



## Juryrapport VIOT/Anéla scriptieprijs 2016

April 13, 2017

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The MA- thesis of Laura de Weger has the intriguing title of “Stoefpears run the world.” It addresses the highly actual use of English in computer-mediated communication by Dutch youth in an impressive way. The systematic way all factors with the different hypotheses were addressed and presented in the thesis, made it possible to keep an overview of all the findings. There was a good balance in reporting and using only description for the results, or adequately used statistical analyses, and more complex statistical analyses for interesting interaction. Word clouds were used to illustrate the interaction with semantic fields. This innovative way provides a quick and effective overview of for example differences between male and female language users. Making use of this internet tool suits the topic of the research. Moreover, the study provides many new opportunities to further investigate the language usage of different groups of language users and compare language usage between genre and media. Is it indeed the case that *de jeugd van tegenwoordig* will act as today’s adults in a couple of years?

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The study “*J’ai l’impression que.... Lexical bundles in beginner French textbooks*” of Nathan Vandeweerd is also an impressive one. His study addresses a topic that certainly deserves more attention and is not that often investigated. Namely the use of formulaic language expressions in textbooks for second language learners. French is a language that is especially rich in such word chunks. The thesis is written very well and provides a very professional overview of aspects to study formulaic language. The topic embodies all aspects of applied linguistics, as the well described approaches to investigate the usage of formulaic language entails both linguistic theory as a strong applied component given the application of the use and function of formulaic expression in second language learning and didactics in French. Nathan lances the cry to improve A2 level textbooks by incorporating more authentic materials into textbooks from the very beginner level onwards. With his study that was performed well, he convinced the jury. His cry is certainly one to be responded to by the developers of course books and second language teachers.

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The thesis of Anne Hooiveld is titled *“Europese identiteit in het discours over vluchtelingen, een analyse van de representatie van een Europese identiteit in het discours over vluchtelingen in Nederlandse krantenartikelen van 1999 en 2015”*. Anne finished her study in the time that many refugees came to Europe and many citizens felt overwhelmed by the amount of people that needed accommodation. This flood of refugees was not the only flow of refugees that came to the Netherlands. In the current society, with Europe being on the agenda of almost every western European country, Anne took on the challenge to analyse the discourse about the European identity during the migration floods of 2015 and 1999. The jury was especially impressed by the clear formulation of research questions, the thorough description of the applied methodology in relation to existing literature, Anne’s reflection on the methodology and her own studies and the answers to the questions which are highly relevant in the current social, cultural and political climate. Although the European identity is a highly debated topic, so far it has not been studied often and certainly not as thoroughly as it was done by Anne for her thesis.

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“The role of English in Aruba’s linguistic landscape” by Fardau Bamberger is one of the most innovative studies that was sent in. Although the study comprises a large amount of work, the thesis reads like a paper: it is very concise and well written. It concerns a corpus study, but in this thesis the corpus consisted of photographs of the written landscape in three different parts of Aruba investigating the use of the four different languages that are most frequently used on this lovely Island. Fardau has built up her own corpus, she justifies all choices she had to make with solid arguments, and in the discussion she clearly relates her own findings to other studies, taking into account the differences between studies, as her study is in several respect quite unique. Her observation that different languages are used in old and new signs, provides clear evidence that language use is changing. We agree with Fardau that her observations and conclusions form a solid base for additional research to review the status of the Dutch language in Aruba. The quality of the thesis is confirmed by several publications of her study.

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Congratulations to all four authors of these four nominated theses.

After selecting these four theses out of the total of all nominated theses, the jury still had a difficult job to select a winner.

It truly was a difficult task as we could not agree upon one winner. This year, the Anéla scriptieprijs goes to.....Laura de Weger and Anne Hooiveld.

The jury of the VIOT/Anéla scriptieprijs 2016,  
Monique Lamers (voorzitter, VU), Jantien van Berkel (RU) en Henrike Jansen (LEI).