

## **A cross-linguistic and contrastive approach to phraseology**

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This study concerns phraseological units that occur in Norwegian with structurally equivalent patterns in English, such as *tingen er at / the thing is that; når det kommer til / when it comes to; å gjøre en forskjell; to make a difference*. Previous research on similar expressions in Dutch (Foolen), German (Fiedler 2012, 2017) and Norwegian (Graedler 1998) seem to take for granted that such structural parallelism is the result of borrowing. In my paper I introduce the diachronic-contrastive corpus method that discloses facts about the emergence and frequency developments of such structures in the two languages, which in turn informs the issue of whether a structural parallelism is the result of borrowing or separate developments. Phrasal units are typically form/function pairings which extend metaphorically from their literal sense and develop non-referential and often discourse-organising functions. Inspecting concordances from corpora, we can establish timelines and frequency profiles for these units and observe whether a form has a well established function in a source language (SL) before it emerges in the recipient language (RL) and takes on consistent and recurrent use there.