In Acuña-Fariña (2006) I discuss paradigmatic appositions like Madrid, the capital of Spain, and related loose or non-restrictive structures, under a construction grammar perspective, and argue that the verticality (or asymmetry) of inheritance links may not be the best way to capture the structure of the whole appositive space, the reason being that prototype structure is not the dominating categorisation route for all of the space. Here I would like to suggest that another network may be discerned for the category of so-called close appositions (including constructions like the poet Burns, my friend the poet, the word 'Burns', here in Texas, or we the men). The category is made up of similar but subtly different members and it is constrained by a number of parent specifications. More than that, however, what gives it more conceptual, formal, and even ontological reality is the density of the ties, the taxonomic ties, that connect all the constructions together and define a region in space via the sheer density of the ties in question. The region emerges as a result of taxonomic tie density (Langacker 2006), since the same density is not apparent when one compares any of the individual constructions with other constructions outside the category. This talk has two main objectives: the first is to show the lattice of interrelated constructions which creates a monosemous schematic category, that is, one with an overarching schema that captures all the members and where the distance between the schema and the instances leans to the minimal. The second is to argue that the lack of excessive drift, the strong conventionalization of each of the forms, and their relative frequency of occurrence, as well as their long entrenchment in the language, together with the existence of conflicting and competing sanctioning noun phrase schemas exerting their influence on their constituency and maybe even in their origin, all conspire to create some segments with little internal stability in terms of constituency, segments which are nevertheless externally very stable. Their external stability is granted from the top, by the construction as a whole, which must be listed, and must enjoy a place in the representational organization of the language system as a whole.
