2009
Annual Report

Center for Language and Cognition Groningen
Faculty of Arts, University of Groningen
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Foreword

The Center for Language and Cognition, Groningen (CLCG) continued its research into 2009, keeping it an exciting place to work. On behalf of CLCG I am pleased to present the 2009 annual report. Highlights of this year’s activities were the following.

Six PhD theses were defended:
- Automatic Term and Relation Extraction for Medical Question Answering System (Ismail Fahmi).
- Turkish Agrammatic Aphasia. Word Order, Time Reference and Case (Tuba Yarbay Duman).
- Case-Assignment by Prepositions in Russian Aphasia (Maria Trofimova).
- Frequency and Function in WH Question Acquisition. A Usage-Based Case Study of German L1 Acquisition (Rasmus Steinkrauss).
- Discourse Practices in Preschooling (Marjolein Deunk).
- Towards ICT-Integrated Language Learning (Sake Jager).

Five new PhD projects started:
- one in computational linguistics (together with discourse & communication; externally funded): on the computational analysis of coherence relations in Dutch.
- One in discourse and communication: The returning to an abandoned line of talk: the anatomy of and solutions to an interactional problem.
- one in language and literacy development across the life span: on a psychological approach to quantifier acquisition.
- one in language variation and language change, entitled: “Perfect Aspect in Ancient Greek.”
- one in neurolinguistics: on verb production and comprehension deficits in bilingual speakers of Swahili and English in Kenya.

Two new NWO projects were approved in 2009:
- a Vidi project on central Franconian syntax (Alexandra Lenz), and
- a Vidi project on communicative functions in discourse (Esther Pascual).

Two NWO projects completed their last year:
- on production in Turkish-Dutch aphasia (Roelien Bastiaanse),
- on activities and interactions in preschools (Kees de Glopper).

Eleven NWO projects continued:
- on asymmetries in grammar (Hendriks, VICI),
- on dependency in universal grammar (Jan-Wouter Zwart),
- on language, multilingualism and integration (Kees de Bot and Monika Schmid),
- on modeling textual organization (Redeker),
- on linguistic determinants of mutual intelligibility in Scandinavia (Charlotte Gooskens),
- on grafting in syntax and on parataxis (Mark de Vries),
- on the determinants of dialect differences (John Nerbonne and Hermann Niebaum),
- on the determinants of intelligibility in Flanders and in the Netherlands (John Nerbonne and Charlotte Gooskens),
- on picture books and the social-emotional development of infants (Kees de Glopper),
- on learning and interaction with diversity in the classroom (Kees de Glopper), and
- the developmental dyslexia project (Frans Zwarts) which entered its eleventh year.
Four language resource projects (STEVIN) were active:

- LASSY led by Gertjan van Noord on syntactic annotation.
- DAISY led by Gertjan van Noord on language generation and summarization.
- PaCo led by Jörg Tiedemann / Gertjan van Noord on machine translation.
- DUOMAN led by Gertjan van Noord on sentiment analysis of on-line media content.

Two internationally funded projects completed their last year:

- one led by Angeliek van Hout and Bart Hollebrandse aimed at characterizing the structural complexity in language, funded by the European Community (in collaboration with Berlin, Postdam, Manchester and St. Andrews);
- and one project led by Roelien Bastiaanse aiming at language processing, motor sequencing and working memory in Parkinson’s Disease, funded by the International Parkinson Foundation.

One project continued:

- led by John Nerbonne aimed at measuring linguistic differences, funded by the German Volkswagen Foundation (in collaboration with Tübingen and Sofia);

The NWO funding for the cooperation with Tübingen ended successfully.
The NUFFIC-sponsored “Building ICT Research and Training Capacity of the Ugandan public universities” continued into its third year, directed by John Nerbonne.

CLCG hosted 5 visiting scholars, and organized 15 colloquia on a broad range of topics. 18 international scientific meetings were hosted in Groningen, including the traditional Groningen TABU dag, and Groningen researchers were involved in the organization of 14 other scientific events elsewhere.

Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne
CLCG director

Groningen, March 2009
Part One
1 Introduction

The Center for Language and Cognition Groningen (CLCG) is a research institute within the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen. It is home to all the linguistic research carried out within this faculty. This report summarizes the institute’s activities during 2009.

A substantial appendix, including a full list of publications of all CLCG members in 2009, their lectures and other professional activities, may be found on the institute’s website, http://www.rug.nl/let/onderzoek/onderzoekinstituten/clcg/ (see the section on “Annual Reports”).

1.1 Institutional Embedding

The institute is part of the Faculty of Arts, and all of its members are employed there. Many researchers also participate in Groningen’s Center for Behavioral and Cognitive Neurosciences (BCN), a local interdisciplinary research school that brings together research from five different faculties of the University of Groningen. Many of the CLCG members likewise choose to participate in the national graduate school in Linguistics, LOT (Landelijke Onderzoeksschool Taalwetenschap). One of the major tasks of BCN and LOT is offering training courses to PhD students. Various PhD students attend courses that are organized by BCN and LOT, while some senior researchers teach such courses. CLCG participated in the new Graduate School for the Humanities, a part of the Faculty of Arts in 2009.

1.2 Profile

CLCG recognizes special responsibilities in the following four areas:

- Linguistic research must work hand in hand with the instructional needs of the faculty, particularly in the modern European languages (Germanic, Romance, Slavic and Finno-Ugric).
- CLCG has a special responsibility for Dutch languages and dialects, especially the minority languages spoken in the Northern Netherlands that is to say Frisian and Lower Saxon. The university recognizes this special responsibility.
- Applications justify linguistic research (as well as progress in understanding). This is important for developmental linguistics, aphasiology, communications, and computational linguistics.
- CLCG is in a unique position to contribute to progress through cooperation with the cognitive neurosciences in Groningen. While this opportunity is concentrated in neurolinguistics, most other CLCG groups have research with neurolinguistic implications, including language development, communication and discourse, and theoretical and computational linguistics.

CLCG seeks to meet these responsibilities especially by recruiting appropriate expertise whenever vacancies arise.
2 CLCG in 2009

2.1 Structure

The Research Staff is listed in the last chapter. In 2009 CLCG consisted of six research groups, organized by subdiscipline:

- Computational Linguistics (CL)
- Discourse and Communication (DC)
- Language and Literacy development across the Life Span (LANSPAN)
- Language Variation and Language Change (LVLC)
- Neurolinguistics (NL)
- Syntax and Semantics (SS)

Dr. R. Bok-Bennema (SS), Prof. dr. G. J. de Haan (SS), Dr. G. Van der Meer (LVLC), Dr. A. Molendijk (SS) and Prof. dr. H. Niebaum (LVLC) retired. Prof. dr. A.G.B. ter Meulen (SS) left CLCG for a position abroad, and Dr. Jeanine Deen moved to the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. CLCG welcomed 4 new members: Dr. H. Fitz (CL), Dr. E. Pascual (DC), Dr. W. Visser (LVLC) and Prof. dr. B.A.M. Maassen (NL).

2.2 Director, Advisory Board, Coordinators

Prof.dr.ir. J. Nerbonne was reappointed director in 2007 for 4 years.

The Advisory Board of the CLCG has been chaired by Dr. C.J.W. Zwart since 2008. The board advises the director on policy matters and consists of the full professors and the coordinators of the research groups, listed below.

Prof.dr. Y.R.M. Bastiaanse  
Prof dr. C.L.J. de Bot  
Prof.dr. C.M. de Glopper  
Prof.dr. G.J. de Haan  
Prof.dr. C.T. Hasselblatt  
Prof. dr. J. Hoeksema  
Prof.dr. J. Koster  
Prof. dr. A. Lenz  
Prof. dr. B.A.M. Maassen  
Prof.dr. H.W.H. Niebaum  
Dr. G.J. van Noord  
Prof. dr. M. Norde  
Prof.dr. G. Redeker  
Prof.dr. S. Reker  
Dr. M.S. Schmid  
Dr. L.A. Stowe  
Prof. dr. G. Wakker  
Dr. C.J.W. Zwart

Drs. Marlies Kluck served as PhD student member.
The CLCG Advisory Board met once in 2009, on June 9.

The main points on the agenda were:

- midterm review 2004-2007. The review committee was positive about the CLCG organization and the reporting. There were some remarks which should be taken into account for the upcoming review of the years 2004-2009.
- Core research: There was a discussion about the profiling of CLCG research with the existing research groups or by defining a theme.
- The reactions to the advert in the announcement of graduate students were disappointing in number this year which may be due to earmarking of positions for specific groups.

2.3 Assessment

CLCG was assessed in 2004 for the period 1998-2003 according to the guidelines of the “Standard Evaluation Protocol” (SEP), published by the Office of the Association of Dutch Universities (VSNU). Details of that assessment and CLCG’s reaction may be found in the 2005 annual report. We note here that we effected all of the recommendations of the assessment board as of 2005.

CLCG conducted a midterm review in 2008 for the three-year period 2004-2006, again using the SEP guidelines. In addition, to seeking the customary, internal reaction for mid-term reviews, CLCG also invited Prof. Henriëtte de Swart, Utrecht, and Prof. Pieter Muysken, Nijmegen to review its self-study with an eye to identifying problems and opportunities for improvement. Both the internal faculty reviews and the external colleagues were positive, helpful and selectively critical. Everyone reacted with dismay at the continued drop in CLCG’s university (permanent) staffing, down 30% over a ten-year period.

2.4 Staffing

The first source of funding is the university, the second the national and European science agencies (the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research – NWO, the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences – KNAW, the European Marie Curie Fellowship Program, the Dutch Government (Nederlandse Taalunie) and the European Community, and the third includes all the rest, esp. contract research. In table 1 the three sources, together with the full-time equivalents for each function in 2009, are displayed.

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Table 1. Financial sources with full-time equivalents (fte) for each function in 2009
2.5 Finances: Travel and Material costs

The budget for the CLCG-travel and material, intended for regular members of the CLCG, covers staff travel abroad and organization of conferences, workshops and other meetings with a scientific character. In 2009, the annual financial support from the Faculty of Arts, amounted to € 34.400. In the reporting period the entire budget was spent.

2.6 Internationalization

Computational Linguistics has several international projects.

John Nerbonne led an NWO collaboration project with Tübingen, Seminar für Sprachwissenschaft. The project focused on computational and psycholinguistic processing, and it came to an end in 2009. From this collaboration various projects have grown (see earlier annual reports), including the current project ‘Measuring Linguistic Unity and Diversity’ a current three-year project involving Erhard Hinrichs, Seminar für Sprachwissenschaft, Tübingen and Petya Osenova, Laboratory for Linguistic Modeling, Sofia. It funds a graduate student project in Groningen and is financed by the Volkswagen Foundation.

‘Building ICT Research Capacity in Uganda’ is a collaborative project involving the University of Groningen, the Radboud University (Nijmegen), and Eindhoven Technical University, all cooperating with four Ugandan universities, led by Makerere University. John Nerbonne leads this Mil. €5,7 project sponsoring thirty Ph.D. projects, two of which are conducted at the CLCG.

Discourse & Communication

Harrie Mazeland collaborates with Arnulf Deppermann and Reinhold Schmitt of the Institut für Deutsche Sprache (IDS) on an IDS-sponsored project on grammatical, semantic and pragmatic structures of talk in interaction.

The LANSPAN group is involved in three international projects.

‘Crosslinguistically Robust Stages of Children’s Linguistic Performance’ is led by Bart Hollebrandse. The project coordinates basic comparative research on first language acquisition in normally developing and language impaired children, and is funded by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST).

Bart Hollebrandse also heads a second COST project, ‘The Interpretation of Quantifiers and Tense using Eye Tracking’, which applies results from COST A33 (above) to eye-tracking methods.

Angeliek van Hout is the local project leader of ‘Characterizing Human Language by Structural Complexity’. It is part of the EU’s FP6 NEST Pathfinder Initiative “What it means to be human” and involves British and German researchers as well. One full-time researcher is employed by the project as well as several student assistants. The project ended in July.

Syntax and Semantics

Brigitte Kampers-Manhe, participates in La Grande Grammaire du Français, funded by the French CNRS and aimed at writing a completely new Grammar of French.
Others

Apart from these formal cooperation programs, the CLCG has numerous other less formal but invaluable contacts with various other institutions in Europe, Israel, Japan, and the United States. Some of these are purely informal, and others have arisen through formal collaboration in instructional programs.

2.7 Contract Research

Etoc (Expertisecentrum voor taal, onderwijs en communicatie), the Faculty of Arts’s Expertise Center for Language, Education and Communication specializes in research and development. Etoc works on a contract basis and carries out projects for national, provincial and municipal agencies and for primary and secondary schools. In 2009 Etoc’s projects focused on the development of language policies for schools, language testing and the developing teaching and learning materials. This year, the contracts totaled over € 400,000,-.

3 Research Activities

3.1 Conferences, Cooperation, and Colloquia

CLCG organized the annual TABU day once again, and was centrally involved in several other local conferences.

3.1.1 30th TABU Dag 2009

TABU Dag is an annual conference on linguistics, organized by the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen. In 2009, TABU Dag celebrated its 30th anniversary by expanding from its normal single day to two days. It was organized by Diana Dimitrova, Dörte Hessler, Myrte Gosen, Alexandra Lenz and Martijn Wieling. On June 11 and 12, more than 170 participants from 19 countries visited Groningen to listen to 4 keynote lectures (by Jack Chambers, Ken Church, Marianne Gullberg and Matthias Schlesewsky), 70 oral and 20 poster presentations on a wide range of topics covering all areas of the CLCG. Because of the great success of the conference, TABU Dag will also last two days in 2010. More details about TABU Dag 2009 can be found on http://www.let.rug.nl/tabudag/tabu2009.

Members of the CLCG also took part in the organization of conferences, workshops, symposia mentioned in the next sections. We note throughout the sections below only the involvement of CLCG researchers, not the entire committees.

3.1.2 Groningen conferences

CLCG members organized the following international meetings in Groningen in 2009.

Workshop on Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Bilingual Development. This workshop was a follow-up meeting of the research group which was formed in February 2008, following a successful application for funding as a network by NWO with the goal of establishing a Marie Curie Training Network. During the meeting, further possibilities for scientific collaboration were explored. Groningen, 18-20th January 2009. Dr. Monika S. Schmid, organizer.
LOT Winterschool 2009, two weeks of classes for graduate students, Groningen, 19th-31st January 2009. Dr. Jack Hoeksema, local organizer.


Graduate Workshop on Language Attrition, was the fifth in a series and the first in Groningen. 15 international PhD students attended with a focus was on methodology data collection and analysis, Groningen, 11th-13th March 2009. Dr. Monika S. Schmid, organizer.

Round table Writing & Learning, David Galbraith, Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent, June 4th, 2009 Kees de Gloppe and Veerle Baaijen, organizers.


Workshop Romaanse Taalkunde (Romance Linguistics) on the occasion of Reineke Bok-Bennema and Arie Molendijk’s retirements 18th June 2009. Dr. Bob de Jonge, Dr. Brigitte Kampers-Manhe, and Dr. C.J.W. Zwart, organizers.


Multidisciplinary symposium on the value and instructiveness of pre-school programs esp. on the development of children's language and discourse practices, Groningen, 2nd Dec. 2009. Dr. Jan Berenst, organizer.

ICT and Language Learning, Groningen, 16th December 2009. Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot, co-organizer.

3.1.3 Conferences elsewhere


Production, Perception, Attitude, an interdisciplinary workshop on understanding and explaining linguistic variation, Leuven, 2nd-3rd March 2009. Dr. Charlotte Gooskens, member organizing committee.


Language Technology and Resources for Cultural Heritage, Social Sciences, Humanities and Education (LaTeCH - SHELTR 2009), language technology applied to humanities issues, Athens, Greece, 30th Mar. 2009. Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne, member of program committee.


Digital Humanities 2009, University of Maryland, 22nd-25th June 2009. Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne, member of program committee.

Connectionist Natural Language Processing, international symposium on natural language processing in connectionist systems covering language acquisition, sentence processing and foundational issues, University of Amsterdam, 1st July 2009. Dr. Hartmut Fitz, organizer.

International Conference on Conversation Analysis, multimodal interaction, Mannheim, 4th-8th July 2010. dr. H.J. Mazeland, member International Scientific Board.


Arbeitstagung der Skandinavistik: Arbeitskreis Sprachwissenschaft, University of Amsterdam, 18th-21st Aug. 2009. Prof. dr. Muriel Norde, co-organizer.


Text Graphs 4, Singapore, 7th August 2009. Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne, member PC


Science of Aphasia 10, Antalya - Turkey, 28th September-3rd October 2009. Dr. Roel Jonkers, chair of the program committee.


Italy and Latin America: Migrations, Exchanges, Influences, Interferences, interdisciplinary conference on the relations between Italy and Latin America, University of Nantes, Nantes, France, 26th-28th Nov. 2009. Dr. Bob de Jonge, co-organizer.

Going Romance 2009, Conference on Romance Languages. Organized in 2009 jointly by the Nice (France) and Radboud University, Nice, 3rd-5th Dec. 2009. Dr. Brigitte A.A. Kampers-Manhe, member General Organizing Committee.

3.1.4 Visiting scholars

The following scholars visited CLCG during 2009:

Dr. Tamás Kisantal, Janus Pannonius University, Pécs, Hungary, 2-10 Apr. 2009 lectured on the sociolinguistic characteristics of Jews in Hungary. Host: Dr. Mária Czibere

Chuming Wang, Guandong University, collaborated with Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot from 1st May until 30th Nov. 2009 and was funded by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Renea Mitchell, Johns Hopkins University, conducted an internship under Dr. Bart Hollebrandse from 1st June until 1st September 2009 working on Teiwa and also Dutch sign language. Funded by Hopkins.
Dr. Gerard Doetjes, Høgskolen i Østfold, Noorwegen, 2009 worked with Dr. Charlotte Gooskens, 30th June -7th July, funded by Høgskolen i Østfold.

Dr. Tamás Farkas, Eötvos Loránd Tudómányegyetem (University of Budapest), worked with Dr. Mária Czibere 9th- 23rd Sept. 2009, also lecturing on comparative onomastics in the Netherlands and Hungary.

Katerina Konstantzou, MA, University of Athens, worked with Dr. Angeliek van Hout and Dr. Bart Hollebrandse 10th-24th November 2009 on tense and aspect acquisition in Greek. Funding: European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST A33).

3.1.5 Linguistics Colloquium

In 2009, as part of the Linguistics Colloquium the following lectures were given. The organization was provided by Gerard Bol, Diana Dimitrova, and Therese Leinonen.

- Vincent van Heuven, Universiteit Leiden: Stress perception in Dutch: some loose ends, Feb 6
- Jan de Jong, Universiteit van Amsterdam: Bilingualism in children with SLI, Feb 20
- Jörg Peters, Universität Oldenburg: Intonational variation in the Netherlands, Mar 20
- Mardi Kidwell, University of New Hampshire: Gaze as an Interactional Resource for Very Young Children, Apr 17
- Stavroula Stavrakaki, Aristoteles University Thessaloniki: Greek children with SLI, Apr 24
- Ken Safir, Rutgers University, New Jersey: Syntax, May 8
- Lourens de Vries, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: The origin and cognitive basis of clause chaining, May 15
- Khalil Sima'an, Universiteit van Amsterdam: Consistent Statistical Estimation for Tiling Models for Parsing and Translation, June 19
- Bart Hollebrandse, University of Groningen: Recursion: From First to Second Order Embedding, Sep 25
- Charles Forceville, University of Amsterdam: Pictorial and multimodal metaphor in advertising and film, Oct 9
- Wang Chuming, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, China: Inhibiting L1 Transfer: A DST Perspective, Oct 30
- Koen Kuiper, Linguistics Department, University of Canterbury, New Zealand: A flexible learning approach to teaching large classes in first year descriptive linguistics, Nov 6
- Walter Daelemans, University of Antwerp: Computational Stylometry: Linguistic Features for Authorship Attribution, Nov 13
- Carlos Gussenhoven, Radboud University Nijmegen: Asymmetries in the intonation system of the dialect of Maastricht, Dec 4
- Eric Hoekstra, Bouke Slofstra & Arjen Versloot, Frisian Academy, Leeuwarden: Interacting mental lexicons / grammars of bilingual speakers: how Dutch influences Frisian, Dec 11

3.1.6. Other lectures

DIUG Lectures, lecture series organized in the context of the research program Dependency in Universal Grammar, with Marcel den Dikken (CUNY Graduate Center, New York) as invited speaker, Groningen, 14th-16th December 2009. Dr. C.J.W. Zwart, organizer.

LANSPAN colloquia, tri-weekly colloquia of LANSPAN research group, Groningen, throughout 2009. Myrte N. Gosen, MA, organizer.
Syntax Seminar, weekly discussion forum on (advanced) syntax and semantics for (research) staff and PhD Students, Groningen, throughout 2009. Mark de Vries, organizer.


3.2 CLCG-Publications

The many publications of CLCG members in 2008 may be found on the institute’s website http://www.rug.nl/let/onderzoek/onderzoekinstituten/clcg/ “Annual Reports”, in the digital appendix to this report.

In 2009 six new volumes in the series of Groningen dissertations in linguistics (GRODIL) appeared.

- Automatic Term and Relation Extraction for Medical Question Answering system (Ismail Fahmi)
- Turkish Agrammatic Aphasia. Word Order, Time Reference and Case (Tuba Yarbay Duman).
- Case-assignment by prepositions in Russian aphasia (Maria Trofimova).
- Frequency and Function in WH Question Acquisition. A Usage-Based Case Study of German L1 Acquisition (Rasmus Steinkrauss).
- Discourse Practices in Preschool (Marjolein Deunk).
- Towards ICT-integrated Language Learning (Sake Jager).

3.3 PhD Training Program

The CLCG PhD training program requires all graduate students to submit a twenty-five-page document after approximately ten months. This document serves as the basis of an evaluation as to whether the project should continue. In general the twenty-five pages are expected to define the problem under investigation, review relevant work, and present a research plan for the remainder of the project. Crucial experiments should be designed and crucial prior work replicated. PhD students were evaluated under this regime again in 2009. In short the acceptance of the report functions as an admission to PhD candidacy.

Five new PhD projects began in 2009. The PhD students, together with the source of funding for their project, their dissertation project and supervisors, are listed in part III.

The graduate students are positive about the first year report described at the beginning of this section, agreeing that this should improve the success of their studies and their preparation for careers in linguistics. The faculty decided to extend this system of institutional monitoring so that a preliminary report is expected at the end of six months, and additional annual reports are expected at the ends of the second and third years as well. This system was implemented in 2008.

In Table 3 PhD students are listed together with their projects over a period of ten years.
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3.3.1 Graduate students

The graduate students (19 research master and 30 PhD) had one meeting with the director of CLCG, the director of the Graduate School for Humanities and the chair of the CLCG advisory board on September 10, 2009.

In his word of welcome Director John Nerbonne encouraged Master and PhD students to take initiative and get involved with research by discussing ideas with staff members. A major topic of the meeting was the development of the Graduate School for Humanities. Kees de Bot, vice-dean of the faculty and director of the graduate school, informed about ongoing developments. Reports about previous and upcoming research events organized by PhD students (such as TABU Dag and the CLCG Colloquium) were presented. Furthermore, GRASP, the Groningen Association for PhD students was introduced and membership (low fee) recommended. The main concern of GRASP is the facilitation of PhD students. Finally, social events such as weekly sports activities were announced. Everybody was invited to a drink together after the meeting.

3.4 Postdocs

The following researchers were active in 2009 (postdocs except where noted otherwise): Van Bezooijen, Hilton, Kürschner, Tiedemann, Tjong Kim Sang (Computational Linguistics); Hollebrandse (LANSPAN and Syntax and Semantics), Kuiper (researcher,LANSPAN); Fortuny, Koster, de Swart, de Vries (Syntax and Semantics).
Part Two
4 Research Groups

4.1 Computational Linguistics

The computational linguistics group focuses on language processing by computer from a theoretical, experimental and applied perspectives. As of 2005, two members of the CLCG group on phonology and phonetics joined the computational linguistics group, as suggested by the external evaluation committee 1998-2004. As a result, phonology and phonetics is an additional research focus, in particular focusing on computational methods in those areas.

Staff members
Leonie Bosveld, Gosse Bouma, Hartmut Fitz, Dicky Gilbers, Charlotte Gooskens, John Nerbonne, and Gertjan van Noord (coordinator)

Graduate Students and Postdocs
Renée van Bezooijen (postdoc), Kostadin Cholakov, Çagri Çöltekin, Erik Tjong Kim Sang (postdoc), Daniel de Kok, Gideon Kotzé, Sebastian Küerschner (postdoc), Therese Leinonen, Peter Nabende, Proscovia Olango, Barbara Plank, Jelena Prokić, Anja Schüpbert, Jörg Tiedemann (postdoc), Tim Van de Cruys, Martijn Wieling, Yan Zhao

Associated members
Geoffrey Andogah, Ismail Fahmi

Research results

STEVIN is a long-term research program for Dutch language and speech technology, financed by both the Flemish and Dutch government and coordinated by the Nederlandse Taalunie. CLCG participates in four on-going STEVIN projects. STEVIN LASSY (van Noord, Bouma, Tjong Kim Sang in cooperation with KU Leuven) is about syntactic annotation of Dutch corpora. STEVIN DAISY (van Noord, Ph.D.-project Daniel de Kok (per Sept. 2008), cooperates with KU Leuven and Q-Go) is concerned with automatic summarization. STEVIN PACO-MT (van Noord, Ph.D.-project Gideon Kotzé, per Sept. 2008), cooperates with KU Leuven and aims at building a hybrid machine translation system combining data-driven and rule-driven paradigms. STEVIN DUOMAN (van Noord) cooperates with UvA, TrendLight, GridLine and University College Ghent and aims at the development of a set of Dutch language resources and tools for identifying and aggregating sentiments in online data sources. The STEVIN LASSY project initiated the organization of the international Treebanks and Linguistic Theory (TLT) conference in Groningen, in January 2009. The conference was co-located and co-organized with the 19th meeting of CLIN, Computational Linguistics in the Netherlands. The organizing committee of both events consisted of Gosse Bouma, Çağri Çöltekin, Tim Van de Cruys, Gertjan van Noord, Barbara Plank, Jelena Prokić, Erik Tjong Kim Sang. STEVIN LASSY sponsored one of the invited speakers at the 30th TABU meeting: Kenneth Church (chief scientist of the Human Language Technology center of excellence of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore).

The Alpino parser for Dutch. developed *inter alia* by Bouma and van Noord has become a *de-facto* standard for the automatic syntactic analysis of Dutch texts, and it is used by various other research groups in the Netherlands and elsewhere. The system has been improved in 2009 along two dimensions. A new learning strategy has been developed by which the parser's efficiency is greatly enhanced, without important effects on its accuracy. This strategy was published at the main session of the EACL (Athens, 2009). The other improvement is
developed in the STEVIN DAISY project, and constitutes an initial version of a generation component for the Alpino grammar in combination with a statistical fluency component.

An important focus of the computational linguistics group remains the work on computational dialectology. Charlotte Gooskens continued her NWO-Vidi project on 'semi-communication'. By means of phonetic and lexical distance measurements Gooskens investigates how well Scandinavians understand each other's languages, and, more generally, which factors determine intelligibility of closely related languages. A related NWO project (cooperation with KU Leuven and RU Nijmegen) investigates the mutual intelligibility of language varieties in the low lands. A paper by Nerbonne, "Data-Driven Dialectology", a somewhat polemical programmatic piece, appeared in the journal Language and Linguistic Compass. Nerbonne acted as guest-editor of a special issue of the Lingua journal on syntactic databases, which included a contribution co-authored by Nerbonne on analyzing syntactic collections in dialectological studies.

The Building ICT Research Capacity project, sponsored by the NUFFIC, entered its third year with John Nerbonne as director. There are three PhD projects at the computational linguistics group sponsored by this project, one on using automatic alignment techniques for transliteration (Nabende), and a second on enriching documents automatically for e-learning (Olango). Geoffrey Andogah submitted his thesis 'Geographically Constrained Information Retrieval' to the reading committee shortly before Christmas, 2009.

As of September 1, Leonoor van der Beek works at a one year, part-time post for a project which aims to document the history of language and speech technology in the Netherlands and Flanders. Ismail Fahmi received his Ph.D. on a study entitled 'Automatic Term and Relation Extraction for Medical Question Answering System' Francisco Borges's thesis on the application of support vector machines for parse selection was approved in October. He will defend his thesis on February 18, 2010.

Leonie Bosveld continued her cooperation with Mark de Vries. In the framework of the NWO-project 'The Syntax of Nonsubordination: Parentheses, Appositions and Grants' an interactive drawing tool has been developed for importing, generating, manipulating, and exporting syntax trees. Extensions of this tool to other application domains in the humanities are investigated, and representational alternatives of trees are considered.

The CLARIN-NL project is a large national project in the Netherlands which aims to play a central role in the Europe-wide CLARIN infrastructure. CLARIN-NL offers scholars the tools to allow computer-aided language processing, addressing one or more of the multiple roles language plays. CLARIN-NL aims to design, construct, validate, and exploit a research infrastructure that is needed to provide a sustainable and persistent eScience working environment for researchers in the Humanities.

The computational linguistics group will participate in two CLARIN-NL projects which will start in 2010. The first project is TTNWW: 'TST Tools voor het Nederlands als Webservices in een Workflow' is a cooperation with several research groups in the Netherlands and Flanders. Groningen is involved with creating a web service for syntactic parsing. Charlotte Gooskens and John Nerbonne submitted a proposal to CLARIN-NL to create a web application to measure pronunciation distance given samples of transcriptions of the same list of words in different locations (or under other varying conditions). The ADEPT project (Assaying Differences via Edit Distance of Pronunciation Transcriptions) is planned to run for six months.
Academic Publications

Dr. Renée van Bezooijen


Dr. Gosse Bouma


Proscovia Olango, Gerwin Kramer, and Gosse Bouma. TermPedia for interactive document enrichment using technical terms to provide relevant contextual information. In

Kostadin Cholakov, MA


Çağrı Çöltekin, MA


Dr. Hartmut Fitz


Dr. Dicky G. Gilbers


Dr. Charlotte Gooskens


**Daniël J.A. de Kok, MA**


**Dr. Sebastian Kürschner**


**John Nerbonne, Charlotte Gooskens, Sebastian Kürschner, and Renée van Bezooijen.**


**Therese Leinonen, MA**


**Peter Nabende, MA**


Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne


John Kizito, Ismail Fahmi, Erik Tjong Kim Sang, Gosse Bouma, and John Nerbonne.

**Dr. Gertjan van Noord**


**Proscovia Olango, MA**

**Barbara Plank, MA**


**Jelena Prokic, MA**


**Professional Publications**

**Dr. Renée van Bezooijen**

**Dr. Charlotte Gooskens**


**Dr. Sebastian Kürschner**

**Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne**


**Dr. Gertjan van Noord**

Frank van Eynde, Anette Frank, Koenraad de Smedt, and Gertjan van Noord, editors. *Proceedings of the Seventh International Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories (TLT 7)*, volume 12 of *LOT Occasional series*, Utrecht, 2009, LOT.

**Dr.ir. Erik Tjong Kim Sang**


**Lectures**

**Dr. Gosse Bouma**


Gosse Bouma, Jennifer Spenader. The Distribution of Weak and Strong Object Reflexives in Dutch. *seventh workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theory (TLT 7)*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 22nd January 2009.


Gosse Bouma. Mine Wikipedia! *De nacht van kunst en wetenschap*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 13th June 2009. [invited]

Gosse Bouma. Open Access en Open Data. *Open Access Week*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 22nd October 2009. [invited]

**Çağrı Çöltekin, MA**


**Dr. Hartmut Fitz**
Hartmut Fitz. Learning complex questions. *Research seminar*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 21st November 2009. [invited]

**Dr. Dicky G. Gilbers**

**Dr. Charlotte Gooskens**
Anja Schüppert, Vincent van Heuven, Eric Vedder, Jan van Hove, Charlotte Gooskens. Do Danes speak more quickly than Swedes? *IcLAVE*, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen. 4th June 2009.
Charlotte Gooskens, Renee van Bezooijen. Mutual intelligibility between closely related languages. *colloquium Institute of Linguistics and Finno-Ugric Studies*, Charles University in Prague, Prague. 7th October 2009. [invited]
Charlotte Gooskens. Myth busting - Deens is een moeilijke taal. *Nyström symposium*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 26th November 2009. [invited]

**Daniël J.A. de Kok, MA**
Daniël de Kok. Natural Language Generation. *Course in Language Technology given by Prof. John Nerbonne*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 5th October 2009. [invited]
Jianqiang Ma, Daniël de Kok, Gertjan van Noord. An Extended Method for Iterative Error Mining in Parsing Results. *TABU Dag 2009*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th June 2009.

**Gideon J. Kotzé, MA**

**Dr. Sebastian Kurtschner**

**Therese Leinonen, MA**
Leinonen, Therese. Variation and Change in Swedish Vowel Pronunciation. *International Conference of Language Variation in Europe 5*, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen. 25th – 27th June 2009.


**Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne**


Note: Ernst Wit and Edwin van den Heuvel, convenors.


Jelena Prokic, Peter Houtzagers, John Nerbonne. The Quantitative Analysis of the Phonetic Features in Bulgarian Dialects. *Closing Workshop for Project "Measuring Linguistic Unity and Diversity"*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 13th June 2009. [invited]


John Nerbonne. Building ICT Research and Training Capacity with the Ugandan Public Universities. *Project director's visit*, University of Gulu, Gulu, Uganda. 21st February 2009. [invited]

**Dr. Gertjan van Noord**


Note: Http://www.eacl2009.gr/


Gertjan van Noord. Huge Parsed Corpora in LASSY. The 7th International Workshop on Treebanks and Linguistic Theories (TLT), University of Groningen, Groningen. 23rd – 24th January 2009.
Note: Http://www.let.rug.nl/tlt/.

Note: Http://www.let.rug.nl/clin/.

Note: Http://www.let.rug.nl/clin/.


Note: Http://lml.bas.bg/ranlp2009/.

Gertjan van Noord. Parsing to improve Parsing. Colloquium University of Malta, University of Malta. 14th May 2009. [invited]

Barbara Plank, MA
Barbara Plank. Domain Adaptation of Syntactic Disambiguation Models. guest lecture, CLiPS group, University of Antwerp, Antwerp. 23rd July 2009. [invited]

Anja Schüppert, MA

Dr. ir. Erik Tjong Kim Sang


Martijn B. Wieling, MSc


**Dr. Yan Zhao**

**Other Research Activities**

**Dr. Leonoor van der Beek**
- Member of STEVIN Program Committee, Den Haag.

**Dr. Gosse Bouma**
- Member of Nederlandse Taalunie, steering committee on term extraction, Den Haag.
- Member of RUG ICT strategiecommissie, Groningen.
- Member of national advisory panel of CLARIN-NL (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, Utrecht.
  Member of the Reading Committee of Michael Kaisser's PhD Thesis. Edinburgh University, School of Informatics, 30th June 2009.
  Title: Acquiring Syntactic and Semantic Transformations in Question Answering.

**Dr. Charlotte Gooskens**
- Member of Scientific committee Sociolinguistic symposium 18, Southampton.
- Member of evaluation committee of The Research Council of Norway, Oslo.
- Member of evaluation committee of FWO-Vlaanderen, Brussel.
- Member of the Reading Committee of Chaoju Tang's PhD Thesis. Leiden University, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics, 8th September 2009.
  Title: Mutual intelligibility of Chinese dialects: an experimental approach.

**Drs. Nanna Haug Hilton**
  Note: Joint editor (with Grohmann, K; Boeckx, C) for the special issue of Biolinguistics with papers from BALE2008: Biolinguistics: Acquisition and Language Evolution, vol 3, issue 2, 2009.

**Daniël J.A. de Kok, MA**
- Chair of Groningen Association for PhD Students, Groningen.

**Prof. dr. ir. John Nerbonne**
- Member of Wetenschapscommissie (Scientific Advisory Board), Meertens, Amsterdam.
  Note: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2013.
- Member of Scientific Advisory Board (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat) of Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim.
- Member of Board of Stichting voor Taal- en Spraaktechnologie (TST), Den Haag.
  Note: TST supervises the STEVIN program (NWO/Taalunie/Economics Ministry).
• Member of International Advisory Board of Swedish Graduate School in Language Technology (GSLT), Göteborg.
• Member of Executive Committee of Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, London.
• Member of Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), Amsterdam.
• Member of Evaluation Committee, Center for Language Studies, Nijmegen. Note: May 25-27, 2009.
• Member of editorial board of *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
• Member of advisory board of *Natural Language Processing (book series)*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam.
• Member of editorial board of *Human Biology*, Wayne State University, Detroit.
• Promotor of Ismail Fahmi. 14th May 2009. Title: *Automatic Term and Relation Extraction for Medical Question-Answering Systems*.
• Member of the Reading Committee of Chaoju Tang's PhD Thesis. Leiden University, 8th September 2009. Title: *Mutual Intelligibility of Chinese Dialects*.
• Member of the Reading Committee of Nicole Grégoire's PhD Thesis. Utrecht University, 10th November 2009. Title: *Untangling Multiword Expressions. A Study on the Representation and Variation of Dutch Multiword Expressions*.
• Member of the Reading Committee of Nini Hoiting's PhD Thesis. 30th November 2009. Title: *The Acquisition of Sign Language by Deaf'Dutch Toddlers*.
• Participant in promotion of Benjamin Kanagwa. Radboud University, 21st April 2009. Title: *Design, Discovery and Construction of Service-Oriented Systems*.
• Participant in promotion of Josephine Nabukenya. Radboud University, 3rd March 2009. Title: *Improving the Quality of Organisational Policy Making using Collaboration Engineering*.

**Dr. Gertjan van Noord**
• Member of EACL (European Chapter of the ACL) nominating committee, -.
• Member; maintainer web-site of CLIN Working Group, -.
• Member of the editorial board of *Computer Speech and Language*, Elsevier, Amsterdam.
• Member of the editorial board of *Linguistic Issues in Language Technology*, CSLI, Stanford.
Barbara Plank, MA
- Editor of *Computational Linguistics in The Netherlands 2009*, LOT, Utrecht.
  Note: Selected papers from the nineteenth CLIN meeting.

Dr. ir. Erik Tjong Kim Sang
- Information Officer of ACL’s Special Interest Group on Natural Language Learning, online.
4.2 Discourse and Communication

This group combines research in pragmatic discourse analysis with the study of communication in institutional settings, i.e., in and around organizations, in the media, and on the Internet. The research focuses on the use of language and non-verbal semiotic systems in specific, esp. institutional and intercultural, communicative contexts, including face-to-face interactions, telephone conversations, written, visual, and audio-visual communication. Interactions are considered as situated, culture- and context-sensitive joint actions of the participants. Media are analyzed in terms of their specific functionalities such as semiotic capacities, interactivity, and permanency. Cultural factors studied include institutional roles, ethnic, geographical, and socio-economic background, as well as gender.

The group has regular monthly meetings with presentations by internal and external speakers. Some members participate in the bi-weekly meetings of the Experimental Linguistics Group and some occasionally attend LANSPAN colloquia.

Staff members
Marcel Bax, Jeanine Deen, Titus Ensink, John Hoeks, Harrie Mazeland, Esther Pascual, Gisela Redeker (coordinator), Christoph Sauer

Graduate Students
Trevor Benjamin, Ildikó Berzlánovich, Diana Dimitrova, Christina Englert, Ryan Taylor, Nynke van der Vliet

Associated members
Agnes Engbersen, Henrike Padmos

Research results

There have been shifts in emphasis in the group’s research due to changes in the staff and new PhD students. This is reflected in the section headers in this report. More changes will result from the hiring of three new permanent staff members (including a full professor) in 2010.

Discourse structure and argumentation

In the NWO Program Modelling Textual Organization, now led by Redeker, a new PhD-project was started by Nynke van der Vliet (supervisor: Bouma, Computational Linguistics), aiming at automatic annotation of RST relations in texts. She started by developing an algorithm to automatically segment sentences based on the rules used for the manual segmentation of our corpus (to be presented at CLIN2010). Berzlánovich refined her cohesion analysis and created annotations in XML format with an MMAX tool adapted by Bouma. She presented preliminary results at three conferences and submitted a paper to the journal Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory (accepted). Redeker and both PhD students continued the very time-intensive manual discourse-structure annotation effort. The corpus now contains 20 encyclopedia entries and 20 fundraising letters; 20 review texts are still awaiting annotation.

Egg (Berlin) and Redeker continued their work on the complexity of discourse structure showing, in work with Trevisan (Erasmus Mundus Master’s in Language and Communication Technologies, EMLCT) and in a talk to be held at LREC2010, that crossed dependencies and multiple-parent structures in Wolf & Gibson’s Discourse Graphbank are artifacts of annotation decisions and should not be taken as evidence against the sufficiency of tree structures. Duarte (EMLCT) and Redeker explored the use of discourse-structure information...
in sentiment analysis of review texts and found a marked effect of the global structure of subgenres.

Esther Pascual Olivé joined the group in September. She was awarded a 5-year NWO Vidi grant for a project on “The Conversation Frame: Linguistic Forms and Communicative Functions in Discourse” that will also finance two PhD students. She has worked on “Do-it-yourself compounds” (paper accepted for Cognitive Linguistics), fictive interaction as an argumentative strategy in jury deliberations, and fictive interaction in the grammar of indigenous languages without a written code.

Marcel Bax published an article about the ritual substratum of argumentative discourse, and gave a talk on the dissimilar evolutionary roots of negative and positive politeness. Papers on ritual politeness in early modern Dutch letter-writing, face-work according to 17th-century correspondence manuals, and the history of ritual studies, as well as two related papers that address the developmental backgrounds of rhetorical dispute in ritual conflict are in press. He is working on a chapter on Rituals for the Handbook of Pragmatics (Mouton-de Gruyter, 2010).

**The organization of talk in interaction**

The central focus of this line of research, led by Mazeland, is to investigate how the design of utterances contributes to the organization of talk in interaction. Mazeland presented work on coalition-building in argumentative talk at a conference. In joint work with Leendert Plug (University Leeds), he is analyzing the interplay of turn-construction, prosody and communicative function in the use of Dutch particles, in particular turn-final ‘hoor’. First results will be published in a volume on prosody and interaction (Benjamins 2010) and presented at ICCA 10, Mannheim July 2010. Mazeland is a co-applicant (main applicant: Tom Koole, Utrecht) of a start-up grant for building a corpus of naturally occurring Dutch conversation.

Englert created a corpus of eleven hours of video recordings of organized group activities of three age-homogenous elderly peer groups. Her current focus is the activity of complaining as a practice through which the elderly create and reflect their age-based cultural identity. A paper on Questions in Dutch is forthcoming in the Journal of Pragmatics.

Trevor Benjamin joined the group in September. He started his PhD project on ‘Returning to an abandoned line of talk’ and has been working on a handbook chapter (Blackwell Handbook of Applied Linguistics) on repair organization with Barbara Fox (Boulder University) and Mazeland.

**Discourse processing**

Hoeks is leading the research on discourse processing. He published research on processing ellipsis in spoken language, showing that pragmatic context and prosody together can eliminate pre-existing processing difficulty. He co-authored papers with Petra Hendriks (Syntax & Semantics) on scalar implicatures and on children's understanding of discourse and continued his collaboration with Laurie Stowe (Neurolinguistics) on various ongoing projects.

Dimitrova conducted three ERP experiments on prosody processing; the analyses are in progress. Using a newly designed production experiment, she replicated the 'blue banana' effect (abnormality overrules contrast). She presented her work at CogSci 2009 and in a paper for Interspeech 2009.
Taylor continued his PhD project on the processing of anaphors and accent in spoken language, resulting in a paper under review for the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology* and a poster on object pronoun reference at CogSci 2009. He is now conducting experiments on the time course of accented pronoun comprehension.

**Mediated communication**

Ensink published a paper on the use of quotation in a corpus of judicially contentious texts and a paper reflecting on the societal impact of commemorative discourse regarding painful collective memories. Sauer continued his studies of WW2 commemoration speeches and extended his semiotic analysis of newspaper photographs to cases with nearly no texts. Using a corpus of documentary films, Sauer studied the relationship between verbal discourse and media features, in particular looking at the ways film audiences get access to the 'common ground' of the interviewers, interviewees, experts, presenters etc. by verbal means in general (overhearer design) and supported by visual representations ('overviewer' design).

Redeker continued to supervise (with Doeko Bosscher, ICOG) the external PhD research by Michelle Knight, who is tracing the public communications of stakeholders in a case of New York police (NYPD) violence and the historical roots of those interactions (completion expected in 2010).

**Academic Publications**

**Dr. Marcel M. H. Bax**


**Ildikó Berzlánovich, MA**


**Diana V. Dimitrova, MA**


**Christina K. Englert, MA**

Dr. Titus Ensink

Dr. John C.J. Hoeks

Dr. H.J. Mazeland

Dr. Esther Pascual Olivé
E. Pascual. “I was in that room!”: Conceptual integration of content and context in a writer’s vs. a prosecutor’s description of a murder. In Vyv Evans and Stephanie Pourcel, editors, *New Directions in Cognitive Linguistics*, volume 24 of Human Cognitive Processing,

Prof. dr. Gisela Redeker

Dr. Christoph Sauer

Ryan C. Taylor, MA

Lectures

Dr. Marcel M. H. Bax
Marcel Bax. (Im)Politeness in the Darwin Year. Evolutionary Notes on an Interactional Practice: Defining Socio-Proxemic Space. Linguistic Impoliteness and Rudeness (LIAR) II, Lancaster University, Lancaster. 2nd July 2009. [invited]

Ildikó Berzlánovich, MA
Ildikó Berzlánovich, Gisela Redeker. The structure of lexical cohesion. 30th TABU Dag, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th June 2009.
Ildikó Berzlánovich. The expository text type and lexical cohesion. The Semantics in the Netherlands Day 7, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam. 6th November 2009.
**Diana V. Dimitrova, MA**


**Christina K. Englert, MA**


**Dr. John C.J. Hoeks**
Dimitrova, D. , Redeker, G. , Hoeks, J. C. J. Did you say a BLUE banana? The prosody of contrast and abnormality in Bulgarian and Dutch. *Interspeech*, Brighton. 8th September 2009.


Dr. H.J. Mazeland
Mazeland, Harrie. Building a coalition by doing position expansion in meeting talk. Discourse in Organisations, University of Gent, Gent. 16th August – 18th September 2009.

Dr. Esther Pascual Olivé
Esther Pascual. Metaforen in professionele communicatie. Ouderendag, University of Groningen, Groningen. 29th May 2010. [invited]
Esther Pascual. Because she said so: On the multifunctionality of direct speech in the jury room. 30th TABU Dag, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th June 2009 – 12th June 2010.
Note: Http://www.let.rug.nl/tabudag/tabu2009/.

Prof. dr. Gisela Redeker
Diana V. Dimitrova, Gisela Redeker, John C. J. Hoeks. Did you say a BLUE banana? The prosody of contrast and abnormality in Bulgarian and Dutch. Interspeech, Brighton. 8th September 2009.
Diana V. Dimitrova, Gisela Redeker, John C. J. Hoeks. World knowledge violations and their Prosodic Marking in Dutch. LOT Winterschool Groningen, University of Groningen, Groningen. 26th January 2009.
John C. J. Hoeks, Petra Hendriks, Gisela Redeker, Laurie A. Stowe. Can 'gapping' be made easy? Evidence from ERPs. Utrecht Symposium on Discourse and Parsing, Utrecht University, Utrecht. 4th June 2009. [invited]
Ryan C. Taylor, Laurie A. Stowe, Gisela Redeker, John C. J. Hoeks. The type of relation between two clauses determines the interpretation of accented pronouns. LOT Winterschool Groningen, University of Groningen, Groningen. 26th January 2009.
Ildikó Berzlánovich, Gisela Redeker. The structure of lexical cohesion. 30th TABU Dag, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th June 2009.
Sergio Duarte, Gisela Redeker. Using discourse information in sentiment polarity classification. 30th TABU-day, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th June 2009.


**Dr. Christoph Sauer**


Note: Session Visual Rhetoric.

Christoph Sauer. Audience design in documentaires: commentaar (voice-over), dialoog, beelden voor overhearers. *Discourse and Communication Research Group*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 21st April 2009. [invited]


Christoph Sauer. Foto’s en tekens: analyse van foto’s met weinig of zonder tekst. *guest lecture in the context of course Visual Communication*, University of Groningen, CIW, Groningen. 17th November 2009. [invited]

**Ryan C. Taylor, MA**


Note: My conference proceedings resulted from this poster presentation.

Ryan Taylor, Laurie A. Stowe, Gisela Redeker, John C. J. Hoeks. The type of relation between two clauses determines the interpretation of accented pronouns. *LOT Winterschool poster session*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 26th January 2009.

**Other Research Activities**

**Dr. Marcel M. H. Bax**

- Member of the board of *Journal of Historical Pragmatics*, John Benjamins, Amsterdam.
  Note: Guest editor (with Dániel Kádár, Hungarian Academy of Sciences) of the special issue of JHP (2011) on "Understanding Historical (Im)Politeness."

**Dr. John C.J. Hoeks**

- Member of Editorial Board for LOT publications, Utrecht.
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Nina Versteeg's PhD Thesis. Utrecht University, Faculty of Arts, 5th June 2009.
  Title: *What you know is what you parse.*
• Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Roel Kerkhofs's PhD Thesis. Radboud University Nijmegen, Faculty of social sciences, 9th November 2009. Title: Discourse and prosody in sentence processing: An electrophysiological investigation.

Dr. H.J. Mazeland
• Member editorial board of Tijdschrift voor Taalbeheersing, Van Gorcum, Assen.
• Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Marjolein Deunk's PhD Thesis. 3rd November 2009. Title: Discourse practices in pre-school.

Dr. Esther Pascual Olivé
• Secretary of Belgium and Netherlands Cognitive Linguistics Association (BeNeCLA), Groningen. Note: Http://benecla.com/.

Prof. dr. Gisela Redeker
• Member of Raad van Advies, Donald Smits Centrum voor Informatie Technologie, Groningen.
• Reviewer of European Science Foundation, Strasbourg Cedex.
• Reviewer of Dutch Council for the Humanities, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), The Hague.
• Member of editorial board of Tijdschrift voor Communicatiewetenschap, Boom, Amsterdam.
• Member of editorial board of Poetics, Elsevier, Amsterdam.
• Member of the board of consulting editors of Linguistik online, n.a., http://www.linguistik-online.com.
• Member of the Reading Committee of Nina Versteeg's PhD Thesis. Utrecht University, Faculteit der Letteren, 5th June 2009. Title: What you know is what you parse. How situational knowledge affects sentence processing.

Dr. Christoph Sauer
• Member of Internationale Semiotische Herbst-Akademie, Oldenburg (Germany).
4.3. Language and Literacy Development Across the Life Span

The research group Language and Literacy Development across the Life Span (in short: LANSPLAN) focuses on empirical research into the development of language and literacy across the life span. The group’s research deals with development in first, second and foreign languages and addresses various aspects of the knowledge and use of language and literacy. Development is studied across the lifetime, in various contexts (home, school) and with a focus on individual and situational variables that affect learning. LANSPLAN includes both theoretical and applied linguists in the field of French, German, and English as a Foreign language and Dutch as a First (NT1) and Second language (NT2) who share a concern for language acquisition, language attrition and language learning in educational settings.

The research group has a very active program of lectures – the LANSPLAN colloquia.

Staff members
Jan Berenst, Kees de Bot, Pieter Breuker, Kees de Glopper (coordinator), Hilde Hacquebord, Bart Hollebrandse (until June), Angeliek van Hout, Wander Lowie, Monika Schmid, Marjolijn Verspoor

Graduate Students and Postdocs

Associated members

Language development in L1.
Research on first language development takes different theoretical perspectives (generative syntax, model-theoretic semantics, optimality theory and usage based grammar) and uses different types of data on child language (both experimental data and dense observational data from natural settings). Van Hout continued her research on the acquisition of definite and indefinite NPs. She collaborated with many colleagues from the COST network to collect acquisition data from 5-year-olds on 10 domains of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Based on these results, she has started developing a language test for Dutch. She started a new research project which involves the adaptation of an English language development screening tool called GAPS for Dutch. Rasmus Steinkrauss completed and defended his dissertation. His data show that the German input which children receive leads to a path of acquisition differing from English, that input frequency plays a role in acquisition but that other factors do too, and that corpus size may influence analyses.

Development of language use in preschool and kindergarten.
Research on the development of language use in preschool and kindergarten studies how different situations or participation frames contribute to language development. The focus is on the communicative interaction that takes place in situations where young children are engaged in play, work or reading and on the learning opportunities and learning effects these situations provide. Marjolein Deunk defended her PhD thesis on picture books and the social and emotional development of young children. This year, Myrte Gosen collected videodata at three kindergarten classes for the benefit of her PhD project. These videodata are transcribed and will be analyzed by use of conversation analysis. The focus is how 4-6 year old children participate in and learn from interactions during the reading-aloud of picture books. Jan Berenst explored the discursive mediation of learning processes (regarding morality and
literacy) of young children in classroom interaction and in peer interaction during work, reading and play settings, and analyzed the development of some conversational devices that are involved. Kees de Glopper coordinated the work on the picture books research program.

**Second language learning, bilingualism and dynamic systems theory.**

Kees de Bot, Wander Lowie en Marjolijn Verspoor continued their research on the application of dynamic systems theory (DST) to second language development, in particular with respect to variation in development and the stability of representations in the bilingual lexicon. Tal Caspi’s project investigates the application of DST to longitudinal development of advanced L2 vocabulary knowledge and writing skills. Marjolijn Verspoor carried out a study into the dynamic interaction of complexity and accuracy in Finnish learner language was completed. The writing proficiency of more than 500 high school learners was also followed longitudinally to study the effects of bilingual education.

Wander Lowie continued his work on a DST approach to second language development, focusing on L2 phonology and on the dynamic multilingual lexicon. With Sieuwke Reitsma he investigated early phonological development in school and reported on this in London. He also initiated and authored an ESF theme proposal submitted by 10 researchers from 7 European countries on the development of L2 phonology. The proposal was not accepted, but will be reworked and resubmitted for a different forum in 2010. With Tal Caspi he submitted an article on the dynamic simulation of the development of productive and receptive vocabulary knowledge.

In her PhD project, Beate Smeding aims to develop an innovative multimedia listening test for L2 primary school children in Germany. The test is innovative for being implemented in schools as part of their language policy. In the context of this test development, literacy data will be gathered and related to background variables. Siti Mina Tamah aims to contribute to a new teaching paradigm for L2 reading in her PhD project. She gathered data in Indonesia reading classes organized using principles of collaborative and task-based learning.

Gulsen Yilmaz and Farah van der Kooi analyzed more data on Turkish and Moroccan immigrants in the Netherlands. They indicate L1 lexical access difficulties among Moroccans but not among Turks, that L1 and L2 access are related among Turks but not among Moroccans, and that L1 use in the family and the age of emigration predict L2 (Dutch) lexical access for both groups.

**The development of bilingual education in the Netherlands.**

The number of schools offering different types of bilingual education has grown recently a great deal. Research on these schools focuses on the development of proficiency in the target language and the mother tongue. Kees de Bot started a government-funded project on the evaluation of Early English Teaching in the Netherlands together with colleagues from Utrecht. Sieuwke Reitsma started working on this project in the fall. Marjolijn Verspoor received a grant from the Ministry of Education to assess the development of proficiency in Dutch/English bilingual streams in secondary schools. Jenny Schuitemaker is working on this project with a special focus on the impact of teacher behavior on language proficiency.

**Language, literacy and learning.**

Research on language, literacy and learning studies how reading, writing and oral communication contribute to learning in primary, secondary and higher education and in the workplace. The focus is on processes of communication and knowledge construction and on the way reading, writing and talking are learned and/or used by learners and teachers. Marjolein Deunk defended her dissertation on discourse practices in preschool. Jan Berenst developed a research program for conversational analysis of students’ learning in whole class
interaction. He describes two fundamentally different interactional types during instruction in pre-school and a description of the relationship between the vocabulary size of pre-school children, their experiences with picture book reading and their parents literacy behavior.

In her study on collaborative thinking and professional development Jacqueline van Kruiningen concentrated on micro-analyses of the construction of mutual understanding. Veerle Baaijen ran an extensive reading experiment testing whether the development of ideas varied as a function of planning and self-monitoring and investigated both knowledge change and the processes responsible for it. In the context of test development (Diataal) Hilde Hacquebord started a longitudinal research project on the development of the reading proficiency of Dutch L1 and L2 at-risk children (10-15 yr.), in relation to home literacy variables and school policy. The first results show a clear Matthew Effect, indicating a growing gap between the poor readers and the other pupils. Kees de Glopper continued his research on knowledge and speed factors in L1, L2 and EFL and reading and writing.

Sake Jager defended his PhD thesis on ICT and language teaching, marking the beginning of a new line of applied research on ICT in language learning and teaching. It will involve cooperation with the Groningen Language Center and different groups at the Radboud.

**Language attrition.**

This research line aims to understand the theoretical and methodological aspects of the attrition of skills and proficiency in first and second languages. The focus is on the attempt to move towards a holistic model of language attrition which takes into account both linguistic/theoretical and extra-/sociolinguistics aspects of language attrition, as well as on the design of a standardized, cross-linguistically applicable test battery. Language attrition is seen as a dynamic component of language development over the life-span. During the year of 2009, Xiaoyan Xu entered the last year of her project on English language attrition in Chinese university students. Her data show that the Chinese students lose part of their skills in English and actually need a considerable amount of contact and use to even maintain their skills over a year. Monika Schmid analyzed data which were collected in her VENI project on L1 attrition (2004-2008). In particular, she has tried to establish the impact of external factors, such as length of residence, amount of use, and age, on the attritional process. She has furthermore begun to compare the findings from long-term attriters with the performance of very good L2 speakers, in order to establish whether the deviant performance that both groups sometimes establish in comparison to unattrited L1 speakers is the result of some maturational constraint on language learning, or of the presence and development of two competing systems. She applied for an ERC grant which received very positive reviews but was not funded due to limited funds.

Hanneke Loerts examines the real-time processing of grammatical gender by late L2-learners of Dutch. Grammatical gender is particularly interesting because some languages have a complex gender system (e.g. Polish) whereas other languages lack any form of gender concord (e.g. Turkish). To investigate whether the presence or absence of a gender system in L1 influences the processing of grammatical gender in L2 Dutch, this study will compare native speakers of Dutch to L2-learners with L1 Polish [+gender] and L1 Turkish [-gender]. Behavioral measures will be combined with online measures of processing, such as event-related potentials (ERPs) and eyetracking. By combining these methods, the project attempts to provide insight into natives’ and L2 learners' online processing strategies as well as their capability to use gender as a predictive aspect in language comprehension.
**Academic Publications**

**Dr. Jan Berenst**


**Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot**


**Dr. Pieter Breuker**


**Prof. dr. Kees de Glopper**

**Myrte N. Gosen, MA**


**Dr. Hilde I. Hacquebord**


**Dr. Angeliek van Hout**


**Farah van der Kooi, MSc**


**Drs. L.P. Kwant**


**Dr. Wander Lowie**


W. Lowie and S. Reitsma. The early bird catches the worm(?): the acquisition of an English sound system in Dutch primary school children. In J. Maidment, editor, *PTLC 2009*


Dr. Monika S. Schmid

Dr. Marjolijn H. Verspoor

Gulsen Yilmaz, MA
Professional Publications

**Dr. Jan Berenst**

**Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot**

**Dr. Pieter Breuker**

**Prof. dr. Kees de Glopper**

**Dr. Hilde I. Hacquebord**

**Lectures**

**V.M.Baaijen, MA**

**Dr. Jan Berenst**
Jan Berenst. Verschillende typen leesproblemen en hun consequenties (Different types of reading problems and their implications). *Minisymposium on illiteracy problems, in connection with the release of the film The Reader*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 3rd April 2009. [invited]
Jan Berenst. Actualiteiten in het leesonderwijs (Actualities in reading education). *School management lunch meeting*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 27th February 2009. [invited]


Jan Berenst. Schooltaal verdient Onderzoek (School language deserves research). *Rectoren-overleg (Meeting of University Rector and School Principals)*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 9th October 2009. [invited]

Jan Berenst. Van hardop lezen naar doelgeoriënteerd lezen (From reading aloud to purposeful reading). *Studiedag Lezen in het Basisonderwijs (Seminar Reading in primary education)*, Primary School De Driemaster, Assen. 4th November 2009. [invited]

Jan Berenst. Taalhouding en taalgedrag in de klas (Language attitudes and language behavior in class). *Studieweek over meertaligheid (Seminar on multilingualism)*, Professional University Stendon, Emmen. 7th April 2009. [invited]

**Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot**

Kees de Bot. Linguistic traces: savings in the study of language attrition. *lecture series*, University of Cologne, Cologne. 7th December 2009. [invited]


**Myrte N. Gosen, MA**

Myrte Gosen. Reading aloud of picture books at kindergarten. *Anéla Juniorendag*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam. 16th January 2009.

Note: Poster presentation: Poster prize awarded.


Note: Poster presentation.


Note: Poster presentation.


Note: Poster presentation: poster prize awarded.


Dr. Hilde I. Hacquebord


Hilde Hacquebord. Tekstbegrip van Amsterdamse leerlingen van primair naar voortgezet onderwijs. 5de Stedelijke Taalconferentie, Gemeente Amsterdam, Amsterdam. 28th January 2009. [invited]


Hilde Hacquebord. Vroegtijdig signaleren en diagnosticeren van taalproblemen? Bijeenkomst Amsterdamse gymnasies, Amsterdam. 3rd September 2009. [invited]


Hilde Hacquebord, Simon Verhallen. Taaltoetsing Diataal, ook voor MBO? Taalcoachacademie, ITTA, University of Amsterdam, Amersfoort. 25th September 2009. [invited]

Hilde Hacquebord, Roelien Linthorst. De ontwikkeling van het begrijpend lezen van Amsterdamse leerlingen in de overgangsperiode van primair naar voortgezet onderwijs. 6de Anela Conferentie, Heerlen, Rolduc. 27th – 29th May 2009. [invited]


Hilde Hacquebord, Roelien Linthorst. Workshop Observatie-instrument Taalgericht Vakonderwijs. Trainingsbijeenkomst onderwijsinspecteurs, Nederlandse Inspectie van het Onderwijs, Utrecht. 11th November 2009. [invited]

Hilde Hacquebord. Taalarm of taalrijk? De school maakt het verschil. Studiedag Taalbeleid, 4e Gymnasium, Amsterdam. 8th December 2009. [invited]

Dr. Bart Hollebrandse

Bart Hollebrandse. How to Test Tense in 22 Languages. Acquisition Colloquium, Universitat Potsdam, Golm, Germany. 9th December 2009. [invited]

Bart Hollebrandse. The Mystery of 2nd Order Embedding. *Athens Linguistic Group*, University of Athens, Athens, Greece. 10th October 2009. [invited]


Bart Hollebrandse, Tom Roeper. How the Phase Alternation Constraint on Recursion and Propositional Exclusivity Interact. *Recursion: Structural Complexity in Language and Cognition*, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. 26th May 2009. [invited]


**Dr. Angeliek van Hout**


**Dr. Wander Lowie**


**Dr. Monika S. Schmid**


Monika S. Schmid. The discrepancy between L1 and L2: a perspective from L1 attrition. *University of Southern Connecticut Speaker Series*, University of Southern Connecticut, New Haven. 8th October 2009. [invited]

**Dr. Marjolijn H. Verspoor**


**Other Research Activities**

**Dr. Jan Berenst**

- Editor of *Taal Lezen Primair*, Uitgeverij School BV, Meppel.
- Member of the board of *Tijdschrift voor Taalbeheersing*, Van Gorcum, Assen.

**Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot**

- Editor of *Mouton Handbook of English as a Foreign Language*, Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin.
- Promotor of R. Steinkrauss. 26th November 2009. Title: *Frequency and function in Wh-question acquisition.*
- Member of the Reading Committee of M. Deunk’s PhD Thesis. 3rd December 2009. Title: *Discourse practices in preschool.*
Dr. Hilde I. Hacquebord

- Member of Platform Onderwijs Nederlands, Nederlandse Taalunie, Den Haag.
- Member of Werkgroep laaggeletterdheid, Den Haag.
- Member of Jury Anela scriptieprijs, Utrecht.
- Adviseur onderzoek of CPS, Amersfoort.
- Member of Jury Scriptieprijs van de Nederlandse Vereniging voor Toegepaste Taalwetenschap (Anela), Utrecht.
- Series Editor (hoofdredacteur) of Taalatelier, Betelgeuze, Zoetermeer.

Dr. Bart Hollebrandse

- Member of COST A33, Berlin.
- Member of Characterizing Human Language by its Structural Complexity, Berlin.
- Member of BCN Dissertation Prize Committee, Groningen/BCN.
- Member scientific committee of 20th Colloquium on Generative Grammar, Barcelona/Universitat Pompeu Fabra.
- Editor of Tabu, Tabu, Groningen.
- Member of the Reading Committee of Kazumi Kubo's PhD Thesis. University of Western Australia, Education/Humanities (Linguistics), 15th July 2009.
  Title: The Acquisition of the Meanings and Uses of the Past Form –ta by First and Second Language Learners of Japanese.

Dr. Angeliek van Hout

- Member of COST A33 Core Group, Coordinated by U. Sauerland, ZAS, Berlin.
  Note: COST A33 is an EU research network with researchers from 25 European countries. The title of the collaboration is Crosslinguistically Robust Stages of Children's Linguistic Performance.
  Note: I lead the Tense and Aspect Workgroup which includes about 40 participants representing 25 languages. I initiate, develop and plan the group's joint research on tense-aspect. I coordinate research and publication activities. I supervise one specific joint research project on aspect with participants from 12 countries, and plan run this project locally.
- Member of CHLaSC Management Committee, FP6 research collaboration, XAS, Berlin.
  Note: Characterizing Human Language by Structural Complexity (CHLaSC) is a FP6 research collaboration in the NEST Pathfinder Initiative "What it means to be human" and involves collaboration between ZAS, Berlin, University of Potsdam, St. Andrews College and University of Groningen. The project finished on July 1 2009.
- Associate Editor of Language Acquisition, Taylor & francis Group, London.

Dr. Wander Lowie

- Member editorial board of Toegepaste Taalwetenschap in Artikelen, ANELA, Tilburg.
- Editorial reviewer of Language Learning, Wiley-Blackwell, Hoboken (NJ), etc.
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Sake Jager's PhD Thesis. 17th December 2009.
Dr. Monika S. Schmid

- Member of De Jonge Academie (KNAW), Amsterdam.
- Associate Editor of International Journal of Bilingualism, Sage, London.
  Title: Re-semantizing gender.

Rasmus Steinkrauss, MA

- Member of International Cognitive Linguistics Association (ICLA), Amsterdam.
- Member of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS), Braunschweig.

Dr. Marjolijn H. Verspoor

- Treasurer of Anela, Amsterdam.
- Chair of Belgium Netherlands Cognitive Linguistics Association, Groningen.
- Advisory board member of Annual review of Cognitive Linguistics, Benjamins, Amsterdam.
- Editor of Converging Evidence in Language and Communication Research, Benjamins, A.
- Co-promotor of Rasmus Steinkraus. 26th November 2009.
  Title: Frequency and Function in WH Question Acquisition.

Xiaoyan Xu, MA

- Overseas editor of Teaching English in China, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, Beijing, China.
4.4. Language Variation and Language Change

This research group studies synchronic and diachronic variation in Indo-European and Finno-Ugric addressing issues in a “bottom-up” approach, i.e. starting with the collection and analysis of a solid body of data and examining its implications for theoretical claims. Members of this group thus contribute to a better understanding of both the language families they specialize in and to a number of theoretical issues concerning synchronic variation, diachronic variation and language change.

Staff members
Agnes de Bie-Kerékjartó, Hélène Brijnen, Bram ten Cate, Maria Czibere, Cornelius Hasselblatt, Peter Houtzagers, Bob de Jonge, Alexandra Lenz, Hermann Niebaum, Muriel Norde (coordinator), Siemon Reker, Nanne Streekstra, Willem Visser, Gerry Wakker.

PhD-students
Karin Beijering, Tim Kallenborn, Sander Orriens, Remco van Pareren.

Associated members
Stéphanie Bakker.

Appointments, retirements and awards
On March 1, 2009, Alexandra Lenz was appointed adjunct professor. Also in March, she was awarded the Förderpreis für Germanistische Sprachwissenschaft 2009 der Hugo-Moser-Stiftung im Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft. In November, she was awarded a VIDI grant by NWO; Wakker gave her inaugural lecture on February 24; Norde gave her inaugural lecture on September 15; On December 1, 2009 Hasselblatt received an honorary doctorate from the University of Tartu, Estland in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the study of the Estonian language and literature over the past 20 years. Hermann Niebaum retired on Jan 1, 2010.

Research results
Much of the research within LVLC concentrates on language contact in past and present times. Using data from a wide variety of languages, particularly Germanic, Romance, Slavic and Finno-Ugric, members of this group concern themselves with contact-induced change, including dialect contact and Sprachbund phenomena.

Houtzagers has been analyzing his fieldwork notes on the Croatian emigrant dialects spoken in Moravia, Slovakia and Hungary. Together with John Nerbonne and Jelena Prokic (Computational Linguistics) he started comparing the various classifications of Bulgarian dialects resulting from quantitative methods using Levenshtein distance with the classification given by traditional Bulgarian dialectology.

Hasselblatt continued his work on a research survey of situations of language contact involving Uralic languages, which aims to evaluate all previous work on Uralic contacts.

Brijnen continued her research on the effects of globalization on Upper Sorbian, in particular the hybrid compounds consisting of an English and a Sorbian component. She has been working with Sorbian colleagues in Germany and in the Netherlands on this topic.

De Jonge continued his collaboration with the University of Nantes, which has resulted in a conference in Nantes. The Groningen – Nantes project concerns an interdisciplinary project of the relations between Italy and Latin America. Within this project, De Jonge focuses on linguistic interferences. In May 2011 a follow-up conference is planned in Groningen.
Czibere continued her comparative sociolinguistic research which is concerned with similarities and differences between various countries and cultures with respect to (native) language and identity, education and language politics.

Lenz continued her research on the dialect syntax of areal varieties (dialects and regiolects) of German and other West Germanic languages, in particular the synchronic and diachronic variation and change in the network of transfer verbs. She started work on a new project called ‘Central Franconian Syntax across Borders’ (a VIDI-Project to be funded by NWO). The aim of that project is to document and analyse the syntax of a transboundary dialect group, Central Franconian, in its areal (horizontal) and social (vertical) dimensions. The project will not be limited to the “deepest” base dialectal pole of the continuum of colloquial speech; it also focuses on the syntax of “higher” varieties approaching the standard. Including this vertical dimension represents an innovative approach to the investigation of variation in syntax. With Reker and Charlotte Gooskens (Computational Linguistics) she published a Festschrift for Hermann Niebaum.

Kallenborn made a first corpus-based analysis of the so called “Pronominaladverbien” in Moselle-Franconian non-standard-varieties, which showed an untypical direction of language change because standard variants were used less by young than by old informants.

Other members of LVLC focus on language-internal variation in specific languages or families, thus contributing to a better understanding of both the language families they specialize in and to a number of theoretical issues concerning synchronic variation, diachronic variation and language change.

Wakker started supervising a new PhD project about the Perfect in Ancient Greek, carried out by Sander Orriens, MA. With Stéphanie Bakker she published a volume entitled Discourse Cohesion in Ancient Greek.

Ten Cate continued work on his contrastive project, concentrating on passive constructions in Dutch and German (in particular constructions of the type sein/zijn + PASSIVE PARTICIPLE). His findings challenge the traditional view that the so-called sein-Passive in German is not an independent category. He also showed that Präteritumschwund is found in passive constructions as well as in active ones.

Niebaum continued his work on German dialectology. On the occasion of his retirement he was presented with a Festschrift.

Reker resigned from his appointment as the Province of Groningen streektaalfunctiearisch (dialect officer) after more than 25 years. His jubilee was marked by the publication of Werk in Uitvoering, which consists of a long list of words collected from East Groningen inventories from the first few years of the 18th century, which are expected to enhance our knowledge of the pronunciation of the Groningen language about 300 years ago. With Lenz and Charlotte Gooskens (Computational Linguistics) he published a Festschrift for Hermann Niebaum.

Streekstra studied linguistically based politeness phenomena in 16th and 17th century Latin and Dutch, in collaboration with Marcel Bax (Discourse and Communication). The main focus of the project was on the use of lexical items within the framework of syntax, semantics and pragmatics.
De Bie continued her research on the role of semantics in foreign language education, particularly in teaching Hungarian as a foreign language. She started work on a comparative, semasialogical investigation into some adjectives meaning ‘same’ or ‘different’.

Norde’s monograph Degrammaticalization was published by Oxford University Press. The book has been selected for a full review in Language. She started a new line of research into constructional approaches to degrammaticalization in collaboration with Graeme Trousdale (Edinburgh). This project will be a complement to her monograph, which is essentially morpheme-based. She was also external referee of a grant application to the British Academy.

Van Pareren continued his PhD research on impersonal constructions in Mordvin. In 2009, he focussed on areal features in the Volga-Kama region, on the grammaticalization of body part nouns, as well as on various theoretical approaches to impersonal constructions.

Beijering finished her case study on the epistemic adverb MAYBE in Mainland Scandinavian. She is now working on a new case study on the development of epistemic meaning in the modal auxiliary MUST in Danish, Swedish and Norwegian.

Visser’s research focused on gender change in Frisian, and hypocoristics in Frisian. The results of the latter project will serve as the basis for a general theoretical project. Together with Jarich Hoekstra (Kiel) and Goffe Jensma (ICOG, Groningen) he edited a selection of papers on Frisian linguistics by Germen de Haan, who retired as a professor of Frisian in the summer of 2009.

New PhD project: The Perfect Aspect in Ancient Greek, by Sander Orriens, MA. The main objective of Orriens’s project is twofold: (i) to provide a more accurate and typologically plausible account of the perfect aspect in Ancient Greek, that should lead to both a unifying and unified description of its semantics and pragmatics, and (ii) to shed a new light on the elusive problem of the evolution of the perfect aspect (and the primary perfect tense in particular) through the history of Ancient Greek. Data will be drawn from a corpus which will contain all the attestations of the perfect aspect in a large selection of Ancient Greek texts. This data will be analyzed and subsequently stored in an Access database.

Events and other research activities
Members of LVLC meet regularly to present work in progress and to assess new developments in the field. The ‘Grammaticalization Reading Group’ (organized by Beijering) convenes every other week to discuss new developments in theorizing about grammaticalization, lexicalization and related phenomena. The ‘Current Approaches to Language Variation and Language Change’ (organized by Lenz) featured four lectures in 2009 (Streekstra, Van Pareren, Kallenborn and Reker) which were attended by members of other research groups as well.

Apart from these regular meetings two large international conferences were organized by LVLC members: The Second International Conference on Language Contact in Times of Globalization (June 4-6, Hasselblatt, Houtzagers and Van Pareren organizing), and Current Trends in Grammaticalization Research (October 8-9, Norde, Lenz and Beijering organizing). A selection of papers presented at the latter conference will appear as a special issue of Language Sciences. Lenz was furthermore co-organizer of the 2009 TABU-dag.
Academic Publications

Karin Beijering, MA

Dr. Mária Czibere

Prof. dr. Tette Hofstra


Dr. H.P. Houtzagers


Dr. Bob de Jonge


Prof. dr. Alexandra N. Lenz


Prof. dr. Hermann Niebaum

Prof. dr. Muriel Norde

Sander A.J. Orriens, MA

Remco van Pareren, MA

Prof. dr. Siemon J.H. Reker

Dr. Nanne F. Streekstra

Prof. Dr. Gerry C. Wakker
Professional Publications

**Dr. Agnes de Bie - Kerekjarto**

**Dr. Abraham P. ten Cate**

**Prof. dr. Cornelius Hasselblatt**

**Dr. H.P. Houtzagers**

**Tim Kallenborn, MA**

**Prof. dr. Alexandra N. Lenz**

**Prof. dr. Muriel Norde**

**Prof. dr. Siemon J.H. Reker**

**Prof. Dr. Gerry C. Wakker**
Lectures

Karin Beijering, MA
Karin Beijering. The grammaticalization of Mainland Scandinavian MAYBE. TABU Dag 2009, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th – 12th June 2009.
Karin Beijering. The grammaticalization of Mainland Scandinavian MAYBE. The Third Scandinavian Ph.D. Conference in Linguistics and Philology in Bergen, University of Bergen, Bergen. 16th – 18th June 2009.

Dr. Abraham P. ten Cate
Abraham P. ten Cate. Why there is no need for a sein-passive in German. Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC) 15, Calgary, Banff, Canada. 30th April – 3rd May 2009.
Abraham P. ten Cate. Tempus in Aktiv und Passiv. 44. Linguistisches Kolloquium, New Bulgarian University, Sofia. 9th – 12th September 2009.

Dr. Mária Czibere

Prof. dr. Cornelius Hasselblatt
Cornelius Hasselblatt. Milleks uurida eesti keelt ja ta sugulasi? Conference on 90 years Finno-Ugric Studies at Tartu University, Tartu Ülikool, Tartu. 4th December 2009. [invited]

Dr. H.P. Houtzagers
Note: Joint project of the University of Groningen, the University of Tuebingen (Germany) and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Bob de Jonge
Bob de Jonge. Influenze della lingua italiana sullo spagnolo del Río de la Plata. Italy and Latin America: migrations, exchanges, influences, interferences, Université de Nantes, Nantes, France. 26th – 28th November 2009.
Note: De Jonge was co-organisor of the Conference.

Tim Kallenborn, MA
Tim Kallenborn. Syntax of the Moselle-Franconian non-standard. *Colloquium of the Language Variation and Language Change research group of the Centre for Language and Cognition Groningen*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 27th October 2009. [invited]

**Prof. dr. Alexandra N. Lenz**
Alexandra N. Lenz. "Zum Rezipientenpassiv im Oberdeutschen", *invited talk*, University of Augsburg, Augsburg (Germany). 28th January 2009. [invited]
Alexandra N. Lenz. project presentation "Syntax und Semantik der Besitzwechselverben im Deutschen und anderen germanischen Sprachen". *Annual Conference of the Institute for German Language (IDS)*, Institute for German Language (IDS), Mannheim (Germany). 10th – 12th March 2009. [invited]
Note: Project presentation on the occasion of the award ceremony of the "Hugo-Moser-Preis 2009".
Alexandra N. Lenz. Deutsche Regionalsprachen im Umbruch. *Annual meeting of the 'Vereniging van Germanisten aan de Nederlandse Universiteiten (VGNU)'*, University of Utrecht, Utrecht. 4th December 2009. [invited]

**Prof. dr. Muriel Norde**
Muriel Norde. Fascinerende Fouten. *Inaugural Lecture*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 15th September 2009. [invited]

**Sander A.J. Orriens, MA**

**Prof. Dr. Gerry C. Wakker**
Other Research Activities

**Dr. Agnes de Bie - Kerekjarto**
- Member of Nemzetközi Magyarsagtudományi Tarsasag (International Association of Hungarian Studies) Magyar Szemiotikai Tarsasag, Budapest.
- Member of the board of *Tanulmanyok*, Ujvideki Egyetem, Magyar Tanszek, Ujvidek/Novi Sad.

**Dr. Mária Czibere**

**Prof. dr. Cornelius Hasselblatt**
- Secretary of Societas Uralo-Altaica, Göttingen.
- Member of International Committee of Finno-Ugric Congresses, global.
- Editor of *Language Contact*, Benjamins, Amsterdam.
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Katrin Puik's PhD Thesis. Tartu University, Faculty of Philosophy, 2nd July 2009. 
  Title: *Iroonia Heiti Talviku ja Betti Alveri luules*.
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Eneken Laanes's PhD Thesis. University of Tartu, Faculty of Philosophy, 1st October 2009. 
  Title: *Lepitamatud dialoogid. Subjekt ja mälu nõukogudejärgses eesti romanis*.

**Dr. H.P. Houtzagers**
  Title: *The Slovene dialect of Egg and Potschach in the Gailtal, Austria*.
  Note: Within the reading committee, Houtzagers had the status of external evaluator (with veto right).
- Member of the Reading Committee of Jouni Vaahtera's PhD Thesis. University of Helsinki, Faculty of Arts, 28th November 2009. 
  Title: *Evolvucija sistemy glasnyx fonem v nekotoryx russkix govorax Vologodskoj oblasti*.
  Note: Houtzagers was one of two external examiners who had to deliver a written statement on the quality of the dissertation.

**Dr. Bob de Jonge**
- Regional Delegate for the Netherlands, Belgium, England and the Scandinavian countries of Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de América Latina (ALFAL), Santiago de Chile.

**Prof. dr. Alexandra N. Lenz**
- Co-editor of *Low Saxon Dialects across Borders*, Steiner, Stuttgart.

**Prof. dr. Hermann Niebaum**
- Chair of Institut für niederdeutsche Sprache, Bremen.
- Member of the board of Verein für geschichtliche Landeskunde, Osnabrück.

**Prof. dr. Muriel Norde**
- Member of the editorial board of Website Kennislink Taalwetenschappen, Stichting Nationaal Centrum voor Wetenschap en Technologie, Amsterdam.
Prof. dr. Siemon J.H. Reker

- Vice-president of Stichting Nederlandse Dialecten, Nijmegen.
- Member of the Groningen Department of Stichting Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Amsterdam.

Prof. Dr. Gerry C. Wakker

- Editor of *Discourse Cohesion in Ancient Greek* (Amsterdam Studies in Classical Philology 16), Brill, Leiden/Boston.
- Member of the board of *Lampas*, Verloren, Hilversum.
- Member of the editorial board of *Hellenistica Groningana*, Peeters, Leuven.
4.5. Neurolinguistics

Neurolinguistics
The Neurolinguistics Research Group is concerned with the organization of language in the brain, through the study of aphasia, developmental disorders of spoken and written language, as well as through experimental approaches to language processing. The focus is on comprehension and production on various aspects of verbs (in developmental disorders and aphasia), phonological and auditory processing disorders (in aphasia and dyslexia), sentence processing (in non-brain damaged and aphasic speakers, as well as in patients with Parkinson’s disease) and ambiguity resolution (in normal speakers and schizophrenic patients). Our approach is to use a wide range of methods (offline and online tasks, spontaneous speech analysis, Event Related Potentials, functional magnetic resonance imaging, reaction times etc.) in order to understand and describe human language processing through a number of specific populations of subjects and close collaboration between subgroups.

Staff members:
Roelien Bastiaanse (coordinator), Gerard Bol, Roel Jonkers, Ben Maassen, Laurie A. Stowe

Graduate students and postdocs
Tom Abuom, Harwintha Anjarningsih, Olga Dragoy (res.), Dörte Hessler, Maria Trofimova, Tuba Yarbay Duman

Associate members
Laura Bos, research assistant, Katrien Colman, Ryan Taylor and Diana Dimitrova (also DC Group), Hanneke Loerts (also LANSPAN).

Research results

Aphasiology
Two PhD projects were completed in 2009. Tuba Yarbay Duman defended her thesis *Turkish agrammatic aphasia* and Maria Trofimova defended her thesis *Case assignment by prepositions in Russian aphasia*.

The project on time reference through tense and aspect that commenced in 2008 as a large international project led by Roelien Bastiaanse was further elaborated. Currently there are more than 15 languages involved, both Indo European and non-Indo European ones. The first results have been presented at the Science of Aphasia conference (Antalya, Turkey) and the Academy of Aphasia (Boston, USA).

Two new PhD students have been hired who will continue to work this cross-linguistic project. Harwintha Anjarningsih started on Jan. 1st on a project on time reference in Indonesian. This is a three-year project, financed by the Indonesian government. Aphasic patients have been tested, and an ERP-study with healthy speakers is being conducted. Tom Abuom started Sept. 1st on a Ubbo Emmius project on time reference in multilingual aphasic speakers. The aphasic patients are speakers of English and Swahili and at least one other language. Both PhD students are preparing their first paper for an international journal.

Dr. Olga Dragoy started as a postdoc on an ERP-project supervised by Bastiaanse and Stowe investigating time-reference in healthy Dutch speakers, assisted by Laura Bos.

Roelien Bastiaanse finished her textbook on aphasia, which will be published in Feb. 2010. Two special issues of international journals that she co-edited were published in 2009. One
was on auditory language processing in *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research* and one on Language and Parkinson’s disease in *Cortex*. Other papers on treatment studies done in collaboration with speech therapists in Dutch rehabilitation centers have been published and been accepted for publication in national and international journals.

Dr. Roel Jonkers participated in the time reference project, publishing a paper on tense processing in aphasic speakers in *Aphasiology*. He continued his work on apraxia of speech and phonological disorders collaborating with two rehabilitation centers. The project is funded by *Stichting Beatrixoord* and the Dutch Aphasia Foundation. Within this project a diagnostic test for apraxia of speech is being developed which will be published in 2010. A measure for evaluating therapy programs (Speech and Music Therapy), was developed and tested on 50 patients with apraxia of speech, dysarthria or aphasia. The first results were presented at the Clinical Aphasiology Conference 2009 (Keystone, USA) and at the 10th Science of Aphasia conference (Antalya, Turkey).

Roel Jonkers supervises Dörte Hessler, who works on auditory processing in aphasia. The data have been collected and Hessler reported on them at the 3rd International Conference on Auditory Cortex in Magdeburg and at the Science of Aphasia conference.

Katrien Colman finished her project on language and Parkinson’s disease (PD) in 2009. This project was subsidized by the International Parkinson’s Foundation and involves collaboration with Neurology at the UMCG. In 2009 her paper on sentence production in PD was included in *Cortex* and two papers on the healthy and aphasic participants in an fMRI study that she carried out are ready to be submitted. Her thesis defense is planned for June 2010.

**Developmental language disorders in spoken and written language**

Dr. Gerard Bol finished his research on the production of pronouns in children with developmental language disorders by publishing a journal article. A new collaboration on this topic with Lyon (France) will result in a second publication. A publication on children with developmental language disorders and autism has been accepted by a journal, as well as an article on the lexical diversity of young typically developing children. He has continued his collaboration with the University of Oulu (Finland), working on bilingualism in children with Specific Language Disorders, on which he reported on at a conference in Zagreb. Results of projects with Amsterdam and Lyon were reported at two other conferences. Bol also helped organize two conferences on developmental language disorders and submitted a grant application to NWO) that was judged subsidizable but not awarded.

Prof. Dr. Ben Maassen started as a full professor of Dyslexia in March 2009. His work focuses on the analysis of data from the longitudinal study of children who are at risk for dyslexia. The data collection of the *Dutch Dyslexia Project* continues; at this stage all children are being tested on reading and spelling abilities, as well as aspects of academic and underlying neuro-cognitive abilities. For approximately 2/3 of the at risk and control children a differential diagnosis regarding dyslexia is now available and by April 2011 it will be available for the entire group, which offers the opportunity to re-analyze the whole series of longitudinal data, taking clinical information into account. Re-analyses are running at the Department of Special Education (Amsterdam) and within our Neurolinguistics research group, among others by students in the MA and ReMA programs.

A grant was obtained from the Brain & Cognition Program (NWO) to set up an international research group and organize a workshop. The workshop was held in May 2009 at the KNAW in Amsterdam and successfully stimulated an exchange of research on dyslexia and collaboration on further studies. Three research proposals emerged; two have been submitted.
Maassen’s second topic is kinematic studies and computational modeling of motor speech disorders in children, especially childhood apraxia of speech. Hayo Terband is in the process of transferring his PhD project from the Radboud Medical Center to our research group and the UMCG. In 2009 he completed his Fulbright at Cognitive and Neural Systems, Boston University with several publications and conference presentations. Terband was also awarded the best oral presentation award at TabuDag 2009, Groningen.

On the same topic of kinematic motor speech research, Ben Maassen and Pascal van Lieshout (Toronto) finished editing a book on speech motor control, based on the 5th International Conference on Speech Motor Control, held in Nijmegen, 2006. It will appear in March 2010.

Experimental approaches to language processing
Dr. Laurie Stowe conducted two experiments on lexical frequency and the complexity of representation in sentence comprehension. Two publications are in preparation. Results were presented at a workshop on formal vs. processing explanations of syntactic phenomena.

One ERP experiment completed with Yifei He of the EMCL program concerned the processing of classifiers and resulted in a submitted manuscript. Stowe also collaborates with Hanneke Loerts (LANSPAN) on the processing of gender (see that section). A paper is being prepared in collaboration with Laura Sabourin of the University of Ottawa. Two ERP experiments were carried out in the time reference project with Olga Dragoy, Laura Bos and Harwintha Anjarningsih. The results of the Dutch study are being prepared for publication and will be presented at a Neuroscience conference in 2010.

Stowe also advised on several studies: (i) three ERP experiments on processing prosody by Diana Dimitrova (see Discourse and Communication). Results from an earlier experiment were presented at InterSpeech and at the international Cognitive Science Society. (ii) Work on prosody in discourse by Ryan Taylor at that was presented at CogSci (see Discourse and Communication) and which was submitted for journal publication. (iii) An fMRI experiment with healthy controls and Parkinson’s patients conducted out by Katrien Colman, which has produced two manuscripts, one of which has been submitted for journal publication. (iv) Neuroimaging studies being carried by Dörte Hessler on auditory processing in aphasia and in the analysis of the longitudinal ERP data from the Dutch Dyslexia Project.

Collaboration with other CLCG groups and outside the CLCG
Roelien Bastiaanse collaborated with Gosse Bouma (Computational Linguistics) and Dr. Wendy Post (Epidemiology, UMCG,) on the (lack of) frequency effects in agrammatic sentence production (Brain and Language, 2009). Bastiaanse and Jonkers also collaborate with rehabilitation centers in Haren, Beetsterzwaag and Zwolle on assessment materials and on the effectiveness of therapy. For the project on language and Parkinson’s disease, Bastiaanse and Colman collaborated with Neurology (UMCG) and the NIC.

Ben Maassen collaborates with Natasha Maurits (Neurology, UMCG) and Special Education (Amsterdam) on dyslexia; with Cognitive and Neural Systems, Boston University and Speech-Language Pathology, Toronto on speech motor control; and with the Clinical Neurophysiology, Radboud Medical Centre on auditory event related potentials for the diagnosis of auditory processing disorders in children.

Laurie Stowe collaborates with John Hoeks, Diana Dimitrova and Ryan Taylor (Communications) on discourse and prosody, and with Monika Schmid and Hanneke Loerts of LANSPAN on neuroimaging of second language acquisition. This latter topic also involves collaboration with the Ottawa and with NeuroLang, a European network.
Academic Publications

**Prof. dr. Roelien Bastiaanse**


**Dr. Gerard W. Bol**


**Dr. Olga Dragoy**


**Dr. Roel Jonkers**


**Prof. dr. Ben A.M. Maassen**


**Dr. Laurie A. Stowe**


**Professional Publications**

**Prof. dr. Roelien Bastiaanse**


**Dr. Gerard W. Bol**


**Lectures**

**Prof. dr. Roelien Bastiaanse**

Roelien Bastiaanse. What agrammatic aphasia can tell us about language and the brain. Seminar on Cognitive Neuroscience, University Moscow, Moscow. 21st May 2009. [invited]


Bastiaanse, R. Crosslinguistic and Multilingual Aphasiology. *seminar*, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA. 23rd October 2009. [invited]


Note: Poster presentation.


Note: Poster presentation.

**Dr. Gerard W. Bol**


**Dörte Hessler, MA**


Note: Poster Presentation.


**Dr. Roel Jonkers**


Prof. dr. Ben A.M. Maassen


Note: Ben Maassen was chair ‘penvoerder’ of this Workshop.


Dr. Laurie A. Stowe


Other Research Activities

Prof. dr. Roelien Bastiaanse

- Member of the membership committee of Academy of Aphasia, Minneapolis.
- Board member of Stichting Afasie Nederland, Westervoort.
- Member of Mental lexicon, Montreal.
- Member of Aphasia Databank, Pittsburgh.
- Guest editor special issue on Language and Parkinson's Disease of *Cortex*, Elsevier, Amsterdam etc..
- Promotor of Tuba Yarbay Duman. 17th September 2009. Title: *Turkish agrammatic aphasia: Word order, time reference and case*.
- Promotor of Maria Trofimova. 12th November 2009. Title: *Case Assignment by prepositions in Russian Aphasia*. 
Dr. Gerard W. Bol

- Beoordelaar van onderzoeksaanvragen Gebied Geesteswetenschappen of NWO, Den Haag.
- Reviewer of *Language and Cognitive Processes*, Taylor and Francis Group, Oxfordshire, UK.

Dr. Roel Jonkers

- Member of the Board of *Stem-, Spraak- en Taalpathologie*, Nijmegen Univeristy Press, Nijmegen.

Prof. dr. Ben A.M. Maassen

- Secretary of International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association, Lafayette, LA.
  Note: Website: www.icpla.org.
- Member of the Board on Speech Motor Control Research of International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatrics (IALP), Brisbane, Australia.
- Member of the Steering Committee of Nederlandse Vereniging voor Stem-, Spraak- en Taalpathologie, Nijmegen.
- Member of the Steering Committee of Dutch Dyslexia Programme, Groningen (Chair).
- Editor (chair) of *Stem-, Spraak- en Taalpathologie*, Nijmegen University Press, Nijmegen.
  Note: Dutch peer-reviewed journal on speech-language pathology; 4 issues per year.
- Member of editorial board of *Clinical Linguistics & Phonetics*, Informa Health Care, New York, NY.
  Note: Peer reviewed journal on clinical linguistics and phonetics, 12 issues per year.
  Note: Peer reviewed journal on speech-language pathology; 6 issues per year.
  Note: Peer-reviewed journal on speech, language and hearing; 4 issues per year.
  Title: *Cluttering identified. Differential diagnostics between cluttering, stuttering and speech impairment related to learning disability.*
- Member of the Reading Committee of Yarbay Duman, T.’s PhD Thesis. 17th September 2009.
  Title: *Turkish agrammatic aphasia. Word order, time reference and case.*
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Davids, N.’s PhD Thesis. Radboud University Nijmegen, Faculty of Social Sciences, 23rd December 2009.
  Title: *Neurocognitive markers of phonological processing: a clinical perspective.*
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Trofimova, M.’s PhD Thesis. 12th November 2009.
  Title: *Case Assignment by prepositions in Russian Aphasins.*
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Dhar,M.’s PhD Thesis. 16th September 2009.
  Title: *Electrophysiological Studies on Visual Information Processing in Dyslexia and ADHD.*
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Hoiting, J.F.A.’s PhD Thesis. 30th November 2009.
  Title: *The myth of simplicity: sign language acquisition by Dutch deaf toddlers.*
4.6. Syntax and Semantics

The Syntax and Semantics group studies syntactic and semantic phenomena with a view to understanding the nature of the human language faculty. The group aims to contribute to the development of syntactic and semantic theory, working within different theoretical paradigms and seeking to advance theory by investigating its consequences and proposing generalizations, sharpenings, and improvements. Joint research activities of the members address a) the foundation of syntactic structure, including syntactic dependency and complex syntactic structures, as well as their (universal/parametrized) realization across languages; and b) the semantics and cognition of interpretive processes, including interpretation/production asymmetries in first language acquisition.

In the year 2009, the Syntax and Semantics group continued to organize a weekly research seminar, where members presented their own ongoing research and discussed current developments in syntactic and semantic theory. In addition, PhD students from the Syntax and Semantics group organized a Syntax Semantics Reading Group, aiming to enhance the knowledge and understanding of fundamental texts in theoretical syntax and semantics. The meetings attracted a number of participants from other groups as well.

Staff members
Reineke Bok-Bennema, Ger de Haan, Petra Hendriks, Jack Hoeksema, Brigitte Kampers-Manhe, Jan Koster, Arie Molendijk, Mark de Vries, Jan-Wouter Zwart (coordinator), Frans Zwarts

Postdocs and Graduate Students
Aysa Arylova, Gisi Cannizzaro, Jordi Fortuny (postdoc), Herman Heringa, Bart Hollebrandse (postdoc, per July), Charlotte Koster (postdoc), Sanne Kuijper, Marlies Kluck, Evgenia Markovskaya, Jacolien van Rij, Ankelien Schippers, Radek Šimík, Peter de Swart (postdoc).

Associated members
Janneke ter Beek, Erik-Jan Smits

Research results

Asymmetries

The NWO/VICI project ‘Asymmetries in Grammar’, led by Petra Hendriks, entered its third year. This project investigates potential asymmetries between production and comprehension in language acquisition, sentence processing, and autism spectrum disorders. All four subprojects are now well underway, with Sanne Kuijper (PhD student), Gisi Cannizzaro (PhD student), Charlotte Koster (postdoc) and Bart Hollebrandse (postdoc) as the investigators, John Hoeks (Discourse and Communication) and Angeliek van Hout (LANSPAN) as associated researchers and Jacolien van Rij as an associated PhD student. For the subproject on autism carried out by Kuijper, the VICI project collaborates with Catharina Hartman and Ruud Minderaa of Accare. In January 2009, the VICI project hosted an international conference (‘Relating Asymmetries between Speech & Comprehension in the Acquisition of Language’, RASCAL), on the basis of which a special issue of the journal Lingua (edited by Hendriks and Koster) will appear.

Sanne Kuijper started testing children with autism spectrum disorders, children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and typically developing children on several language production and comprehension tasks. Furthermore, she conducted an experiment on comprehension and production of marked stress in typically developing children and adults.
Gisi Cannizzaro analyzed the results of her first experiment investigating the production and comprehension of subject-object word order in preschoolers and adult controls. She found an overall trend that the children performed more poorly on the comprehension task than the production task, with results suggesting this was due to the animacy properties of subject and object. Furthermore, she designed animated materials for a second experiment.

Charlotte Koster expanded research in discourse and topic shift to include elderly adults and Italians with Dutch as a second language. These two atypical adult groups were shown to resemble children in that they had difficulties with bi-directional optimization, presumably because of less available memory or processing capacities.

Bart Hollebrandse joined the project in July 2009. He investigates speaker-hearer asymmetries in focus constructions and quantification. He also adapted an earlier eye-tracking experiment on the comprehension and production of referential expressions.

Petra Hendriks continued her investigations in the area of bidirectional Optimality Theory. She participated in the NWO project 'The interplay between the speaker's and the hearer's perspective', an international collaboration between researchers in the Netherlands (Groningen, Nijmegen, Utrecht, Amsterdam) and Germany (ZAS Berlin). Hendriks also continued her collaboration with the departments of Artificial Intelligence (Jennifer Spenader) and Psychology (Hedderik van Rijn) on the relation between semantic and cognitive processes in pronoun interpretation, which resulted in several publications.

As part of this local collaboration, Jacolien van Rij developed an ACT-R model to investigate how cognitive constraints and linguistic constraints interact in children’s acquisition of object pronouns. Slower speech rate was found to improve pronoun interpretation in Dutch children who showed a pronoun interpretation problem.

On January 1st Peter de Swart joined the group and started his NWO-funded VENI-project ‘The status of hierarchies in language production and comprehension’, which investigates the interaction of semantic features (animacy, definiteness, person) in grammar and performance. Together with Udo Klein (Bielefeld), he finished a paper arguing that the effect of these features on case-marking patterns can be described without reference to hierarchies. With Geertje van Bergen (Nijmegen), he investigated their effects on scrambling in spoken Dutch.

Diachronic Syntax

Jack Hoeksema and Ankelien Schippers worked on the syntax of long-distance dependencies from synchronic and diachronic perspectives. Diachronic work was presented at the International Conference on Historical Linguistics XIX in Nijmegen and the International Conference on Language Variation in Europe (ICLAVE) in Denmark. Schippers also analyzed the various alternatives for long-distance wh-questions, such as copying and partial wh-movement constructions. Hoeksema continued work on polarity items, and in collaboration with Albert Oosterhof (U Gent) finished a paper on paratactic negation in complements to verbs such as uitkijken 'look out'.

Nonsubordination

The NWO/Vidi project "The Syntax of Nonsubordination: Parentheses, Appositions and Grafts" continued, led by De Vries. Kluck, Heringa and De Vries investigated the nature of parenthesis from a syntactic and semantic point of view, with special emphasis on sentence types that seem to involve structure sharing.
Kluck and De Vries worked together on the interaction of extraposition and backward ellipsis, and taught a research class on sentence amalgamation. De Vries published work on the formal background of structure sharing in a major journal. Furthermore, De Vries et al. continued collaboration with former guest researcher Adriana Cardoso from the University of Lisbon. This research concerns the structure of appositive constructions in Romance and Germanic languages. It is closely related to Heringa’s investigation of appositional constructions.

Šimík dealt with the incorporation of information structure into the interpretation of wh-questions. He started writing his dissertation on the syntax and semantics of modal existential wh-constructions. Šimík continued his participation in the project of Maria Aloni (ILLC, Amsterdam) and initiated two further collaborations, with Natalia Kondrashova (Michigan) on quantification and with Rajesh Bhatt (UMass Amherst) on binding.

Finally, De Vries continued his collaboration with Leonie Bosveld (Computational Linguistics), with whom he is co-supervising an ongoing applied information science project called ‘syntree’, which has given rise to a number of MA and BA graduation projects.

**Dependency in Universal Grammar**

Zwart continued to direct his research program ‘Dependency in Universal Grammar’, involving Fortuny, Arylova, and Markovskaya. The research group organized a series of lectures with Marcel den Dikken (CUNY, New York) in December.

Fortuny concluded his postdoc period by preparing an edited volume on current thinking in minimalist syntactic theory, now in press as a special issue of the *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*. The volume also contains a chapter by Zwart exploring top-down derivations. Fortuny also continued his collaboration with Bernat Corominas-Murtra (University Pompeu Fabre, Barcelona).

Arylova continued her investigation of nonsubject agreement, now focusing on the properties of possessive constructions in Russian. She spent her semester abroad at MIT (Cambridge, Massachusetts), working with David Pesetsky.

Markovskaya enjoyed maternity leave in the first months of the year, and then resumed her study of dependency in the noun phrase, focusing on the nature of gender marking. She has developed a theory of gender marking in derived nominals in Russian leading to the conclusion that gender is an independent functional category, not a lexical property of nouns.

Zwart continued his research on the nature of syntactic derivations within the minimalist program, exploring the layered derivations model and its consequences for word order, locality theory, and dependency marking. He contributed a chapter on structure-to-order conversion to the *Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Minimalism* (in press).

Koster’s research this year included a critique of ‘biolinguistics’ and a further development of a radical lexicalist alternative to current minimalist theories. Some conclusions were published in the journal *Biolinguistics*. Empirical research focused on the so-called copying theory of movement (IM or "internal merge"). It was shown that standard examples of Wh-copying in Dutch and German are part of a pattern that actually refutes the copying analysis.
Academic Publications

Prof. dr. Petra Hendriks


H. Heringa MA


Dr. Jack Hoeksema


**Drs. M.E. Kluck**


**Dr. Charlotte Koster**


**Prof. dr. J. Koster**


**Jacolien van Rij MSc.**


Radek Šimík, Mgr

Dr. P.J.F. de Swart

Dr. Mark de Vries

Dr. C.J.W. Zwart

Professional Publications

Dr. Janneke ter Beek
Dr. Jack Hoeksema

Dr. P.J.F. de Swart

Dr. Mark de Vries

Dr. C.J.W. Zwart

Lectures

Drs. Aysa Arylova
Aysa Arylova. The locative predicative possession construction in Russian. TABU dag 2009, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th – 12th June 2009.

C.L. Cannizzaro, MA
Gisi Cannizzaro. The car is pushing the cow: Effects of animacy on subject-object assignment by Dutch preschoolers. TIN-dag, AVT, Utrecht. 7th February 2009.
Gisi Cannizzaro. A closer look at word order. 4th Workshop on OT and Interpretation, Utrecht University, Utrecht. 5th June 2009.
Note: Poster.
Prof. dr. Petra Hendriks


Jacolien van Rij, Petra Hendriks, Hedderik van Rijn. Rethinking the pronoun comprehension delay (poster). Conference Relating Asymmetries between Speech & Comprehension in the Acquisition of Language (RASCAL), University of Groningen, Groningen. 24th January 2009.


Arina Banga, Ingeborg Heutinck, Sanne M. Berends, Petra Hendriks. Sommige implicaturen onthullen semantische verschillen. Taalkunde in Nederland dag (TIN-dag), Utrecht University, Utrecht. 7th February 2009.

Jacolien van Rij, Petra Hendriks, Hedderik van Rijn. On cognitive models of language acquisition: a computational simulation of pronoun comprehension. Taalkunde in Nederland dag (TIN-dag), Utrecht University, Utrecht. 7th February 2009.

Charlotte Koster, Petra Hendriks, John Hoeks. Children's introduction and use of referring expressions in discourse. Taalkunde in Nederland dag (TIN-dag), Utrecht University, Utrecht. 7th February 2009.


Petra Hendriks. Production/comprehension asymmetries in child language: What do they tell us about grammar and learning? KNAW Academy Colloquium on Language Acquisition and Optimality Theory, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), Amsterdam. 3rd July 2009. [invited]

Jennifer Spenader, Erik-Jan Smits, Petra Hendriks. Coherent discourse solves the Pronoun Interpretation Problem (poster). KNAW Academy Colloquium on Language Acquisition and Optimality Theory, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), Amsterdam. 3rd July 2009.


Petra Hendriks. Adults' (and children's) online comprehension of object pronouns. *Workshop on eye-tracking and (a)typical language acquisition: Designing, implementing and interpreting*, Université Francois Rabelais, Tours. 14th December 2009. [invited]

Note: Presentation through skype.

Petra Hendriks. Empirical evidence for embodied semantics. *Seventeenth Amsterdam Colloquium*, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam. 16th December 2009. [invited]

John Hoeks, Petra Hendriks, Gisela Redeker, Laurie Stowe. Can 'gapping' be made easy? Evidence from ERPs. Utrecht Symposium on Discourse and Parsing, Utrecht University, Utrecht. 4th June 2009. [invited]

**H. Heringa MA**


Herman Heringa. How depictives and appositive adjectives are different. *TABU-dag*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th June 2009.

**Dr. Jack Hoeksema**

Jack Hoeksema. SAND erover. *Talk at the presentation of Part 2 of the SAND atlas*, University of Gent, Gent. 26th February 2009. [invited]


**Drs. M.E. Kluck**


**Dr. Charlotte Koster**

Charlotte Koster. The Optimal NP-Pronoun Dance: Referring Expressions in Child Discourse. *Centre for Language Studies Colloquium (CLS)*, Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands. 2nd April 2009. [invited]


**Prof. dr. J. Koster**
Jan Koster. Scope-inversie zonder verplaatsing. *Symposium bij het afscheid van Reineke Bok-Bennema*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 18th June 2009. [invited]

**Drs. Sanne J.M. Kuijper**

Note: Presentation at RASCAL 2009, the conference we organized on Asymmetries between Speech and Comprehension in the Acquisition of Language.


Note: Presentation at Open House UCKJP (University Child and Youth Psychiatry Groningen) on the National Day on Autism.


**E. Markovskaya, MA**

**Jacolien van Rij, MSc.**
Jacolien van Rij, Petra Hendriks, Hedderik van Rijn. Rethinking the pronoun comprehension delay. *BCN New Years Meeting*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 22nd January 2009. Note: Poster.


Jacolien van Rij, Petra Hendriks, Hedderik van Rijn. Rethinking the pronoun comprehension delay. *Conference Relating Asymmetries between Speech & Comprehension in the*
Acquisition of Language (RASCAL), University of Groningen, Groningen. 24th January 2009. Poster.
Jacolien van Rij, Petra Hendriks, Hedderik van Rijn. On cognitive models of language acquisition: a computational simulation of pronoun comprehension. Taalkunde in Nederland dag (TIN-dag), Utrecht University, Utrecht. 7th February 2009.

Ankelien Schippers, MA
Ankelien Schippers, Jack Hoeksema. The diachrony of long-distance movement in Dutch. ICLAVE 5, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen. 20th June 2009.

Radek Šimík, Mgr.
Radek Šimík. How focus placement affects the interpretation of multiple wh-questions. Leiden Utrecht Semantics Happenings (LUSH), Utrecht University, Utrecht. 22nd January 2009. [invited]
Rajesh Bhatt, Radek Šimík. Variable binding and the Person Case Constraint. Annual Meeting of the Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics (IATL) 25, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be’er Sheva, Israel. 13th October 2009.
Rajesh Bhatt, Radek Šimík. Variable binding and the Person Case Constraint. *The European Conference on Formal Description of Slavic Languages (FDSL) 8*, Potsdam University, Potsdam, Germany. 5th December 2009.

**Dr. P.J.F. de Swart**
Helen de Hoop, Peter de Swart. Not quite my type: A comparison of type shifting involving animacy and definiteness. *Workshop on Cases, animacy and semantic roles*, University of Helsinki, Helsinki. 26th August 2009. [invited]

**Dr. Mark de Vries**
Mark de Vries. Right Dislocation and Afterthoughts. *Tabu day*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 11th June 2009.
Mark de Vries. coreferent at Jim Hurford's lecture "Seeds of Language". *Studium Generale*, University of Groningen, Groningen. 29th September 2009. [invited]
Mark de Vries. coreferent at Jacqueline van Kampen's lecture 'Anaforische pronomina voor topicverschuiving'. *Dag van de Nederlandse zinsbouw*, Meertens Institute, Amsterdam. 30th October 2009. [invited]

**Dr. C.J.W. Zwart**

**Other Research Activities**

**Prof. dr. Petra Hendriks**
- Member of Redactieraad Kennislink Taalwetenschappen, www.kennislink.nl.
- Member of Veni committee Humanities of Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Den Haag.
- Member of Program Committee of Annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society 2009 (CogSci 2009), Amsterdam.
- Member of the Reading Committee of Michael Franke's PhD Thesis. Universiteit van Amsterdam, ILLC, 15th December 2009.
  Title: *Signal to Act: Game Theory in Pragmatics*. 

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Dr. Jack Hoeksema

- Member of NWO Vici committee, The Hague.
- Member of LOT Education committee, Utrecht.
- Editor of Tabu, Department of Dutch, University of Groningen, Groningen.
- Member of the editorial board of Nederlandse Taalkunde, Van Gorcum, Assen.
- Member of the Reading Committee of Rasmus Steinkrauss's PhD Thesis. 26th November 2009.
  Title: Frequency and Function in WH Question Acquisition.
  Title: West Germanic OV and VO: The Status of Exceptions.

Dr. Brigitte A.A. Kampers-Manhe

- Member of Core group Going Romance, The Netherlands.

Prof. dr. J. Koster

- Member of Scientific Advisory Board Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), The Hague.

Radek Šimík, Mgr

- Member of Algemene Vereniging voor Taalwetenschap (AVT), Leiden.

Dr. P.J.F. de Swart

- Member of Anéla/AVT Taalcanoncommissie, Utrecht.

Dr. Mark de Vries

- Advisor of NWO project ‘Syntax and Information Structure: Discourse Options after the Loss of Verb-Second’ coordinated by dr. B. Los & prof. A. van Kemenade, Radboud University of Nijmegen.

Dr. C.J.W. Zwart

- Member of Redactieraad Kennislink Taalwetenschappen, Kennislink.nl.
- Editor of Groninger Arbeiten zur germanistischen Linguistik, Center for Language and Cognition Groningen, Groningen University Library, Groningen.
  Note: Http://gagl.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/.
- Member of the Reading Committee of Kristina Riedel's PhD Thesis. Leiden University, Faculty of Arts, 10th December 2009.
  Title: The syntax of object marking in Sambaa: a comparative Bantu perspective.
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Tuba Yarbay Duman's PhD Thesis. 17th September 2009.
  Title: Turkish agrammatic aphasia: word order, time reference and case.
- Member of the Promotion Committee (Opposition) of Maria Trofimova's PhD Thesis. 12th November 2009.
  Title: Case assignment by prepositions in Russian aphasia.
5. Research Staff 2009

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### Discourse and Communication

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### Language and Literacy Development across the Life Span

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Kwant, drs. L.P. LOT PhD student NWO temporary 01-10-05 31-12-10 Picture books and the social emotional development of infants

Loerts, H., MA BCN PhD student burs temporary 01-09-08 31-08-12 L2-acquisition of grammatical gender: role of the L1 and age of acquisition

Lowie, dr. W. BCN/LOT ass’t professor faculty Acquisition of Interlanguage Morphology, Vocabulary & 2nd language acquisition

Montalto, R., MA BCN PhD student UE burs temporary 01-11-09 31-10-13 A psychological approach to quantifier acquisition

Schmid, dr. M.S. BCN/LOT assoc. professor faculty Language loss and development of multilingualism in migrants

Steinkrauss, R. MA BCN PhD student UE burs temporary 01-01-05 31-03-09 First Language Acquisition of German

Verspoor, dr. M.H. LOT ass’t professor faculty Form and Meaning in Complement Clauses

Yilmaz, G., MA LOT PhD student NWO temporary 16-07-07 15-07-11 Language, Multilingualism and Integration

Xu, X. MA BCN PhD student UE burs temporary 01-12-05 01-12-09 Language loss and language use in EFL by Chinese learners

Language Variation and Language Change

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### Neurolinguistics

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### Syntax and Semantics

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