Juryreport AVT/Anéla Dissertatieprijs 2024

Each year, the AVT and Anéla award the Dissertatieprijs ('dissertation prize') to the best linguistics dissertation defended at a Dutch university. This year, 9 dissertations were candidated for the prize.

This year's jury members were Susanne Brouwer, Lettie Dorst, Myrte Gosen, Gerrit Jan Kootstra, and Silvia Terenghi; coordination and support were provided by Sterre Leufkens (AVT) and Gudrun Reijnierse (Anéla).

In the first round, the jury evaluated the first chapter, the final chapter, and the summary of each dissertation. The jury would like to acknowledge the exceptionally high standard of all 9 dissertations and congratulates all the researchers on their remarkable contributions to the field of linguistics. As such, selecting a top three was challenging, but the following dissertations were ultimately nominated:

- **Marie Barking**: *A usage-based account of language transfer: A case study of German speakers in The Netherlands*

- **Kristel Doreleijers**: *Styling the local: Hyperdialectisms and the enregisterment of the gender suffix in the 'new' dialect of North Brabant*

- **Gosse Minnema**: *Perspectives matter: Event framing in language and society*

The jury then read these three dissertations in their entirety and found them all to be of outstanding quality.

Marie Barking's dissertation provides an in-depth and comprehensive account of language transfer from L2 Dutch into L1 German. The jury was impressed by her systematic and detailed research, which combines theoretical and methodological rigor. Barking's work successfully integrates the psycholinguistic and the sociolinguistic perspective on language transfer, which are traditionally considered separately, pushing the field forward and setting a new research agenda. Barking employed a wide range of methods to conduct her research: traditional experiments, a corpus study and a focus group study. Her work was presented in a way that is both accessible and intellectually rigorous. The structure of Barking's dissertation is masterful, with each chapter fitting seamlessly into a cohesive whole. The jury also particularly appreciated how Barking tied her personal story and reflections into the research, adding a unique dimension to the work.

Kristel Doreleijers' dissertation takes an innovative approach to dialectology by exploring the function of the gender suffix *-e(n)* in North Brabant's "new" dialect. The jury commended Doreleijers' work for moving dialectology in a bold new direction: while traditional dialectology often focuses on older populations in rural areas, Doreleijers brought a modern perspective by incorporating younger and more diverse groups of speakers and settings, and with a special focus on social media. In this dissertation,

Doreleijers integrated a wealth of datasets and methodologies and blended formal linguistic analysis with sociocultural perspectives, and yet the jury perceived the work as maintaining a coherent and original voice throughout. Her work makes dialectology not only more accessible and socially relevant, but even outright cool. The jury recognised this as a vital and timely contribution to the field.

Gosse Minnema's dissertation investigates how societally relevant events are framed in newspaper articles, using Natural Language Processing (NLP) methodologies. In addition to presenting technical and methodological innovations, including the application of NLP tools to Dutch and Italian, this dissertation is robustly rooted in frame semantics and combines its formal foundations and technical contributions to explore societally relevant issues. The jury was impressed by Minnema's interdisciplinary approach, which integrates multiple perspectives and spans across multiple domains, adding substantial depth to his research. The jury also applauds Minnema's engaging and personal writing style: he succeeded in making complex concepts accessible even to readers unfamiliar with NLP and never failed to provide a rationale behind his theoretical and technical choices. Furthermore, the structure of this dissertation is refreshingly original and draws the reader into a compelling narrative of four years of research and discovery.

The jury wishes to emphasise the exceptional quality of all three shortlisted dissertations, each of which excels in unique ways. Barking's work stood out for its systematic approach, Doreleijers' for her ground-breaking approach to dialectology, and Minnema's stood out for the originality in bridging theoretical and practical domains. The diversity of topics and methodologies, as well as the remarkable talent showcased in these works made selecting a winner especially difficult. However, based on the insightful connection between theory and practice demonstrated by one dissertation, on its technical innovations, and on its glaring societal relevance, which make this work an outstanding contribution to the field, **the jury decided to award the AVT-Anéla *dissertatieprijs* to Gosse Minnema**.