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Digital thesauri as semantic treasure troves: a Linguistic Linked Data approach to "A Thesaurus of Old English"

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Digital Thesauri as Semantic Treasure Troves



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Digital Thesauri as Semantic Treasure Troves

A LINGUISTIC LINKED DATA APPROACH TO
A THESAURUS OF OLD ENGLISH

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van

de graad van doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,

op gezag van rector magnificus prof. dr. ir. H. Bijl,

volgens besluit van het college voor promoties

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klokke 10.00 uur

door

Sander Sebastiaan Stolk

geboren te Beverwijk

in 1985

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Dr. M. Cole (Utrecht University)

Preface

After six years of working as an external PhD researcher, two days a week, I finished the dissertation in front of you. Doing research next to a demanding job has by no means been an easy feat, not to mention the number of academic activities I engaged in beyond those strictly necessary for the dissertation. Looking back, I do not recommend others to employ a similar strategy and increase the workload so, however fulfilling the additions may be. Even so, I am thankful for the opportunities each activity presented me and, first and foremost, the strong professional and personal connections that resulted from them (to which this preface testifies).

I would like to express my gratitude to my supervisors Rolf Bremmer, Thijs Porck, and Piek Vossen for their insights and suggestions. Thijs, I hold dear your support, especially. We have co-organized two workshops and co-edited a special issue journal. Your words and encouragements helped me progress and ensured I celebrated key milestones. I would also like to thank the team behind *A Thesaurus of Old English* wholeheartedly; Jane Roberts, Marc Alexander, and Fraser Dallachy in particular. You were kind enough to allow me to use this treasure trove in my research and inspired me to explore its potential applications — an exploration for which I am greatly indebted to participants in the research programme Exploring Early Medieval English Eloquence. Your case studies, suggestions, and feedback have been of utmost importance in developing the resources at the heart of this thesis.

Further communities enriched my academic life: the W3C OntoLex Community Group, closely collaborating on standardizing Linguistic Linked Data; the Leiden University Centre for the Arts in Society (LUCAS), at which I performed my research and which granted me a fund to finish this dissertation; the Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities (LUCDH), which offered advice and supported me through small grants; and the Digital Humanities Student Network (DH/SN), in which I found myself amidst peers with a shared passion. Thank you for welcoming me as part of your respective communities.

Additionally, I would like to thank my colleagues at Semmtech, my bouldering buddies, my friends and family for your support and, most of all, your company. Lastly, I would like to thank my girlfriend-turned-fiancée-turned-wife, Fenja Schulz. Our journey together has been one of kindness, understanding, and growth. May we continue celebrating what we have and what we achieve, both together and as individuals.

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