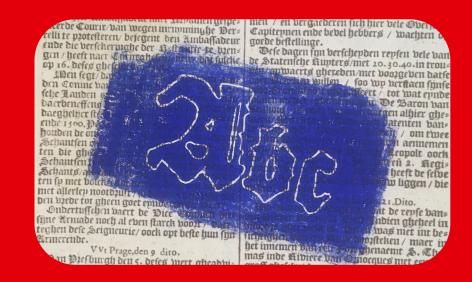
USE CASE:

Searching for strong verbs in the historical CourantenCorpus

Machteld de Vos Radboud University Nijmegen & the Dutch Language Institute CLARIN Annual Conference 2022, Prague 11-10-2022





BACKGROUND | STRONG VERBS IN 17TH-CENTURY DUTCH

Language change in ablaut verb class III, e.g. zingen 'to sing':

- Middle Dutch, three part ABC-paradigm:
 - zing(en) 'sing' zang (sg.), zongen (pl.) 'sang' gezongen 'sung'
- Standard Dutch, ABB-paradigm
 - zing(en) 'sing' zong(en) 'sang' gezongen 'sung'
 - = preterite singular <a> and plural <o> → same for both <o>

De Smet (2021): this change solidified in the 17th century.

→ Could standardization (norm) have played a part in this change (usage)?

USE CASE: SEARCHING FOR STRONG VERBS IN THE HISTORICAL COURANTENCORPUS

BACKGROUND | STRONG VERBS IN 17TH-CENTURY DUTCH

Could standardization (norm) have played a part in this change (usage)?

- → Mapping out all stances on these verbs encountered in grammars on Standard Dutch from the 17th century (cf. Anderwald, 2011; 2012 on 19th century English)
- → Analysing actual usage of these verbs in 17th century newspapers (in addition to letters & literary works in De Smet, 2021)

To provide insight into:

- 1) to what extent normative grammars described and followed contemporary language use
- 2) to what extent the norms in these grammars affected language use in newspapers
- + Use Case for CourantenCorpus (CLARIAH tools)



USE CASE: SEARCHING FOR STRONG VERBS IN THE HISTORICAL COURANTENCORPUS

METHOD & CORPORA | USAGE

CourantenCorpus (Dutch Language Institute):

- Newspapers 1618-1700
- Ca. 19 million words
- Manually transcribed by volunteers
- Automatically tagged & lemmatised (alpha version)

Method:

 Corpus search (Blacklab) for all possible verb forms of 41 class III strong verbs, incl. spelling variation & clitics



https://couranten.ivdnt.org

USE CASE: SEARCHING FOR STRONG VERBS IN THE HISTORICAL COURANTENCORPUS

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Focus: second study & its use of the corpus and tools, addressing questions such as:

- Were the search possibilities sufficient to find the relevant data?
- What was the impact of the inaccuracies of automatic linguistic annotation?
- To what extent can we still draw valid conclusions from noisy material?
- What can be done to circumvent these issues?



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