



Universiteit Antwerpen

| Faculteit Letteren
en Wijsbegeerte

Tanja Mortelmans

Short intro

Who am I?

Linguist at the **University of Antwerp** (Belgium), German department

Main domains of research:

- modal verbs and mood as expressions of modality/evidentiality – also from a contrastive perspective (German-Dutch-English-French); progressive constructions in German and Dutch; reflexive constructions
- grammaticalization & subjectification
- LANGUAGE AND GENDER

My interest in ‘Language and Gender’?

- I have been **teaching** a Masters course on ‘Sprache & Geschlecht’ for many years.
- For the ‘University of Flanders’ (a series of popular science communication), I have given a **talk** with the title: Why is a German vamp more “masculine” than a Dutch one. [<https://www.universiteitvanvlaanderen.be/podcast/waarom-is-een-duitse-vamp-mannelijker-dan-een-vlaamse>]

- I have **published** on the topic:

Mortelmans, Tanja. 2008. Zij is een power feminist: nog eens functie- en rolbenamingen in het Nederlands vanuit contrastief perspectief. *Tijdschrift voor genderstudies* 11(1), 7-19.

Mortelmans, Tanja. 2008. Genus(s) und kein Ende: einige Überlegungen zur Genuskategorie im Deutschen. *Germanistische Mitteilungen* 67, 262-275.

Mortelmans, Tanja. 2022-2023. Role nouns in appositional contexts in German and (Belgian/Netherlandic) Dutch. A corpus study. *Leuvense Bijdragen* 104.

My research interest in ‘Language and Gender’?

- **role & function** nouns in **Dutch** (referring to women), also with an eye on **differences** between **Belgian** and **Netherlandic Dutch**.

*Zij is een **linguïst**/Zij is een **linguïste**.*

‘Sie is a linguist_C/She is a linguist_F’

*In haar rol als **linguïst**/als **linguïste**.*

‘In he role as a linguist_C/as a linguist_F’

My research interest in ‘Language and Gender’?

- influence of the **language system** on **actual gender-inclusive practices** → look at the Dutch language through German glasses (German: 3-fold gender system)
- **Belgian-Dutch:** former 3-way gender system is being simplified, but still present → formal distinction between M-F role nouns in Belgian Dutch is more strongly retained (*voorzitter* vs. *voorzitster*)
- **Netherlandic Dutch** → neutralisation of the opposition M-F (e.g. use of *voorzitter* throughout)

- **Thank you!**