Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift

An HPSG Account of Nonfinite Verbal Complements in Latin
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1. The traditional grammatical category Accusativus cum Infinitivo hides two distinct structures, which we refer to as A+I and AcI. (Bolkestein)

2. The A+I is introduced by verbs such as cogere ‘to force’ and governs separately an accusative noun phrase and an infinitival verb phrase.

3. The true AcI is introduced by verbs such as dicere ‘to say’ and governs an infinitival clause.

4. In fact, the accusative noun phrase may be impossible in the true AcI, namely in those cases where the embedded clause is impersonal. So, in fact, the traditional name is a misnomen. (This thesis, chapter 4)

5. The reflexive personal pronoun is syntactically bound, whilst the logophoric personal pronoun is semantically and contextually bound, involving the notion of perspective. As we have two morphologically identical pronouns in Latin, we also need two binding theories, one for each sort of binding.

6. A freely available electronic corpus containing all Latin literature from 300 BC to 500 AD would make Latin corpus linguistics a lot easier and would probably produce better results in shorter time.

7. This thesis came into being as the syn-thesis of two fundamental sources, one being the grammatical theory of HPSG, the second being the scientific works of the late Machteld Bolkestein. If it had been possible to convince Machteld to work in HPSG it might not have been necessary to write this thesis.

8. Grammaticality judgements can never be carried out with 100 percent accuracy. In a dead language the finite amount of data makes it hard to judge unattested examples, and in a living language the infinite amount of—possible—data entails the risk of finding yet another example contradicting the whole theory. The linguist who wants to develop a grammar thus has to be realistic and try the impossible.

9. Only a beautiful grammatical theory can truly reveal the (syntactic) beauty of language,
10. Amongst Latin linguists, Cicero is known for his excellent Latin. Therefore he is also one of the most-quoted authors in texts on Latin linguistics. In order to make corpus research a little easier it is recommended to search for a structure first in the corpus of Cicero’s works, as an example attested by Cicero definitely is grammatical. Should Cicero not use the structure, take this as a first-class hint about the structure’s ungrammaticality.

11. The high frequency of the reflexive personal pronoun *se* in the position of accusative subject of an Aci subcategorized for by a matrix *verbum sentiendi et dicendi* in the works of Caesar simply indicates that this author loved to talk about himself.

12. One of the reasons Latin died out is most certainly the weird and wild, if not “ungrammatical” behaviour of its reflexive pronoun.

13. The three authors studied most in this thesis, Cicero, Caesar and Livius, are all political authors.

In 2000 years from now, contemporary English will be a dead language, thus grammaticality judgements on it will depend upon attested examples. Defining a grammar means testing it on “edgy” material. So in 4004, the speeches of President Bush will provide an important database for future linguists, serving as a key to make grammaticality judgements on—our—English. This could be considered as President Bush’s last and furthest reaching Patriot Act.