

Preface

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Volume 6 of the CLIN journal contains full papers based on work presented at the 26th Meeting of Computational Linguistics in The Netherlands (CLIN 26). Eight papers were submitted and reviewed by at least three members of the editorial board. Three of the submitted papers are included in this volume of the CLIN journal. The selected papers address different topics: automated detection of racist discourse in social media, speech data collection, and computer assisted language learning. We would like to thank the authors for submitting their articles and the members of the editorial board for their reviews.

The 26th Meeting of CLIN took place on Friday 18 December 2016 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It was organized by the Computational Lexicology and Terminology Lab (CLTL) of the VU University of Amsterdam. In 25 years, this was the first CLIN organized by the VU. The members of the organization committee of CLIN26 were Antske Fokkens, Ruben Izquierdo, Selene Kolman, Roser Morante, Marten Postma, and Piek Vossen. Other members from CLTL and students contributed to make CLIN26 a success.

The conference welcomed 120 participants. The regular program of CLIN featured 40 talks divided over 12 sessions, as well as 28 posters and 9 demos on a wide range of topics. We were honored to have Miriam Butt (Universität Konstanz) as our keynote speaker, with a talk about innovative visual analyses for text and speech data that support comparative analyses of the underlying structure of languages.

In this edition of CLIN a new feature was introduced, namely a Dutch shared task. We hope to have started a new tradition of high-level semantic and pragmatic NLP tasks specifically for the Dutch language, and perhaps in the near future for Dutch dialects. Although the CLIN community is international, we feel that the Dutch language and dialects need our care and attention. Participants could join in the following tasks: (named) entity recognition, entity disambiguation, event detection, event factuality classification, entity coreference, and event coreference. Four teams submitted results to several tasks and presented their systems in a special session devoted to the shared task.

The STIL Thesis Prize for the best MA thesis in computational linguistics or its applications was awarded to Nikos Voskarides (UvA) for his thesis *Explaining relationships between entities*. We congratulate him, also on behalf of the Stichting Inductieve Leertechnieken (STIL), the sponsor of this prize.

CLIN 26 was sponsored by Elsevier, Textkernel, Telecats, DANS, Oracle, Beeld en Geluid, Network Institute from the VU Amsterdam, INL, and NOTaS. We would like to express our gratitude to the sponsors for making the event possible.

There was also sad news during the preparation of this volume. Rosemary Orr, one of the authors of the paper *Sprekend Nederland: a heterogeneous speech data collection* passed away on November 15th 2016. She ran the UCU Accent Project about accent convergence of non-native speakers. The LUCEA data created as part of this project was finalist for the Data Prize 2016 of Research Data Netherlands. She was the driving force behind the scientific supervision of all activities within *Sprekend Nederlands*, which was inspired by the UCU Accent Project. We would like to dedicate this volume to Rosemary Orr's memory.