

Wessel Stoop

Curriculum vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2011 – 2013 **Research Master Language & Communication**
Radboud University
Nijmegen
Graduating on language technology, cum laude
- 2008 – 2011 **Bachelor Linguistics**
Radboud University
Nijmegen
Cum laude
- 2008 – 2009 **Propeduse Linguistics**
Radboud University
Nijmegen
Cum laude
- 2002 – 2008 **Secondary education, VWO (Gymnasium)**
Titus Brandsma Lyceum, Oss

Master thesis project: Soothsayer

Soothsayer is word prediction software I created that predicts what you are going to type as you type it, on the basis of texts you wrote earlier. I show predictions become much more accurate when you use texts the user himself wrote earlier (instead of general texts in the same language), and that it works even better when you also include texts written by people you communicate with often. For some users, Soothsayer can save more than 50% of the keystrokes. A webdemo of Soothsayer is available at [soothsayer.cls.ru.nl]. Supervised by Antal van den Bosch, **awarded with Radboud University Study Prize 2013.**

Master internship: Fowlt

Fowlt, the English version of Valkuil, is a context-sensitive spelling corrector I created that finds errors by comparing text to many texts it has seen before, and marks something as an error if it would have expected something different on the basis of these texts. [Fowlt.net] is the website shell around it. This website is used by more than 300 people a day to correct their documents. Supervised by Antal van den Bosch.

WORK EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 2013 – PRESENT
Centre for Language and Speech Technology,
Radboud University
Scientific programmer/system administrator

Developing and maintaining language technology software, as well as various webservices and websites around it. I also provide user support for the department's Linux cluster.

SEPTEMBER 2013 – PRESENT
Davinci Group
Consultant

Developing prototypes for new language technology and supervising the integration of machine learning techniques into existing products. Davinci's flagship product DTA, used by several Dutch banks, can now classify documents perfectly by simply looking at some example documents.

AUGUST 2012
Jacobs Media Concepts
Developer ICT

Developing an automatic name recognition demo, and thus making the power of this language technology easier to understand to the layman.

SEPTEMBER 2011 – AUGUST 2012
Radboud University
Software and web developer

Developing promotional software for Linguistics and various websites for Linguistics and the Centre for Language Studies. Every student of Linguistics now uses this website to find information and resources.

MARCH 2009 – FEBRUARY 2013

Student assistant

Assisting various research projects within the research group *Grammar & Cognition*, automating tasks. Among other things, I helped with the research on the use of *hun* as a subject in Dutch, and created software to find inconsistencies in corpus analyses.

SOFTWARE PROJECTS

You are what you tweet

You are what you tweet is a webdemo displaying the power of language technology and machine learning: it imports all tweets of a particular Twitter timeline, and then performs text prediction and term profiling on it, as well as text classification. For that last task, it has language models for gender, age, aggression and sarcasm.

Soothsayer

Soothsayer is my master's thesis project about text prediction. In the thesis, I showed that text prediction improves when (1) using language models based on text written by the user and (2) that text written by friends of the user also improve the results. In the demo, you can test Soothsayer with various language models. The thesis led to various publications, media attention, and the Radboud University 2013 thesis prize.

Procedural meshes & subdivision

Catmull-Clark subdivision is a smoothing algorithm and a basic tool in 3D modeling software. It was, however, not yet available for the Unity game engine. I created an implementation of it, which is available at the Unity Asset Store.

Fowlt

Fowlt is the English version of Valkuil, a context-sensitive spelling corrector using machine learning. It recognizes errors by comparing all incoming text to the many examples of correct text it has seen. If it finds something that is nearly identical, but not completely identical, to a frequent pattern, it marks it as an error. This way, it is able to mark errors where other spelling correctors typically fail, like the difference between *to*, *two* and *too*.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

OS	Windows, Linux
OFFICE SUITES	Microsoft Office, Google Docs, \LaTeX
GRAPHICAL	GIMP, InkScape, Blender
PROGRAMMING	Python, PHP, Javascript (including jQuery), Swift, Unity 3D

TRIVIA

- I have presented my work multiple times at various occasions, like *Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands*, *Taalkunde in Nederland*, *ATiLA* and the *Centre for Language Studie colloquium*.
- In my free time, I like to build videogames. My latest project, *Olvand*, had an active fanbase of around a hundred people at its peak. These people were running servers and creating secondary material like tutorials, wikis and Youtube videos. *Olvand* is a multiplayer RPG where player live in self-built towns and can go on all kinds of adventures together. See [olvand.com] for more information.
- There has been media attention for a number of my projects: *You are what you tweet* was mentioned on *rtlz.nl* and *radio 2*, *Soothsayer* was mentioned on *tweakers.nl* and *apparata.nl*, *Fowlt* was mentioned in *De Gelderlander*, and the paper about *hun* as a syntactical subject was mentioned on *nu.nl* and *De wereld draait door*.

PUBLICATIONS

- L. Verheijen & W. Stoop (2016). Collecting Facebook posts and WhatsApp chats: corpus compilation of private social media messages. In P. Sojka et al. (eds.), *Text, Speech and Dialogue: 19th International Conference, TSD 2016, LNAI 9924* (pp. 249-258). Springer.
- S. Aalberse & W. Stoop (2015). The exceptional loss of the pronoun T. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 88, 190-201. doi: 10.1016/j.pragma.2015.07.003
- W. Stoop & A. Van den Bosch (2014). Using idiolects and sociolects to improve word prediction. *Proceedings of EACL 2014*, 318 - 327
- W. Stoop & A. Van den Bosch (2014). Improving word prediction for augmentative communication by using idiolects and sociolects. *Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics*, 3:2, pp. 136-153.
- K. de Schepper, G. van Bergen, S. Lestrade & W. Stoop (2013). *Prag-raising versus Neg-raising*. *Nederlandse Taalkunde* 19, 1, 105 - 117
- W. Stoop (2013). CLD, dat is niet contrastief. *Tabu* 39 (1/2), 49 - 61
- G. van Bergen, W. Stoop, J. Vogels & H. de Hoop (2011). Leve hun! Waarom hun nog steeds hun zeggen. *Nederlandse taalkunde* 16 (1), 2 - 29