

Hello

My name is Hinde De Metsenaere and I have been working as a PhD-assistant at Ghent University College for one year now. I must say that I was very surprised when I was asked to say a few words about how I, as a young researcher, have experienced this conference.

As I was preparing this small presentation, I decided to say to you what I will say to my friends when I come home and they ask me how the conference was. I will probably answer: it was big, it was interesting, and it was fun.

That it would be big I knew in advance because my colleagues had told me, but it was only when I wanted to book a hotel in Germersheim that I realized just how big it would be. As you all know, the hotels in Germersheim were completely full and I needed to find something in Speyer.

But I would not only call the conference big because so many people were here, also because so much research was presented... in more presentations, posters and panels than one person can possibly attend in four days. Which was a pity, in a way, because I am convinced that all the panels I could not attend were very interesting too, especially for a young researcher like me, who is still orienting herself in the world of translation studies. But I had to choose and I stayed mainly in "my own" panel of the corpus-based translation studies, a panel that was so big that it was almost a conference on its own.

But I will not only tell my friends about how big the conference was, I will also stress how interesting it was for me. I saw many interesting researchers, many interesting presentations, read many interesting posters. In fact, the poster sessions were for me personally the most interesting part of the conference because I was here with a poster myself (the one on the translation of German nominal compounds into Dutch, maybe you have seen it). I got much feedback and met people who are willing to help me with my future research, which is more than I had hoped for when I stepped on the train to Germersheim.

But most of all, this conference was fun. And then I am not only talking about the wonderful reception with food, wine, music and a beautiful setting. I am not only talking about the conference dinner yesterday, with even more food, more wine, more laughter and a more beautiful setting. No, I am talking about being together with people who have the same interests, about discussing our findings and our results, but also our questions and our problems, because that is, I think, what research is all about.

I enjoyed meeting old friends, making new friends, getting to know my colleagues even better than when we are in Ghent, working at our desks and not drinking wine...

So I want to thank the organisers for these fantastic four days, but I also want to thank everyone else. I want to thank you for making and shaping this conference. It is not only what you do, but also who you are that turned these four days into a wonderful experience for this young researcher here.

I am already looking forward to the next EST-conference. Thank you.