The twenty-five papers collected in this volume cover a wide range of topics relating mainly to the study of phraseology — a major issue in current Linguistics. Relevant authors, Spanish and from abroad, have significantly contributed to this outstanding volume. Julia Sevilla and Mª Teresa Barbudillo’s opening paper (‘El máximo y el mínimo paremiológicos y sus implicaciones didácticas’) explain the distinction between the paremiological maximum and minimum, but they focus mainly on the concepts of the paremiological minimum versus paremiological competence. They establish specific criteria for the selection of the paremiological minimum in order to offer useful information for language teaching and for paremiological research. Harald Burger’s contribution (‘Aspectos de la vitalidad de los modismos’, translated by José Manuel Pazos) deals with the problems of the vitality of idioms under several different aspects, trying to show the underlying relationship. The paper by Gertrud Gréciano, ‘Europa bajo un mismo techo: la fraseología de los textos europeos’ (translated by one of the editors of the volume, Antonio Pamies), emerges from a publication of the 15th anniversary of the Europe Council, entitled Europe under a single roof (1999). Gréciano uses a trilingual corpus of institutional texts (English, German and French) in order to analyse the European phraseology and its semantic structure.

In a paper entitled ‘La oralidad del discurso escrito: la traducción de unidades fraseológicas en Während meine Schöne Schläf’, Gloria Corpas Pastor and Jorge Leiva Rojo examine the use of phraseological units in literary dialogues as a means to analysing orality and spontaneity in Rossana Campo’s novel Mentre la mia bella dorme (1999) and its translation into German: Während meine Schöne Schläf. After a brief introduction about Campo’s style, the authors focus on the translation strategies used in the German version. Carmen Mellado Blanco proposes in ‘Convergencias idiomáticas en alemán y español desde una perspectiva cognitivista’ a series of phraseological parallels both in Spanish and in German from a cognitive point of view. Mª Isabel González Rey (‘La fraseología de la música: la productividad y mutabilidad de sus expresiones fijas’) applies the concept of
fraseologismos’, translated by Lucía Luque Nadal) holds that the main objective of the phraseological contrastive analysis is to find out all possible differences that exist between apparently similar idioms within a given semantic field. In this essay, the author provides a typology of the most important cross-linguistic differences of idioms. In the next paper, ‘Las comparaciones proverbiales en inglés. Una aproximación tipológica y traductológica’, Lucía Luque Nadal considers the need of a further investigation on the translation of proverbial comparisons since it is still a problem to be solved in most of the cases, specially in the case of bilingual dictionaries. Isabel Alich Jiménez and Nader Al Jallad, in ‘Colocaciones comparativas árabes’, study comparative collocations which are usually used as proverbs in Arabic and, therefore, essentially influenced by cultural aspects. They propose a taxonomy of Arabic comparative phraseological (and their Spanish equivalents) on the basis of a thematic grouping: historical characters, animals, objects, and colour. Juan de Dios Luque Durán’s paper (‘Las colocaciones de cuantificación por comparación: tradición e innovación en las comparaciones proverbiales’) advances that proverbial comparisons can be seen as standardized modifiers of quantification, from a collocational viewpoint. He also analyses the structure of proverbial comparisons, comparisons concerning literature and humour, intensification in proverbial comparisons, as well as the terms of comparison, the exaggeration, the hyperbole and the jokes contained in proverbial comparisons. In another paper by Nader Al Jallad and Isabel Alich Jiménez (‘Colocaciones en árabe y español’), the focus is once again on collocations due to their enormous relevance in translation. Antonio Pamies Bertrán (‘Comparación estereotipada y colocación en español y francés’) brings the volume to a close with the treatment of stereotyped comparison and collocation in French and Spanish, stating that both languages can share an important nucleus in common in their stereotyped comparisons, specially from a semantic point of view, in spite of their unpredictability.

In conclusion, the present volume represents a well planned compilation of articles written by outstanding authors recognized in Spain and in international phraseology circles. No doubt the present volume is bound to be a real must in the fields of phraseology, lexicography, contrastive linguistics and translation.