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*Causal connectives in the German and Dutch languages:  
Contrastive-corpus linguistic investigations and language typological-methodological  
contributions to the research of  
backward causal connectives*

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KONTRASTIV-KORPUSLINGUISTISCHE UNTERSUCHUNGEN UND SPRACHTYPOLOGISCH-METHODOLOGISCHE  
ÜBERLEGUNGEN ZUM PROBLEM DER RÜCKWÄRTS KAUSALEN KONJUNKTIONEN)

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The subject of my dissertation is backward causal connectives, which I examine in two Western Germanic languages: German and Dutch. The aim of the dissertation is to explore and explain the semantic and pragmatic similarities and differences between the causal connectives of the two languages (*weil-denn-da* vs. *omdat-want-aangezien*).

For my analysis I use parallel corpuses: I examine the behaviour of conjunctions in a contemporary German and a contemporary Dutch literary work, and their respective Dutch and German translations. The results of the contrastive-corpus linguistic study allow us to establish the partial typology of the two languages mentioned, but can also be applied in various areas of foreign language education.

The dissertation consists of four major parts. Part I includes the Introduction (Chapter 1), a survey of the contrastive and corpus linguistic theoretical background considered most important from the perspective of the dissertation (Chapters 2 and 3) and the chapter addressing the issue of causality (Chapter 4). In Part II, German and Dutch causal connectives are described in detail, on the basis of various synchronic criteria (Chapters 5 and 6). Since the dissertation is a study not only of contrastive, but also of corpus linguistics, Chapter 7 is devoted to the actual corpus analysis. The summary of the findings of the research is in Chapter 8. Chapter 9 discusses the usability of the results of the dissertation in education (university language education). This second major part concludes with an overview of the possibilities of further research. This is followed by the Bibliography (Part III) and the Appendix (Part IV).