Goedemorgen,

The reason that I'm interested in this course, Masters in Language and Logic, simply has one reason - endless fascination.

I've always found language to be such a beautiful and suspiciously simple thing, and yet it's there in every fabric of our lives - social as well as the inner life. Encompassing – borders, Cultures and Time.

Given my academic background, it’d be “safe and comfortable” to join the IT industry and climb the corporate ladder. But it lacks intrinsic meaning for me, I've always had this thirst for understanding and being involved in something more profound than just the human-centric lives we live.

To me that has been about languages, or more accurately, what they do and can still reveal about our essence. After all, we don't have any extraordinary physical trait that distinguishes us from the billions of other species, we have shared our home with. Still, beyond the superficial "differences" we are all quite the same. Then what is it that separates us, that made us - us?

It's our minds, not only the physical aspect of our intellect but our imagination, our creativity, the part that could be expressed using so many means but most clearly and widely expressed as languages. The sheer variety of them! We might not be the greatest of species, but we are great learners. Languages have been time capsules in form of traditions, stories etc. - helping to keep us together and build upon the work done by our ancestors. Still, it gives us the tools to innovate at our whim. There’s a deeper question - what do they represent? Perhaps, they are the hint to a deeper truth about our nature, our essence.

A more accurate description of my education and drive would be my professor's words and my college projects. They were all based on languages and since this was a first in the University, she gave me the freedom to work on what truly interests me, with plenty of guidance. Be it NLP analysis of tweets to gauge National Sentiment on Government bans or an exploratory work on the theory of Paul Chilton about Language, Space and Mind.

Through these, I've realized that the logical foundations of CS are much the same as that of Mathematics and Linguistics. The recent "statistical approaches", "neural networks" have proven good - but perhaps there's a better way to reason about languages. Some kind of linguistic cellular automata that begins from simple rules and yet forms a language, maybe there's such a thing as a minimal Turing complete "natural" language etc. I know this is all speculative but I believe that this course would lead me to a better understanding and would allow me to seek the right question first, and with perseverance, to the right answers.

Why I wish to study in IILC, Netherlands?

The simplest answer being - a tribe.

I seek people I can really communicate with. I feel that in Netherlands, a country that has always been forward looking with a long tradition of excellence. Apart from this course, a distant second would be doing "Computational Linguistics”, but this course Logic and Language is my dream one. I shall never learn something as deep as this course and the colleagues would drive me to, it's about a community.

In no other place shall I be able to entertain the thought, "Verbs are like the prime numbers of languages"