

# The crosslinguistic intertextuality of loanwords

Vejdemo, Susanne      Vandewinkel, Sigi  
Montero-Melis, Guillermo

5<sup>th</sup> December, 2012

## 1 Presentation and aims

The semantic meaning potential of words is to a large extent governed by their intertextual history of use (ref Linell, ref Traugott & Dasher). Loanwords are an interesting case, since they have a history in their source language, but lose some of their meaning potential when they are borrowed. We wish to examine the following topics:

- a. How much of a word's meaning changes when it is borrowed (e.g. the term 'body guard', borrowed from English into Swedish), i.e how much of its meaning potential and history is lost?
- b. After a loan word is established, how does it share the semantic space with already existing, seemingly synonymous native words (e.g. the Swedish term 'livvakt', body guard.)
- c. How do a and b compare across three European languages, i.e. Swedish, Dutch, and Spanish?

By using both quantitative experimental and corpus methods, as well as qualitative interview methods, we also wish to examine if there are marked discrepancies between the measurements of meaning and the subjective reported opinions about meanings of speakers.

## 2 Theoretical background

### 2.1 What is meaning?

Meaning can be approached in a variety of ways **Koptjevskaja-Tamm2008**  
**Sijs2005**

- 3 Materials
- 4 General method and phases
- 5 Expected outcome
- 6 Appendices
  - 6.1 Swedish loanwords