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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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PROPOSITIONS

Digital Thesauri as Semantic Treasure Troves

A Linguistic Linked Data Approach to *A Thesaurus of Old English*

1. Previous investigations into Old English language and culture have by no means exhausted existing historical language thesauri.

2. Linguistic Linked Data as a digital form is ideally suited for sharing historical language thesauri (and other topical thesauri) for research purposes.

3. The abilities to reuse and elaborate on thesaurus content and to subsequently perform onomasiological analyses on the newly available, combined knowledge constitute the most notable novel pieces of functionality desired for research that are currently lacking in the majority of the published historical language thesauri of Scots and of English.

4. Old Frisian and Old English are closely related historical languages, yet notable differences between them exist in the semantic domain of KINSHIP.

5. The larger the onomasiological structure of a thesaurus, the more difficult it will be to use this structure for navigating, but the more useful it will be for analysis of semantic domains.

6. For scholars in the Humanities to fully embrace working with Linguistic Linked Data, further software development is required that is aimed at them rather than at data scientists.

7. In the Old English epic *Beowulf*, Æschere's severed head serves as a boundary marker.

8. Researchers should be required to make their datasets and source code publicly available, under an open license, when used in a publication.

9. Digital humanists can contribute more effectively to academia by supporting scholars in the Humanities than by demarcating Digital Humanities as its own unified academic field.

10. *"The man is not wholly evil: he has a Thesaurus in his cabin"*
    — the play *Peter Pan or the Boy who Would Not Grow Up* (1928) on Captain Hook
    Based on his actions, Captain Hook must be considered wholly evil and, as such, any accounts of him owning a thesaurus must be mistaken or attributed to the imaginations of an unreliable narrator.

11. *"Bûter, brea en griene tsiis, wa't dat net sizze kin, is gjin oprjochte Fries."*
    The coinage of this shibboleth by and the practices attributed to Grutte Pier, the sixteenth-century Frisian warrior, position him as a proscriptive linguist of a rather extreme variety.

These propositions are regarded as opposable and defendable, and have been approved as such by the promotor prof. dr. R. H. Bremmer Jr.