

# A Deeper Understanding of Distributional Semantic Models

## Pre-course Assignment

**Please submit by: Friday 11 January 2019. 10:00 (am).**

Email your essays attached as pdf file with your name in the document title to: [antske.fokkens@vu.nl](mailto:antske.fokkens@vu.nl)

Read the following article:

Lenci, Alessandro. 2008. Distributional semantics in linguistic and cognitive research. Italian journal of linguistics. <http://www.italian-journal-linguistics.com/wp-content/uploads/ALenci.pdf>

Based on this article, write a short essay (approximately 1-4 pages) addressing the following questions:

1. To what extent do you support the weak or the strong distributional assumption?
2. Based on what you know about language and communication, what aspects of meaning do you expect that distributional semantics models capture and what do you expect them to miss? (Given that these models define word meaning based on the word's occurrence in text).

Please contact me at the email address indicated above if you have any questions or problems accessing the reading material.

Additional (optional) material:

Jurafsky, Dan and James Martin. Speech and Language Processing 3rd edition. Chapter 6. <https://web.stanford.edu/~jurafsky/slp3/>

Note 1: make sure to get the third edition (chapter numbers change).

Note 2: This will also be explained in class.