

Lexiques | Lexicons | Lexik

International conference organized by the members
of the “Lexique” research axis at ATILF

Appel à contributions / Call for Papers / Beitragsaufruf

“Lexiques – Lexicons – Lexik”

December 16-18, 2026

Place: ATILF Research Unit (Université de Lorraine & CNRS)
NANCY (France)
IMBS Conference Room

The axis “Lexique” at the research unit “Analyse et Traitement Automatique de la Langue Française” (ATILF - CNRS/UL - UMR 7118) is organizing an international conference on the topic of *lexicons* from **December 16 to 18, 2026** at the ATILF laboratory in Nancy (France).

The aim of this scientific event is to bring together junior and experienced researchers to discuss current research issues in a major field of linguistics, and one which is at the core of communication and human relations: the lexicons.

The theme of this conference is designed to include the widest possible range of research approaches in the different (sub)disciplines of linguistics, involving theoretical and empirical insights as well as methodological discussions in the field. For each of the conference’s subsections, we welcome a dialogue between diachronic and synchronic approaches, corpus and field studies, as well as analyses in monolingual and multilingual contexts. The proposed presentation should focus primarily, but not exclusively, on morphology, syntax, semantics and discourse analysis.

Proposals for presentations will therefore fit into one or more of the following subsections, which reflect the various research activities carried out at ATILF within its research groups.

Subsections of the conference

Terminology and specialized languages: Onomasiological and semasiological studies of specialty corpora enable us to reflect on the relationship between terms and concepts in a specific field (see the definition of terminology in ISO 1087-2019).

So, for instance, in the field of healthcare, the case of speech therapy, as both a theoretical and practical discipline, is particularly stimulating. On the one hand, the study of lexical errors produced by patients tells us about the internal construction of the lexicon. On the other hand, the diagnostic process mobilizes representations of language norms, terminologies and current classifications, which may vary according to language, time and country. The various attempts at harmonization also raise methodological questions, in terms of data collection and

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compilation, organization and analysis (with or without tools), as well as the dissemination and adoption of results.

We invite professionals and researchers to submit proposals on the following themes:

1. Diagnostic terms and standardization of professional vocabulary: methods for collecting and standardizing terminology (Bishop et al., 2017, Stringer et al., 2024), current models in clinical terminology and implications for practice.
2. Multilingual terminology: strategies for translating and adapting terms (especially diagnostic terms) to different languages and cultural contexts. Exploration of terminologies, contributions from language processing models (LLM) and artificial intelligence (AI), as well as the use of thesauri and ontologies such as SNOMED-CT (Leclercq de Lannoy et al., 2022).
3. Lexical analysis in clinical practice: methods and results of studies on the lexical achievements of child or adult patients (Vezzani & Costa, 2024; Brin-Henry & Namer, 2023), critical analysis of items used in assessment tests and reflection on the impact of norms in diagnostic processes (Da Silva et al., 2020)
4. Etymology of one or more terms – particularly, but not exclusively, within the domains of healthcare and medical science – in one or several languages.

The list is not exhaustive. Proposals in the field of health and paramedical research, and especially relating to speech therapy, would be most welcome.

Polysemy and Ambiguity: Polysemy can be defined as the existence of several signifieds for the same signifier and the copolysemic relationships that these signifieds maintain among themselves, as defined for example by Polguère (2016). Polysemy is a massive phenomenon in languages (Kleiber, 1999; Lehmann & Martin-Berthet, 2018). This massive character of the phenomenon is reflected in particular in the available lexical and lexicographical resources. In language interactions, however, opinions differ as to whether or not the phenomenon of induced ambiguity exists (Victorri & Fuchs, 1996; Kleiber, 2008). Although they are distinct, the two phenomena of polysemy and ambiguity intersect in corpora when lexical meaning is being analyzed. Faced with the two phenomena, referential and lexical approaches delimit a continuum within which research on lexical disambiguation in context is to be found, regardless of whether the task relies on human or automatic language processing.

Contributions to this subsection should address issues related to the following: polysemy descriptions, disambiguation experiments and methodologies.

Modeling the Lexicon: The notion of modeling the lexicon refers here to work aimed at (i) the construction of lexical models of all kinds – in particular, dictionaries (including etymological dictionaries, cf. Buchi 2016), lexical databases, lexical networks – and (ii) the use of these models in various applicative contexts – e.g., lexicological study, vocabulary teaching/learning, natural language processing, corpus annotation.

In view of the current state of research, we particularly welcome proposals towards an integration of various aspects of lexical knowledge within the same models, e.g.:

1. integration of the specialized lexicon into the lexicon of the general language,
2. integrated modeling of phraseology.

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Phraseology: Having long been considered a mere branch of lexicology, phraseology has undergone a considerable expansion in recent decades, particularly with the growing realization of the massive character of idiomaticity (Erman & Warren 2000). This realization leads to a broadened understanding of phraseology (Legallois & Tutin 2013) relativizing the notion of fixedness and integrating the study of linguistic objects in their syntactic, semantic and pragmatic dimensions (cf. e.g. Gautier, Modicom & Vinckel-Roisin 2018). Such an approach, whether monolingual or contrastive, to multiword units, collocations, colligations / phraseological patterns and idioms, benefits greatly from the technological evolution and tools of corpus and computational linguistics (Bubenhofer 2009 ; Corpas Pastor & Mitkov 2019), along with theoretical developments such as construction grammars, which are particularly well-suited to the treatment of phraseological units within the new – broadened – understanding of phraseology (Colson 2019; Kauffer & Keromnes 2022; Mellado Blanco, Mollica & Schafroth 2022). While the notion of lexicon remains central to phraseology as such, it may no longer be seen as a limit. It is therefore within the current, extended and renewed framework of phraseology (including specialized languages) that we are looking for proposals examining, among others, the notions mentioned above.

Natural Language Processing: Natural language processing (NLP) is currently seeing an unprecedented enthusiasm, with major advances in tasks such as machine translation or simply the automatic generation of texts in response to a precise query in natural language. This revolution comes from the development and exploitation of (generative) language models based on enormous volumes of text (cf. Devlin et al. 2019). Yet, despite these advances, there are still a number of grey areas, notably the question of what these models encode linguistically, despite the fact that a great deal of work has already been focused on this issue, for example at the level of lexical semantics (cf. Vulic et al. 2020, Lin et al. 2022). On the other hand, these new models are not yet widely used in linguistic research, despite their potential (cf. Koeva 2024, Periti & Montanelli 2024). Proposals for this subsection will be expected to bear primarily on the aspects mentioned above, particularly in connection with linguistic fields directly concerned with the study of the lexicon (etymology, lexicology, lexicography, phraseology, terminology).

Argumentation: The lexicon plays a crucial role in argumentation, since the choice of words has the capacity to influence the perception and reception of a given discourse. By using precise, appropriate vocabulary and making rhetorical and logical relationships explicit, for example through connectives, speakers can reinforce the acceptability of their argument. They structure their discourse, orienting it in favor of or against a position and/or arousing emotions in their audience.

This section aims to explore the **interactions between lexis and argumentative mechanisms** in various linguistic contexts. We invite proposals for communications that examine, among other things, either synchronically or diachronically:

1. how lexical choices influence the construction and perception of arguments,
2. the role of lexical fields in persuasive argumentation.

Contributions may address theoretical, descriptive or applied considerations, and may draw on discourse analysis, case studies, corpora or experimental approaches.

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Plenary speakers

Hans C. Boas, University of Texas, Austin

Gaëtane Dostie, Université de Sherbrooke

Sören Stumpf, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Conference languages

Organized in Lorraine, a region counting three borders with neighboring countries, the “Lexiques” Conference is set in a multilingual context. The conference languages are German, English and French. For oral contributions, we recommend that a handout or a powerpoint presentation in a language other than the language of the presentation be provided.

Submission procedures

Proposals may be submitted for oral or poster presentations. The choice must be clearly stated on the abstract to be submitted. The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2025, with feedback from members of the scientific committee due by October 30, 2025.

Abstracts should be sent electronically as .doc or .docx files to the following address: lexiques@sciencesconf.org

Submissions should include: a title, an abstract (max. 1000 words), a list of keywords (max. 5) and bibliographical references. Abstracts should be completely anonymous and formulated in such a way as not to reveal the identity of the authors.

All submissions will undergo double-blind evaluation by an international scientific committee comprised of specialists from the relevant fields.

Important dates

- **February 2025**: call for papers
- **August 31, 2025** (deadline): proposals for oral communications or posters
- **October 30, 2025**: feedback for each proposed contribution
- **November 30, 2025**: provisional program
- **May 2026**: conference registration

Conference website: <https://lexiques.sciencesconf.org>

Following the conference, a publication in the form of a book bringing together a selection of oral or poster papers, after double-blind expertise, is planned.

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Scientific organization committee:

The international conference “Lexicons” is the result of collaboration between the following research groups (GR) within ATILF’s “Lexique” axis under the supervision of Yvon Keromnes and Hélène Vinckel-Roisin:

GR Roman Etymological Dictionary – Eva Buchi

GR Theoretical, descriptive and applied lexicology of lexical networks – Alain Polguère, Veronika Lux-Pogodalla

GR Polysemy and lexical ambiguity – Evelyne Jacquey, Sandrine Ollinger

GR Pragmatics, Contrastive Linguistics, Corpus – Yvon Keromnes, Hélène Vinckel-Roisin, Akerke Yessenali

GR Terminology and Speech Therapy – Frédérique Brin-Henry

GR Automatic language processing – Mathieu Constant

GR Discourse markers – Mathilde Dargnat, Maeva Sillaire and Paola Herreno-Castaneda

Scientific Committee

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Vincent Balnat, Université de Strasbourg (France)

Lucie Barque, Université Paris 13 (France)

Maria-Reina Bastardas i Rufat, Université de Barcelone (Spain)

Xavier Blanco, Université autonome de Barcelone (Spain)

Noah Bubenhofer, Université de Zurich (Switzerland)

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Jean-Pierre Colson, Université de Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)

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Rute Costa, Université nouvelle de Lisbonne (Portugal)

Francesco Crifò, Université de Salerne (Italy)

Patrick Dendale, Université d’Anvers (Belgium)

Dmitrij Dobrovol’skij, Université de Moscou (Russia)

Ludwig Fesenmeier, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)

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Paolo Frassi, Université de Vérone (Italy)

Yan Greub, Université de Genève (Switzerland)

Richard Huyghe, Université de Fribourg (Switzerland)

Jacques Jayez, ENS de Lyon (France)

Annette Klosa-Kückelhaus, Leibniz-Institut für Deutsche Sprache (Germany)

Marie-Claude L’Homme, Université de Montréal (Canada)

Fabio Mollica, Université de Milan (Italy)

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