

Similarities and Differences of English “How Come” and “Why” Constructions : Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives

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Abstract :

The expression “how come” is a lot similar to “why” in both its usage and meaning, but also displays quite different properties. In this talk, I review grammatical properties of English “how come” construction and discuss synchronic as well as diachronic corpus data to see how the construction has been developed over time and further how it is used nowadays. I then provide a Construction Grammar approach that can capture both synchronic and diachronic aspects.

Short Bio :

Prof. Jong-Bok Kim is Dean of Graduate School as well as Director for the Institute for the Study of Language and Information at Kyung Hee University, Seoul. After receiving his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1996, he has been working on syntax, semantics, corpus linguistics, and computational linguistics for English and Korean. He is a Fulbright Junior Research Fellow in 2004-2005, a Distinguished Research Fellow of the National Research Foundation of Korea in 2011-2016, and a recipient of Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in 2019.