**Second questionnaire**

**Project “Widespread Idiomatic and Formulaic Constructions”**

Contact: Dr Elisabeth Piirainen ([elisabeth.piirainen@outlook.com](mailto:elisabeth.piirainen@outlook.com))

Dear Colleagues,

Now I would like to ask you again for your help with the new project “Widespread idiomatic and formulaic constructions”. Below, you will find new idiomatic patterns suspected of being widespread across many languages (7–12). Are there equivalents or parallels in your native language (multiword units with almost the same syntactic structure and core meaning)? If so, I would ask you to please write these equivalents down: **first a kind of dictionary form** and then I’d like to ask you for **an example**. This can be a sentence you have made yourself.

The questions may be a bit difficult? Among them are construction phrasemes (with an X as a placeholder or with the character / ...). Please don’t worry: it does not have to be perfect; it is still a kind of test phase. *With whom, if not* *with* *you*, could I run this project? And *when, if not* in the coming weeks?

Thank you very much!

Elisabeth Piirainen

**(7a) English *if not now/ today/ immediately/ this year/ …, when (then)?***

German *wann, wenn nicht jetzt/ wenn nicht heute/ sofort/ dieses Jahr/ …?*

French *quand, sinon maintenant/ aujourd’hui/ immédiatement/ cette année/* …*?*

Russian *когда, если не сейчас/ если не сразу/ …?*

*–– если не сейчас, то когда?*

‘now/ ... it is the best/the only possible time to do something, to get active, to tackle something’

Your language

Sample sentence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(7b) English *where, if not here/ at home/ in my own town/* ...**

***if not here/ … then where?***

German *wo, wenn nicht hier/ zu Hause/ in meiner eigenen Stadt/ …?*

French *où, si ce n’est ici/ à la maison/ dans ma propre ville/ ...?*

Russian *где, если не здесь/ на дому/в моем родном городе/ ...*

‘here/ ... it is the best/the only possible place to do something, to get active, to tackle something’

Your language

Sample sentence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(8) English *between a rock and a hard place***

***between the devil and the deep blue see***

German *zwischen Scylla und Charybdis*

Russian *между молотом и наковальней* “between hammer and anvil”

‘in a very difficult position, facing a situation of choice between two possibilities that both entail difficulties and failure’

Your language

Sample sentence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(9) English *to split one’s sides/to die laughing***

German *sterben vor lachen*

French *presque mourir/crever de rire*

‘to have to laugh very hard’

Your language

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(10) German *so viel von etwas verstehen wie die Kuh vom Sonntag*

**“to understand about something as much as the cow (understands) from the Sunday”**

*von etwas so viel verstehen wie der Hahn vom Eierlegen*

**“to understand about something as much as the cock (understands) of laying eggs”**

Russian *разбираться в чём-л. как свинья в апельсинах* “to know about something as the pig (knows) about the oranges”

‘not to know/understand anything about something; not to have the slightest idea of something’

Your language

Sample sentence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(11a) English [*the* – adj./adv.comparative, – *the* – adj./adv.comparative]**

all kinds of contexts, for example:

*The small****er*** *the skiers, the easi****er*** *they fall.*

*The heavi****er*** *the car is, the low****er*** *its gas mileage.*

*The* ***more*** *Bill drinks, the* ***less*** *he remembers.*

German [*je* – adj./adv.comparative, – *umso/desto* – adj./adv.comparative] for example:

*je bunt****er****, um so bess****er***“the more colorful, the better”

French [*(le)* – adj./adv.comparative, – *(le)* – adj./adv.comparative –]

***Le plus*** *grand,* ***le plus*** *intéressant.*

[***Plus***](http://de.pons.com/%C3%BCbersetzung/franz%C3%B6sisch-deutsch/plus)[*le*](http://de.pons.com/%C3%BCbersetzung/franz%C3%B6sisch-deutsch/le)[*temps*](http://de.pons.com/%C3%BCbersetzung/franz%C3%B6sisch-deutsch/temps)[*passe*](http://de.pons.com/%C3%BCbersetzung/franz%C3%B6sisch-deutsch/passe)*,* [***plus***](http://de.pons.com/%C3%BCbersetzung/franz%C3%B6sisch-deutsch/plus)[*l’espoir*](http://de.pons.com/%C3%BCbersetzung/franz%C3%B6sisch-deutsch/l%27espoir)[*diminue*](http://de.pons.com/%C3%BCbersetzung/franz%C3%B6sisch-deutsch/diminue)“the more time passes, the more hope diminishes”*.*

Your language

Sample sentence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(11b) English [*the more* –*,* *the* – adj./adv.comparative – ]** for example:

*The more plastic a car contains, the lighter it is.*

German [*je mehr*, – *umso/desto* – adj./adv.comparative –] for example:

*Je mehr Kunststoff ein Auto enthält, umso leichter ist es* “the more plastic a car contains, the lighter it is”

Your language

Sample sentence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**(12) English [*to make oneself more X than one is*]**

*to make oneself more foolish/ modest/ … than one is*

German [*sich Xer stellen, als man ist*]

*sich dümmer/ bescheidener/… stellen, als man ist*

French [*se faire passer pour* *plus X que l’on est*]

*se faire passer pour* *plus bête/ plus modeste/… que l’on est*

Your language

Sample sentence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you very much!**