# Language Resources and Technology for the Humanities in Latvia 2004–2010

Inguna Skadiņa, Ilze Auziņa, Normunds Grūzītis, Kristīne Levāne-Petrova,

Gunta Nešpore, Raivis Skadiņš, Andrejs Vasiļjevs





### Background

- Language technologies in Latvia have a rather long history starting at the end of the 50s
- Overview of HLT in Latvia from 1988 till 2004 has been presented at two previous Baltic language technology events:
  - "Language and Technology in Europe 2000" in 1994
  - First Baltic conference on Human Language Technologies in 2004

#### State Language Policy

- The State language policy is defined in two major documents:
   "Guidelines of the State Language Policy for 2005-2014" and "The State Language Policy Programme for 2006-2010"
- Tasks related to language technology:
  - provide financial and administrative support to research in computational linguistics for the Latvian language;
  - organize and create a modern computer-aided Latvian language database and ensure its wide usage; the result of this task should be corpora of the Latvian written and spoken language, tools for corpora management and lexicography, standards and schemas for lexical and other data;
  - ensure development of Latvian terminology, creation of terminological databases and dictionaries, terminology harmonization and international cooperation in terminology development;
  - ensure education in computational linguistics in Latvian universities

# Latvian Council of Science and State Research Programmes

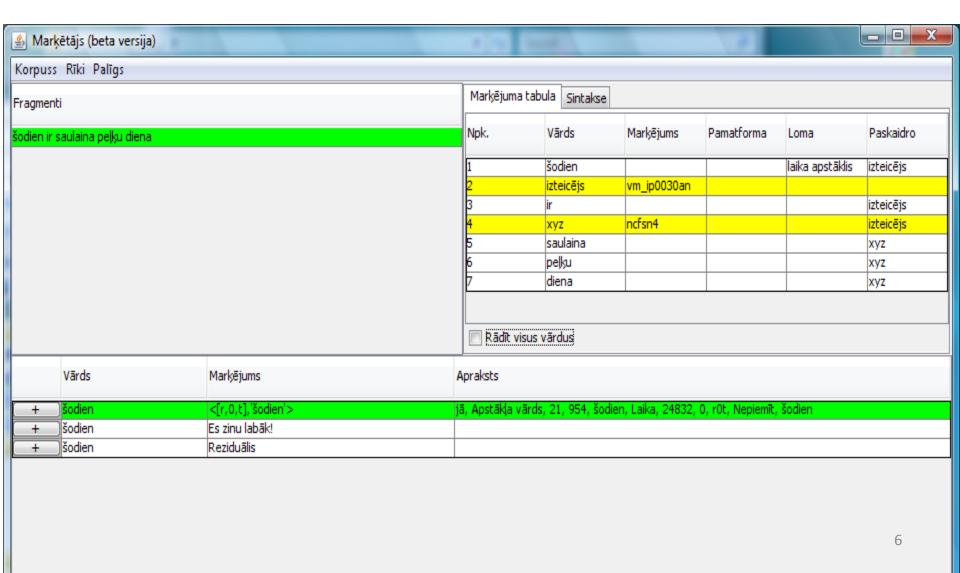
- Latvian Council of Science (LCS) is responsible for the advancement, evaluation, financing, and coordination of research in Latvia
- Significant funding from the LCS has been received between 2005-2009
- Two HLT related projects were authorized as components of the State Research Programmes:
  - "Scientific Foundations of Information Technology"
  - "Latvian Studies (Letonica): Culture, Language and History"
- Each year 2-3 smaller projects related to HLT have funded by the Latvian Council of Science

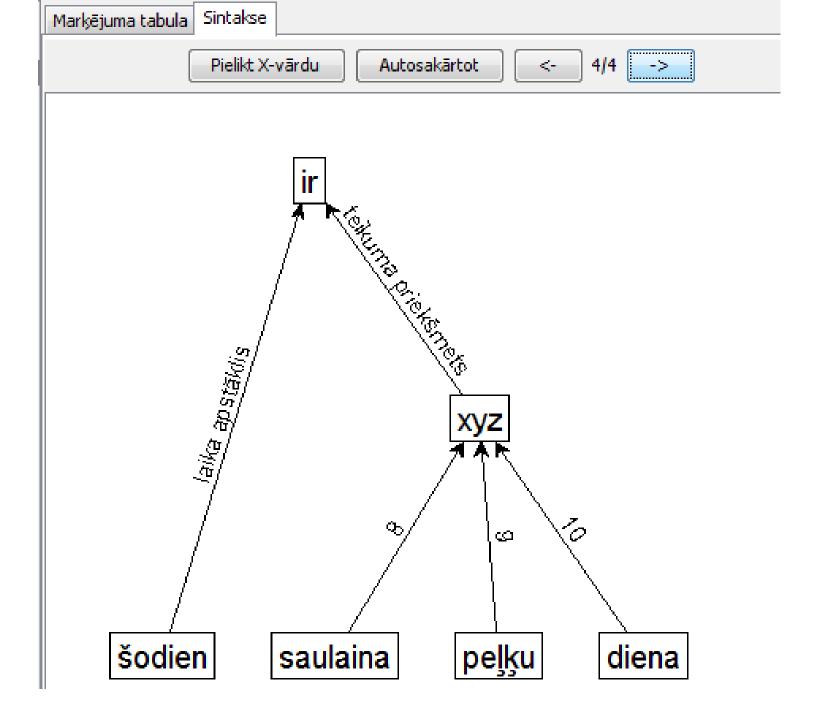
#### SemTi-Kamols project

- Semti-kamols project (<u>www.semti-kamols.lv</u>) aimed at development and adaptation of the semantic web technologies for semantic analysis of the Latvian language
- Concept and methodology of "Semantic Latvia" is implemented in domain of medicine statistics: graphical conceptual ontologies for medicine domain serves as maps allowing doctors to formulate queries for ontological data bases
- Novel technique for "text-to-scene" conversion which in future will allow to convert text into schematic 3D animation
- Semi-automatic tool for morpho-syntacitc annotation



## Semi-automatic tool for morphosyntactic annotation





# Database of Latvian Explanatory Dictionaries and Recent Loanwords

The project "Database of Latvian Explanatory Dictionaries and Recent Loanwords" was mainly dealing with

- digitalization of dictionaries
- semi-automatic transformation of the dictionaries into a machine-readable format

#### Main Resources and Tools

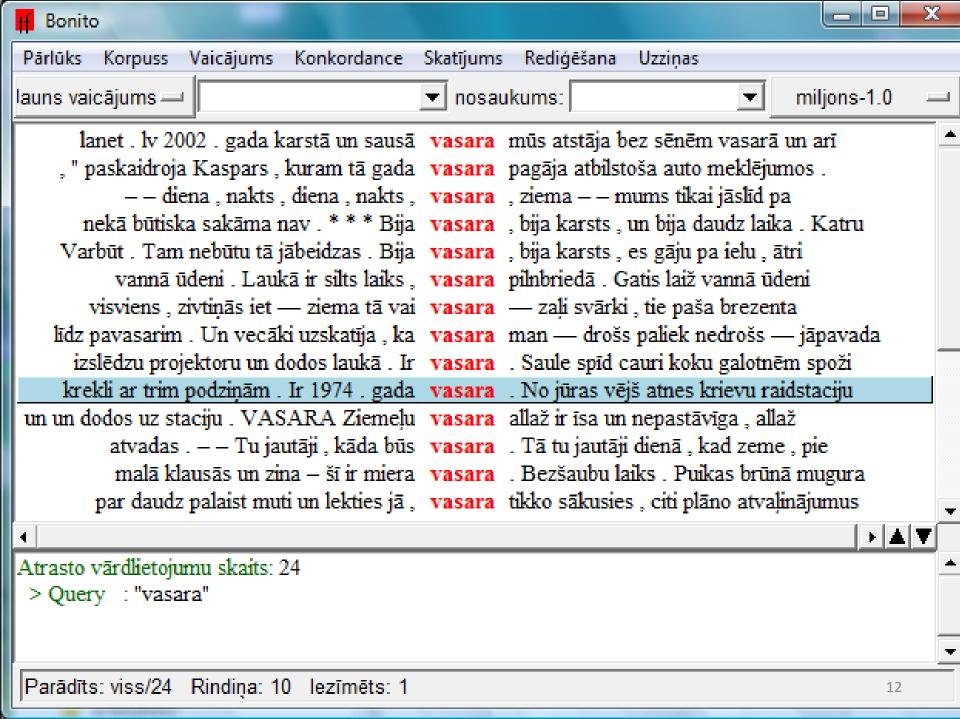
- Latvian Language Corpora Resources
- Electronic Dictionaries and Terminology Resources
- Machine Translation Tools and Prototypes
- Speech Technologies
- Tools for Natural Language Processing

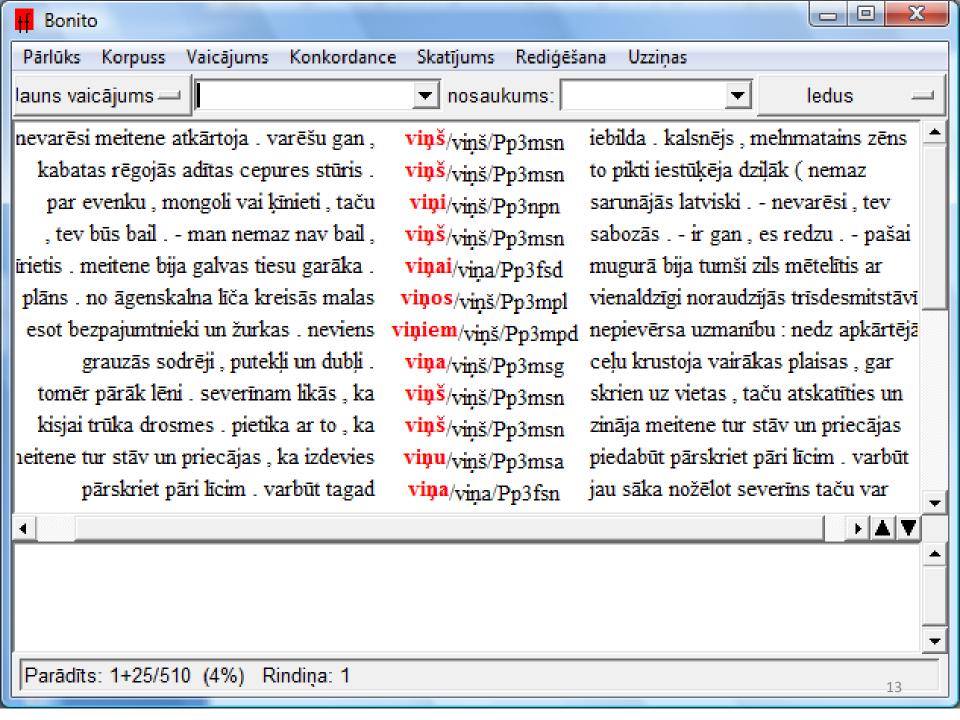
#### Latvian National Corpus Initiative

- The development of the Latvian National Corpus was initiated by the State Language Commission in 2004
- Latvian National Corpus Initiative envisions
   establishing an umbrella for all the available corpora of
   the Latvian language
- The Agreement of Intention between the main language resource developers and holders in Latvia, both academic and industry, has been signed

#### Latvian Language Corpora Resources

- Since 2006, The National Library of Latvia has been working on the creation of the Latvian National Digital Library "Letonica":
  - Digital Library holds collections of newspapers, pictures, maps, books, sheet music and audio recordings
  - Collection *Periodicals* (<u>www.periodika.lv</u>) offers 41 newspaper and magazines in Latvian, German, and Russian from 1895 to 1957
- Three corpora have been developed at Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science (IMCS) (<u>www.korpuss.lv</u>)
  - Balanced Corpus of Modern Latvian (~3.5 million running words)
  - Web Corpus (~100 million running words)
  - Corpus of the Transcripts of the Saeima's (Parliament of Latvia) Sessions (more than 20 million running words)
- Pilot morpho-syntactically annotated corpus has been developed at IMCS, it covers approximately 30 000 words of modern written Latvian manually annotated





#### **Electronic Dictionaries**

Several machine-readable versions of monolingual dictionaries of modern Latvian have been created by IMCS in cooperation with other research institutions (<a href="www.tezaurs.lv">www.tezaurs.lv</a>):

- The Dictionary of Standard Latvian Language largest Latvian monolingual dictionary of the second half of the 20th century (~64 000 entries in 8 volumes)
- The Explanatory Dictionary (more than 150 000 entries from about 120 Latvian dictionaries of different times and domains)
- New Dictionary of the Modern Latvian (~20 000 entries from A-L)

#### Skaidrojošā vārdnīca



160 260 šķirkļi Sastādījis A. Spektors Izmantotie avoti vers. 2010.09.23 © LU MII, 2009-2010

rudens rudens rudens<sup>1</sup> rudens, dsk. rudeni, v.

1. Gadalaiks, klimatiska sezona, kas Zemes ziemeļu puslodē ilgst no 23. septembra līdz 22. decembrim; klimatiskā sezona, kas pastāv aptuveni šajā laikposmā un kam raksturīga pakāpeniska temperatūras pazemināšanās.

Mobilā versija: www.tezaurs.lv/wap

Sekojiet jaunumiem: twitter.com/AILab lv

Zelta rudens poēt. — sauss un saulains rudens, kad skaidri redzamas dzeltējošo koku daudzveidīgās nokrāsas.

// ģen.: rudens, adj. nozīmē. Tāds, kas pastāv, norisinās šajā gadalaikā, klimatiskajā sezonā, ir raksturīgs šim gadalaikam, klimatiskajai sezonai; tāds, ko izmanto šajā gadalaikā, klimatiskajā sezonā.

// pām. Veidošanos un attīstības, arī uzplaukuma beigu posms (piemēram, kādai parādībai), kam parasti seko norišu pārtraukums, (kā) bojāeja.

Rudens vēlziede — vēlziežu ģints suga, indīgs, daudzgadīgs lakstaugs, Latvijā savvaļā sastopama reti, aizsargājama; audzē kā krāšņumaugus.

Melns (arī drūms) kā rudens (arī negaisa, krusas) mākonis — saka par ļoti drūmu, norūpējušos cilvēku.

#### **Electronic Dictionaries**

- Tilde's electronic dictionaries include 20 translation routes: from English, French, German and Russian into Latvian and Lithuanian and vice versa as well as Latvian-Lithuanian, Lithuanian-Latvian and Estonian-Latvian
- Included in online internet resource in reference portal www.letonika.lv

letoi	rik	a	.lv	
atbildes,				

Enciklopēdijas 🔻

Vārdnīcas

Literatūra

Multivide

Internets

Valoda

Parole

Atcerēties Pieslēgties

#### Latviešu-lietuviešu vārdnīca



<b>A</b> ĀBCČDEĒFGĢH	١
a`dadžo	^
AAE	Ē
abatija	٠
abats	
abažūrs	
abējādi	
abējāds	
abēji	
abējpus	
aberācija	
abesīnietis	
abesīnis	
abhāzietis	
abhāzs	
abi	
abinieks	
abiturients	
abitūrija	
abonements	
abonents	
abonēšana	
abonēt	

Pilns šķirkļu saraksts



Meklēt rudens



Lietotājs

Izvērstā meklēšana



Par "Latviešu-lietuviešu vārdnīcu"

"Latviešu-lietuviešu vārdnīca" ir pirmā brīvi pieejamā baltu valodu tiešsaistes vārdnīca, kas ļauj latviešiem un lietuviešiem nepastarpināti saprasties, veidot kultūras un ekonomiskās saites. Šī ir plašākā un mūsdienīgākā elektroniski pieejamā latviešu-lietuviešu vārdnīca, un tā izceļas ne tikai ar bagatāko vārdkopu daudzumu un precizētām lietojuma nozīmēm, bet arī ar atjaunotu leksiku un pievienotu informātikas un dabas terminoloģiju.

Plašāka informācija par vārdnīcu

Darbs ar vārdnīcu

#### Apie "Latvių-lietuvių kalbų žodyną"

"Latvių-lietuvių kalbų žodynas" yra pirmasis nemokamas internetinis baltų kalbų žodynas, leidžiantis latviams ir lietuviams suprasti vienas kitą ir plėtoti kultūrinius bei ekonominius ryšius. Į šį išsamų ir šiuolaikinį kompiuterinį "Latvių-lietuvių kalbų žodyną" įtraukta ne tik daugiausia įrašų ir tikslių vartojimo reikšmių, bet ir atnaujintas informatikos bei gamtos mokslų žodynėlis ir naujausi terminai.

Daugiau informacijos apie žodyna

Darbas su žodynu



Latviešu-lietuviešu interneta vārdnīcas publicēšanu ir atbalstījusi Valsts valodas aģentūra.

"Latvių-lietuvių kalbų žodyną" sudaryti padėjo Latvijos valstybinės kalbos agentūra.



#### Terminology Resources

Terminology Commission of the Latvian Academy of Sciences publishes official terminology in two large online databases:: <a href="https://www.termnet.lv">www.termnet.lv</a> and <a href="mailto:termini.lza.lv/akadterm">termini.lza.lv/akadterm</a>

#### Akadēmiskā terminu datubāze *AkadTerm*



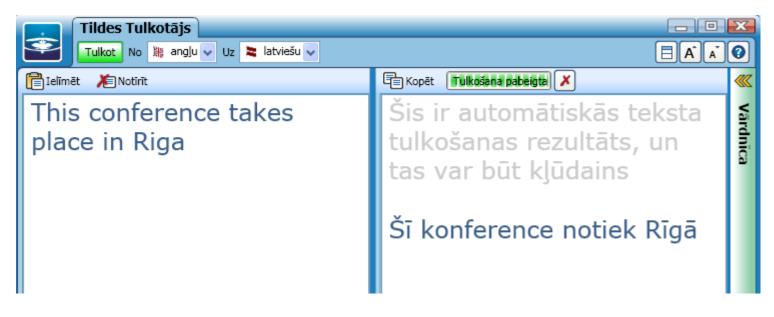
#### EuroTermBank portal

- Enables searching almost 2 million terms in over 25 languages
- Provides a single access point to interlinked term banks, such as IATE, WebTerm, Microsoft Terminology Collection, Terminology database of the Latvian Terminology Commission, and others



#### **Machine Translation**

- The rule-based approach to machine translation has been dominant in Latvia since mid-90-ies when the first version of the LATRA system (Latvian-English-Latvian) has been developed at IMCS
- The rule-based MT system Tildes Tulkotājs has been released in 2007 as part of Tildes Birojs 2008, the system translates texts from English into Latvian and from Latvian into Russian



#### Statistical Machine Translation

- Research on Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) was started by IMCS in 2005 (eksperimenti.ailab.lv/smt)
  - Evaluation of statistical Machine Translation methods for English Latvian translation system (2005-2008)
  - Application of Factored methods in English-Latvian Statistical Machine Translation System (2009-2012)

Angļu-latviešu tulkošanas sistēmas demonstrācija:



Izmantot morfoloģiskos faktorus!

#### Statistical Machine Translation

- In 2009/2010 Tilde released English-Latvian-English online SMT systems (translate.tilde.lv)
- Two SMT related EU projects coordinated by Tilde, have been started in 2010
  - the ICT PSP program project LetsMT!
  - the FP7 project ACCURAT





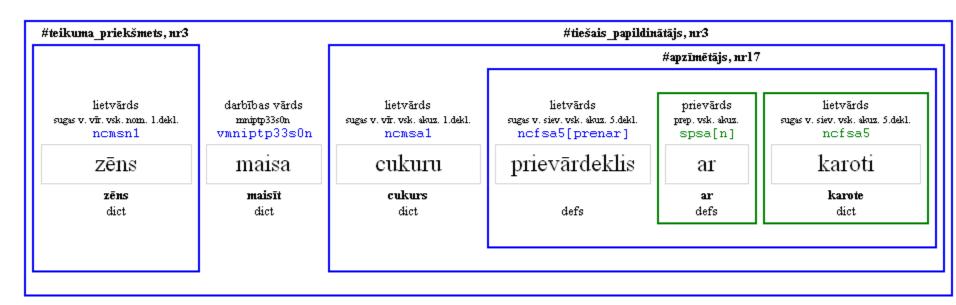
### Speech Technologies

- IMCS had several projects devoted to experimental TTS and speech recognition systems
- In 2005 Tilde together with The Association of Blind People started a project to develop a Latvian text-tospeech (TTS) system
- Three speech synthesis systems have achieved the level of practical usability: Visvaris (Tilde), T2S (IMCS) and Balss (SIA Rubuls & Co).
- There has not been any serious research in Latvian language speech recognition, which could result in a practically usable speech recognition system

24

#### Tools for Natural Language Processing

- Morphology Tools: analysers and synthesizers, taggers
- Syntactic Parsers
  - dependency-based syntactic representation and a corresponding rulebased parser were created in the SemTi-Kamols project



 Latvian shallow syntactic parser was built by Tilde in 2007. The formal grammar is derived from the unification grammar

#### **CLARIN** in Latvia

- Although the CLARIN initiative has been started only recently, the IMCS has been contributing to CLARIN aims already before by
  - collecting, preserving and making public available linguistic resources
  - development the Latvian language tools
  - co-operating with other research organizations in resource creation
  - by being Web publisher and maintainer of resources created in other research institutions

#### **CLARIN** in Latvia

- In 2006 IMCS and Tilde company have been invited to join CLARIN initiative
- IMCS has signed agreement to join CLAIN consortium starting form April 1, 2009
- Participation of Latvia in the CLARIN project is supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia
- Recently the Cabinet of Ministers has approved "Action Plan for Implementation of Guidelines for Science and Technology Development". One of the subtasks of the Action Plan is to ensure the participation of research institutions in the CLARIN project

#### **CLARIN** in Latvia

- IMCS has been appointed as the CLARIN National Contact Point (<u>www.clarin.lv</u>) by the Ministry of Education and Science
- Long term intention of IMCS is to become a CLARIN conformant national-level service and metadata providing centre
- To prioritize goals and tasks of the CLARIN project in Latvia and to facilitate the creation of the CLARIN infrastructure, the CLARIN National Advisory Board was established and approved by the Ministry of Education of Science
- Some important contributions:
  - Latvian resources in CLARIN LRT inventory
  - contribution to CLARIN BLARK
  - work on creation of reliable identity federation

#### CLARIN





Jaunumi

Par CLARIN

CLARIN Latvijā

Konsultatīvā padome

Pasākumi

<u>Materiāli</u>

Kontakti

CLARIN apkārtraksts

Resursu un rīku pārskats

Clarin.eu

CLARIN ir plaša mēroga sadarbības projekts, kurā piedalās daudzas Eiropas valstis. Tā uzdevums ir izveidot integrētu, sadarbību veicinošu pētniecības infrastruktūru, kas ļautu viegli piekļūt un izmantot valodas resursus un tehnoloģijas humanitāro, sociālo un eksakto zinātņu pētniekiem.



#### Conclusions

- The last six years have been an active period in HLT development in Latvia
- Basic elements for research infrastructure of language resources and technology have been established in Latvia
- Urgent problem is the lack of programmes on computational linguistic at Latvian universities
- Targeted national research and development activities are urgently needed to fill these gaps in HLT development in Latvia
- New initiatives to support resource sharing and development of HLT products has been recently initiated in Baltic and Nordic countries