Journal of
language|works

Language Works 5(1)

Corona pandemic or not, no summer without a new issue of Language Works. With this issue, we present the eighth publication of the journal. Once again the articles in the issue show that language works and something is worked out through language; and once again the articles present very different perspectives on the large field of linguistics. Here are articles about phonology, syntax and lexicon, and both theoretical, computational articles as well as some with a more societal perspective. And as it is by now a proud tradition, several articles get to grips with questions of gender and gender identity as expressed through language.

It has been a great pleasure to read the contributions to this issue, and we hope you will enjoy it too!

The articles in this issue

The article by Christophe Zerakitsky Vies investigates syllibifaction in modern Hebrew. Whereas clusters in native words are extremely limited in distribution, some consonant clusters have emerged because of elision of the vowel shewa (ᵊ). Vies investigates whether these clusters should be viewed as one or two underlying syllables by asking speakers of Hebrew to divide words into syllables in two experiments. Based on the results, Vies proposes that clusters do not belong to the syllable domain, but that they are a quality of the prosodic word.

Sophia Aakjær Juul investigates whether the two English constructions *used to* + infinitive and *would* + infinitive are synonymous. On the theoretical basis of usage-based construction grammar, the study examines part of The Corpus of Contemporary American English and concludes that the two constructions are not synonymous.

Tine Lykkegaard Nielsen investigates the role of gender in the Turkish language in relation to gender roles and normativity. Since Turkish has no grammatical gender, Nielsen explores how Turkish speakers translate a Turkish text into English and how they link certain occupations to gender through address terms they commonly choose in assignments set up by Nielsen using an online questionnaire. Nielsen suggests to a 'male-as-norm'-principle that is discussed as well as a 'gender belief' system that is argued to affect language choices.

Lasse Hansen and Kristian Mengel-Niemann study to which extent there are gender biases in Danish adjectives. Based on two online questionnaires the study concludes that there are in fact gender biases in common Danish adjectives and that these biases affect how speakers interpret seemingly gender-neutral syntactic subjects.

Jonathan Rystrøm's paper investigates how well epidemiological models can be used to study the spread of new concepts on Twitter. The two concepts under investigation, klimatosse and Paludan, both played a key part during the 2019 election, and their spread on Twitter was rapid with epidemic qualities. Two questions are of particular interest: (1) whether the spread of concepts on

Twitter can be accurately modeled using epidemiological models; (2) whether the SEIZ-model, which is tailored for social-epidemics, will outperform the more naïve SI-model.

Esben Kran and Søren Orm take their starting point in earlier articles on computer-assisted so-called sentiment analysis of authors' attitudes expressed in texts. They propose on the one hand a sophistication of the method used in sentiment analysis that includes more written language features; and on the other hand, they present a corpus of sentiment-analysed texts to be used in further work on sentiment analysis. The article is also an occasion to discuss how we should conceptualise emotions expressed in (written) language. Are sentiments one-dimensional, positive-negative, or should we work with a more complex multi-dimensional interpretation?

Your article in the next issue?

Do you have a good idea or a project that could interest others? As a student, you may have an essay that could be turned into an article. As a teacher, you may have supervised or assessed an essay that you think could become a good article. Or perhaps you have participated in a conference, workshop, seminar or course that could be the basis for a thematic section/special issue of Language Works?

We are looking for articles of quality, but what you submit does not have to be perfect. We promise that we as editors will help you improve your article if you send it to us. All articles will get a review from an expert with suggestions for changes and improvements. So, it takes work to publish, but this is also a good way of improving your communication competences. We prefer that you write your article in English or Danish/Norwegian/Swedish, but should you wish to write in another language, talk to us about it.

Contact us if you have a draft, or just an idea, for an article. Contact info and information on the contents and format of articles as well as deadlines can be found on this page.