

Processing Lexical Bundles

Estimates differ, but in general it is assumed that about half of our spoken and written language consists of stock phrases, formulaic sequences, and common, semantically transparent combinations of words, also known as lexical bundles. There is a growing body of experimental work showing that lexical bundles are read, understood, and pronounced faster than their infrequent matched controls, which seems to suggest that these bundles function as units in processing, much like single words.

This thesis focuses on the processing of Dutch lexical bundles, and does so by considering them from different angles: How do we read lexical bundles? Are there differences in processing between age groups? How do we process spoken lexical bundles? And how do we produce them? In answering these questions, a wide range of experimental methods, and both statistical and computational modeling are employed.

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Netherlands Graduate School of Linguistics
Landelijke Onderzoekschool Taalwetenschap

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Saskia Elisabeth Lensink

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