

## *Linguists Living Their Lives* – Use and Modification of Cognate Object Constructions

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This presentation deals with the English cognate object construction as illustrated in (1) to (3):

- (1) I want you to **live** a long happy **life** and have many dancing grandchildren to admire. (2002, COCA)
- (2) It bounced something like 10 feet in the air and then continued to **bounce** a few more **bounces** until it finally came to rest. (2008, TV-Corpus)
- (3) Those who'd **died** a horrible **death** made the most stubborn ghosts. (2016, COCA)

As these examples demonstrate, cognate object constructions (COCs) consist of a verb that is accompanied by a direct object that is etymologically and semantically related to the verb. COCs can be used with transitive as well as prototypically intransitive verbs, which, in the latter case involving pleonastic objects, has a valency-increasing effect.

Following up on Kim & Lim (2012) as well as Eitelmann & Mondorf (2018), this study seeks to further investigate the variable means for modification of COCs and restrictions based on the choice of verb. Drawing on contemporary data from the TV-Corpus, we noticed that actual occurrences of COCs vary widely and unexpectedly.

### References:

- Eitelmann, Matthias & Britta Mondorf (2018) "Cognate objects in language variation and change". In: Rita Finkbeiner & Ulrike Freywald (eds.) *Exact Repetition in Grammar and Discourse*, 200-230. Berlin/Boston: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Kim, Jong-Bok & Joo-Young Lim (2012). "English cognate object constructions: A usage-based, Construction Grammar approach". *English Language and Linguistics* 18: 31-55.