

Moving Towards a Functional Approach in the Flemish Sign Language (VGT) Dictionary Making Process

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1990

Research into VGT starts

Previous dictionary

Methodology

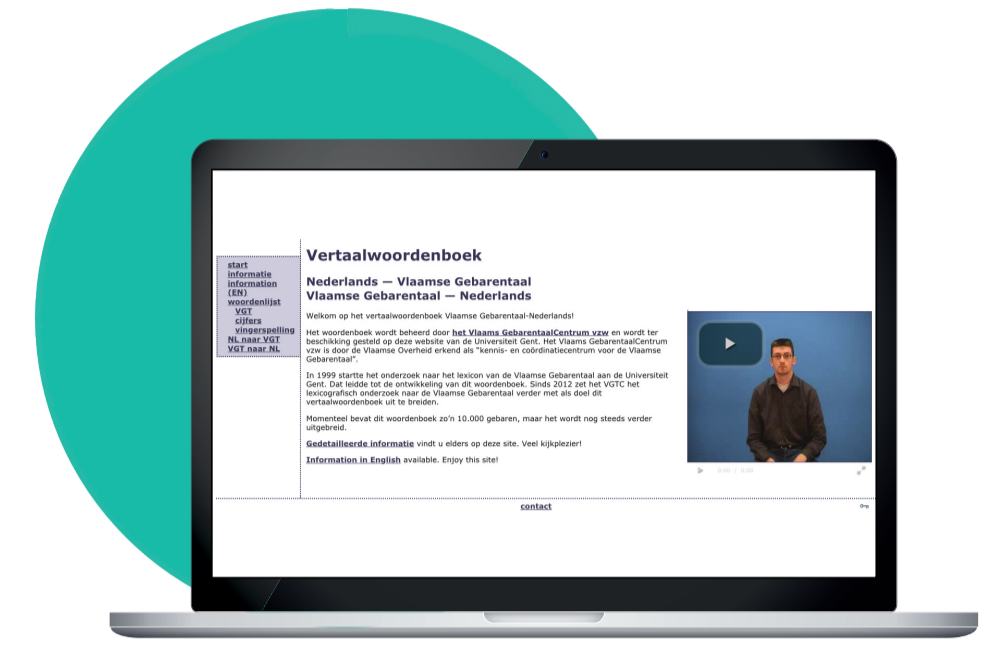
- Community sourcing
- Signer's intuition

Macro-level (dictionary)

- Translation dictionary
- Bi-directional search option
- Frozen lexicon & name signs

Micro-level (lemma)

- Video and SignWriting
- Possible translation
- Regional variation



2004

Launch previous dictionary

Renewal dictionary

Renewing the dictionary was desirable

- 1 - needs and wants of users were no longer met
- 2 - technological advances expanded the possibilities

The **goal** was to create a practical, user-friendly reference tool that meets the needs, expectations and skills of the dictionary users

User research to understand **who** the users are and **what** their wants and needs are:

- User research by Joni Oyserman
- Quantitative data from Google Analytics
- User profiles created by our team

Two factors indicated which innovations and changes were desired, needed, and possible:

Signbank is an electronic lexical database specifically suited for signed languages, in use at VGTC since 2017

VGT Signbank currently contains about 20.000 entries, 10.000 of which are published in the dictionary

User research results

- VGT to Dutch search is important but hardly used
- More new visitors than recurring visitors
- Users want to search thematically
- Users consult on mobile often

Data cleaning and modelling

After collecting the data from different sources, a lot of manual revision was needed

- Typo's
- Duplicate signs
- Inconsistent or confusing glosses
- Phonological annotation
- Allocation of semantic field
- ...

Innovations

- Formally renewed (lay-out, structure)
- Renewal of video recordings
- Search function VGT - Dutch no longer based on SignWriting
- Addition of the semantic labels
- Feedback function
- Responsive website

2012

Dictionary managed by us

2018

Renewal dictionary

2019

Launch current dictionary

Current dictionary

Methodology

- Community sourcing
- Corpus
- Signer's intuition

Macro-level (dictionary)

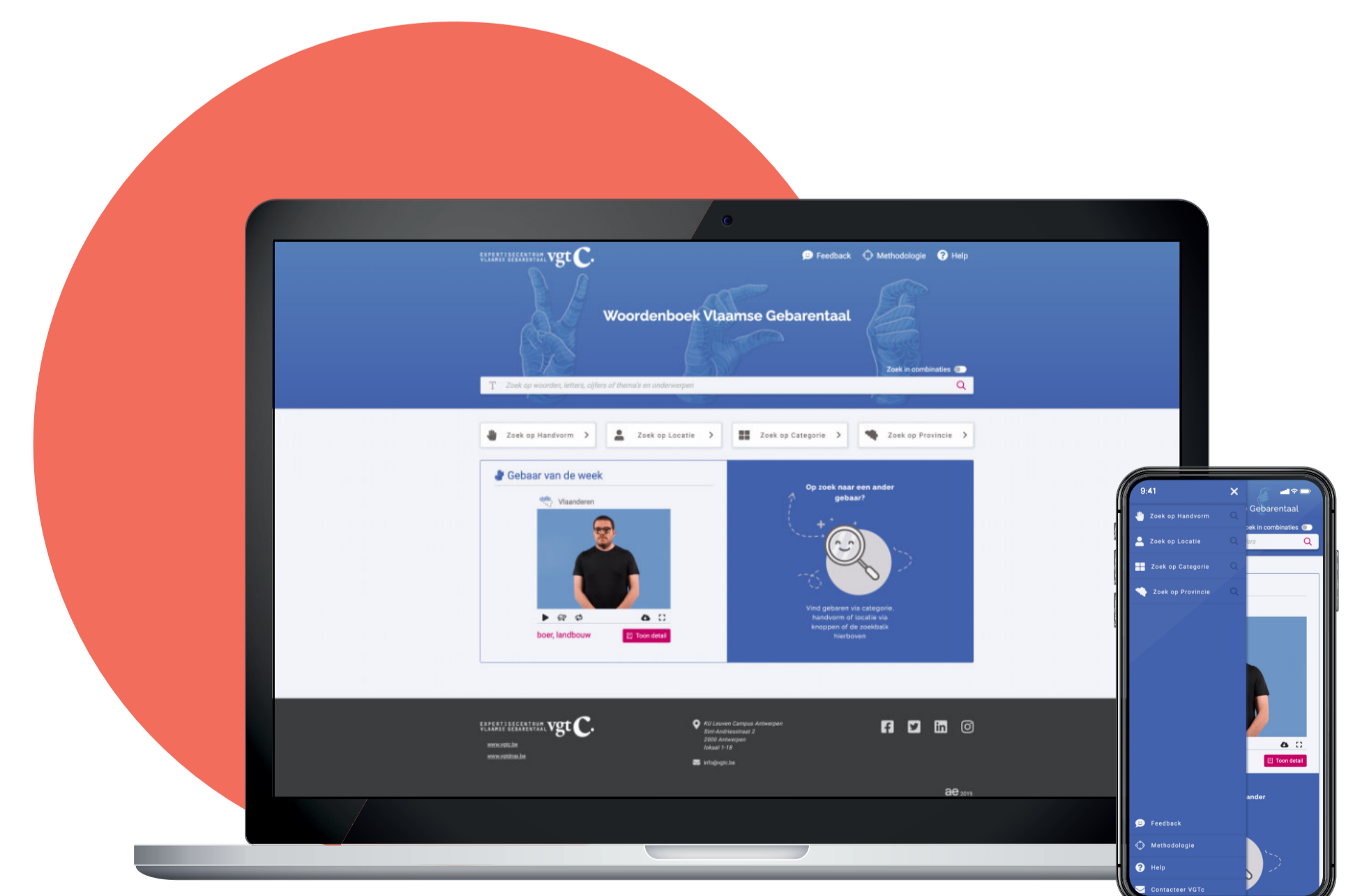
- Explanatory dictionary
- Bi-directional search option
- Thematic search option
- Regional search option
- Frozen lexicon and name signs

Micro-level (lemma)

- Video
- Possible translations
- Phonetic information
- Semantic information
- Regional variation

Future goals

- Definitions
- Example sentences
- Etymological information
- Usage information



Sources

A full list of sources is available upon request

More information?

Feel free to contact us at info@vgtc.be