Fluid Construction Grammar – A progress report

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This talk introduces a set of concrete hypotheses, backed up by computational implementations, on what linguistic structures are needed for language understanding and production. Concretely, I will introduce the basics of Fluid Construction Grammar (FCG) and demonstrate its basic operations in parsing and formulating utterances using the FCG web-interface (Steels, 2017). FCG captures fundamental notions of construction grammar, in the sense that meaning-form pairs (i.e. constructions) are the central units of grammatical representation. Constructions are represented as schemas. They are applied in language processing by matching and merging operators and heuristic search.

The talk also discusses the role of meta-level processing for repairing or extending grammars formulated in FCG and how FCG has been used in experiments on the emergence and evolution of grammar (Steels, 2017).