

Preface

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Volume 5 of the CLIN journal contains full papers based on work presented at the 25th Meeting of Computational Linguistics in The Netherlands (CLIN 25). Twelve papers were submitted and were reviewed by at least three members of the editorial board. Seven of the submitted papers are included in this volume of the CLIN journal. As in previous volumes, this collection provides a good overview of the diversity of computational linguistics topics researched in the Low Countries: social media text analysis, computational semantics, computational tools for linguistic research, computational models of language processing and evolution, and statistical language models.

The editors of this volume are the organizers of the 25th Meeting of CLIN, which took place in Antwerp, Belgium. This anniversary edition of the conference was hosted by the CLiPS Research Center of the University of Antwerp and welcomed an impressive number of 180 participants. A special two-day programme accompanied CLIN's silver jubilee and featured the regular CLIN conference on Friday and an anniversary academic event on Thursday. On Thursday evening, a gala dinner was organised in the historical Zoo of Antwerp.

The regular programme of CLIN featured 60 talks divided over 15 sessions, as well as 23 posters and 5 demos on a wide range of topics. We were honored to have Tony Veale (University College Dublin) as our keynote speaker, with an entertaining and thought-provoking talk on computational creativity titled "The future will be automated". The STIL Thesis Prize for the best MA thesis in computational linguistics or its applications was shared between two people this year. The winners were Hannah Tops (Utrecht University & Radboud University Nijmegen) and Chris Emmery (Tilburg University). We congratulate them, also on behalf of the Stichting Inductieve Leertechnieken (STIL), the sponsor of this prize.

CLIN 25 was sponsored by Elsevier, Textkernel, Nederlandse Taalunie, Telecats, CLARIN-NL, De Taalmonsters, DANS, Appen, INL, CrossLang, VRT Research & Innovation and Stichting NOTaS. We are thankful for their contributions to the conference and community. Another word of thanks goes to the University of Antwerp, and especially the Department of Linguistics for providing the conference location and support.

The anniversary academic event on Thursday had several guest speakers and a panel contemplating both the past and future of computational linguistics in the Netherlands and Flanders. We thank Gertjan van Noord, Jan Landsbergen, Luc Steels, Gerard Kempen, Remko Scha, Frank Van Eynde, Lou Boves, Alice Dijkstra, Peter Spyns, Eva D'hondt, Folgert Karsdorp, Dong Nguyen and Tim Van de Cruys for their contributions to this interesting event.

While writing this preface, we received the sad news that Remko Scha passed away in Amsterdam November 9, 2015, putting his last contribution to CLIN in a different light. Remko was one of the founding fathers of our field (for which he received a CLIN life-time achievement reward) and an inspiration to many generations of students and colleagues. He will be sorely missed for his kindness, good humour, encouragement, and sharp insights into the state of the art in Computational Linguistics. We dedicate this volume to his memory.