

## PRESENTATION

# POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF A MULTILINGUAL PHRASE BANK

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

**Dr. Skaistė Volungevičienė** has been working at the Chair of German Philology at the Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Baltic Sea Region of Vilnius University since 2004. In 2013, she defended her dissertation "On the Translation Problem of Collocations: German-Lithuanian Contrastive" and has been active in applied research ever since. Her scientific subjects of interest are corpus linguistics, fixed compounds, translation problems and scientific language. Since 2018, she has been the head of a research group at Vilnius University specializing in the formulaic nature of modern languages. The research group is currently working on the creation of a digital Lithuanian-German-Lithuanian dictionary. Together with her colleagues, she published a monograph in 2020 dedicated to the study of Lithuanian academic vocabulary and the frequently used compounds in student theses (Bachelor's and term papers), and presented the digital collection of typical expressions of the general scientific language resulting from the study to the general public.



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# **POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF A MULTILINGUAL PHRASE BANK**

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In literature, it is emphasized that scientific writing is a complicated process, but one should still get familiar with it during one's studies since a student's thesis is already considered to be the first independently written scientific text. When writing scientific texts, the goal is to prove, reject, justify, explicitly express the opinion or the deduction relationships, initiate or continue a new thought, emphasize something, illustrate, etc. The complexity of such a text and the language standards in force complicates the task not only for foreigners but also for native speakers. In many countries, this problem has long been recognized and the authors of texts have been offered various guides that can be consulted when writing a scientific text (e. g. "Academic Phrasebank", University of Manchester). For the smaller languages, the situation remains problematic. The Lithuanian scientific language is quite new, because, until independence, most publications were in Russian. It was not until the end of the 20th century that the history of the Lithuanian scientific language was first being written.

The existing gap is to be filled by the database of Lithuanian scientific phrases originated from a project funded by the Lithuanian State Commission of the Lithuanian Language at Vilnius University. The phrases that have found their way into this database (about 3.5 thousand entries) were detected in a purpose-compiled corpus of student theses. In this lecture, a new classification of scientific phrases, comprising five large structural parts of a student thesis and containing 33 functional groups, will be briefly presented. The main focus of the lecture, however, will be on the multilingual phrase database, which was developed in the course of another project funded by the Lithuanian Science Council for the language combination Lithuanian-German-Swedish. It presents the possibilities that such a database opens up, discusses the problems that have arisen during its development and indicates the limitations.