

On Friday November 27, 2026 the annual Taal & Tongval Colloquium wil take place at the KANTL in Ghent.

This year's theme is ***Language Variation and AI***.

The Colloquium will be organized by the KANTL (Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse Taal en Letteren), the Dutch Language Institute (Leiden), Ghent University, and the University of Antwerp.

There will be three keynote lectures, by:

- Dong Nguyen – Utrecht University
- Yanzhu Guo – Télécom Paris, Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- Hugo van Hamme – KU Leuven

Call for papers: ***Language Variation and AI***

Like any domain of inquiry, the field of language research is going through a dramatic transformation thanks (or due!) to the rise of Large Language Models (LLMs). New questions and problems arise, and old questions can be investigated in new ways. What will be the consequences of the massive use of LLMs for language variation?

Some examples of research questions are: How do LLMs affect the position in the digital world of the languages, dialects, sociolects, regiolects, ethnolects, etc. which were hardly or not in the training data? What are the consequences of the use of LLMs for language diversity? What is the effect of using a non-standard language in a prompt for image generation? How can we make automatic speech recognition more inclusive, such that it correctly transcribes all varieties of a language? How can we use LLMs in theoretical linguistic, sociolinguistic and dialectological research? What are the benchmarks that we need for the evaluation of the output of LLMs?

In applied linguistics, questions also arise concerning LLMs and language variation. How do LLMs handle variation within and across text genres and specialised languages? How do they treat terminological variants? How can we use LLMs for the purpose of plain and easy language? Can we use AI to effectively measure competence variation in language education, as well as for automatic feedback in L2 learning?

We would like to invite papers on these and other questions that involve the relation between LLMs and variation in human language.

Abstracts (max. 400 words; English or Dutch) for a 30 minute talk (20 minutes + 10 minutes discussion) can be submitted to [taalentongval2026@ivdnt.org](mailto:taalentongval2026@ivdnt.org). Deadline for submission: April 15, 2026. The results of abstract selection will be communicated by May 15, 2026. The authors of the selected presentations will be invited to submit their papers to a special thematic issue of the journal Taal & Tongval that will appear in the year after the Colloquium.