In this colloquium we will introduce our group, after which Florian Hintz and Marjoke Bakker will present the outcomes of two recent studies.

Previous studies that led to widely accepted psycholinguistic models of spoken word recognition have mostly been carried out under optimal conditions, e.g., involving high quality audio recordings and native speakers. However, in our daily life, language comprehension often does not take place under optimal conditions. Florian Hintz will describe two studies that tested the validity of so-called 'conventional' models of spoken word recognition in adverse settings. Dutch participants took part in two visual world eye-tracking experiments where the speech signal was masked by background noise. In the first experiment, he investigated how the activation of semantic information is affected by the presence of background noise. In the second experiment, he investigated inter-language competition, as the target language of the experiment was not Dutch but English.

Marjoke Bakker will present a study in the field of computer assisted language learning, specifically on the effectiveness of educational software in initial reading education. A large scale quasi-experimental study was performed, including over 1400 Grade 1 students (groep 3) from 57 Dutch primary schools, who worked with the reading method “Veilig leren lezen” (Zwijsen) either with or without the accompanying educational software program. Learning gains in reading and spelling ability in the first half of the school year were assessed using standardized tests, and software use was logged. The results show, among others, that working with the educational software positively impacts students’ reading ability, while for spelling the effect is less clear.

**When:** Tuesday 21 February, 2017 12:45-13:30

**Where:** E2.50 (Erasmus Building)

Lunch is provided! To register, please send an email to: clscolloquium@let.ru.nl

For more information, see www.ru.nl/cls