

## Computational Semantics and Pragmatics 2012

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### Homework #1a

Due: 7/11/2012, 10:00AM

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**Option A:** Attend one of the following talks:

- SMART Cognitive Science Lectures <http://smartcognitivescience.wordpress.com/>  
Afra Alishahi (Tilburg) *What computers tell us about human language: the case of learning words*
- Computational Linguistics Seminar <http://www.illc.uva.nl/LaCo/CLS/>  
Phong Le (PhD student at the ILLC): *Learning Compositional Semantics*

Write a report of the talk (min. 1 page, max. 2) that includes two parts (in one coherent text):

1. an objective summary of the contents of the talk that covers the most important points made by the speaker (broad research area, approach, main claims, results, etc.), in your own words but without including any kind of personal opinions;
2. a critical comment where you do expose and justify your opinion on the work presented. Did you find it interesting? Were the speaker's claims convincing? Was there anything you did not understand?...

**Option B:** If you were not able to attend any of the talks in option A, browse through the website of Afra Alishahi <http://ilk.uvt.nl/~aalishah/> and write a report (min. 1 page, max. 2) that addresses the following points (these are not questions you need to answer individually; just write one coherent text):

1. briefly describe her field of research in your own words;
2. looking at her list of publications, try to find two or three papers that are related to each of the main research directions she mentions in her research statement;
3. write a critical comment where you expose and justify your opinion on Afra Alishahi's area of research. Do you find this kind of work interesting or important? Why?...