USE CASE:
Searching for strong verbs in the historical CourantenCorpus

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Language change in ablaut verb class III, e.g. _zingen_ ‘to sing’:

- Middle Dutch, three part ABC-paradigm:
  - _zing(en)_ ‘sing’ – _zang_ (sg.), _zongen_ (pl.) ‘sang’ – _gezongen_ ‘sung’
- Standard Dutch, ABB-paradigm
  - _zing(en)_ ‘sing’ – _zong(en)_ ‘sang’ – _gezongen_ ‘sung’

\[ \text{preterite singular } <\text{a}> \text{ and plural } <\text{o}> \rightarrow \text{ same for both } <\text{o}> \]

De Smet (2021): this change solidified in the 17th century.

→ Could standardization (norm) have played a part in this change (usage)?
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→ Mapping out all stances on these verbs encountered in grammars on Standard Dutch from the 17th century (cf. Anderwald, 2011; 2012 on 19th century English)

→ Analysing actual usage of these verbs in 17th century newspapers (in addition to letters & literary works in De Smet, 2021)

To provide insight into:
1) to what extent normative grammars described and followed contemporary language use
2) to what extent the norms in these grammars affected language use in newspapers

+ Use Case for CourantenCorpus (CLARIAH tools)
CourantenCorpus (Dutch Language Institute):

- Newspapers 1618-1700
- Ca. 19 million words
- Manually transcribed by volunteers
- Automatically tagged & lemmatised (alpha version)

Method:

- Corpus search (Blacklab) for all possible verb forms of 41 class III strong verbs, incl. spelling variation & clitics

https://couranten.ivdnt.org
Focus: second study & its use of the corpus and tools, addressing questions such as:

• Were the search possibilities sufficient to find the relevant data?
• What was the impact of the inaccuracies of automatic linguistic annotation?
• To what extent can we still draw valid conclusions from noisy material?
• What can be done to circumvent these issues?

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