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Modeling language variation across time and communities



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vector space models, lexical semantics, language variation

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Postdoc: SemChangeMWE project (since July 2022)

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Language and AI?

The screenshot shows the Google Translate web interface. The source language is set to English and the target language is French. The English text on the left reads: "Artificial intelligence (AI) is intelligence demonstrated by machines, as opposed to the natural intelligence displayed by animals including humans. AI research has been defined as the field of study of intelligent agents, which refers to any system that perceives its environment and takes actions that maximize its chance of achieving its goals." The French translation on the right reads: "L'intelligence artificielle (IA) est l'intelligence démontrée par les machines, par opposition à l'intelligence naturelle affichée par les animaux, y compris les humains. La recherche en IA a été définie comme le domaine d'étude des agents intelligents, qui fait référence à tout système qui perçoit son environnement et entreprend des actions qui maximisent ses chances d'atteindre ses objectifs." The interface includes a character count (347 / 5,000) and various utility icons like microphone, speaker, and share.

If you have any questions about my rate or if you find it necessary to increase or decrease the scope for this project, please let me know.

The screenshot shows the Grammarly rephrasing tool. It has analyzed the sentence from the previous block and identified the words "if you", "the scope", and "project's" as areas for improvement. The rephrased sentence is: "If you have any questions about my rate or **if-you** find it necessary to increase or decrease **the-scope** for this-**project**-**project's scope**, please let me know." The tool provides a "Rephrase" button and a "Dismiss" button. A circular icon with the number "1" is visible at the bottom right of the tool's interface.

- [1] <https://translate.google.com>
- [2] <https://www.grammarly.com>
- [3] <https://support.onepeloton.com>

Hi, there are no Member Support Associates available to chat right now - they'll be back at 6 AM EST.

I can help you with anything self-service.

Technical Support

What type of problem are you having?

Hardware (e.g. Power issues, Noises)

Software (e.g. Bluetooth Pairing, Connection Issues)

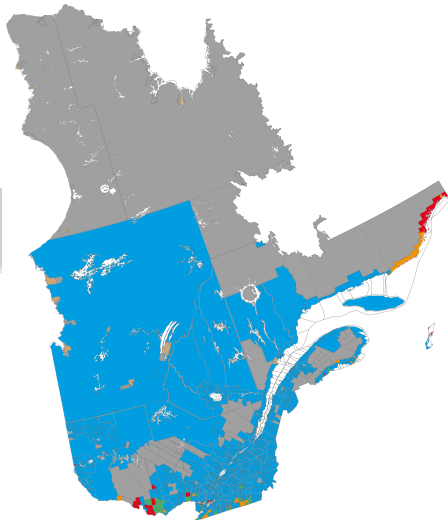
App + TV

Implementing and evaluating
quantitative empirical methods
on precise linguistic issues

Contact-induced semantic shifts in Quebec English

Montreal 'déception'

Big **deception**... you were not
present in the Pride Parade [...]
Conservatives keep disappointing.



Majority language communities

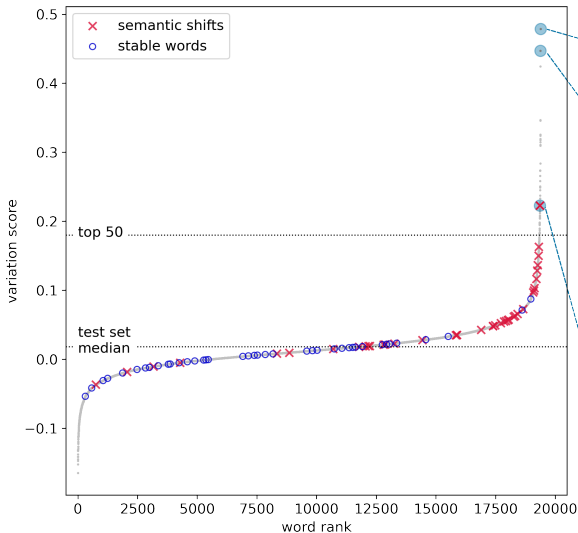
Red Orange English Blue Green French

Source: Statistics Canada (2006)

An interdisciplinary approach

- Data: 600m-word corpus of tweets
- Vector representations of word meaning
 - Type-level (e.g. word2vec) \Rightarrow vocabulary-level overview
 - Token-level (e.g. BERT) \Rightarrow in-depth analyses of target words
- Evaluation of implemented methods
 - Custom-built test set for binary classification
 - Face-to-face interviews with speakers from Montreal

Semantic shift detection



False positives

pour 'for'

French homographs in
codeswitched tweets

plateau 'Plateau-Mont-Royal'

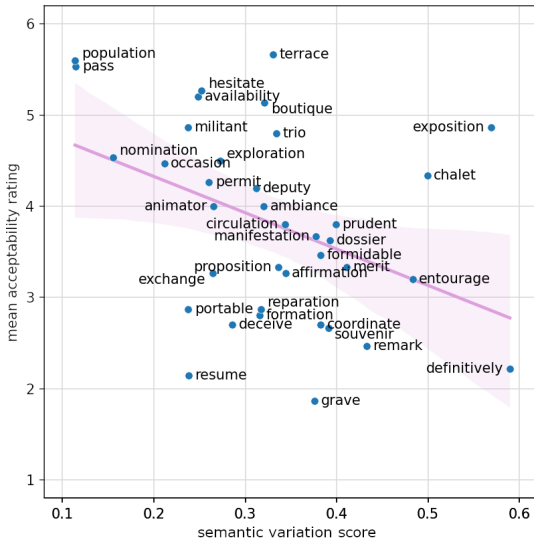
local proper noun denoting
a Montreal neighborhood

True positive

exposition 'art exhibition'

previously described case,
included in our test set

Comparing vector-based and human scores



- A range of data sources and corpus-based methods led to important descriptive contributions
- Validation based on input from local speakers
- Moving beyond isolated lexical items
⇒ **SemChangeMWE project**
- Incorporating a temporal dimension, further linguistic and extralinguistic features
- Interpretability and reliability of the implemented models

Enjoy the kick-off event!