

Thomas Van Hoey 司馬智

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KU Leuven

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Updated: April 14, 2023

Research interests

Ideophones, onomatopoeia, mimetics; Cognitive Linguistics; lexical semantics; Cognitive Grammar; historical linguistics; Chinese (in all its variants)

Employment

Postdoctoral assistant, KU Leuven 2023-present

Postdoctoral fellow, The University of Hong Kong 2021-2022

Education

PhD Linguistics (A+), National Taiwan University: Graduate Institute of Linguistics 2015-2020

Dissertation: *Prototypicality and salience of Chinese ideophones:* Taipei, Taiwan

A cognitive and corpus linguistics approach

Advisor: [Lu Chiarung 呂佳蓉, Ph.D](#)

MA Linguistics (*magna cum laude*), KU Leuven 2014-2015

Thesis: *Ideophones in Middle Chinese:* Leuven, Belgium

A typological study of a Tang dynasty poetic corpus

Advisor: [Jean-Christophe Verstraete, Ph.D](#)

MA Sinology (*magna cum laude*), KU Leuven 2013-2014

Thesis: *The Guwen yundong 古文运动 (Classical Prose Movement)* Leuven, Belgium

during Tang and Song: Ideological as well as Stylistic Innovation?

Advisor: [Willy Vande Walle, Ph.D](#)

Year-long Mandarin Chinese exchange study, Suzhou University 苏州大学 2012-2013

Suzhou, China

BA Sinology (*cum laude*), University of Leuven 2009-2012

Leuven, Belgium

Additional training and education

Summer school: Chinese Digital Humanities. Leiden: Leiden University. July 2016

Summer school: Translating Chinese (Summer +10). Taipei: National Taiwan University. July 2014

Honours and awards

- Editor's choice for Thompson, Van Hoey & Do. *Cognitive Linguistics*. (free open access) 2021
- Financial Assistance Grant for International Students 2019-2020
- Financial Assistance Grant for International Students 2018-2019
- Research Fellowship for Outstanding International Doctoral Students 2015-2018
- Scholarship from the Hanban 汉办, for long-term study of Chinese 2012-2013

Research

Refereed articles

- (1) **Van Hoey, Thomas**, Arthur Lewis Thompson, Youngah Do & Mark Dingemanse. accepted. Iconicity in Ideophones: Guessing, memorizing, and reassessing. *Cognitive Science*
- (2) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. in print. ABB, a salient prototype of collocate-ideophone constructions in Mandarin Chinese. *Cognitive Linguistics*. doi: [10.1515/cog-2022-0031](https://doi.org/10.1515/cog-2022-0031)
- (3) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2022. The blending of bending: How we engage with the World of *Avatar: The Last Airbender* through memes. *Metaphor and Symbol* 37(3). 185–207. doi: [10.1080/10926488.2021.1973868](https://doi.org/10.1080/10926488.2021.1973868)
- (4) Thompson, Arthur Lewis, **Thomas Van Hoey** & Youngah Do. 2021. Articulatory features of phonemes pattern to iconic meanings: Evidence from cross-linguistic ideophones. *Cognitive Linguistics* 32(4). 563-608. * doi: [10.1515/cog-2020-0055](https://doi.org/10.1515/cog-2020-0055) *Editor's choice for this issue
- (5) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Arthur Lewis Thompson. 2020. The Chinese Ideophone Database (CHIDEOD). *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale* 49(2). 136–167. doi: [10.1163/19606028-bja10006](https://doi.org/10.1163/19606028-bja10006)
- (6) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2018. Does the thunder roll? Mandarin Chinese meteorological expressions and their iconicity. *Cognitive Semantics* 4(2). 230-259. doi: [10.1163/23526416-00402003](https://doi.org/10.1163/23526416-00402003)

Book chapters

- (7) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. *forthcoming*. Onomatopoeia in Mandarin Chinese. In Livia Körtvélyessy & Pavol Štekauer (eds.), *Edinburgh Handbook of Onomatopoeia* (Handbooks of Linguistics). Mouton de Gruyter. (*accepted*, preprint doi: [10.31219/osf.io/s72mj](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/s72mj))
- (8) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. *forthcoming*. A semantic map for ideophones. In Thomas Fuyin Li (ed.) *Handbook of Cognitive Semantics*. Ch. 16. Leiden: Brill. (*accepted*, preprint doi: [10.31219/osf.io/muhpd](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/muhpd))
- (9) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Chiarung Lu. 2019. Lexical variation of ideophones in Chinese classics: Their implications in embodiment and migration. In Janice Fon (ed.), *Dimensions of diffusion and diversity*, 195–226. (Cognitive Linguistics Research 63). Berlin; Boston: De Gruyter Mouton. doi: [10.1515/9783110610895](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110610895)

Publications under review

- (10) Do, Youngah, Bingzi Yu & **Thomas Van Hoey**. You can go your own way: Self-directed and active phonological learning. *under review*
- (11) Do, Youngah, Xiaoyu Yu, **Thomas Van Hoey**, Baichen Du & Lihui Tan. Adults intuitively prefer learning regular novel phonological patterns: A tale of two planets.

Publications in preparation

- (12) **Thomas Van Hoey**, Xiaoyu Yu & Youngah Do. Converging evidence: ABB constructions in Mandarin analyzed in the corpus and rated in the experiment.
- (13) **Van Hoey, Thomas***, Arthur Lewis Thompson*, Aaron Wing Cheung Chik, Youngah Do & Mark Dingemanse. Teasing apart sound, meaning and gesture of ideophones in a transmission and iterated learning paradigm.
* co-first authors
- (14) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Tungle Pan. The iconicity of ABB across Sinitic languages.

Theses

- (15) PhD thesis Linguistics (grade: A+) 2020
Prototypicality and salience of Chinese ideophones: A cognitive and corpus linguistics approach
漢語擬聲 (態) 詞的原型與顯著特徵：以認知與語料庫語言學方法探討
- (16) MA thesis Linguistics (grade: 17.4/20) 2015
Ideophones in Middle Chinese: A typological study of a Tang dynasty poetic corpus
- (17) MA thesis Sinology (grade: 18.6/20) 2014
The Guwen yundong 古文运动 (Classical Prose Movement) during Tang and Song: Ideological as well as Stylistic Innovation?

Resources and data sets

- (18) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Arthur Lewis Thompson. 2019. The Chinese ideophone database (CHIDEOD).
CHIDEOD is accessible in .xlsx, .csv, .rds formats (doi: [10.17605/OSF.IO/KPWGF](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/KPWGF)), as well as through a [Shiny app interface](#).

Conferences

Invited talks

- (19) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2022. Articulatory features of phonemes pattern to iconic meanings: Evidence from cross-linguistic ideophones. IcoSem 10. 9 February 2022. Published as Thompson, Van Hoey & Do in *Cognitive Linguistics* (2021). <https://youtu.be/UlJpI9FhUmE>
- (20) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2019. Defining Chinese ideophones: A family of constructions. International Workshop on Mimetics (Ideophones, Expressives) III: Crucibles of Mimetics. Nagoya: Nanzan University. 3 August 2019. doi:[10.6084/m9.figshare.12651896](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12651896)

- (21) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2017. Chinese ideophones in historical corpora: A case study of mental space markers. Workshop on Mimetics II: New approaches to old questions. Nagoya: Nanzan University. 11 November 2017. Funding: MOST-106-2922-I-002-596. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.5830341](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.5830341)

Theme sessions

- (22) Dingemanse, Mark, Arie Verhagen, Jonas Nölle & **Thomas Van Hoey.** 2019. Integrating iconicity: Recent work and future directions. ICLC 15 [International Cognitive Linguistics Conference], Nishinomiya: Kwansei Gakuin University. 6-11 August 2019. <https://iclc2019.site/>.

Conference presentations (oral)

- (23) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** Iconicity in the streets, multimodal metaphor in the sheets: Chinese ideophones on social media. 56th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 56). Athens: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. 29 August - 1 September 2023.
- (24) Szmrecsanyi, Benedikt, Matt Hunt Gardner & **Thomas Van Hoey.** 2023. Grammatical variation is not suboptimal. Presented at the 56th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE 56). Athens: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. 29 August - 1 September 2023.
- (25) Szmrecsanyi, Benedikt, Matt Hunt Gardner & **Thomas Van Hoey.** 2023. Competing grammatical constructions: questioning No Synonymy. 16th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC 16). Düsseldorf: Heinrich Heine University. <https://iclc16.phil.hhu.de/>. 7-11 August 2023.
- (26) **Van Hoey, Thomas,** Xiaoyu Yu, Tungle Pan & Youngah Do. 2023. Bridging corpus and norm: Mandarin sensory adjectival phrases. Presented at the 16th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC 16). Düsseldorf: Heinrich Heine University. <https://iclc16.phil.hhu.de/>. 7-11 August 2023.
- (27) **Van Hoey, Thomas,** Matt Hunt Gardner & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi. 2023. Grammatical variation in English is not so difficult. 7th Meeting of the International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE7), Brisbane: University of Queensland. 19-23 June 2023.
- (28) **Van Hoey, Thomas,** Matt Hunt Gardner & Benedikt Szmrecsanyi. 2023. Speaking of variation and, uhm, complexity in a corpus of spoken dialogues. 44th International Computer Archive of Modern and Medieval English (ICAME 44). Vanderbiltpark: North-West University. 18-21 May 2023.
- (29) **Van Hoey, Thomas,*** Arthur Lewis Thompson,* Youngah Do & Mark Dingemanse. 2023. Iconicity in ideophones: Guessing, memorizing, and reassessing. 45th Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS 2023). Köln: University of Cologne. 8-9 March 2023. (*Co-first authors)
- (30) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2022. ABB, a salient prototype of collocate-ideophone constructions in Mandarin Chinese. WTI [Workshop on Typology of Ideophones], Toronto: York University & Nagoya: Nagoya University. 24-25 June 2022. [Youtube presentation](#)

- (31) Do, Youngah, Arthur Lewis Thompson, **Thomas Van Hoey**, Aaron Wing Cheung Chik & Mark Dingemanse. 2022. Teasing apart the interplay between gesture, sound and meaning of ideophones through transmission and iterated learning. ILL 13 [International Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature], Paris: Sorbonne University. 31 May- 21 June 2022. Funding: GRF 17603120.
- (32) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Iju Hsu. 2020. Chinese ideophones in advertisements and social media: Motivated by multimodal metaphors. RaAM 13 [Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor] *Virtual*. Hamar: Inland Norway University. 18-21 June 2020. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12651890](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12651890)
- (33) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Chiarung Lu. 2020. From ideational to interpersonal: A behavioral profile analysis of *qílái* 起來 in Modern Mandarin. CLDC 10 [Conference on Language, Discourse, and Cognition]. Taipei: National Taiwan University. 1-2 May 2020. <https://sites.google.com/view/cldc10> (cancelled due to corona virus)
- (34) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Chiarung Lu. 2019. Reduplication as a trigger of intersubjectivity: Mandarin Chinese ideophones and reduplication in the CHILDES corpora. ICLC 15 [International Cognitive Linguistics Conference], Nishinomiya: Kwansei Gakuin University. 6-11 August 2019. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12651902](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12651902)
- (35) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2019. Radiant suns, burning fires and brilliant flowers: The onomasiology and radical support of Chinese literary LIGHT ideophones. ICLC 15 [International Cognitive Linguistics Conference], Nishinomiya: Kwansei Gakuin University. 6-11 August 2019. Funding: NTU, College of Liberal Arts. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12652445](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12652445)
- (36) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Arthur Lewis Thompson. 2019. Bridging phonology, meaning, and written form across time: Introducing a database of Chinese literary ideophones – CHIDEOD. ILL 12 [International Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature], Lund: Lund University. 3-5 May 2019. Funding: MOST-108-2922-I-002-198. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12651899](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12651899)
- (37) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Chiarung Lu. 2018. All that glitters is not gold: Prototypical semantic change in shiny Literary Chinese ideophones. ICPEAL 17 [International Conference on the Processing of East Asian Languages]-CLDC 9 [Conference on Language, Discourse, and Cognition]. Taipei: National Taiwan University. 19-21 October 2018. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12652544](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12652544)
- (38) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2016. Ideophones in Old Chinese: The case of the *Shijing* 詩經. ISACG [International Symposium on Ancient Chinese Grammar] 9. Berlin: Humboldt University. 29-30 July 2016. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12651875](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12651875)
- (39) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2016. A diachronic analysis of ideophones in Chinese. Summer school in Chinese Digital Humanities. Leiden: Leiden University. 6-9 July 2016. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12652508](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12652508)
- (40) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & Chiarung Lu. 2016. The distribution of ideophones in Tang poems: A variationist perspective. CLDC [Conference on Language, Discourse, and Cognition] 8. Taipei: National Taiwan University. 13-14 May 2016. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12651824](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12651824)

Conference presentations (posters)

- (41) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2018. The blending of bending: Worldbuilding in *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *The Legend of Korra*. RaAM [Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor] 12. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Polytechnic University. 27-30 June 2018. Funding: MOST-107-2922-I-002-237. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12652460](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12652460)
- (42) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2017. The thunder rolls: Iconicity and ideophones in Chinese meteorological expressions. CLS-MPI Iconicity Focus Group Workshop: Types of Iconicity in Language Use, Development and Processing. Nijmegen: Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics. 6-7 July 2017. Funding: NTU, College of Liberal Arts. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12652526](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12652526)
- (43) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2016. Ideophones in Premodern Chinese: Revisiting Dingemanse's implicational hierarchy (poster). Mimetics in Japanese and other languages in the world (日本語と世界諸言語のオノマトペ). Tachikawa: NINJAL. 17-18 December 2016. Funding: MOST-105-2922-I-002-682. [doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.12652514](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.12652514)

Departmental lectures

- (44) Szmrecsanyi, Benedikt & **Thomas Van Hoey.** 2023. Relatively complex or relatively simple? Toward new ways of analyzing language variation. QLVL Colloquium. Leuven: KU Leuven. 17 February 2023.
- (45) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2021. Tuples and prototypes of collocate-ideophone constructions like ABB in Mandarin Chinese. VLT talks. Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong. 29 June 2021.
- (46) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2017. A semantic map for ideophones: From an implicational hierarchy to the spinning top model. Brown Bag Lectures. Taipei: National Taiwan University. 26 April 2017.

Contributions

- (47) Van de Velde, Freek & Dirk Pijpops, in collaboration with Mathias De Backer, Wendy Feytons, Alek Keersmaekers, Veerle Monserez, **Thomas Van Hoey**, and Marie Vanwingh. 2016. Addressees use Zipf's law as a cue for semantics. In Seán G. Roberts, Christine Cuskley, Luke McCrohon, Lluís Barceló-Coblijn, Olga Fehér & Tessa Verhoef (eds.), *The evolution of language: Proceedings of the 11th international conference (EVOLANGX11)*. Online at <http://evolang.org/neworleans/papers/117.html>.

Tutorials

- (48) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2022. R Tutorial for cleaning PsychoPy data. The University of Hong Kong. Delivered for "Laboratory Linguistics" (LING 3006). [youtube](#)
- (49) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2021. R Tutorial for Linguistics Pioneering Initiative. National Taiwan University. 6 lectures during November 2021. (*soon to be released on YouTube*)
- (50) **Van Hoey, Thomas.** 2019. R bootcamp for lexical semanticists. Introduction to wrangling raw data to formats useable for further analysis using R. Seminar on Language and Culture

語言與文化專題研究.Taipei: National Taiwan University. 5 lectures during November 2019.
[blogpost](#)

Broader audiences

- (51) **Van Hoey, Thomas** & CJ Young. 2019. Language, culture, and cognition. Summer training camp for Taiwanese and Hong Kong high school representatives in the International Linguistics Olympiad. Taipei: Academia Sinica. 17 July 2019.
- (52) **Van Hoey, Thomas**. 2018. Austronesian languages. Summer training camp for Taiwanese high school representatives in the International Linguistics Olympiad. Chiayi: National Chungcheng University. 19 July 2018.

Funding

Fellowships

2019-2020	NTU, Financial Assistance Grant for International Students
2018-2019	NTU, Financial Assistance Grant for International Students
2015-2018	NTU, Research Fellowship for Outstanding International Doctoral Students
2012-2013	Hanban scholarship

Travel grants

2022	HKU, RCGAS 202107170056
2019	NTU, College of Liberal Arts
2019	MOST-108-2922-I-002-198
2018	MOST-107-2922-I-002-237
2017	NTU, College of Liberal Arts
2016	MOST-105-2922-I-002-682

Teaching

2022	Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics (MA) (LING 7011)	HKU
2019-2020	English conversation (BA2)	Tatung University

Thesis supervision

year	name	title	university
2023	Liang, Suyu	Sound symbolism in Mongolian	HKU
2023	Liao, Pinghui	Expressing 'sour' in Mandarin and in English	HKU
2023	Zhu, Yiran	Animal metaphors in Chinese	HKU
2023	Zhang, Weixi	Conceptual metaphor in <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	HKU
2023	Zhang, Huchao	Similes in <i>Salome</i> by Oscar Wilde	HKU
2023	Gerets, Nan	Chinese on social media	KU Leuven
2022	Feng, Yuanping	Analysis of tendency towards usage of different SFPs in Mandarin Chinese	HKU
2022	Liang, Yifan	Gender terms in Mandarin Chinese: A corpus-based study	HKU

Theses examinations

year	name	title	university
2023	Ma, Ruiming	Why are alternations difficult	KU Leuven
2023	Tsou, Shao-Lin	Variation contexts in parallel corpora	KU Leuven
2023	Churchill, Anna Sofia	Variation contexts in parallel corpora	KU Leuven
2022	Huang, Xuxing	An ecological discourse analysis of news on the COVID-19 pandemic	HKU
2022	Li, Chenyu	Changes of emotional meaning in Chinese online chat text	HKU
2022	Li, Ping	Language use of Sichuan migrants living in Shenzhen	HKU
2022	Li, Siyao	Language ideologies and cultural construction: A sociolinguistic analysis of the accents used in Disney animated cartoons	HKU
2022	Lin, Yinyue	Bilingual lexicography (English-Chinese) with reference to etymology and cultural factors: Implications for English language teaching	HKU
2022	Liu, Yuqin	The use of the particle <i>hahaha</i> in WeChat conversations: A discourse-based approach	HKU

Service

Alumni

Sinalumni (alumni association of Sinology students) 2015-ongoing
management of membership database and coordinating KU Leuven Connect

Reviewing for journals

Canadian Journal of Linguistics / Revue canadienne de linguistique

Cognitive Linguistics

East Asian Journal of Popular Culture

Frontiers

Glossa

Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition

Handbook of Cognitive Semantics

Language and Cognition

Language Sciences

Linguistics Vanguard

Mapping China Journal

PLoS

Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

Review of Cognitive Linguistics

Reviewing for conferences

SLE 56 (Societas Linguistica Europaea) 2023: papers on Mandarin

Conference organisation

ICPEAL 17 - CLDC 9

2018

International Conference for the Processing of East Asian Languages and Conference on Language, Discourse, and Cognition <http://homepage.ntu.edu.tw/~gilntu/icpeal2018cldc/>

Role: coordinator of the student committee responsible for organizing the joint conference

Consultancies

Premodern Japanese grammar for Sterk, Darryl. 2020. *Indigenous cultural translation: A thick description of Seediq Bale*. New York: Routledge.

Membership

International Cognitive Linguistics Association

Researching and Applying Metaphors

Linguistics Society of Taiwan

European Association of Chinese Studies

Previous employment

Research and Teaching Assistant, National Taiwan University

2019-2020

Contemporary online language variation: A case study of Internet public opinion analysis, research assistant, PI Chiarung Lu (MOST 108-2410-H-002-059)

Research Assistant, National Taiwan Normal University

2019-2020

Assisting in Formosa-related newspaper project, PI Ann Heylen

Research and Teaching Assistant, National Taiwan University

2016-2019

Assisting in courses and research, for Chiarung Lu

Teaching Assistant, English summer camp at Wesley Girls' High School (Taipei), organized by the Language Training & Testing Center at National Taiwan University

2018

Research Assistant for the Formosan Spoken Corpus, National Taiwan University

2017-2018

Transcribing Isbukun Bunun, PI Li-May Sung

Dutch translator of Chinese short stories, babel101.com

2014-2016

Freelance Chinese-Dutch translator and interpreter, Judicial Court of Leuven

2014-2016

Assistant, East-Asian Library (University of Leuven)

2014-2015

Freelance translator Dutch-Chinese, Expat Insurances

2012-2013

Languages

Active: Dutch, English, Chinese, French

Passive: Japanese, German, Premodern Chinese

Basic knowledge: Isbukun Bunun (Austronesian)

Technological knowledge

Moodle

Microsoft office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access) and open source variants

L^AT_EX (typesetting)

Database construction and management

Application deployment with Shiny

R, Python (statistical research)

Psychopy3 and Pavlovia

Experimental design and corpus research

Regression analysis, cluster analysis, principal components analysis, dendrograms

Other awards and certificates

Intermediate level, Isbukun Bunun Proficiency Test	2018
1st place at Hackathon Taiwanese Linguistics Olympiad	2017
HSK 6 (Chinese Proficiency Test, level 6)	2013
HSK 5 (Chinese Proficiency Test, level 5)	2013
3rd place, Chinese calligraphy competition with hard pen for Belgian university students	2011
HSK 3 (Chinese Proficiency Test, level 3)	2010
Finalist, HUB (Brussels) Language Competition, French	2009
Finalist, Olyfran (French language competition)	2007