Cultural evolutionary modeling of patterns in language change

Exercises in evolutionary linguistics
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PROEFSCHRIFT

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One of the central tenets in this thesis is that the frequency with which a particular word, meaning, construction or any linguistic item is uttered, has an effect on the item’s fitness: the higher the frequency of use of an item, the bigger the chance it will be saved from possible extinction and oblivion. This might also be true in the habitat of academia, since the frequency in which one’s name, preferably but not necessarily linked to an article or paper, is mentioned, seems to be tightly linked to one’s scientific survival. In these acknowledgements, I will therefore not only kindly thank the people who, in many different ways, have contributed to this work, but by doing so, returning them a favor by increasing their fitness.

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