

WORKSHOP: Gabmap tutorial: Introduction to dialectometric analysis

Organisers

THERESE LEINONEN
University of Turku

WILBERT HEERINGA
Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg

This workshop offers a tutorial on the Gabmap web application (www.gabmap.nl) that may be used to draw maps and visualize dialect variation. Gabmap is a graphical user interface that makes dialectometric methods available as a web application. It is user-friendly and easily accessible and therefore enables experimentation with the techniques among linguists from various fields, especially dialectology and variationist linguistics. The growing amount of digitally available corpora of dialect data calls for computational methods that can automatically detect distributional patterns in the data sets. Dialectometry offers these kinds of methods, which can find relationships in data sets which are too large and complex for manual analysis. Dialectometric analysis usually involves two steps of data analysis: 1) measurement of linguistic distances (e.g. across sites or speaker groups) and 2) statistical analysis and mapping of the linguistic distances. Gabmap includes methods for measuring linguistic distances based on phonetic transcriptions, numeric dialect data (e.g. formant frequencies), and categorical data (e.g. syntactic or morphological variables). The linguistic distances can be mapped by means of multidimensional scaling in order to visualize dialect continua, or by means of cluster analysis in order to visualize dialect groups. The workshop will be built up as follows: - Introduction to dialectometry - Data entry: uploading dialect data and creating maps - Measuring linguistic distances - Graphical presentations of linguistic distances: dialect maps - Statistical analyses: multidimensional scaling and cluster analysis The duration of the workshop is 5 hours. We encourage participants to send in their own dialect data prior to the conference so that the workshop can be tailored according to the specific needs of the participants. Participants can use their own laptop computers during the workshop. Eduroam network is available at the campus area.