



Uniting linguists, literary and translation scholars, the Institute of Language, Text and Transmediality at UNamur constitutes a platform for diachronic and synchronic interdisciplinary research into the manifold ways in which different types of (written, spoken and multimodal) communicative practices manifest themselves in, give shape to, are regulated by and reflect culture and society.

Research within NaLTT covers the following domains:

1. Language practices, language policy and planning in linguistically diverse settings

Objectives: analysis of written, oral, signed and multimodal language practices in different (formal as well as more informal) settings of language use and of the complex interaction of multiple layers of society in the co-construction of language policy and planning frameworks aimed at regulating or changing the dynamics of existing language use practices.

2. Structural and discursive properties of linguistic constructions and language varieties

Objectives: the in-depth, usage-based analysis of morphological, semantic, syntactic and discursive properties of linguistic constructions and language varieties from the perspective of functional, cognitive and sociolinguistics.

3. Multilingualism and language acquisition

Objectives: analysis of past and present models of (signed and/or spoken) multilingual education in Belgium (especially in the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles) with a special focus on the linguistic, socio-affective and educational aspects of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) and of their role in L2 acquisition processes.

4. Translation and heterolingualism as language contact and intercultural transfer

Objectives: the theoretical and empirically based study of translation as a fundamental mechanism of language contact and intercultural communication. The focus is not on teaching/defining 'how to translate' in practical terms but on studying the historical realities of translation with a special focus on the role it plays in the development of languages, literatures, cultures, and (multilingual) societies.

5. Literature, society and transmediality

Objectives: analysis of how literature interacts with its social contexts, either in an attempt to represent social trends in a 'descriptive' or 'realistic' manner, or in a more 'politically' engaged mode, with writers giving critical comments on society or even using their work to serve an openly reformist agenda. Given this focus on the social embedding of literature, and taking into account the pervasiveness of ideological formations, this analysis does not restrict itself to individual texts in the traditional print medium, but explicitly addresses the intertextual and transmedial circulation of texts and discourses as well as the way in which a 'society of letters' functions.

6. Literary practices and concepts across space and time

Objectives: the study of literary practices (discourses, genres, themes, techniques), broadly understood to also include more 'popular' and multimedial genres from an inclusive comparative perspective. This study can take a more specifically historical orientation, or it can give special attention to issues of methodology (including philology and text edition) and conceptualisation (terminology, concepts, theories).

Strong points

Within the field of linguistics NaLLT is home to experts on language attitudes, language contact and conflict, (multilingual and multimodal) policy and planning, reported speech and viewpoint, and multimodality. A major distinctive focus within NaLLT is on the corpus-based linguistic study of sign languages and sign language interpreting.

Within the field of literature NaLLT is home to experts on literary biographies, literary theory, medieval literature, missionary literature, text edition, the sociology of literature and translation theory.

Within each of its research domains, NaLLT allows for intra- and interdisciplinary synergies between researchers belonging to the following entities:

- the department of French and Romance languages and literatures
- the department of Germanic languages and literatures
- the language institute (École des Langues Vivantes)
- the French Belgian Sign Language Laboratory (LSFB-Lab)
- the research group on multilingualism (Pluri-LL).

NaLLT offers PhD students a stimulating and supportive research environment, encouraging collaborations between junior and senior researchers and promoting (further) research training.

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