

Preface

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This collection of papers, bundled in the eighth edition of the CLIN journal, provides a sample of the work presented and discussed during 28th edition of the CLIN (Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands) conference. Organized by the Radboud University, the conference took place at Concertgebouw De Vereeniging in Nijmegen, on 26 January 2018. In addition to invited speaker Martha Larson, who discussed multimodal information retrieval, the conference featured a total of 42 oral and 39 poster presentations, covering a broad range of topics, including: emotion and sentiment, language generation, semantics, information retrieval and knowledge extraction, open data, deep learning, language variation, parsing and grammar, historical text, social media, authorship and discourse, named entity recognition and term extraction, and machine translation.

After reviewing a total of fifteen submissions, we selected nine papers to be published in this edition of the CLIN journal. The papers ‘Stylometric Text Analysis for Dutch-speaking Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder’ (De Bruyne et al.) and ‘The Claus Case: Exploring the Use of Propositional Idea Density for Alzheimer Detection’ (Marckx et al.) illustrate that certain aspects in written language, such as style, can be used to detect cognitive characteristics of language users. This journal also features three papers that relate to the transformation of lexicons. In ‘Semi-Supervised Emotion Lexicon Expansion with Label Propagation’, Giulianelli & De Kok combine and compare different approaches to extending an emotion lexicon, while Bulté et al. focus on lexical simplification in Dutch, in their paper titled ‘Automating lexical simplification in Dutch’. Finally, Bourgonje et al. present a lexicon of Dutch discourse connectives based on a parallel corpus and a German seed lexicon. ‘Tweet geography. Tweet Based Mapping of Dialect Features in Dutch Limburg.’ (Van Halteren et al.) shows that features extracted from Twitter data can be used to track patterns of dialect variation. Finally, this issue includes three papers discussing spelling: in ‘Spelling errors of 24 cohorts of children across primary school 2012-2015: a BasiScript corpus study’, Tellings et al. focus on diphthong and verb spelling errors among specific age groups, while Heyman et al. describe how they detect and correct verb inflection errors with a neural network approach in ‘Automatic detection and correction of context-dependent dt-mistakes using neural networks’. Beeksma et al. finally report the results of this year’s shared task on spelling correction in a paper titled ‘Detecting and correcting spelling errors in high-quality Dutch Wikipedia text’.

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