

NEDERBOOMS

Hands-on session GrETEL

Greedy Extraction of Trees for Empirical Linguistics

<http://nederbooms.ccl.kuleuven.be/eng/gretel>

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Scenario 1

- Do constructions like *een aantal mensen* occur with a singular or a plural verb?

Een aantal mensen heeft/hebben de trein gemist.

‘A number of people has/have missed the train.’

- Is there a difference between spoken and written language?

Scenario 2

- Find *separable verbs*, consisting of a verbal part and a preposition
- Try to filter out other occurrences of the verb with that preposition
- Example 1: *Hij houdt haar aan* ('arrest')
- Excluding: *Hij houdt haar aan haar belofte* ('hold')
- Example 2: *Hij leest het boek uit* ('finish reading')
- Excluding: *Hij leest uit het boek* ('reading from')

Scenario 3

- According to the *Algemene Nederlandse Spraakkunst* (ANS) the personal pronoun *hen* is stylistically better appreciated than *hun*.
- *Ik geef hen/hun een boek.* 'I give them a book.'
- *Ik zie hen/hun.* 'I see them.'
- Look in GrETEL for examples of *hun* (as a personal pronoun, not as a possessive).
- Is there a difference between written and spoken language?

Scenario 4

- Look in *spoken* Dutch for example sentences in which you find
 - an indirect object (IO)
 - a direct object (DO)
 - a prepositional phrase (PP) which is not part of the IO or DO
- Example: *In de auto geef ik de man de krant.*

‘In the car I give the man the journal.’
- Perform the search for both main and subordinate clauses.

Scenario 5

The choice of the perfect auxiliary
(*hebben* 'have' or *zijn* 'be')

- Hij heeft/*is het gekund. 'He was able to do it.'
- Hij heeft/*is het gebracht. 'He has brought it.'
- Hij is/*heeft gekomen. 'He has come.'
- Hij heeft/*is het kunnen brengen. 'He has come to bring it.'
- Hij heeft/is kunnen komen. 'He was able to come.'

Look in GrETEL whether you can find examples of such variation.