

My participation in the De Grote Taaldag 2016 conference in Utrecht, the Netherlands

I attended the De Grote Taaldag conference in Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands on 6th February 2016 to present a paper entitled “Stress in N + N combinations in Arabic”. This paper is part of my thesis and it was a good idea to present it at an international conference in order to: (1) disseminate my research; (2) receive some feedback from fellow linguists, which can help me improve my thesis; and (3) prepare myself to defend my thesis in the viva. Furthermore, attending this conference has helped me meet other linguists with whom I share research interests. Talking to them and expanding my research network boosted my self-confidence and encouraged me to share ideas with fellow linguists outside my local community.

Attending this conference was not only about my work, it was also a chance to attend other oral presentations, learn new things and ask questions. Leaving the academic experience aside, visiting another European country was a great chance to meet new people, know about their culture and learn some new words in Dutch. On the trip from Utrecht to Amsterdam, I talked to a Dutch lady about my presentation and its contribution to the body of knowledge, she seemed very interested in my work and asked me some questions about language evolution. We also talked about places I should visit in Amsterdam and how to say goodbye in Dutch.

For all these wonderful moments, I would like to thank CriLLS at Newcastle University for covering my trip expenses. All in all, this has been has a great experience and a trip I will never forget.

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