these analyses is to differentiate between collocations with the adjective *durable* and its quasi-synonyms. A similar research method was applied to collocations with the adjective *vert* (green), and to *tourisme écologique* (ecotourism), with the use made of these being traced from the moment of their earliest appearance through to the present. The newest collocations with the adjectives analysed point to a creativity on the part of users that seems to be limitless. Favouring this phenomenon are both the discourse present in advertising and the new more green or environment-friendly style of life people are leading (Chapter 12.4.). Likewise in a stream of constantly emerging new “ecological” (or “environmental”)

collocations there appears the *responsable* and *propre* (i.e. “responsible” and “clean”) semantic feature.

The lexical and discursive profiles of the collocations studied are then summarised in the “Conclusions” section of this thesis.