

Abstract

German and Dutch, both Germanic languages, make use of two different verbs to express the sole French verb FAIRE: TUN/MACHEN and DOEN/MAKEN.

However, the formal similarity between TUN/DOEN and MACHEN/MAKEN hides several syntactic and semantic differences.

The challenge for language students and teachers consists in getting to understand (or teaching) when one or the other needs to be used. Moreover, many false friends need to be distinguished in context.

There is not much research on the subject so far and theory does not seem sufficient to justify or explain the use of one or the other verb in German or in Dutch language. The present thesis aims to broaden the existing knowledge and to bring out some new rules.

First, a summary of the available theoretical sources is given (VALBU, Van Dale, etc.). Then, the use of both verbs in German TUN/MACHEN and Dutch DOEN/MAKEN is described in detail by means of a usage-based study. To this end, three distinct but complementary methods are used: an analysis of two self-compiled corpora based on the German *Spiegel* and the Dutch *Knack* magazines, an investigation of two corpora available on the *Sketch Engine* and, at last, an experimental algorithm able to extract co-occurrences.

Collocations in the broadest sense of the word are looked into: verb associations with nouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, etc. However, particle verbs and idiomatic expressions are not included in the present analysis.

Finally, the conclusions confirmed by at least two of the three above cited methods are summarized in a comprehensive list.

I hope that this thesis will constitute an additional helpful tool for teachers, learners and researchers.