A Cognitive Grammar is based on the following assumptions:

The grammar of a language is part of human cognition and interacts with other cognitive faculties, perception, attention, memory.

The grammar of a language reflects and presents generalizations about phenomena in the world as its speakers experience them.

Forms of grammar are, like lexical items, meaningful and never “empty” or meaningless.

The grammar of a language represents the whole of a native speaker’s knowledge of both the lexical categories and the grammatical structures of her language.

The grammar of a language is usage-based in that it provides speakers with a variety of structural options to present their view of a given scene. (Radden & Dirven 2007: XI-XII)

References