



# Translation Mining and Semantic Maps: a new approach to cross-linguistic research?

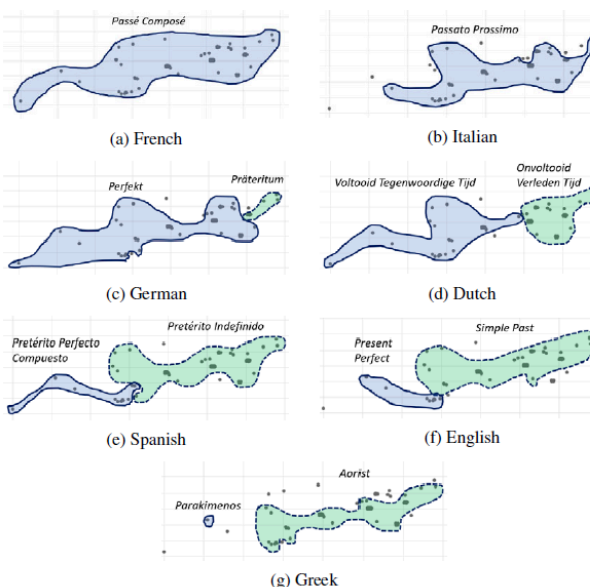
with Bert Le Bruyn, Utrecht University

## Introductory lecture

Wednesday, April the 2nd 2025, 14.10-15.40, room P104

Translation Mining (TM, van der Klis et al. 2017) uses parallel texts to map distributional patterns across languages, enabling fine-grained cross-linguistic comparisons. Compared to other approaches, TM balances language-specific analysis with capturing linguistic diversity.

This talk illustrates TM's potential through two case studies: (1) HAVE-PERFECT constructions (Time in Translation project) and (2) the semantics of bare nouns across diverse languages (HHRM group). These findings highlight how TM refines semantic maps and advances cross-linguistic research (Le Bruyn et al. 2022).



## Workshops on the use of Translation Mining and creation of Semantic Maps

Thursday, April the 3rd, 9.00-10.30, 10.45-12.00, room P104

Friday, April the 4th, 9.00-10.30, 10.45-12.00, room P104

These hands-on seminars will guide us through the Translation Mining (TM) methodology and reflect on its strengths and weaknesses, in particular these methodological issues:

1. Are translated data comparable to untranslated data (Le Bruyn et al. 2022)?
2. Do translations render the same meaning as their originals (Le Bruyn et al. 2024)?
3. How to best overcome the weaknesses of TM (Le Bruyn & de Swart 2024)?

This will lead us from the analysis of the have-perfect based on translations of Camus' *L'Étranger* to a recently completed replication study based on translations of Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. At the end of the seminar, participants will have a good feel of the workflow in TM-based research, be able to assess whether TM can contribute to their own research, and have the basic tools available to run their own TM study.

**The lecture and the workshops are held in English.**



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## References

Le Bruyn, B., Fuchs, M., Klis van der, M., Liu, J., Mo, C., Tellings, J., & Swart, H. de (2022). Parallel corpus research and target language representativeness: The contrastive, typological, and translation mining traditions. *Languages*, 7(3), 176.

Le Bruyn, B., Klis, M. van der, & Swart, H. de (2024). Variation and stability: the HAVE-PERFECT and the tense-aspect grammar of western European languages. In: Astrid De Wit et al. (eds.) *Beyond Aspectual Semantics*. Oxford University Press, 143-176.

Le Bruyn, B., & Swart, H. de (2024). Cross-linguistic research, parallel corpora, and replication in the Translation Mining tradition. In: Mihaela Tănase-Dogaru et al. (eds.) *Crosslinguistic Approaches to Language Analysis*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 27-55.