**Offre de thèse avec contrat doctoral. Université de Caen Normandie**

***PLANTSEM – Plant sentience in language and discourse: The case of Finnish semi-lexical verbs***

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| **Job information** |  |  |
|  | Organisation / Entreprise | Université de Caen Normandie |
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|  | Research Field | Humanities and social sciences |
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|  | Researcher Profile | First Stage Researcher (R1) |
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|  | Country | France |
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|  | Application Deadline | 22/05/2025 |
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|  | Type of Contract | Temporary (3 years), from october 2025 |
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|  | Job Status | Full time |
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|  | Is the Job funded through the UE Research Framework Programme ? | NO |
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|  | Is the Job related to staff position within a Research Infrastructure ? | NO |
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| **Offer description** |  |  |
|  | Doctoral project description  | The PLANTSEM project studies the linguistic conceptualization of plants in Finnish. The project focuses on expressions of capacity, particularly the semi-lexical verbs of tolerance, energy and prosperity (Flint 1980), which appear with a subject that refers to a plant entity: *kestää*, *sietää*, *kärsiä*, *tarjeta* ‘to bear, to tolerate’, *jaksaa* ‘to have the energy for’ and *viihtyä* ‘to like it somewhere, to prosper’. This approach makes it possible to observe the extent to which plants are described as sentient beings, i.e. capable of having sensory experiences, in different contexts. The analysis will focus on academic and journalistic data extracted from the *Kielipankki* ‘Language Bank’ database (https://www.kielipankki.fi/). After a detailed description of the semantic structure of the three types of semi-lexical verbs, the study will address the following questions: Does the conceptualization of plant sentience vary according to the lexical content of semi-lexical verbs as well as referential and discursive parameters? Does the semantic and discourse analysis of semi-lexical verbs with plant reference give us insight on human-plant relations?The lexical and grammatical representation of plants will be analyzed within the framework of cognitive semantics, in particular Leonard Talmy's (2000) theory of force dynamics. This will be used to describe the conceptual structure that the studied verbs share behind the variation generated by the lexical components. The discourse dimension will be studied from an ecolinguistic perspective, focusing on the role of language in the interactions between humans, other species and the environment (Steffensen 2024). PLANTSEM is part of the collaborative project “Living Semantics”, which brings together researchers from the universities of Caen and Turku, as well as a Caen-based visual artist. The scientific and artistic research conducted by the Living Semantics group addresses the perception and embodied construal of animacy in Finnish and French. *Animacy* refers here to the linguistic and cognitive representation of “being a living being”.The PLANTSEM project contributes to our knowledge on the semantics of capacity, one of the main sub-categories of dynamic modality. On an ecolinguistic level, it addresses the need to redefine the position of humans in relation to their environment, particularly the plant world.ReferencesFlint, A. 1980. *Semantic Structure in the Finnish Lexicon: Verbs of Possibility and Sufficiency*. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society.Steffensen, S. 2024. Surveying Ecolinguistics. *Journal of World Languages.*Talmy, L. 2000. *Toward a Cognitive Semantics*, Vol 1. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. |
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|  | Salary placement | 2100-2300 € / month |
| **Requirements** |  |  |
|  | Admission requirements | Holding a Master’s Degree |
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|  | Eligibility | Subject to the acceptance of the head of the institution, on the proposal of the ED director after consultation with the director of the research team and the thesis supervisor |
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| **Application** |  |  |
|  |  | A complete application must contain :1. A **personal letter** with a brief description of your research interests and motivation
2. A ***curriculum vitae*** (CV)
3. ***Certified copies of grades, diplomas, and documentation of completed academic courses***
4. Contact information for two references
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| **Work location** |  | Université de Caen (Normandy, France) |
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| **Where to apply** |  | Ed558.nh@unicaen.fr |
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| **Contact** | *Rea Peltola* | *rea.peltola@unicaen.fr* |