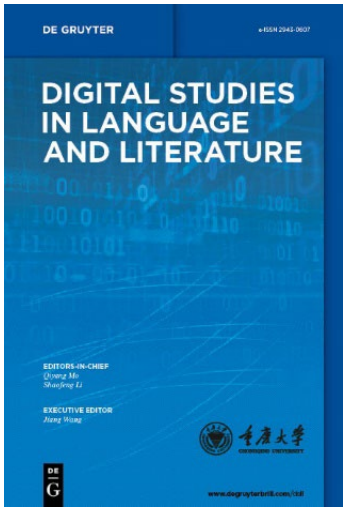
Call for Abstracts

Kicking the metaphorical bucket? Computational approaches to multi-word expressions in verse



This *Digital Studies in Language and Literature* Special Issue invites original contributions on the linguistic definition, and computational identification and discovery of multi-word expressions in all types of verse with a specific focus on low-resource languages, including corpus languages, minority languages, or endangered languages, without any constraint on the typology of the language (i.e. we explicitly encourage those working on non-Indo-European languages to submit). Verse is said to reflect (a) a poetic license on the part of the writer, (b) the abundance of metaphors and allusions, and (c) the imposition of constraints on language usage by metre. Multi-word expressions are inherently ambiguous, variable, and discontinuous. Thus, multi-word expressions in verse pose particular issues to natural-language-processing inspired initiatives and are therefore usually omitted from these. However, this does not mean that multi-word expressions do not exist in verse texts. This Special Issue pushes the boundaries and explores the discovery, identification, and analysis of multi-word expressions in verse across periods of time and across verse texts from a corpus-linguistic perspective and with a specific focus on computational approaches to their identification and discovery.

Guest editors

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Special issue information

This DSLL Special Issue is calling for submissions on the theme “Computational approaches to multi-word expressions in verse”. Submissions may address a range of contexts and topics, including but not limited to:

- Annotation frameworks for multi-word expressions in verse (we are very interested in grassroots initiatives!)
- Tools for the identification and/or discovery of multi-word expressions in verse (we do not impose any limitations on the computational environment!)
- Verse texts in Natural-Language-Processing applications
- Sociotechnical approaches to multi-word expressions in verse
- Genre/register/style-related uses of multi-word expressions in verse

- Multi-word expression processing in verse in low-resource languages (we are very interested in language documentation work!)
- Sociolinguistic approaches to multi-word expressions in verse
- Psycholinguistic approaches to multi-word expressions in verse
- Typological approaches to multi-word expressions in verse
- Multi-word expressions in stories and from a narratological perspective

Submission instructions

Proposed abstracts should be submitted through the ScholarOne. During submission, please select the article type for your proposed paper and upload the abstract as the 'Main Document' in step 2, 'File Upload'.
Abstracts should be ca. 500 words in length and describe previously unpublished empirical or conceptual work. Please include an indication of where you will deposit datasets, codebases, anonymized participant data, etc. if the proposal is accepted. Please do not include author name(s) in the abstract document. In a separate document, include each author's name, affiliation, contact information, and a 50-word biographical statement.
Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be invited to submit full-length articles (up to 8,000 words). Submissions are handled through the ScholarOne. All submissions should be formatted following DSLL's Instructions for Authors and will undergo double-anonymized peer review. Please note that abstract acceptance does not guarantee final acceptance after peer review.

Timeline

- Abstracts due to guest editor: **31 December 2025**
- Short-listed abstracts announced: **15 January 2025**
- Full manuscript submission deadline: **30 April 2026**
- Peer review completion: **15 June 2026**
- Final revisions due: **30 October 2026**

Articles are published online as DOI citable articles prior to issue publication for quickest possible visibility for the scientific community.

General information on *Digital Studies in Language and Literature*

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Please visit the *DSLL* Homepage for further information.