

**Title:** *Frames and argumentation. Describing structures of lexical and argumentative meaning in French and German parliamentary discourse on nuclear energy*

**Keywords:** frame semantics, argumentation, contrastive discourse analysis, parliamentary discourse, nuclear energy

**Abstract:** Frame semantics and argumentation analysis are among the most popular research methodologies in discourse linguistics. Over the course of the last few years, semantic frames and argumentative topoi have been used in numerous studies to analyse the lexical and argumentative dimension of discourse. However, their simple addition contradicts one of the most basic pre-mises of frame semantics, namely, the idea that frames are not only a tool of semantic analysis but also the universal format of conceptual representation structuring our knowledge of and our interactions with the world that surrounds us. Semantic frames, thus, potentially allow for a description of all knowledge structures underlying discourse at different levels of abstraction. By integrating the concept of *argumentative relations* in the established methodology of frame analysis, these different dimensions of discursive meaning construction become describable in frame semantic terms. These argumentative relations between discourse elements at the text surface can be seen as mirroring equivalent relations between the constituent elements of cognitive frames at the conceptual level.

This approach will be used in the empirical section to analyse the parliamentary discourse on nuclear energy in the French *Assemblée nationale* and the German *Bundestag* from 1946 to 2012.