

Pimp My Lexis



Determinants in Socio-Lexicology: the Case of English Loans Eline Zenner, Dirk Geeraerts & Dirk Speelman

Background & Research Question

Anglicism-Research

Long-standing tradition: HOW do we adopt anglicisms

Last decades: overshadowed by ELF-research However, the questions remains: WHY do we use anglicisms

Variational Sociolinguistics

Main question: what factors determine the choice for form A instead of form B (phonology, syntax, ...)

But: lack of attention for lexical variation (see Geeraerts in press)



Which factors determine the use of English loans in Dutch?

- gaining insight in the general mechanisms of lexical variation
- grasping the motivation for using anglicisms

Possible determinants in socio-lexicology: why prefer anglicisms?

Cognitive Features

- → conceptual neologism? (GPS vs. shit)
- → lexical field (manager vs. catwalk)
- → structure of the concept (prototypical?)

Word-Related Features

- -> unit-length (lexeme/compound/MWU)
- → age in source and receptor language
- → morphological oddity in receptor language

Lectal Features

- → genre / stylistic variation?
- → intra-regional variation?
- diachronic evolution

Methodology

Concept-based:

[concept]
native lexeme borrowed lexeme

Corpus-based:

- Dutch Newspaper corpus for Belgian & Netherlandic Dutch
- Database of anglicisms (built semi -automatically)

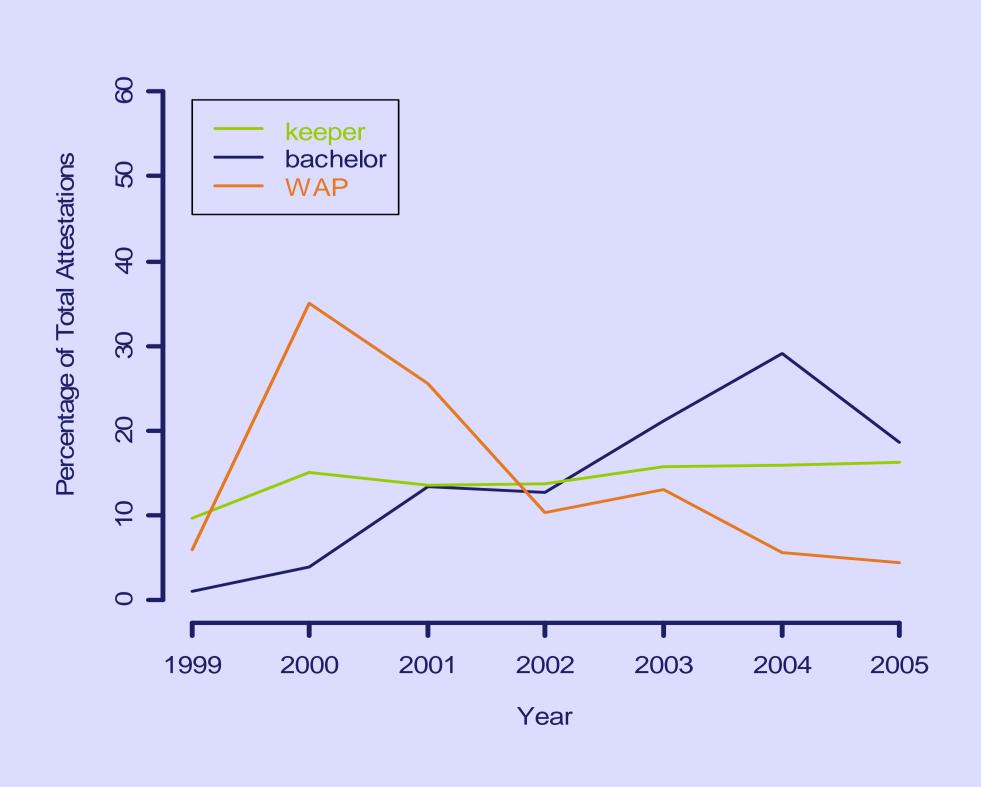
Quantitative: Statistical analyses

The lay of the land: preliminary case-studies

Felicity Conditions

cluster patters to determine survival conditions for anglicisms

Survival Analysis



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Regional Variation

keywords analysis (Scott 1997)
 to determine regional preferences

South vs. North

Keyword	P-val.		Keyword	P-val.
match	<0.001	Dutch counterpart	toernooi	<0.001
start (verb)	<0.001		beginnen	<0.001
weekend	<0.001		weekeinde	<0.001
job	<0.001		baan	<0.001
parking	<0.001		parkeerplaats	<0.001
			↓	

Hints at preference for anglicisms in Flanders? (but *CAUTION!*)

Preference for the Dutch/hybrid alternative in the Netherlands?

North vs. South

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Unit-Length: Catchphrases

variation in the amount of quoted vs. spontaneous use

