

A SLEW OF ACTIVITIES TO EXPLORE QUANTITY APPROXIMATION IN DUTCH, ENGLISH AND FRENCH

INTRODUCING THE APPROXI_FEN (FRANÇAIS, ENGLISH, NEDERLANDS) PROJECT

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Une petite dizaine d'indicateurs seront finalement publiés.

*The company's share price closed at 5.3p on Friday, valuing Johnston at **less than** £33m.*

Quantity = one of the basic notions of human existence
Quantity approximation

- key part of vague language (Channell 1994)
- key pragmatic functions (McCarthy & Carter 2004)

*I have another **20-odd** years to work before I retire.*

*In totaal zou er **80 tot 100 miljard** ton te winnen zijn.*

*Tot dusver realiseerde Trevi **een tweehonderdtal** waterzuiveringsinstallaties.*

*Asphyxiée par une dette **dépassant le milliard** de dollars, l'entreprise dut composer avec des partenaires privés.*

APPROXI_FEN = a Moodle self-study course around quantity approximation

- in Dutch, English, French: three languages frequently used in the workplace in Belgium
- large variety of activities
- contextualized use of quantity approximators
- focus on each language **AND** contrastive perspective

Vague language = crucial for (business) language students (Koester 2007)
BUT
Very **little treatment** of quantity approximation in reference tools and language textbooks (De Cock & Goossens 2012)

Findings from Goossens (2014)

- corpus-driven comparative study of quantity approximation
- comparable and translation corpora of (business) news reporting
- Dutch, English, French

- wide range of devices expressing quantity approximation
- preferred ways of expressing quantity approximation in each language
- translation equivalents
- typical collocational patterns
- pragmatic functions

WHAT AND WHY?

BASED ON?

AIMS?

WHO FOR?

To help students

- become **aware** of the phenomenon of quantity approximation
- **decode** and **interpret** expressions of quantity approximation in Dutch, English and French
- **extend their linguistic repertoire** of linguistic devices expressing quantity approximation
- **explore translation equivalents**, e.g.

Students from a range of language and/or business oriented programmes, e.g.

- modern languages
- translation studies
- multilingual business communication
- MBA
- economics
- international relations ...

*De lekkernij wordt helemaal met de hand gemaakt en de behendigheid van de makers is verbazingwekkend. Eén persoon maakt per dag **zo'n 60** kilogram Manonpralines.
→ Cette délicatesse entièrement préparée à la main démontre l'extraordinaire savoir-faire des chocolatiers qui peuvent fabriquer **jusqu'à 60** kilos de Manons par jour.*

*Pour cela, il faut souvent emprunter l'argent à la banque : dans cette région pauvre, où le taux de chômage **dépasse les 20 %**, rares sont ceux qui disposent d'une telle somme.
→ This is a poor region with an unemployment rate **in excess of 20%**, and people do not generally have that kind of money, so would-be employees often have to take out bank loans.*

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