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## 10 Paremiography: Proverb Collections

### 10.1 Definition of Proverbs, Proverb Collections and Proverb Dictionaries

#### 10.1.1 Definition of Proverbs

The repeated reference to the impossibility of defining a proverb, according to Taylor (1931: 3), who writes about an “incommunicable quality [that] tells us this sentence is proverbial and that is not”, does not help either the laity or the scholars further; rather, it indicates its problematic character. Proverbs can be defined, among others, either according to the classical theory of features or to the prototype theory. While the classical theory necessitates rigid principles and a rigid definition system with necessary and sufficient markers and clear category borders, the prototype theory makes transitions between categories possible. Issues with markers of proverbiality that can contain didactic content, metaphoricity and prosody (Norrick, 2007: 381) (e.g. *A rolling stone gathers no moss; The apple never falls far from the tree*) are in accordance with the classical theory. However, “the notion of proverbiality is itself (...) a matter of prototypicality” (Norrick, 2007: 382), therefore non-metaphorical and non-rhythmic sentences with didactic content or elliptic structures can belong to the category of proverbs, too (e.g. *The exception proves the rule; It is never too late to learn; Business before pleasure; Easy come, easy go*).

#### 10.1.2 Definition of Proverb Collections and Proverb Dictionaries

Proverb collections and proverb dictionaries could be seen, more or less, as representatives of the above-mentioned different proverb definition types. On the one hand, there are proverb collections where proverbs can be interpreted within the framework of the prototype theory, i.e. they interpret proverbs in a broader sense, and with this in mind, they include better examples of the proverb category (e.g. *The apple doesn't fall far from the tree*) and worse examples too, i.e. proverbial comparisons (e.g. *as busy as a bee*), wellerisms (e.g. “*Everyone to his own taste,*” *as the farmer said when he kissed the cow*), weather proverbs and superstitions (e.g. *When it rains and the sun shines, the devil is beating his grandmother*), even idioms (e.g. *kick the bucket*). On the other hand, there are proverb dictionaries where proverbs can be interpreted within the framework of features (sentence, rhyme, alliteration, ellipsis, moral authority, didactic intent et al.), i.e. they interpret proverbs in a narrow sense and so they codify



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only proverbs that are generally sentential statements (e.g. *Still waters run deep; The shoemaker's son always goes barefoot; Too many cooks spoil the broth*).

This theory is not in accordance with the reality. Akbarian (2012: 1) mentions “the inconsistency between what such a dictionary claims to include and what it actually includes”. He analyzed Bertram (1996) and states that only 67 per cent of the entries in this dictionary (*NTC's Dictionary of Proverbs and Clichés*) are proverbs. 33 per cent of them are non-proverb items (e.g. *a chip off the old block*). As Akbarian states, there are lots of other idiom and proverb dictionaries mixing several kinds of phraseological items. Spears (1987) is an example of an *idiom dictionary* (*NTC's American Idioms Dictionary*) containing many proverbs too, beside idioms. Similarly, the dictionary of Hungarian proverbs by T. Litovkina (2005) includes idioms and other phraseological items. Even the *Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs* (Wilson, 1970) “makes no distinction between ‘proverbs, proverbial phrases and proverbial similes’” (Benjafield, Frommhold, Keenan et al., 1993: 27).

The present study concentrates on dictionaries containing only or mainly proverbs. To simplify the usage of terminology, in the following, the terms *proverb collection* and *proverb dictionary* will be used interchangeably. There are some reference resources that are deliberately restricted to proverbs. Mieder, Kingsbury & Harder (1992: xii) “have included only true proverbs (...) (and) have excluded proverbial expressions, proverbial comparisons, superstitions, wellerisms, and idioms”. Similarly, Beyer & Beyer (1984) excluded German idioms, winged words, aphorisms, and slogans. Paczolay's work (1997) is also a collection of *pure* proverbs.

The main issues with proverb collections relate to their usage. The following chapter is therefore structured according to the usage of proverb collections. As printed and electronic proverb collections, like dictionaries generally, differ on structure and usage, they should be treated hereinafter separately.<sup>155</sup>

## 10.2 Usage of Printed Proverb Collections

### 10.2.1 Which One to Use?

The selection of suitable proverb collections depends on the interest of the user and the situation. Users interested in the development of proverbs can prefer historical proverb dictionaries like Whiting (1968) and Wander (1867-1880). These dictionaries list different forms of proverbs, among other things, their older forms and variants.

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<sup>155</sup> This study focuses on contemporary proverb collections. As to the history of German proverb collections Mieder 1984.

There are a few proverb dictionaries that organize their proverb stock according to the subjects proverbs refer to. If we look, for example, for German proverbs referring to economy and diligence (*Von Sparsamkeit und Fleiß*), we can find 45 suitable proverbs in Müller-Hegemann & Otto (1965). Similarly, there are 42 German entries in Beier, Herkt & Pollmann (2002) referring to diligence.

Bilingual and multilingual proverb dictionaries can be useful for those interested in proverbs equivalents. In Paczolay (1997) e.g. there are 106 European proverbs with their equivalents in 55 languages. Predota (2003: 95) names three main categories of English proverb collections: “scientific [Wilson, 1970], popular-scientific [Simpson, 1985] and those destined for the teaching of foreign languages [Mieder, 2003]”.

### 10.2.2 How to Find a Proverb in a Proverb Collection?

Proverbs are prevalingly ordered alphabetically by keywords (e.g. Mieder, Kingsbury & Harder, 1992) in proverb collections, i.e. the dictionary has an alphabetical outer access structure (Wiegand, Beißwenger, Gouws et al., 2010: 328). The keyword is generally the first noun, if there is not a noun available, the first adjective, adverb or verb. Many proverb dictionaries list the same proverb several times, some of them even under (almost) all words. The multiple listing facilitates the finding of proverbs to a great extent.

Some proverb collections organize the entries alphabetically, but according to their first component. (e.g. Bertram, 1996; Spears, 1987). This is not a user-friendly approach. If one does not know the standard form of the proverb, this method cannot help one to find it in the dictionary. Generally, there is an index in these types of dictionaries, like the phrase-finder index in Spears (1987), where all proverb components are listed. This access structure facilitates the looking-up process.

In thematically ordered proverb collections (e.g. Müller-Hegemann & Otto, 1965), the starting point is the theme proverbs are assigned to, which appear as alphabetically ordered keywords. Regularly, there is a registry of themes/ keywords in the appendix that helps the user to find the searched proverb (or winged word).

### 10.2.3 What Kind of Information is Contained Under a Proverb Entry?

As usual, semantic, pragmatic and in some cases etymological information is assigned to proverb entries, beside their form. The availability of these issues varies depending on the dictionary. On one side, Simrock (1988) contains a mere German proverb list without further information, Couzereau’s dictionary (1997) is just a list of German proverbs and their English and French equivalents, whereas on the other side, Wander (1867-1880) and Wilson (1970) provide data concerning the meaning, usage and etymology of proverbs.

### 10.2.3.1 Information on Standard Proverb Forms and Variants

If we take a look at proverb dictionaries, we can see that the least information they are giving us about the proverb is its standard, canonical form. Yet, many proverbs have several formal variants, which are mostly marked with a slash (alternative words) or parentheses (addition). In Mieder, Kingsbury & Harder (1992), each variant is listed consistently. For *A new broom sweeps clean*, nine variants are listed (Figure 10.1).

2. A new broom sweeps clean. *Vars.:* (a) A new broom never sweeps clean. (b) A new broom sweeps clean, but an old broom knows all the corners. (c) A new broom sweeps clean, but an old one gets in the corners. (d) A new broom sweeps clean, but an old one knows where the dirt is. (e) A new broom sweeps clean, but an old one scrapes better. (f) A new broom sweeps clean, but the old broom knows the corners. (g) A new broom sweeps clean; the old one knows the corners best. (h) A new broom sweeps the cleanest. (i) A new broom sweeps well. *Rec. dist.:* U.S., Can. *1st cit.:* 1542 *Unpublished Poems from the Blage MS*, ed. Muir; US1752 Clinton in *Letters and Papers of Cadwallader Colden*, N.Y.Hist.Soc. *Collections* (1917–37). *20c. coll.:* ODEP 564, Whiting 47, CODP 161, Stevenson 246:12, T&W 44, Whiting(MP) 75.

**Figure 10.1:** Variants of the English proverb *A new broom sweeps clean* in Mieder, Kingsbury & Harder 1992

Traditionally, there can be *variants* as regular changes, and *modifications* as occasional changes, differentiated. This distinction was made mainly in the German literature concerning phraseology (*Varianten* vs. *Modifikationen*, Burger, Buhofer & Sialm, 1982). Recently, the term *variant* is more often referred to both phenomena. However, there is a term for occasional formal variants of proverbs, called *anti-proverbs*, which is the subject of three volumes of the popular dictionary of German anti-proverbs (*Antisprichwörter*) by Mieder (1982, 1985, 1989) and Mieder & Litovkina (1999). Indeed, the effects of these intentional alterations are relevant in persuasive texts, e.g. advertisements, down to present day. Under proverb variants in Mieder, Kingsbury & Harder (1992) there are also anti-proverbs listed (Figure 10.1).

### 10.2.3.2 Information on Meaning of Proverbs

Meaning is the most important information on understanding proverbs. As for figurativeness, proverbs can be classified into the group of figurative or idiomatic (*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush*) and of non-idiomatic proverbs (*Better late than never*). Problems arise, generally, with idiomatic proverbs because the meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from the meaning of the components. Although cognitive metaphor theories do not accept this point of view (Gibbs, 2001), the description of idiomatic, or metaphoric proverbs is rightly needed in proverb dictionaries.

Semiotic proverbs research played a major role in exploring the semantics of proverbs, among others their implicative, analogic and metaphoric character (Kanyó, 1981). Thus, the semantic item giving the meaning of proverbs in dictionaries can benefit from this issue. The generalized abstract meaning (or the model situation or the proverb idea, Grzybek, 2007: 205) is the most important semantic information to be codified. Unfortunately, there are few proverb collections that consistently codify the meaning of proverbs, it is more frequently done in dictionaries for non-native speakers.

**A rolling stone gathers no moss.** a proverb which describes a person who keeps changing jobs or residences and, therefore, accumulates no possessions or responsibilities. □ *“John just can’t seem to stay in one place,” said Sally. “Oh well, a rolling stone gathers no moss.”* □ *Bill has no furniture to bother with because he keeps on the move. He keeps saying that a rolling stone gathers no moss.*

**Figure 10.2:** Information on the meaning of the English proverb *A rolling stone gathers no moss* in Spears (1987)

### 10.2.3.3 Information on Usage of Proverbs

Pragmatic information needs to be distinguished from semantic information on proverbs, insofar as the abstract meaning of the proverb can have special reference that can also be called a reference situation (Grzybek, 2007). In other words, proverbs are polysituational items, i.e. there may be several situations a proverb can be applied to. Spears (1987: 97) presents two examples for the proverb *First come, first served*: The first example is about the purchase of tickets (*They ran out of tickets before we got there. It was first come, first served, but we didn’t know that.*), the second one can be about any other situation where one has to line up to get something (*Please line up and take your turn. It’s first come, first served.*). In proverb dictionaries, the codification of information on the usage of proverbs is even rarer than the information on

their meaning. It is rather context-related or corpus-based phraseological dictionaries or general monolingual dictionaries that contain semantic or pragmatic information on proverbs. The first edition of Duden-Redewendungen (Scholze-Stubenrecht, 2013) was the first prominent phraseological dictionary of the German language to illustrate the entries, among others proverbs, with up-to-date citations, i.e. authentic corpus-based examples. The entry for the proverb *Viele Köche verderben den Brei* [ee: Too many cooks spoil the broth] contains a semantic description and two examples from the internet (Figure 10.3).

**Koch: viele Köche verderben den Brei:**  
*wenn bei einer Sache zu viele mitreden,  
 mitentscheiden, kommt nichts Gutes dabei  
 heraus: Viele Köche verderben den Brei!*  
 Zwei Jugendzeitschriften und eine ge-  
 meinsame Ausgabe? ... Wir habens ge-  
 wagt (www.jpberlin.de). Dies ist der  
 Punkt, den eine Person allein machen  
 sollte – viele Köche verderben den Brei  
 (www.jura.uni-sb.de).  
 † Hunger.

**Figure 10.3:** Entry for the German proverb *Viele Köche verderben den Brei* in Scholze-Stubenrecht (2013)

The entries, among them a very small number of proverbs, are demonstrated merely by examples in the German idiom dictionary by Schemann (1993), without information on meaning.

### **den letzten beißen die Hunde *ugs***

1. ... Es ist besser, wir hauen ab! Diese Sauferei wird ein teurer Spa – und den letzten beißen die Hunde! – Was, der letzte soll die ganz Zeche zahlen? Das ist doch nicht möglich!
2. ... Jetzt aber raus! Wenn ich in zwei Minuten noch jemanden i der Klasse sehe, hagelt's Strafarbeiten. Raus, sage ich – den letzte beißen die Hunde! – Was passiert denn mit dem letzten, Herr Hofl meister? – Frag' nicht so blöd! Raus!

**Figure 10.4:** Entry for the German proverb *Den letzten beißen die Hunde* in Schemann (1993)

The latter approach is more user-friendly, contrary to most proverb dictionaries: Examples in contexts can demonstrate many pragmatic features of proverbs (varying

forms, communicative functions, metalinguistic comments, position of proverbs in text) (Kispál, 2000).

#### 10.2.3.4 Proverb Exercises

Exercises cannot be found in general proverb collections. Even the well-known collection of English proverbs (Mieder, 2003), which is a carefully annotated selection of 1200 proverbs intended for German learners of English as a foreign language, does not contain exercises. However, exercises can be a useful addition to the traditional parts of dictionaries. Unlike general dictionaries written in the first place for native speakers, dictionaries for non-native speakers present things differently. English dictionaries for non-native speakers generally contain exercises, just like some German dictionaries for non-native speakers.

For instance, there is a relatively old German proverb collection that was compiled for learners of German as a foreign language (Frey, Herzog, Michel et al, 1973), which has a proverb dictionary part and a part with proverb exercises. This popular booklet was often criticized because of the proverbs listed in it, as according to the results of the empirical proverb research they do not belong to the best-known proverbs. Nevertheless, it contains a short and more or less appropriate explanation as to the meaning of proverbs and five different exercise types for the usage of the German proverbs it contains (Kispál, 2007).

#### 2.

1. Früh übt sich, was ein Meister werden will.
2. Nichts ist so fein gesponnen, es kommt doch an die Sonnen.
3. Von nichts kommt nichts.
4. Ehrlich währt am längsten.
5. Was ein Häkchen werden will, krümmt sich beizeiten.
6. Wer den Pfennig nicht ehrt, ist des Talers nicht wert.
7. Unrecht Gut gedeiht nicht.
8. Was Hänschen nicht lernt, lernt Hans nimmermehr.

Man soll nichts Unrechtes tun	Man soll schon als Kind so viel wie möglich lernen	Man soll sparsam sein

Figure 10.5: A matching exercise on German proverbs in Frey, Herzog, Michel et al. (1973)

### 10.3 Usage of Electronic Proverb Collections

The term *electronic proverb collections* can be applied to CD, DVD and online dictionaries as well. These formats are generally just electronic versions of the printed dictionaries with the same content. For instance, Wander (2001) is a CD version of the printed dictionary of German proverbs by Wander (1867-1880). One can find various settings in CD dictionaries, as is shown in Figure 10.6., the entry for the German proverb *Stille Wasser sind tief* [ee: Still waters run deep] in Wander 2001 (Figure 10.6).

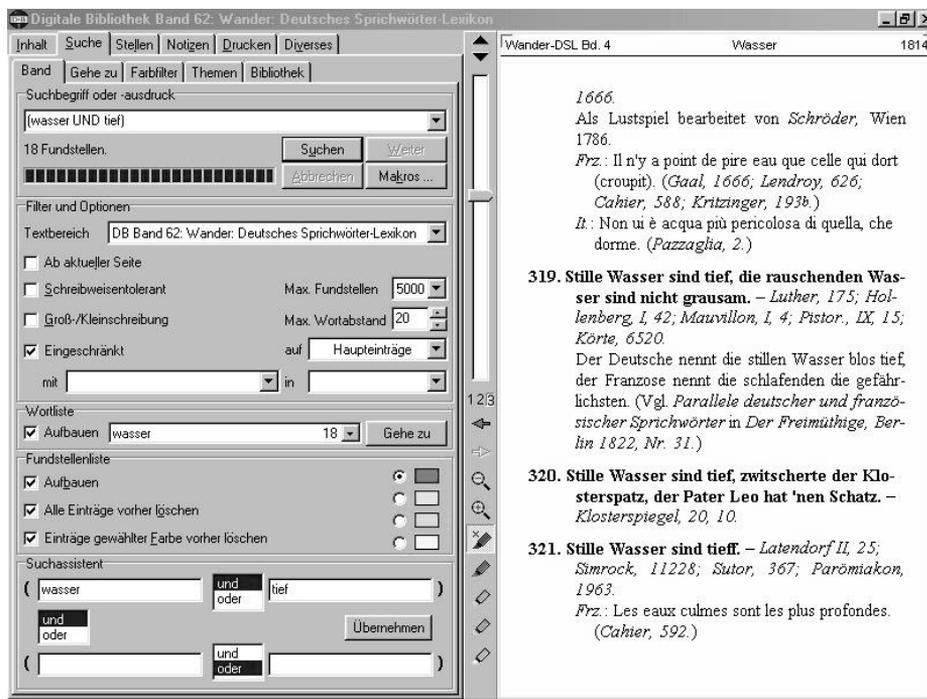


Figure 10.6: Entry for the German proverb *Stille Wasser sind tief* in Wander (2001)

There are several advantages of the electronic format, particularly its revolutionary contribution to the system of references of proverbs (Kispál, 2004), but CDs and DVDs are no longer convincing nowadays. While in the 2000s the demand for these formats rose (Kispál, 2007), in 2010s it is the online appearance which is gaining popularity and importance.

Because of the very low number of proper CD and DVD dictionaries, as well as their decreasing relevance, there will be several aspects of online proverb dictionaries

discussed in the following chapters, exemplified by the multilingual online dictionary *Sprichwortplattform*.<sup>156</sup>

### 10.3.1 How to Find a Proverb in an Electronic Proverb Collection?

One of the most important advantages of electronic formats is the increased searching speed. It is much faster to find a proverb in electronic proverb collections than in printed ones. For example, in *Sprichwortplattform* there are six different outer access structures that enable the quick find of search items: alphabet, component, lemma, variant component, variant lemma, and keyword. The keywords are obtained from the text of the semantic information and enable searching for the topic of the proverbs (Figure 10.7). With this in mind, in *Sprichwortplattform*, most of the demands for different proverb search options suggested by Hrisztova-Gotthardt (2010: 167), are fulfilled.

**Datenbank**

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Bitte wählen Sie die Liste der Sprichwörter in Ihrer Sprache:

- Deutsch
- Slowenisch
- Slowakisch
- Tschechisch
- Ungarisch

Die Sprichwörter können Sie auch über die folgenden Listen auffinden:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deutsch</b></li> <li>• Sprichwortkomponenten</li> <li>• Lemmata</li> <li>• Variantenkomponenten</li> <li>• Variantenlemmata</li> <li>• Schlüsselbegriffe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Slowenisch</b></li> <li>• Sprichwortkomponenten</li> <li>• Lemmata</li> <li>• Variantenkomponenten</li> <li>• Variantenlemmata</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Slowakisch</b></li> <li>• Sprichwortkomponenten</li> <li>• Lemmata</li> <li>• Variantenkomponenten</li> <li>• Variantenlemmata</li> <li>• Schlüsselbegriffe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tschechisch</b></li> <li>• Sprichwortkomponenten</li> <li>• Lemmata</li> <li>• Variantenkomponenten</li> <li>• Variantenlemmata</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ungarisch</b></li> <li>• Sprichwortkomponenten</li> <li>• Lemmata</li> <li>• Variantenkomponenten</li> <li>• Variantenlemmata</li> </ul>
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**Figure 10.7:** Outer access structure for proverbs in *Sprichwortplattform*

### 10.3.2 What Kind of Information Contains a Proverb Entry?

In electronic dictionaries, however possible, there is a proverb description justified, which is corroborated by the requirements mentioned in Hrisztova-Gotthardt's work (2010: 109) regarding the structure and function of electronic proverb databases. These include data source, variants, regional, dialectal usage, style, frequency, communicative functions, connotations, origin, thematic classification, and meaning. An electronic proverb dictionary therefore ought to contain this cluster of information. Hrisztova-Gotthardt (2010: 105) emphasizes, among other things, the necessity of the codification of modern proverbs. Yet, the provisional characteristic of many of the above-mentioned anti-proverbs does not justify the inclusion of these proverb types

<sup>156</sup> www.sprichwort-plattform.org

in general proverb dictionaries, although there are dictionaries that include anti-proverbs as regular proverb variants (e.g. Mieder, Kingsbury & Harder, 1992, Figure 10.1). Since according to the perspective of language learning and usage, understanding puns is considered to be very useful, it is justified to list some anti-proverbs in dictionaries as examples.

### 10.3.2.1 Information on Standard Proverb Forms and Variants

Sprichwortplattform contains actually existing, empirically verifiable proverbs from five languages: Czech, German, Hungarian, Slovak, Slovene. For the presentation of proverb form variants, there is an article position in Sprichwortplattform. The proverb *Gebranntes Kind scheut das Feuer* [ee: Once bitten, twice shy] has the variants *Das gebrannte Kind scheut das Feuer* and *Ein gebranntes Kind scheut das Feuer*, which are listed under *Formvarianten* (Figure 10.8). Proverb forms with several occurrences in the corpus are considered as standard proverb forms, and the others are variants.

#### Formvarianten

Das gebrannte Kind scheut das Feuer. [Beleg 4]

Ein gebranntes Kind scheut das Feuer. Kommentar [Beleg 5]

**Figure 10.8:** Variants of the German proverb *Gebranntes Kind scheut das Feuer* in *Sprichwortplattform*

### 10.3.2.2 Information on the Meaning of Proverbs

The lack of information on the meaning and usage of proverbs is one of the biggest defects of printed proverb dictionaries. In *Sprichwortplattform* the meaning and usage of proverbs have been extracted from the corpus empirically in a bottom-up process. The description of this (and all other) information is therefore based on the excerpt from the corpus. In the following example, there is information from *Sprichwortplattform* displayed, based on 18 corpus extracts or citations (*Beleg*) for the German proverb *Nachts sind alle Katzen grau* [ee: All cats are grey in the dark].

### Bedeutung(en)

Sagt man dafür, dass eigentlich unterschiedliche Dinge oder Menschen unter bestimmten Bedingungen gleich erscheinen. [Kommentar](#) [Beleg 1] [Beleg 2] [Beleg 3]

#### – Gebrauchsbesonderheit(en)

In den Korpusbelegen wird das Sprichwort häufig auf Unterschrede zwischen Dingen und Menschen bezogen, die tatsächlich durch Dunkelheit nicht erkennbar sind. [Beleg 4] [Beleg 5] [Beleg 6]

In bestimmten Korpusbelegen wird das Sprichwort

– auf das Konzept 'grau sein' im Sinne von eintönig, langweilig oder nivellierend bezogen. [Beleg 7] [Beleg 8] [Beleg 9]

– in Bezug auf das Aussehen von Katzen verwendet. [Beleg 10] [Beleg 11]

### Varianten

#### Formvarianten

In der Nacht sind alle Katzen grau. [Beleg 12]

Bei Nacht sind alle Katzen grau. [Beleg 13]

#### – Ersetzung von Komponenten

X sind alle Katzen grau. [Beleg 14] [Beleg 15]

Nachts sind alle

X grau. [Beleg 16] [Beleg 17] [Beleg 18]

**Figure 10.9:** Information based on corpus excerpts for the German proverb *Nachts sind alle Katzen grau* in Sprichwortplattform

### 10.3.2.3 Information on Usage of Proverbs

As for the usage of proverbs, there are often several restrictions that are expected to be codified in an appropriate dictionary. Under the position *Gebrauchsbesonderheiten* [special usage features], pragmatic restrictions on proverbs are recorded in Sprichwortplattform. The German proverb *Lege nicht alle Eier in einen Korb* [ww: Don't put all your eggs in one basket] occurs strikingly often, for example, in horoscopes. However, its content is questioned and often used in connection with patience (Figure 10.10).

#### – Gebrauchsbesonderheit(en)

In den Korpusbelegen wird das Sprichwort häufig

– auf den Aspekt des Geduldig-Seins bezogen: Hier wird ausgedrückt, dass jemand Geduld haben muss, um seine Ziele zu erreichen. [Beleg 4] [Beleg 5]

– in der Textsorte 'Horoskop' verwendet. [Beleg 6] [Beleg 7]

– als Name eines Brettspiels verwendet. ([http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eile\\_mit\\_Weile](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eile_mit_Weile)) [Kommentar](#) [Beleg 8]

In bestimmten Korpusbelegen wird

– die Aussage des Sprichworts negativ beurteilt: Hier wird ausgedrückt, dass es problematisch sein kann, Handlungen oder Reaktionen hinauszuzögern. [Beleg 9]

– die Sprichwortkomponente 'Eile' häufig mit schneller körperlicher Fortbewegung gleichgesetzt. Dabei wird oft, aber nicht zwingend, Bezug auf das richtige Verhalten bei sportlicher Betätigung genommen. [Beleg 10] [Beleg 11]

**Figure 10.10:** Pragmatic restrictions on the German proverb *Lege nicht alle Eier in einen Korb* in Sprichwortplattform

### 10.3.2.4 Exercises on Proverbs

Exercises should be integrated into electronic dictionaries in a practical way. There can be a module for exercises as part of the proverb dictionary. *Sprichwortplattform* has three modules: database (dictionary), exercises, and community. The proverbs of the dictionary are integrated into the exercises. In the dictionary module, there is a direct link next to each proverb which leads the user to the exercises grouped into two categories (according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), into categories B1-B2 or C1-C2). These are special exercises, mainly structured on the basis of the markers of proverbiality, intended for advanced learners (Kispál, 2012).

**Bedeutungsbereich: Handeln**  
Sprache: deutsch Phase: Anwenden 1 Niveau: P

**Niveau:** ParOñ.

**Aufgabe:** Ein typisches Merkmal der Sprichwörter ist ihre Satzwertigkeit. Welche Wortverbindung ist demnach ein Sprichwort? Klicken Sie die richtige Antwort an.

1.

- Jeder ist seines Glückes Schmied.
- Mit einem blauen Auge davonkommen.
- Mehr Glück als Verstand haben.
- Glück im Unglück haben.

2.

- Der frühe Vogel fängt den Wurm.
- Grillen fangen.
- Von früh bis spät.
- Den Vogel abschießen.

3.

- Wer A sagt, muss auch B sagen.
- Etwas durch die Blume sagen.
- Das Sagen haben.
- Das A und O.

Auswerten Zurücksetzen Lösen

**Figure 10.11:** A multiple choice exercise on the proverb feature *sentence* in German proverbs in *Sprichwortplattform*

## 10.4 Conclusion

In most cases, proverb collections include idioms and other phraseological items. Collections containing mainly proverbs, except of few, are often mere lists without any information on their meaning and usage. Proverbs are ordered alphabetically mostly by keywords. In thematically organized proverb collections, the starting points are alphabetically ordered topics to which proverbs are assigned.

Whereas in the 2000s the demand for CD and DVD dictionary formats rose, in the 2010s the online appearance is gaining an immense importance. Nowadays there are user-friendly online proverb dictionaries and databases needed, like e.g. the multi-lingual *Sprichwortplattform*, with various search options and relatively well known, empirically verifiable proverbs with information on their meaning and usage. Future empirical proverb lexicographic studies should provide more printed and especially

online proverb collections that meet the many demands put in front of modern proverb dictionaries discussed in this study.

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