

Scientific Report of Short Term Scientific Mission

COST STSM Reference Number: COST-STSM-IS1305- 24223

Period: 06-04-2015 to 17-04-2015

Duration: 10 working days

COST Action: IS1305

STSM type: Regular (from Belgium to Netherlands)

STSM Title: Terminology research for linguistics

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1. Purpose of the STSM

The aim of this STSM was to develop a terminological database of the Dutch linguistic terms used in the e-learning tool Hogeschooltaal. The website is designed for college students who want to improve their Dutch language knowledge. The students can look up theoretical information on numerous grammatical or stylistic items, can do unlimited exercises on those topics and can also take part in organised tests. When they score 80% or more on the test, they receive an official certification (B2 or C1 level).

The problem is that the terminology of Dutch grammar, spelling and stylistic devices (figures of speech) is not always entirely clear for students. They often cannot complete the exercises since they lack the full understanding of certain terminological items. For that reason I created a terminological database with all the grammatical and stylistic terms that occur in the theoretical and practical modules of Hogeschooltaal. The goal was then to implement that termbase in both modules in the form of a pop-up that appears when a grammatical term is mentioned. With this project, the users of Hogeschooltaal will get easy access to the information (definition, synonym, example) of a specific term and hopefully will get a better understanding of the linguistic terminology.

2. Description of the work carried out during the STSM

For this STSM I spent 10 working days at the office of Hogeschooltaal in Breda (the Netherlands).

In the first week I got to learn the company and its staff and got fully familiarised with the e-learning tool. I was warmly welcomed and got a nice working space for my own.

In this week I finished the termbase that I had already begun working on at home. I listed all the linguistic terms that are used in Hogeschooltaal (and synonyms), wrote (or copied) a definition and included an example for each term. I also entered the English equivalent of the Dutch term.

Next, I was asked to come up with a proposal for the integration of the termbase in the website. I suggested a little pop-up screen that appears when a student moves its mouse over a term. That way, the user gets a quick review of what the term is about. The pop-up will appear in the website like this:

dit is een persoon.

persoonsvorm

Categorie: zinsstructuur

Synoniem:

Engelstalige term: finite form

Definitie: werkwoordsvorm die nauw verbonden is aan het onderwerp van de zin

Voorbeeld: De linkse partij heeft de verkiezingen gewonnen.

In the second STSM week I had several meetings with the staff about the further use of the termbase. We figured that the list (consisting of 192 terms and 71 synonyms) could prove to be useful for other users as well, apart from college students. In this week I had to think of how we could reach a bigger audience for the termbase and how it would look like online. I reckoned that my list should become available for any one who is interested, which is the case with almost all existing term collections. Therefore we will not place the whole list within the website (after log-in), but on the front page of Hogeschooltaal.nl. I also proposed the layout and use of the term tool, which is currently in the making. It will look somewhat like this:

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

- beknopte bijzin
- bijstelling
- bijvoeglijke bijzin
- bijwoordelijke bepaling
- bijwoordelijke bijzin
- **bijzin**
- betrekkelijk voornaamwoord
- bezittelijk voornaamwoord
- bijvoeglijk naamwoord
- bijwoord

bijzin

synoniem: /

Engelse term: sub clause

definitie: zin die een zinsdeel kan zijn in een zin of een onderdeel van een zinsdeel; de bijzin is ondergeschikt aan de [hoofdzin](#)

voorbeeld: *Dat hij niet is komen opdagen, verbaast mij niet.*

gerelateerde termen: [bijvoeglijke bijzin](#), [bijwoordelijke bijzin](#), [beknopte bijzin](#)

You first click on a letter in the list and then in the left-hand column you get all the terms that start with that letter. If you then click on a specific term, you get all the necessary information in the right column. You see synonyms, the English equivalent, a definition, an example and below a list of related terms that might be useful as well. The blue underlined words are hyperlinks that hold a link to another term in the list.

In the final days of my STSM I also made some suggestions for a practice module that uses the terms from the termbase. The games or exercises will also be available for everyone. I for example created a synonym game to practise all the terms with their synonyms. I also suggested playing with the definitions of the terms in an exercise in which you have to combine the definition with the correct term (per category of spelling, verbs, figures of speech, ...). I also made an exercise using all the example sentences from my termbase. It is a multiple-choice exercise where the answer is always a linguistic term.

The IT-specialist of Hogeschooltaal is currently making all the exercises I described. I helped where I could, but the real programming work still has to be done. We expect to have all the results of my STSM weeks by the end of May. The termbase as well as the exercises and games will then hopefully be available to everyone.

3. References

www.hogeschooltaal.nl