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 groningen

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## Center for Language and Cognition Groningen





## Foreword

On behalf of the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen (CLCG), I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report. The CLCG is home to all the linguistic research carried out within the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen. The Center consists of four research groups: Computational Linguistics, Discourse and Communication, Neurolinguistics and Language Development, and Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics.

In this report, the activities of the Center in 2017 are documented, with special emphasis on the research activities such as acquired research grants, as well as the societal impact activities. A substantial appendix, including a full list of publications of all CLCG staff members in 2017, their lectures and other academic and professional activities, may be found on the institute's website, <http://www.RUG.nl/research/clcg/> (see the section on Annual Reports).

On the administration level, the Center has started to prepare a proposal with respect to research infrastructure. Lab facilities such as electroencephalography (EEG), Eyetrackers, articulography are of increasing importance because in various fields of linguistics the role of quantitative methods increases. The ultimate goal is to ensure that appropriate housing and machinery for the various research lab facilities is guaranteed for the future.



*Prof. Gertjan van Noord, Director*

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## 1 ABOUT CLCG

### Mission

The mission of CLCG is to conduct and support high-quality linguistic research and disseminate the results of this research to the international scientific community and to society at large. Research in CLCG focuses on the dynamics of language. From a variety of monodisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives, CLCG studies computational processing of language, processes in discourse and communication, neurolinguistic processing and language development across the lifespan, and variation and change in linguistic structure and meaning. The aim is to uncover the processes that underlie the use of language in individuals and society.

CLCG aims to realise these goals by setting the following priorities:

- CLCG actively contributes to the University of Groningen's societal themes (Energy, Healthy Ageing and Sustainable Society). In particular, CLCG contributes to the theme of Healthy Ageing with its research on typical and atypical language development and use across the lifespan and health communication, and to the theme of Sustainable Society with its research on multilingualism, mutual understandability between languages, literacy development and language teaching.
- CLCG fosters interdisciplinary approaches to the study of language. The contribution of CLCG to the cognitive neurosciences is reflected in the affiliation of several CLCG members with the Research School of Behavioural and Cognitive Neurosciences (BCN).
- Linguistic research in CLCG is closely connected to the instructional needs of the faculty, e.g., in the languages spoken in modern Europe.
- CLCG has a special responsibility for the Dutch languages and dialects, especially those spoken in the northern Netherlands (Dutch, Frisian and Lower Saxon, including Grunnings).

### Research integrity & governance

The quality of research conducted at the University of Groningen (UG) is assessed against the highest international standards. In addition, the University complies with the behavioural rules drawn up by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU: Vereniging van Universiteiten), which can be found in the Dutch Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice. Important values in this code of conduct include care, reliability, verifiability and independence. The University of Groningen also has its own regulations for the protection of academic integrity, describing which actions must be taken in the event that academic norms are violated.

#### *Shared responsibility*

All those involved in teaching and research at the University of Groningen are jointly responsible for preventing and identifying academic misbehaviour. Upon being appointed, researchers declare that they are familiar with the Dutch Code of Conduct for Academic Practice and will obey it. Research integrity is a regular part of the assessment interviews with PhD's especially in the first year progress assessment interview.

#### **Ethical Committee**

Linguistic research involving human participants is reviewed by the Ethical Review Committee (Commissie Ethische Toetsing Onderzoek, or CETO) of the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies and the Faculty of Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence department). The Ethical Review Committee was appointed in 2015 to ensure that the ethical rules governing the conduct of research with human participants are adhered to. Linguistic research (including research involving EEG, fMRI or TMS methodology, adults with aphasia or children with autism) can be assessed by the Ethical Review Committee. Research that is carried out with the intention of contributing to medical knowledge is considered medical-scientific research and must be reviewed by a recognized Medical Research Ethics Committee

(Medisch Ethische Toetsingscommissie = METc). Currently, the Ethical Review Committee assesses all research proposals of staff, PhD candidates, and BA and MA students involving human participants.

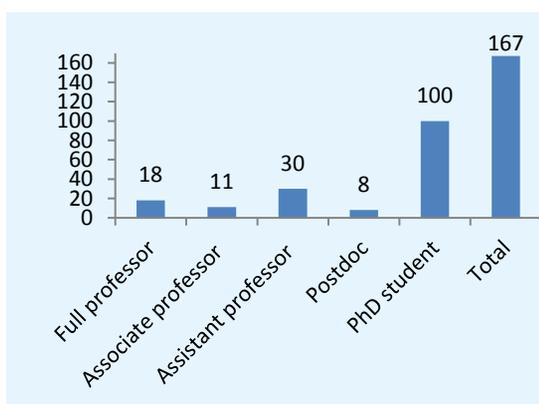
### Research data management

Data management is high on the agenda of the University of Groningen. The University Board has requested all SEP institutes to prepare a Research Data Management Plan (RDMP) for their institute. Within the Faculty of Arts, a Research Data Management Committee has been installed in 2015 to look into current practices, advise the Faculty Board on a policy regarding the storage and management of research data, and advise the directors of the research institutes in their task to develop and implement a RDMP.

On 11 July 2017 the Faculty Board established the Faculty's Research Data Management (RDM) protocol. This protocol asks every academic staff member of the Faculty of Arts to submit a Research Data Management Plan. This also applies to doctoral research: primary supervisors are obliged to submit an RDMP for each of their students' PhD research projects within six months of the research project starting. The RDMP will then be added to the PhD student's Training and Supervision Plan (TSP).

## Staff

### Staff composition - position



## Organisation of the institute

### Director

Prof. G.J. van Noord

CLCG consists of four Research Groups, organized by subdiscipline:

- Computational Linguistics
- Discourse and Communication
- Neurolinguistics and Language Development
- Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

### Coordinators of the Research Groups

Dr. Malvina Nissim (Computational Linguistics)

Prof. J.C.J. Hoeks (Discourse and Communication)

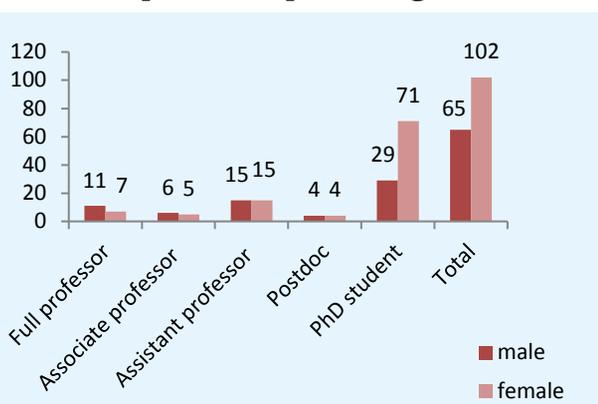
Prof. B.A.M. Maassen (Neurolinguistics and Language Development)

Dr. M. de Vries (Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics)

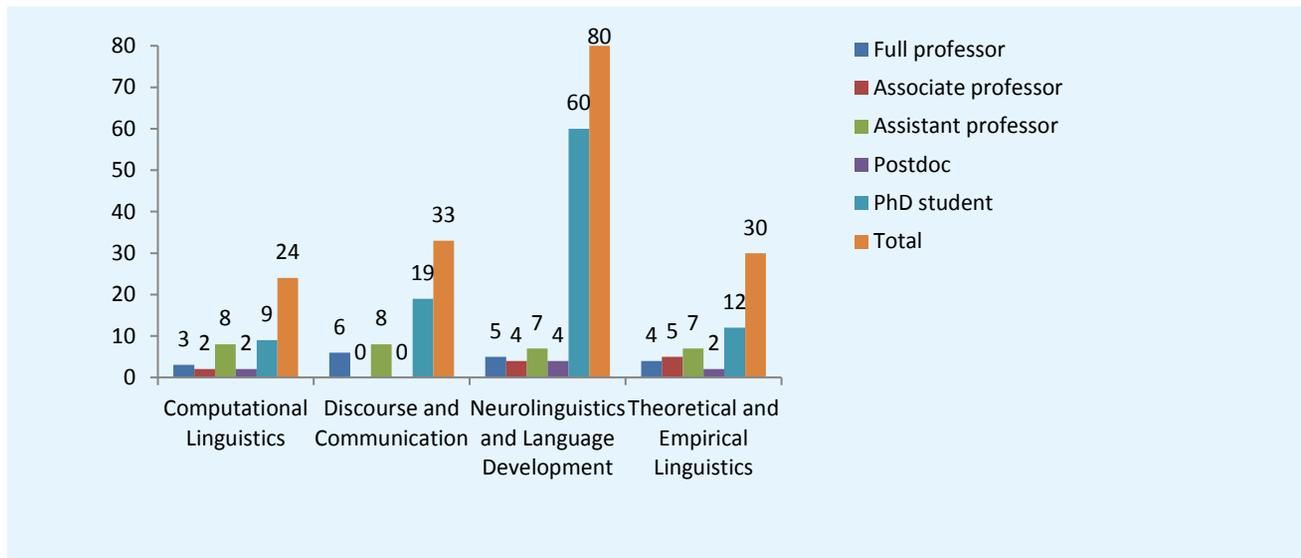
### Advisory Board

Prof. Roelien Bastiaanse, Prof. Johan Bos, Prof. Janet Fuller, Prof. Kees de Glopper (chair), Prof. Petra Hendriks, Prof. Jack Hoeksema, Prof. John Hoeks, Prof. Carel Jansen, Prof. Tom Koole, Dr. Wander Lowie, Prof. Ben Maassen, Prof. John Nerbonne, Dr. Malvina Nissim, Prof. Gertjan van Noord, Joëlle Ooms (PhD-Council representative), Prof. Gisela Redeker, Prof. Marjolein Verspoor, Dr. Mark de Vries, Prof. Gerry Wakker, Prof. Jan-Wouter Zwart

### Staff composition – position/gender



### Staff composition research groups



### PhD programme

Within the UG, CLCG participates in the Graduate school for Humanities (GSH). Formally the GSH is responsible for recruiting and selecting graduate students, for assigning them to supervisors, and for monitoring their progress toward the PhD degree. Nevertheless, CLCG members are involved in all of these processes. The director of CLCG carries out the first year assessment interviews on behalf of the GSH.

CLCG is also affiliated with various research schools. Many CLCG PhD students participate in Groningen’s Research School of Behavioral and Cognitive Neurosciences (BCN), a local interdisciplinary research school that brings together research from five different faculties of the University of Groningen. Likewise, many of CLCG PhD students choose to participate in the national graduate school in linguistics, LOT (Landelijke Onderzoeksschool Taalwetenschap). One of the major tasks of BCN and LOT is offering training courses to PhD students. Various PhD students attend courses that are organized by BCN and LOT, while some senior CLCG researchers teach such courses.

We hope to continue to serve as an excellent training center for students interested in research careers. In 2017, ten PhD projects were defended. A list of CLCG PhD students, together with the source of funding for their project and the title of their project can be found on the CLCG website.

### Overview CLCG research output 2017

CLCG research output 2017	
Journal article	81
Book chapter	35
Conference proceeding	33
Book	2
Non-refereed publication	0
Review	1
Edited journal	1
Edited book	4
Doctoral thesis	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>

## Overview: Externally funded research projects and grants

13 ongoing externally funded projects continued, 6 projects were completed, and 11 projects were initiated in 2017:

Title	Grant	Period
• Neurolinguistic profiles of developmental dyslexia in a longitudinal perspective (Ben Maassen)	NWO-Open Competition	2011-2018
• IDEALAB International Doctorate in Experimental Approaches to Language and Brain (Roelien Bastiaanse)	EU-EACEA	2011-2019
• Literate: Early identification and prevention of reading problems in alphabetic and semanto-phonetic writing environments (Ben Maassen)	Marie Curie EU (IRSES)	2013-2017
• Improving speech learning models and English pronunciation with articulography (Martijn Wieling)	NWO-VENI	2013-2017
• Effectiveness of explicit vs. implicit L2 instruction (Kees de Bot)	NWO-DG	2013-2018
• De leerkracht als coach bij het stimuleren van exploratory talk en kennisconstructie samenwerkend leren (Kees de Gloppe)	NHL	2013-2018
• Grasping Meaning across Languages and Learners (GramALL) (Angeliek van Hout)	NWO- Int. in the Hum.	2014-2017
• Parsing Algorithms for Uncertain Input (Gertjan van Noord)	Nuance Foundation	2014-2018
• Interaction and knowledge construction in collaborative writing of primary school students (Kees de Gloppe, Tom Koole)	NHL	2014-2018
• Hechttingsrelatie tussen gezinshuisouders en hun in huis geplaatste puber (Tom Koole)	NWO-promotiebeurs voor leraren	2014-2018
• Lost in Translation – Found in Meaning (Johan Bos)	NWO-VICI	2015-2020
• Dialogic reading in inquiry learning (Kees de Gloppe, Tom Koole)	NHL	2015-2019
• Acting individually or together? An investigation of children's development of distributivity (Petra Hendriks)	NWO-DG	2016-2020
• Idioms in the ageing brain: The effects of age-related cognitive decline on the processing and comprehension of idioms (Petra Hendriks)	NWO-DG	2016-2020
• Learning language from expectations (Jacolien van Rij)	NWO-VENI	2016-2020
• The Language of Fiction and Imagination (Emar Maier)	NWO-VIDI	2016-2021
• Schrijfvaardigheid in ontwikkeling binnen het Hofstad Lyceum (Kees de Gloppe)	NRO Kennisrotonde	2016-2017
• Automatic speech recognition for congenitally blind speakers (Martijn Wieling)	VIVIS	2016-2017
• Informatie-Extractie met Netwerken en Syntaxis (Gosse Bouma)	NWO KIEM	2017
• SPOD (Jack Hoeksema)	Clariah-Core	2017-2018
• Taalcompetenties voor een dynamische arbeidsmarkt (Kees de Gloppe)	NRO Beroepsonderwijs	2017-2020
• DUDOC programma (Kees de Gloppe)	Regie Orgaan Geesteswetenschappen	2017-2020
• Predictive processing in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (Petra Hendriks)	NWO-DG	2017-2021
• Try to see it my way: when do speakers consider the listener's perspective?(Jorrig Vogels)	NWO VENI	2017-2021
• Polytheism as language. A linguistic approach to divine plurality in the religious experience of Greek worshippers (Saskia Peels)	NWO VENI	2017-2021
• Stimmen fan Fryslan (Nanna Hilton)	Prov. Fryslan	2017-2019
• Tongval in een 2e taal (Martijn Wieling)	GUF	2017-2019
• 3m Meertaligheid (Hanneke Loerts)	NHL	2017-2021
• Learning to preserve? Foreign language training as a cognitive vaccine against old-age disorders (Merel Keijzer)	CvB-interdisciplinarity Phd projects	2017-2021

## 2 Research within CLCG

### Computational Linguistics

#### Staff Members:

Malvina Nissim (coordinator), Johan Bos, Leonie Bosveld-de Smet, Tommaso Caselli, Kilian Evang, Gosse Bouma, Charlotte Gooskens, Gregory Mills, John Nerbonne, Gertjan van Noord, Barbara Plank, Antonio Toral Ruiz, Martijn Wieling

#### Postdocs:

Lasha Abzianidze, Aki Kunikoshi

#### PhD Candidates:

Johannes Bjerva, Kilian Evang, Rob van der Goot, Hessel Haagsma, Franz Manni (extern), Masha Medvedeva, Rik van Noord, Dieke Oele, Stefanie Voigt

### Research focus areas

The computational linguistics group focuses on language processing by computer, both from a theoretical, experimental and applied perspective. Important research areas include computational dialectology, computational syntax and semantics, and language technology applied to Dutch.

In the last decade, research in computational dialectology has been an important focus of the group, with NWO-funded research projects of John Nerbonne, Wilbert Heeringa, Charlotte Gooskens and most recently Martijn Wieling (VENI project).

Research in computational syntax has been a further important focus, with NWO-funded research projects of van Noord and Bouma, several NWO Stevin projects and a number of smaller scale CLARIN projects. As a result, tools (parser and generator) and resources (annotated treebanks) have been developed for Dutch which are widely used by researchers around the globe.

A third important focus of the research group is computational semantics, initiated by Endowed Chair Johan Bos. The Groningen Meaning Bank is a free semantically annotated corpus and related set of tools developed by members of the CL group. The tools includes Wordrobe, a collection of linguistic games with a purpose: [www.wordrobe.org](http://www.wordrobe.org). Those games are played by non-scientists, who produce as a side-effect useful data annotation, i.e.,

crowd-sourcing in an entertaining fashion with obvious links to citizen science.

### Highlights 2017

#### **Grants, Awards and Honors**

##### *YAG Interdisciplinary PhD Grant*

Together with Prof. Michel Vols, Wieling was awarded one of the three yearly interdisciplinary Young Academy of Groningen PhD grants for a project with the goal of automatically predicting court judgments.

##### *Digital Humanities Explored Project Grant*

This one-year data science grant was awarded to Martijn Wieling by the Centre for Digital Humanities of the University of Groningen for his project "Identifying Dutch accents automatically".

##### *VIVIS Research Grant*

This one-year research grant was awarded to Wieling by the 'Vereniging van Instellingen voor mensen met een Visuele beperking' (A Dutch association for people with visual impairment) for his project "Automatic speech recognition for congenitally blind speakers".

Furthermore, Kilian Evang, Barbara Plank, and Martijn Wieling received a NVIDIA academic hardware grant in the form of a Titan Xp card.

Masha Medvedeva, Hessel Haagsma and Malvina Nissim won the Best Paper Award at CLEF (Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum) Association.

Malvina Nissim's team was elected the best performing team at the 5th International Competition on Author Profiling with their task on gender and language variety identification in Twitter (team members: Angelo Basile, Gareth Dwyer, Maria Medvedeva, Josine Rawee, Hessel Haagsma, and Malvina Nissim).

#### **PhD defenses**

In 2017, three PhD projects were completed.

Kilian Evang defended his thesis "Cross-lingual Semantic Parsing with Categorical Grammar" (promotor Johan Bos). From 2015-2017 he worked as researcher and lecturer at

CLCG and the department of Communication & Information Science. Currently he works as a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Computational Linguistics/Institute for Language and Information Science at the University of Düsseldorf.

Franz Manni defended his thesis “Linguistic Probes into Human History” (promotors John Nerbonne, Serge Bahuchet (Musée de l’Homme)). He works at the Musée de l’Homme in Paris.

Johannes Bjerva defended his thesis “One Model to Rule them all. Multitask and Multilingual Modelling for Lexical Analysis: Multitask and Multilingual Modelling for Lexical Analysis” (promotor Johan Bos, copromotor Barbara Plank). He works as a postdoctoral researcher within the CoAStL NLP group at the Department of Computer Science, University of Copenhagen. He is working on computational typology, and multilingual/few-shot learning.

### **Conferences and Workshops**

#### *Informatica 30 years!*

Alfa-informatica started in 1986 as a study programme which included topics in Information Science, Humanities Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and Language Technology. The study programme is nowadays called Information Science and focuses on Language Technology and Web Technology. Professor of Alfa-informatica, John Nerbonne, held his farewell lecture on the day of the 30th anniversary.

The 30th anniversary was celebrated with a symposium with a great lineup of invited speakers: Harald Baayen (University of Tübingen) - “How do French baboons distinguish between English words and pseudo-words? A comparison of deep learning with wide learning”, Mark Liberman (UPenn) - “Visualizing Prosody”, Max Louwerse (Tilburg University) - “Explaining the world around us using language statistics”, and Joakim Nivre (Uppsala University) - “What is this thing called Universal Dependencies?”

Demos of local on-going projects and on the history of Alfa-Informatica were given in an ‘open corridor’ session. The organizing

committee consisted of: Johan Bos, Gosse Bouma, Kilian Evang, Rob van der Goot, Malvina Nissim, Gertjan van Noord, Dieke Oele, Barbara Plank, and Martijn Wieling.

*International Workshop on Statistical Modeling*  
From July 3 - 7, 2017 the International Workshop on Statistical Modeling took place at the University of Groningen. Martijn Wieling was co-organizer.

### **Research projects**

#### *Improving speech learning models and English pronunciation with articulography*

In this project, Martijn Wieling investigated differences in articulation of native English compared to non-native Dutch and German speakers of English. The project showed that there were specific articulatory differences between the groups of speakers, lining up with acoustic differences.

#### *Tongval in een 2e taal*

In the project ‘Accent in a second language’, Wieling investigates in what way visual feedback using ultrasound tongue imaging may help to improve the pronunciation of learners of a second language.

#### *Parsing Algorithms for Uncertain Input*

This project is carried out by Rob van der Goot, supervised by Gertjan van Noord and funded by the Nuance Foundation. Parsing algorithms are studied for ill-formed and unexpected input. Social media texts are converted to word-graphs using classical spell-correction techniques combined with deep learning methods. Parsing these word graphs leads to improved parser performance.

#### *Informatie-Extractie met netwerken en Syntaxis*

This project was led by Gosse Bouma in the period January 2017 until October 2017. In this project a state-of-the-art method for information extraction combining automatic syntactic parsing and deep learning was optimized and tested on several novel use cases. We show that scaling from less

than 10 relations (as in previous work) to 100 relations still gives good results on encyclopedia text. Cross-domain information-extraction (learning on encyclopedia text, evaluating on newspaper text) is much harder and could not be fully solved within the time-frame of the project.

#### *Lost in Translation – Found in Meaning*

The aim of this NWO-VICI (2015-2020) project led by Johan Bos and carried out by Lasha Abzianidze, Hessel Haagsma and Rik van Noord, is to study the role of meaning in translation. This is done by building a large semantically annotated parallel corpus for the languages English, German, Dutch and Italian. The first results comprise an interactive online corpus, the Parallel Meaning Bank, and a gold standard data set of texts and their formal meaning representations. New software is created too: a tool for evaluating meaning representations and a semantic parser for scoped meaning representations.

#### **Selection of other activities**

- John Nerbonne gave an invited talk at the *Journées FLOral-PFC 2017*, November, 23, 2017.
- Barbara Plank was keynote speaker at the *Nuance Research Conference*, March, 14, 2017.
- Barbara Plank was invited speaker at the *Natural Language Understanding Workshop*, Google, New York, July, 29, 2017.
- Martijn Wieling was invited speaker at the *5th International Winterschool Speech production and perception*, January, 9-13, 2017.

#### **Key publications - Computational Linguistics**

**Ruder, S., Plank, B.** (2017). Learning to select data for transfer learning with Bayesian Optimization. In *Proceedings of the 2017 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*. Association for Computational Linguistics

**Nissim, M., Abzianidze, L., Evang, K., van der Goot, R., Haagsma, H., Plank, B., Wieling, M.** (2017). Sharing is Caring: The Future of Shared Tasks. *Computational Linguistics*. Available from: 10.1162/COLI\_a\_00304

**Toral Ruiz, A.** (2017). Crawl and crowd to bring machine translation to under-resourced languages. *Language Resources and Evaluation*, 51(4):1019-1051.

**van Noord, R., Bos, J.** (2017). Neural Semantic Parsing by Character-based Translation: Experiments with Abstract Meaning Representations. *Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands*, 7:93-108.

**Medvedeva, M., Haagsma, H., Nissim, M.** (2017). An Analysis of Cross-Genre and In-Genre Performance for Author Profiling in Social Media. *Experimental IR Meets Multilinguality, Multimodality, and Interaction: 8th International Conference of the CLEF Association*, CLEF 2017, Dublin, Ireland, September 11-14, 2017, Proceedings. Springer. pp. 211-223. Available from: 10.1007/978-3-319-65813-1\_21 (*Conference Best Paper Award*)

## Featured publication – Computational Linguistics

**Nissim, M., Abzianidze, L., Evang, K., van der Goot, R., Haagsma, H., Plank, B., Wieling, M.** (2017). Sharing is Caring: The Future of Shared Tasks. Computational Linguistics. Available from: 10.1162/COLI\_a\_00304

*The Role of Shared Tasks in NLP*  
Shared tasks are indisputably drivers of progress and interest for problems in NLP. This is reflected by their increasing popularity, as well as by the fact that new shared tasks regularly emerge for under-researched and under-resourced topics, especially at workshops and smaller conferences. [...] The general procedures and conventions for organizing a shared task have arisen organically over time (Paroubek, Chaudiron, and Hirschman 2007, Section 7). There is no consistent framework that describes how shared tasks should be organized. This is not a harmful thing per se, but we believe that shared tasks, and by extension the field in general, would benefit from some reflection on the existing conventions. This, in turn, could lead to the future harmonization of shared task procedures. Shared tasks revolve around two aspects: research advancement and competition.

[...] Our position in this respect is clear: We do believe that (i) advancing the field should be given priority over ensuring fair competition, also because (ii) inequality is partly unsolvable and intrinsic to life. In other words: Equality between competitors is desirable if it does not hinder research advancement. [...] We make a simple proposal for the improvement of shared tasks, and discuss how it can help to mitigate the problems raised by Parra Escartín et al. (2017), while not necessarily tackling them directly (p.:897-898).

## Discourse and Communication

### Staff Members:

John Hoeks (coordinator), Veerle Baaijen, Kees de Glopper, Myrte Gosen, Mike Huiskes, Carel Jansen, Tom Koole, Femke Kramer, Jacqueline van Kruiningen, Yfke Ongena, Claire Penn (external), Gisela Redeker, Ielka van der Sluis, Ninke Stukker

### PhD Candidates:

Bianca Dijkstra (external), Lennie Donné, Agnes Engbersen (external), Loes Groen, Anke Herder (external), Frans Hiddink (external), Melanie Hof (external), Lisanne Knol, Ruth Koops van't Jagt, Joëlle Ooms, Maaïke Pulles (external), Ellen Schep (external), Lucas Seuren, Jeroen Steenbakkers, Moniek Vis, Nienke van der Vliet, Louise van Weerden (external), Annerose Willemsen, Lambert Zaad (external)

### Research focus areas

The Discourse and Communication group conducts quantitative and qualitative research on language and communication. The group's research addresses a variety of themes within the broad field of communication research. Object of study are communication processes in general, but also more specifically the design and optimization of communication products, the persuasive effects of these communication products, the development of communication skills, and the way these skills are taught in primary and secondary education and trained in the workplace. Communication is investigated primarily in professional settings such as health care (persuasive health campaigns, doctor-patient conversations), and education (teacher-student interaction), but also in public and private organisations (persuasive effects of advertisements, interaction and conversation during meetings, campaigns on sustainability). Its research program is closely linked to the University of Groningen research focus areas Healthy Ageing and Sustainable Society.

## Highlights 2017

### Conferences and Workshops

#### *Groningen Symposium on Language and Social Interaction*

The third Groningen Symposium on Language and Social Interaction (GSLI) was organized by Center for Language and Cognition on January 19 and 20, 2017. The theme of this year's symposium was 'Survey Interview Interaction'. The symposium aimed to cover both qualitative and quantitative analysis of survey interview-interactions and brought together scholars interested in interaction in survey interviews, including interviewer-respondent and virtual agent-respondent interaction. The symposium was organized to honor Wil Dijkstra and Hanneke Houtkoop-Steenstra (1950-2002), two Dutch scholars that have studied interviewer-respondent interaction from different perspectives.

### Research Projects

#### *DUDOC programme (Kees de Glopper)*

The Steering Committee 'Vakdidactiek Geesteswetenschappen' (Teaching Methodology Humanities) develops a national formation plan in the field of teaching methodology in the humanities in order to appoint professors, associate professors and / or assistant professors who are assigned to further develop this domain.

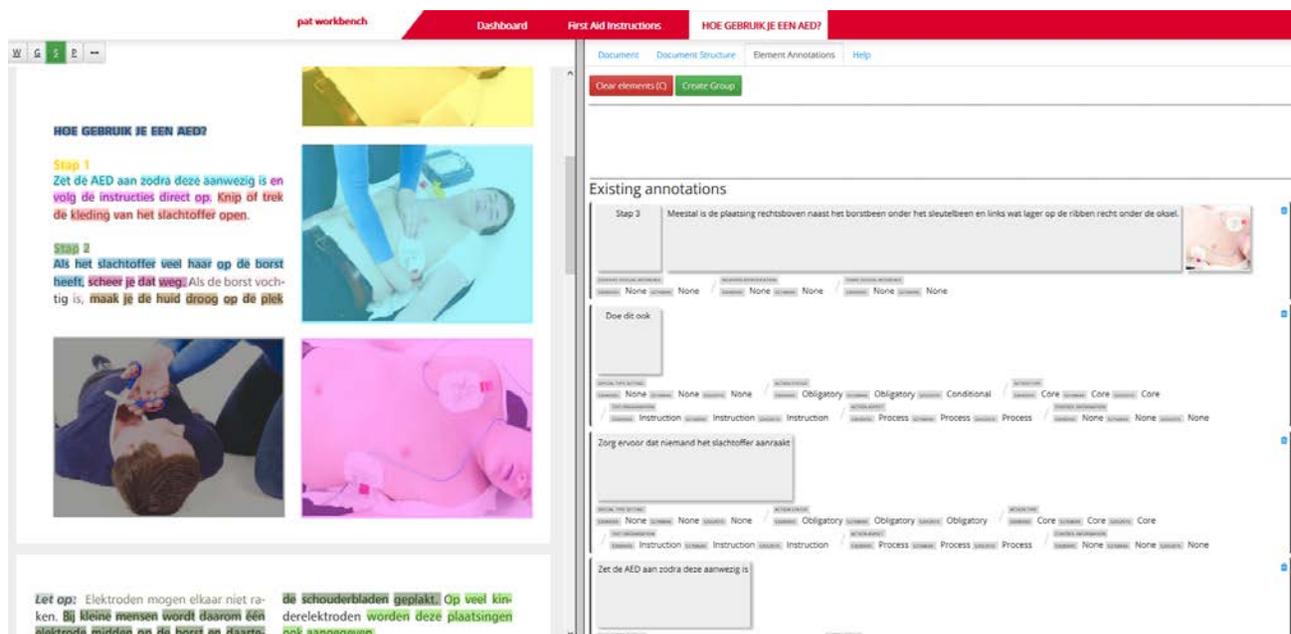
The Steering Committee develops and coordinates a program, DUDOC-ALFA, which aims to have teachers in secondary education and teacher trainers in higher education obtain their doctorate on a subject in which a clear relationship is established with the practice in secondary education.

At CLCG the research two PhD research projects started within the programme: Jeroen Steenbakkers, project title "Bewuste taalvaardigheid in lessen Nederland" (Conscious language skills in Dutch lessons) and Moniek Vis, project title "Genredidactiek bij Nederlands: blijvend betere samenhang en bewuster geletterde leerlingen" (Genredidactics in Dutch: for permanently better coherence and more conscious literate students). Both are supervised by Kees de Glopper.

#### *The Pictures and Text (PAT) Workbench: Toward Automated Evaluation of Multimodal First-Aid Instructions*

The PAT Workbench is part of PAT project in which the use, effects and optimisation of instructions that contain pictures and text is investigated. The workbench will support novel and methodical investigations of multimodal instructions (MIs) for first-aid procedures like operating an AED, producing an arm sling, removing ticks, and so forth. The huge variation in pictorial and verbal means employed in these instructions demonstrates the urgency to obtain

Screenshot PAT Workbench



validated guidelines based on empirical evidence collected from readers and users. The project is funded by the Groningen Centre for Digital Humanities in collaboration with the Research and Innovation Support (RIS) department of the Center for Information Technology (CIT). The PAT Workbench project delivers: an online application in which multimodal documents can be annotated in terms of the text and pictures as well as the relations between them, a multimodal annotation model to annotate multimodal documents, specially first-aid instructions, an annotated corpus of multimodal first-aid instructions. Project members are Ielka van der Sluis (PI), Gisela Redeker, Jonas Bulthuis, Herbert Kruitbosch, Annet Onnes, Renate Vergeer.

([https://www.rug.nl/research/clcg/research/dc2017\\_/dcresearchprojects/pat/projects](https://www.rug.nl/research/clcg/research/dc2017_/dcresearchprojects/pat/projects))

### Selection of other activities

- Tom Koole was organizer of the *Anéla Juniorendag* in Utrecht, April, 13, 2017.
- Femke Kramer published the chapter Writing, Telling and Showing Horsemanship in Rhetoricians' farce. Butterworth P, Normington K, editors. In *Medieval Theatre Performance: Actors, Dancers, Automata and their Audiences*. Boydell & Brewer. pp. 161-178.
- Ielka van der Sluis, Gisela Redeker (and Eppings) presented the paper "Text-Picture Relations in Multimodal Instructions" at the *FMSC workshop on Foundations of Situated or Multimodal Communication*, Montpellier, France, December, 19, 2017.
- Ninke Stukker was discussant at the *CogLing 7*, Theme Session 'The cross-linguistic realization of discourse coherence'. Conveners: Jacqueline Evers-Vermeul (UU), Ted Sanders (UU), Wilbert Spooren (RU) Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen, January, 5-6, 2017.
- Annerose Willemsen was organizer of a conference on language education for language specialists and language coordinators in primary education (*Netwerkdag Landelijk Netwerk Taal in het PO*), Utrecht, September, 28, 2017.

### Featured publication – Discourse & Communication

**Seuren, L., Huiskes, M.** (2017).

Confirmation or Elaboration: What do Yes/No Declaratives Want?. *Research on Language and Social Interaction*.

#### Abstract:

Recent analyses have argued that when requests for confirmation are implemented with declarative word order, they are closure implicative due to the relatively knowing stance indexed with the declarative. This article demonstrates, however, that in some cases participants show an orientation to both confirmation and elaboration as a relevant next action. By comparing requests for confirmation that are closure-implicative to those that are expansion-implicative, it is argued that in addition to epistemic stance, participants also orient to the lexical design features and sequential placement of these declarative yes/no-type initiating actions to determine the relevant type of response. [...]

#### Conclusion

Our analysis has shown that although participants do orient to the relatively knowing epistemic stance indexed with declarative yes/no-type initiating actions (Heritage, 2012; Lee, 2015; Park, 2012; Raymond, 2003, 2010a), the response recipients provide can only partly be accounted for with the epistemic stance alone. Based on these findings, we have suggested, following Sidnell (2017), a direction in which the action-formation problem (Schegloff, 2007) can be further explored. Accountability is at the heart of this line of research. Participants have various means of achieving an interactional goal. In some cases, possibly most cases, they pursue these goals in a way that makes them accountable for having done so, but sometimes they are more circumspect. How and why participants manage to avoid accountability is a question that bears further investigation. [...]

## Key publications - Discourse & Communication

**Haan, M., Ongena, Y., Vannieuwenhuyze, J., de Glopper, K.** (2017). Response Behavior in a Video-Web Survey: A Mode Comparison Study. *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*, 5(1):48-69. Available from: 10.1093/jssam/smw023

**Koole, T., van Burgsteden, L., Harms, P., van Diemen, C.C., van Langen, I.M.**, (5GPM-team) (2017). Participation in interdisciplinary meetings on genetic diagnostics (NGS). *European Journal of Human Genetics*, 25(10):1099-1105. Available from: 10.1038/ejhg.2017.111

**Ooms, J.A., Jansen, C.J.M., Hommes, S., Hoeks, J.C.J.** (2017). "Don't Make My Mistake": On the Processing of Narrative Fear Appeals. *International Journal of Communication*, 11:4924-4945.

**Stec, K., Huiskes, M., Wieling, M., & Redeker, G.** (2017). Multimodal character viewpoint in quoted dialogue sequences. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics*, 2(1): 39. 1–19, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.255>

**Seuren, L., Huiskes, M.** (2017). Confirmation or Elaboration: What do Yes/No Declaratives Want?. *Research on Language and Social Interaction*. Available from: 10.1080/08351813.2017.1301307

[...]. "Achieving some interactional outcome without the risk of being held accountable for pursuing that outcome is not just reserved to politicians: It is useful for and applied by all participants in talk-in-interaction" (p. 204)."

## Neurolinguistics and Language Development

### Staff Members:

Ben Maassen (coordinator), Roelien Bastiaanse, Gerard Bol, Hilde Hacquebord, Petra Hendriks, Angeliek van Hout, Sake Jager, Roel Jonkers, Merel Keijzer, Hanneke Loerts, Wander Lowie, Emar Maier, Monika Schmid, Simone Sprenger, Wim Tops, Marjolijn Verspoor.

### Postdocs:

Rimke Groenewold, Srđan Popov, Jacolien van Rij-Tange (Veni), Jorrig Vogels (Veni).

### PhD Candidates:

Yulia Akinina (external), Miren Arenzeta-Perez\*, Svetlana Averina\*, Sanne Berends, Sofia Bimpikou, Christopher Bergmann, Elisabeth Borleffs (external), Nermina Cordalija\*, Azadeh Elmianvari, Marita Everhardt, Juliana Feiden\*, Rowena Garcia\*, Steven Gilbers, Toivo Glatz, Wim Gombert (external), Mirjam Günther-van der Meij (external), Sana Haidry\*, Giang Hoang, Dymphi van der Hoeven (external), Jakolien den Hollander\*, Dorothee Hoppe, JunPing Hou (external), Ting Huang (external), Jidde Jacobi\*, Fedor Jalvingh (external), Bernard Jap (external), Folkert de Jong (external), Tim Kassenberg (external), Stefanie Keulen, Anna de Koster, Camila Martinez Rebolledo (external), Leonie Lampe\*, Nathaniel Larchy\*, Sirkku Lesonen, Nienke Meulman, Leanne Nagels, Ann-Katrin Ohlerth, Roelant Ossewaarde (external), Jessica Overweg, Hongying Peng, Rika Plat, Srđjan Popov\*, Anna Pot, Liefke Reitsema (external), Amélie la Roi, Liset Rouweler, Audrey Rouse-Malpat, Aida Salčić\*, Farnoosh Savafi (external), Iris Scholten, Pouran Seifi (external), Bregtje Seton, Ellie van Setten-Huizinga, Kaimook Siriboonpipattana\*, Eabele Tjepkema (external), Susan Tokaç\*, Frank Tsiwah, Margreet Vogelzang, Nienke Wolthuis

\*PhD candidates IDEALAB (<http://em-idealab.com/>)

### Research focus areas

The Neurolinguistics and Language Development research group is a strongly interdisciplinary group that investigates the organization of language in the brain, how language is processed and how languages are learned. To investigate these questions, a wide variety of methods is employed, ranging from spontaneous speech analysis, comprehension

and elicitation experiments and the development of theoretical models, to eye tracking, EEG and functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) techniques.

The organization of language in the brain and how language is processed in the brain is studied through the comprehension and production of various aspects of verbs (in developmental disorders and aphasia), phonological processing (in aphasia and dyslexia), print decoding (in dyslexia), speech disorders (in children and adults), sentence processing (in non-brain-damaged and aphasic speakers) and ambiguity resolution (in normal speakers and schizophrenic patients).

How a first, second or foreign language is acquired, maintained and sometimes lost is studied by considering the linguistic, social as well as cognitive processes involved in language development and use. Important areas of research are typical and atypical first language acquisition (such as in children with autism spectrum disorders), bilingualism, language attrition, and the development of bilingual education in the Netherlands.

Because of its focus on language across the lifespan, from childhood to elderly age, this research program is closely linked to the University of Groningen research focus area Healthy Ageing.



## Highlights 2017

### Start VENI-project



Jorrig Vogels has been awarded a Veni grant for talented researchers for his research about ‘Are people egocentric when they talk?’. This project aims to provide a more complete explanation for why speakers appear to

adapt their language use to their addressee’s needs in some cases, but not in others. Clever experimental designs are used to reveal when referential choices in language production include a consideration of the listener’s perspective.

### PhD defenses

In 2017, eight PhD-projects were completed.

Christopher Bergmann defended his thesis “Facets of native-likeness: First-language attrition among German emigrants to Anglophone North America” (promotor Monika Schmid, copromotores Simone Sprenger, Laurie Stowe).

Junping Hou defended her thesis “The Dynamics of English Writing Development in Advanced Chinese Learners” (promotores Marjolijn Verspoor and Hanneke Loerts).

Stefanie Keulen defended her thesis “Foreign Accent Syndrome: A Neurolinguistic Analysis” (promotores Roelien Bastiaanse, Peter Mariën, Jo Verhoeven (University of London)). Stefanie is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow supported by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel / Centre for Clinical and Experimental Neurolinguistics (CLIN). She continues her co-operation with Martijn Wieling at CLCG.

Margreet Vogelzang defended her thesis “Reference and cognition: Experimental and computational cognitive modeling studies on reference processing in Dutch and Italian” (promotores Petra Hendriks, Hedderik van Rijn (UG Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences)). Margreet works as a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Dutch Studies of the University of Oldenburg, Germany. Currently, she is doing

research on the comprehension and processing of syntactic structures by normal hearing (NH) and hearing impaired (HI) elderly adults. The research involves fMRI experiments in German. Her postdoc project is titled "The effects of hearing impairment on grammatical processing and comprehension and its neurological underpinnings".

Four PhD students from the IDEALAB program successfully finished their projects:

Miren Arantzeta Pérez defended her thesis "Sentence comprehension in monolingual and bilingual aphasia: Evidence from behavioral and eye-tracking methods" (promotores Roelien Bastiaanse, David Howard (Newcastle University), copromotor Janet Webber (Newcastle University)).

Sana-e-Zehra Haidry defended her thesis "Assessment of Dyslexia in the Urdu Language" (promotores Ben Maassen, Anne Castles (Macquarie University), copromotor Wim Tops). Currently she is a guest researcher at CLCG.

Srđan Popov defended his thesis "Auditory and Visual ERP Correlates of Gender Agreement Processing in Dutch and Italian" (promotores Roelien Bastiaanse, Gabriele Miceli (Macquarie University)). Srđan continued working at CLCG as lecturer and postdoc.

Molood Sadat Safavi defended her thesis "The Competition of Memory and Expectation in Resolving Long-Distance Dependencies: Psycholinguistic Evidence from Persian Complex Predicates" (promotores Roelien Bastiaanse, Barbara Hoehle (University of Potsdam)).

### **Research projects**

*Grasping Meaning across Languages and Learners (GraMALL) (Angeliek van Hout)*

This collaboration between twelve European research teams has been very active and productive. At annual project meetings we identified European funding schemes and subsequently developed the overall designs for joint proposals and submitted three European proposals. Participants furthermore collaborated in various language acquisition and sentence processing projects and organized two scientific workshops.

This active exchange of research led to the development of novel experimental methodology for several crosslinguistic studies, among which apps with language games for data collection with children. Linguistic themes included topics in syntax-semantics: event culmination, logical connectives, quantifiers, disjunction and negation, and recursion. Results have been presented at conferences and resulted in joint publications.

The Groningen team members (van Hout, Hollebrandse, Juarros Dausa, Drozd) solidified existing international research collaborations and started new ones. Van Hout, as PI, lobbied in The Hague and Brussels by submitting a topic proposal with a coordinated appeal to the national contact points in six countries for more focus on the role of language and migration on the European science agenda.

### *The Language of Fiction and Imagination*

In this VIDI-project, Emar Maier and his colleagues have been working on imaginative resistance, reference of fictional names, pictorial narratives, the dynamics of fictional common grounds, and the relation between fiction and lies.

### **Conferences and Workshops**

#### *7th International Conference on Speech Motor Control*

From July 5 - 8, 2017, the seventh edition of the International Speech Motor Conference was held in Groningen sponsored by CLCG. Instead of a book, like in the previous conferences, a special issue of the Journal of Speech-Language-Hearing Research will be published containing state-of-the-art overviews and in-depth discussions of the major topics of the conference. The editors aim to produce a special issue that is useful for research master and PhD students and strive for publication early in 2019. Ben Maassen was chair of the program and organizing committee of the conference and is editor-in-chief of the special issue.

Keynotes:

- Evolution of Speech:
  - Willem Levelt - The Genetic Stance in Studying the Evolution of Speech. Some Historical Remarks
  - John L. Locke - The Evolution of Vocal Control
- Thought- Action - Perception – Sensorimotor: David Ostry - The Boundary Between Perceptual and Motor Learning
- Speech Development: Carol Stoel-Gammon - Learning to Talk: Relationships Between Speech Motor Control and Phonological Development
- Windows on the Brain: Martin Sommer - Windows on fluent and dysfluent speech production

*Conference on Multilingualism (COM2017)*, This year, a group of multilingualism researchers at the Groningen Center for Language and Cognition) hosted and organized the Conference on Multilingualism (COM2017) from 6 to 8 November 2017. Members of the organizing committee were Nanna Hilton, Merel Keijzer, Hanneke Loerts, and Simone Sprenger. This year, COM was combined with a special session on minority language loss, as well as a two-day graduate Winter School on methodological issues in multilingualism research. Graduate students (including PhD candidates) were especially invited to attend the Winter School November on the 9th and 10th of November with an exciting hands-on program. Keynotes were given by:

- Prof. Robert Hartsuiker
- Prof. Monika Schmid
- Prof. Guillaume Thierry
- Prof. Jeanine Treffers-Daller

*Symposium on 'L2 Writing Development' in honor of Junping Hou's defense*

On Thursday July 13th 2017, Junping Hou defended her PhD-thesis about 'The dynamics of English writing development in advanced Chinese learners'. Her defense was preceded by a symposium on 'L2 Writing Development' on July, 12, 2017 during which Prof. Quifang Wen, Kees de Glopper, and Junping Hou gave a presentation.

*Workshop Foreign Accent Syndrome (FAS)*

The workshop was organized by the RUG on May 19th in collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel on the occasion of Stefanie Keulen's defence. The workshop was sponsored by the Netherlands Aphasia Foundation (SAN) and the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen (CLCG).

Among the speakers were Peter Mariën (Vrije Universiteit Brussel/CLCG), Stefanie Keulen and Roel Jonkers from CLCG.

Furthermore, Petra Hendriks organized the University of Amsterdam workshop *Language Abilities in Children with Autism (LACA)* together with Jeannette Schaeffer (University of Amsterdam), March 23, 2017.

### **Selection of other activities**

- Ben Maassen was organizer of the 7th *International Conference on Speech Motor Control*, Groningen, July, 5-8, 2017.
- Simone Sprenger was organizer of the *International Conference on Multilingualism 2017 (COM 2017)* (samen met Merel Keijzer, Nanna Hilton and Hanneke Loerts), Groningen, November, 6-8, 2017.
- Petra Hendriks was organizer of the Lorentz workshop *The Invention of Lying: Language, Logic and Cognition* (with Hans van Ditmarsch, LORIA/Nancy and Rineke Verbrugge, AI/RUG), Leiden, 9-13 January 2017.
- Emar Maier gave the invited lecture titled "(Un)quotation and attraction in role shift and free indirect discourse" at *Meaning & Modality Lab*, Harvard, US, Nov 17, 2017.
- Merel Keijzer gave the invited lecture "Bilingualism in older adulthood" at a lecture series at the University of Münster, Germany, May, 25, 2017.
- Angeliek van Hout was invited to lead the discussion on children's development of event representations at a workshop on *Event Representations in Brain Language and Development*, MPI (Oct 27-28 2017).

### Key publications - Neurolinguistics and Language Development

**Jonkers, R., van der Scheer, F., & Gilbers, D.** (2017). The common denominator in the perception of accents in cases with foreign accent syndrome. *Aphasiology*, 31(9), 1021-1043. Available from: 10.1080/02687038.2016.1232362

**Maier, E.** (2017). Fictional names in psycholinguistic semantics. *Theoretical Linguistics* 43(1-2). pp. doi: 10.1515/tl-2017-0001. (With commentaries and reply).

**Keulen, S., Mariën, P., van Dun, K., Bastiaanse, R., Manto, M. & Verhoeven, J.** (2017) The Posterior Fossa and Foreign Accent Syndrome: Report of two new cases and review of the literature. *The Cerebellum*, 6, 772-785.. DOI:10.1007/s12311-017-0849-6

**Houtzager, N., Lowie, W., Sprenger, S., & De Bot, K.** (2017). A bilingual advantage in task switching? Age-related differences between German monolinguals and Dutch-Frisian bilinguals. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 20(1), 69-79.

**Kuijper, S.J.M., Hartman, C.A., Bogaerds-Hazenberg, S. & Hendriks, P.** (2017). Narrative production in children with ASD and children with ADHD: similarities and differences. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 126:1, 63-75.

### Featured publication - Neurolinguistics and Language Development

**van Setten, E.,R.H., Tops, W., Hakvoort, B. E., van, d. L., Maurits, N. M., & Maassen, B. A. M.** (2017). L1 and L2 reading skills in Dutch adolescents with a familial risk of dyslexia. *PeerJ*, 5, e3895.

#### *Background*

The present study investigated differences in reading and spelling outcomes in Dutch and English as a second language (ESL) in adolescents with a high familial risk of dyslexia, of whom some have developed dyslexia (HRDys) while others have not (HRnonDys), in comparison to a low familial risk control group without dyslexia (LRnonDys). This allowed us to investigate the persistence of dyslexia in the first language (L1) and the effect of dyslexia on the second language (L2), which has, in this case, a lower orthographic transparency. Furthermore, the inclusion of the HRnonDys group allowed us to investigate the continuity of the familial risk of dyslexia, as previous studies observed that the HRnonDys group often scores in between the HRDys and LRnonDys group, and whether these readers without reading deficits in Dutch, have more reading difficulties in ESL.

#### *Results*

The analyses revealed that the HRDys group had a deficit in both reading and spelling in Dutch and ESL. They also performed poorer than the LRnonDys group on all other measures. Effect sizes were especially large for pseudoword reading and the reaction times during the PA task. The HRnonDys group scored generally poorer than the LRnonDys group but this difference was only significant for Dutch pseudoword reading, PA reaction times and verbal short term memory. In general the HRDys and HRnonDys group scored similar in Dutch and English, except for English WRF where the HRDys group scored slightly better than expected based on their Dutch WRF.

## Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

### Staff Members:

Mark de Vries (coordinator), Joana Da Silveira Duarte, Janet Fuller, Dicky Gilbers, Nanna Hilton, Jack Hoeksema, Bart Hollebrandse, Peter Houtzagers, Bob de Jonge, Eva Juarros-Daussà, Wolfgang Kehrein, Remco Knooihuizen, Anja Schüppert, Willem Visser, Gerry Wakker, Jan-Wouter Zwart

### Postdocs:

Marlies Kluck, Saskia Peels (Veni)

### PhD Candidates:

Bernat Bardagil-Mas, Stuart Brown, Charlotte Lindenbergh, Amber Nota, Sander Orriens, Miguel Angel Santín, Leanne Schreurs (external)

### Research focus areas

The research group Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics studies the syntax, semantics, morphology, phonology, and phonetics of a variety of languages with a view to enrich our empirical knowledge as well as our theoretical understanding of the nature of the human language faculty.

A core characteristic of this research is in-depth cross-linguistic comparison, both synchronically and diachronically. The group aims to contribute to the abstract formalization of the properties of language. In addition, the group is interested in sociolinguistic aspects of language variation. Working from hypothetic-deductive methods next to bottom-up strategies, the boundaries between fundamental principles, generalizations, and parametric variation and change are investigated. Specific fields of investigation include: the syntax and semantics of complex construction types (parentheses, dislocation, coordination, relative clauses), the foundations of syntactic structure and the role of the interfaces with the sound and meaning components of the grammar, ellipsis phenomena, information structure, polarity items, morphosyntactic dependencies and typological variation, Dutch corpus linguistics, phonology as human behaviour, musical aspects of phonology, tonal accents and prosody. A strength of the research group is the combination of a theoretical orientation with the

empirical study of language data from a variety of families, including West and North Germanic, Romance, Slavic, and outside of the Indo-Germanic group, Turkish, Avar, and Je in particular.

### Highlights 2017

#### New Professor of European Language and Society



Janet Fuller has been appointed as Professor of European Language and Society at the University of Groningen as of September 2017. She is associated with the European Languages & Cultures degree programme at the

Faculty of Arts.

The focus of her research is on sociolinguistics in combination with the German language. Her expertise in this field is internationally recognized. Janet Fuller will conduct her research for the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen research institute.

She previously worked as a professor in Anthropology at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale (USA) and was the head of the department of Women's Studies at SIU. She has done extensive research in the field of multilingualism. Some of her published works include *Spanish Speakers in the USA* (2013) and *Introduction to Sociology Studies* (2015)

(<https://www.rug.nl/let/organization/actueel/nieuwsberichten-2017/2017-11-28-benoeming-fuller?lang=en>)

#### Start VENI-project

Saskia Peels-Matthey is a classicist and linguist, since 2017 employed as Assistant Professor of Ancient Greek at the University of Groningen. At CLCG she is also working on her Veni-project "Polytheism as language. A linguistic approach to divine plurality in the religious experience of Greek worshippers". Her doctoral dissertation (University of Utrecht) was an exploration of the semantics of the religious value term *hosios* 'pious, just in the eyes of the god', especially in the context of the Athenian democracy. During a

three-year postdoctoral position, she worked in Liège on the 'Collection of Greek Ritual Norms'



(CGRN). Previously, she studied, worked and taught Greek at the University of Leiden.

### Conferences and workshops

*GSH / CLCG Linguistics Summer Lectures 2017*

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, July 10-12, a series of three lectures were held in the context of the GSH (Graduate School) / CLCG Linguistics Summer Lectures 2017. This year, Jordi Fortuny Andreu from the University of Barcelona gave a seminar on Ambiguity and Language Design. The lectures were open for everyone interested in the subject and were organized by Jan-Wouter Zwart.

### Research projects

*Stimmen fan Fryslan*

Nanna Hilton is initiator of the project 'Stimmen fan Fryslân' (Voices of Friesland) that is part of the project 'Lân fan taal'

(<http://stimmen.nl/category/nieuws/>).

Other project members from CLCG are Willem Visser and Hanneke Loerts. A more elaborate project description can be found in the next paragraph 'CLCG in society'.

### SPOD

SPOD, developed by Jack Hoeksema, is a new part of the PaQu website. Goal is a user-friendly interface, that provides an overview of grammatical properties of a corpus.

### Selection of other activities

- Eva Juarres Daussa gave the invited talk "Separatist" Movement? The Catalan Independence Process at the *ECMI/EURAC Conference* "What's in a Name? Extending the Existing Scope of Protection for National Minorities to Migrant Communities in Europe". Villa Vigoni (Italy), April 11-12, 2017.

- Jan-Wouter Zwart was invited speaker at the *Workshop on tenselessness*, October, 5, 2017.
- Nana Hilton was nominated for the *Klokhuis Wetenschapsprijs*.
- Bob de Jonge was organizer of the *VI Congreso Internacional de Español para Fines Específicos (CIEFE)*. March, 31, 2017 - April, 1, 2017.
- Jan-Wouter Zwart was chair of the committee of the *Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)*. January 11, 2017-January, 13, 2017

### Key Publications – Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

**Kehrein, W., Köhnelein, B., Boersma, P., & van Oostendorp, M.** (Eds.) (2017). Segmental Structure and Tone. (*Linguistische Arbeiten*; Vol. 552). Berlin: De Gruyter.

**Gooskens, C., van Heuven, V., Golubovic, J., Schüppert, A., Swarte, F., Voigt, S.** (2017). Mutual intelligibility between closely related language in Europe. *International Journal of Multilingualism*. Available from: 10.1080/14790718.2017.1350185

**Haddican, B., Johnson, D.E., Hilton, N.** (2017). Constant effects and the independence of variants in controlled judgement data. *Linguistic Variation*, 16(2):247-266. Available from: 10.1075/lv.16.2.04had

**Hoeksema, J.** (2017). Not that I know of: a polarity-sensitive construction. *Linguistics*, 55(6):1281-1310. Available from: 10.1515/ling-2017-0028

**De Vries, M.** (2017). Across-the-Board Phenomena. In: M. Everaert & H. van Riemsdijk (eds.). *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Syntax, Second Edition*, 1-31. DOI: 10.1002/9781118358733.wbsyncom094

### Featured publication – Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

**Bardagil-Mas, B.** (2017). A Digital Documentation of Panará. London: SOAS, Endangered Languages Archive. <http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0418>.

#### *Summary of deposit*

This deposit contains a set of materials documenting the Panará language, a Jê language spoken in central Brazil by 500-600 speakers. The deposit consists of high-quality recordings and videos of spontaneous, traditional and ritual speech, and traditional cultural practices, accompanied of transcriptions when available.

#### *Group represented*

This deposit contains a collection of documentation materials of the Panará speaking community, all of whom live in northern Mato Grosso and southern Pará, Brazil. This Northern Jê language is spoken by 500-600 people in the Amazon area in central Brazil, in the region of the headwaters of the Iriri, the largest tributary of the Xingu river. [...]

Panará is a vital language, spoken by people of all ages in the community and is in no immediate danger of extinction. However, the diminishing numbers of elder Panará speakers and the growing pressure of Brazilian settlements and deforestation brought the Panará community to request a documentation of their language that satisfies the needs of the community to preserve it as it is spoken today.

#### *Deposit contents*

This collection is made up of a series of bundles that minimally contain media files (audio and/or video recordings) and metadata. Transcriptions are also included where available.



## 3 CLCG IN SOCIETY

The societal relevance of the research groups' work is evident from commissioned research, applied research activities, and media attention for several publications. CLCG members have also effectively engaged with audiences through public lectures and debates, professional and popular publications, and non-traditional media such as blogs and websites.

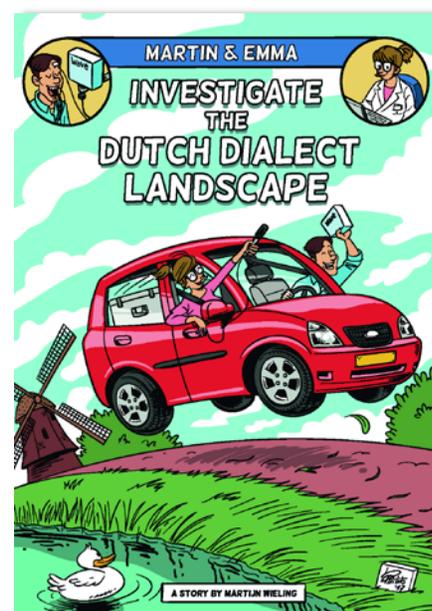
#### CLCG societal impact activities 2017

Professional publication	9
Popular publication	0
Digital products (app)	1
Public lecture, debate, seminar	12
Media article or participation	12
Festival, Exhibition	0
Press Clippings	0
Schools Engagement	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

### Computational Linguistics

#### **Investigate the Dutch Dialect Landscap**

Martijn Wieling received a project grant of De Jonge Akademie to create a comic about his research. Martijn conducted a research at schools and the strip was designed to tell young people who participants in the study about the results as well as about the process of doing scientific research.



The comic is designed and drawn by Lorenzo Milito and Ruggero Montalto.

You can download the comic for free:  
<http://www.let.rug.nl/~wieling/comic/english-A5-final-online-2017-11-23.pdf>

### **Key activities & publications with societal impact - Computational Linguistics**

*[Popular publication]*

**Martijn Wieling**, "Gebruiken mensen hun ogen om te luisteren?", Wetenschapskalender kids 2017, New Scientist.

*[Public lecture/debate/seminar]*

**Barbara Plank** was invited keynote speaker at PyData. PyData brings together both users and developers of data analysis tools. She gave a lecture titled "Natural Language Processing: Challenges and Next Frontiers", June 30 – July, 2, 2017.

*[Digital or Visual Products]*

**Nana Hilton, Charlotte Gooskens et.al.** "Stimmen: A Citizen Science App for Languages", University of Groningen.  
><https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nl.rug.stimmen>, &  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stimmen/id1271302356?l=de&ls=1&mt=8>

*[Media article or participation]*

**Martijn Wieling**, "Zeg eens 'ehm'", *De Standaard* (newspaper), January 6, 2017.  
[http://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20170105\\_02660009](http://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20170105_02660009)

**Charlotte Gooskens**, "Dialect versus language ? what's the big deal?", interview in the podcast *The world in words*, June, 27, 2017.  
<https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-06-21/dialect-versus-language-whats-big-deal>

## **Discourse and Communication**

### **Kenniscafé, Seminars, Trainings**

Femke Kramer chaired two Kenniscafé's, on science, culture and society organized by Studium Generale Groningen (UG and Hanze University of Applied Science). She also gave a number of guest lectures and courses at the Stichting Cursussen Wetenschaps-correspondentie (SCW; a foundation for training in science journalism) and at the AOG School of Management (UG).

### **Language competencies for a dynamic labor market**

This practice-oriented research by a consortium of four MBO and two research institutes investigates which language competences are needed on the dynamic labor market and which training practices contribute to the ability of training teams to respond to the demands of the dynamic labor market.

The following questions are central here. (1) What language requirements does the professional field, when entering the labor market and in the longer term? And how can training programs be organized in such a way that the language competences they make are in line with these requirements? (2) What practices do the training teams have for the development of responsive vocational education? Which gaps can be recognized in these training practices? And to what improvements does redesign of these training practices lead?

The proposed research consists of a four parallel and interconnected case studies characterized by practical and action-oriented research. In the case studies a mix of methods is used: literature research, interviews, questionnaires, document analysis of policy texts from the study programs and the professional field, genre analysis of professional texts and interviews, language assessment. The actors who do research and the participants who participate as a subject: the training teams; the language and subject teachers; the students and their supervisors in the workplace; the alumni, their managers and clients; education-oriented sector

funds; the researchers. The chosen design matches the nature of the knowledge and change needs of the institutions involved. The case study character guarantees the obtaining of situated and precise insight into the nature and changeability of the outlined problems.

### **Key activities & publications with societal impact - Discourse and Communication**

*[Professional Publication]*

**Donné L, Hoeks J, Jansen CJM.** 2017. Using a narrative to spark safer sex communication. *Health Education Journal*. 76(6):635-647. Available from: 10.1177/0017896917710967

**Koops van 't Jagt R, Hoeks J, Duizer E, Baron M, Molina GB, Unger JB, Jansen CJM.** 2017. Sweet Temptations: How Does Reading a Fotonovela About Diabetes Affect Dutch Adults with Different Levels of Literacy?. *Health Communication*. 284-290. Available from: 10.1080/10410236.2016.1258617

**Zaal E, Mills G, Hagen A, Huisman C, Hoeks J.** 2017. Convincing Conversations: Using a Computer-Based Dialogue System to Promote a Plant-Based Diet. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Conference*. pp. 3627-3632.

*[Public lecture/debate/seminar]*

**Myrte Gosen** was invited speaker at *Zpannend Zernike: Backstage in de wereld van wetenschap en technologie*, and gave an interactive talk titled: Voorlezen, zpannend, gezellig én leerzaam!?, October, 14, 2017.

**Mike Huiskes** was invited speaker at a communication training for orthopedic surgeons (sponsored by Regiofond). University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), September, 20, 2017 and November, 29, 2017.

## **Neurolinguistics and Language Development**

### **Meesterschapsteam Moderne Vreemde Talen**

Starting in January 2017 Wander Lowie has taken over the chair position of the Meesterschapsteam Moderne Vreemde Talen (MT MVT). The MT MVT investigates and aims at optimal language teaching for modern languages in the Netherlands. The team is a collaboration of all Dutch universities and represents the major foreign languages taught at Dutch secondary schools. One of the goals of the project is to bridge the gap between research into second language acquisition and everyday teaching practice at schools. In 2017 the Team organized several conferences for language teachers and for teacher trainers. The team also played a role in the recruitment, the selection and the supervision of Dudoc-Alfa PhD research projects for language teachers, resulting in two PhD projects supervised in the CLCG context. One project looks at the role of explicit instruction in language teaching, the other project focuses on optimal English reading skills to successfully enter university programs. In addition, the team carried out a large survey study among several parties involved in secondary education, initiated several small scale action research projects, and submitted a new research proposal to NRO/NWO to investigate the optimal condition of target language use in second language instruction. <https://modernevreemdetalen.vakdidactiekgw.nl/>

### **PEIL.Engels**

In 2017 a consortium of RUG GION, Department of Applied Linguistics, CITO and Hogeschool van Amsterdam received a €450.000 grant to carry out a large scale research project investigating the level of English at the end of Dutch primary schools. The consortium devised a test battery to test the pupil's spoken interaction, listening, reading and vocabulary knowledge. Plans were worked out to gather data from around 2500 pupils at 100 Dutch schools with different types of English teaching. Participants were contracted, several training sessions and pilot

studies were carried out in the project, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Education. The data collection, analysis of the data, and the research report will be carried out in 2018.

### Schools engagement

From May until July, Angeliek van Hout and Bart Hollebrandse supervised two teams of Game Design students from Alfa College who did an internship at CLCG. The interns built two apps for linguistic data collection.

### Handbook Dyslexia “Wijzer op weg”

The handbook “Wijzer op weg” is a scientifically based support program for students with dyslexia co-edited by Wim Tops. The book can be deployed flexibly and guides students in the shortest time during their the most work intensive reading and writing tasks and strategies such as: processing long texts and large amounts of study materials, writing extensive papers and reports and the planning and organizing of all these tasks.

- Meersschaert, Ellen et al. Wijzer op weg. Studeren en dyslexie Abimo. 2017.
- Meersschaert, Ellen et al. Wijzer op weg zakboekje Gent: Abimo. 2017.



### Key activities & publications with societal impact – Neurolinguistics and Language Development

[Professional publication]

**Loerts, H. and de Bot, K.** "Die Untersuchung des mehrsprachigen Gehirns". and Roche, Jörg-Matthias Suñer, Ferran (ed.). *Sprachenlernen und Kognition: Grundlagen einer kognitiven Sprachendidaktik (Kompendium DaF/DaZ 1)*. Tübingen: Narr Francke Attempto. 2017. 39-52.

[Media article or participation]

**Merel Keijzer** made a vlog for *Dagblad van het Noorden* (Dvhn) about her research. It was the most viewed science blog from a series of vlogs from Dvhn from 2017: <http://www.dvhn.nl/groningen/Vlog-Worden-dialectsprekers-gezonder-oud-22328463.html>

[Public lecture/debate/seminar]

**Marjolein Verspoor** gave two lectures to teachers in primary education about language learning:

- The plenary lecture “Steps in Learning English” at the *Conference Primary English* at Driestar Educatief, February, 1 2017.
- “Learning to Talk is like Learning to Walk” at the *Netwerk tweetalig primair onderwijs* (Nuffic). March, 8, 2017.

**Roel Jonkers** was keynote speaker at the *Dag van de Grammatica* in Amsterdam. March, 4, 2017.

[Digital or Visual Products]

**Bastiaanse, R., Van der Sandt-Koenderman, M. & Satoer, D.D.** developed the *AfasieNieuwslezer* for the *Netherlands Aphasia Foundation*. This is a website on which people with aphasia can read news reports that are adapted to their language skills (subsidized by the Netherlands Aphasia Foundation).

## Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

### Stimmen fan Fryslân

In the autumn of 2017 the smart phone application 'Stimmen' (the West Frisian word for Voices) was released with the purpose of documenting local languages, and of spreading knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity in the north of the Netherlands. The project was launched in collaboration with the local broadcasting station Omrop Fryslân, and was part of a governmental cultural programme 'Lân fan taal'. Stimmen attracted more than 13,000 users within its first three months.



Nanna Hilton

By the end of 2017 more than 42,000 recordings had been collected, providing researchers with a rich and unique source of

linguistic and cultural knowledge, donated by the local speech communities.

The data will be used for research into variation and change in minority languages, but is also given to developers of speech technology systems that need training data from minority languages, to ensure that these varieties survive into the digital age. Importantly, all speech data collected in 'Stimmen' is publically available and can be consulted at [stimmen.frl](http://stimmen.frl).

### Nomination Klokhuis Wetenschapsprijs



Nanna Hilton was nominated for the *Klokhuis Wetenschapsprijs*. 'Het Klokhuis' (The Apple Core) is an informative tv-programme with content that explains the

world for children of the age of 8 years and older.

### Key activities & publications with societal impact – Theoretical and Empirical Linguistics

[Professional publication]

**Dicky Gilbers** "Muziek en taal begrijpen". and Mottart, André Vanhooren, Steven (ed.). *Conferentie Onderwijs Nederlands*. Gent: Skribis Gent. 2017. 294-297.

[Media coverage]

**Nanna Hilton**, "Stimmen fan Fryslân"

The research and outreach project Stimmen fan Fryslân was launched on 20 September 2017. A number of media outlets wrote about the project. The regional broadcaster Omrop Fryslân made one online Q&A session about the project, and featured me, the project leader, in 3 radio programmes and one evening news show between 20-27 September. In addition, the national Dutch broadcaster made a feature about the project in Nieuws & Co on Radio 1, and several other venues followed suit. September 20 – October 28, 2017.

**Nanna Hilton**, "Gronings Digi-toal"

News item in *Dagbald van het Noorden* about the organisation and execution of a stand and at the Google X event in Groningen for the documentation and public awareness of the regional language Gronings, June, 6, 2017.

[Visual or Digital products]

**Nanna Hilton, et al.** Stimmen: A Citizen Science App for Languages University of Groningen. Digital or Visual Products. 2017. >><https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=nl.rug.stimmen>, >><https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stimmen/id1271302356?l=de&ls=1&mt=8>



## Narrative

Each year one of the CLCG research groups has the opportunity to highlight research projects or activities with societal impact or relevance carried out within the group in the form of a narrative. In this year's narrative 'Students with dyslexia in the spotlight' Wim Tops talks about the Groningen Center of Expertise for Language and Communication Disorders (GELC). The narrative is provided by Saskia Visser, project leader for the Science Shop Language, Culture and Communication and policy officer Public Engagement.

### Students with dyslexia in the spotlight

Approximately 5% of the Dutch population has dyslexia. Nevertheless, about half the primary and secondary schools report a much higher percentage of pupils with a dyslexia certificate. This probably includes children who do have difficulties with reading and writing, but could overcome these with appropriate support. On the other hand, there are also dyslexic pupils without a diagnosis, who have been able to compensate for their problems. Now that more and more students with dyslexia are making their way to university, the UG faces a challenge. How do we determine, in a scientifically responsible manner, who has dyslexia? And how do we support this group as effectively as possible? Neurolinguist Wim Tops takes up the challenge.

### New clinical component at GELC

Even the first question – how do we determine which student has dyslexia? – is a difficult one. Standard dyslexia tests are designed for children and cannot simply be used for students. Wim Tops already discovered this in his PhD research on dyslexia in young adults. As a clinical psychologist, he has also gained extensive experience in diagnostics. He recently developed a number of tools to fill this diagnostic gap, including the 'TASP' (Automated Games Test for Young Adults) and the 'One-Minute Test for Students'. In addition, he has designed a reliable and valid diagnostic protocol that can be used to test or retest young adults who suspect that they are dyslexic. Tops has been working together

with the University of Groningen student deans for the past two years. Now, in 2017, it was time for the next step. Diagnosis of dyslexia in adults was incorporated in the work of the Groninger Expertise Center for Language and Communication Disorders (GELC). At this multidisciplinary center, a number of specialists work at the interface between scientific and clinical practice. Here, Tops is supported by, among others, Prof. Ben Maassen, professor of dyslexia and clinical neuropsychologist, and Prof. Roelien Bastiaanse, professor of neurolinguistics and specialist in the field of aphasia.

### Providing assistance in combination with scientific research

In addition to offering a reliable and affordable test for both Dutch students and international students, the GELC aims to contribute to the effective support of students with dyslexia. Many students – about 1500 totally at the UG – fail to complete the degree programmes of which they are cognitively capable. It is important for these students and the University that useful facilities are provided to them, but little empirical research has been done in this field. Using his diagnostic tools, Tops can identify the target group. This leads to opportunities for both applied and fundamental scientific research into dyslexia, creating a win-win situation for both science and practice.

In 2017 two PhD students, Aida Salcic and Liset Rouweler, started research into dyslexia at the GELC. Aida Salcic makes use of EEG research to determine whether people with dyslexia, in addition to problems with reading and spelling, also exhibit abnormal patterns in the processing of morphological and syntactic structures. Liset Rouweler focuses on reading comprehension, in both Dutch and English, of students with dyslexia. In addition, postdoc Dr Sana Haidry, who obtained her doctorate in 2017 on the diagnosis of dyslexia in Urdu, is working on validating a new dyslexia test for foreign students who have English as their second language.

### Sharing knowledge

The new generation of researchers is also involved in the research and clinical practice around the diagnosis of dyslexia. Two Master's students in Neurolinguistics are currently doing a placement at the GELC, and the Research Master students of the international EMCL programme (European Master's in Clinical Linguistics) are involved in the validation of the new diagnostic instrument for dyslexia. For the development and refinement of the diagnosis, the GELC focuses primarily on students at the UG. The close collaboration with the UG Student Service Centre, that refers students who may have dyslexia, will continue. Students at universities of applied sciences can also join the GELC, and access might be expanded to other adults later as well. However,

the GELC is not striving to develop a monopoly. Tops says: 'We want to share our knowledge and tools with the field so that other professionals also develop the expertise to study dyslexia in adults. We have planned a number of activities, such as a masterclass for municipal healthcare psychologists and remedial educationalists. In addition, we also want to translate the results of the current research into clinical and educational practice. To that end we will organize a symposium on dyslexia in higher education. Finally, we want to develop an awareness campaign for all lecturers and students at the University of Groningen, to draw attention to the specific problems students with dyslexia encounter and give tips on how to deal with those difficulties.'

### GELC team members



*Wim Tops*



*Roelien Bastiaanse*



*Ben Maassen*



*From left to right: Sana Haidry, Aida Slacic, Liset Rouweler*



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