

LANGUAGE STRUCTURE: VARIATION AND CHANGE

MAY 2018

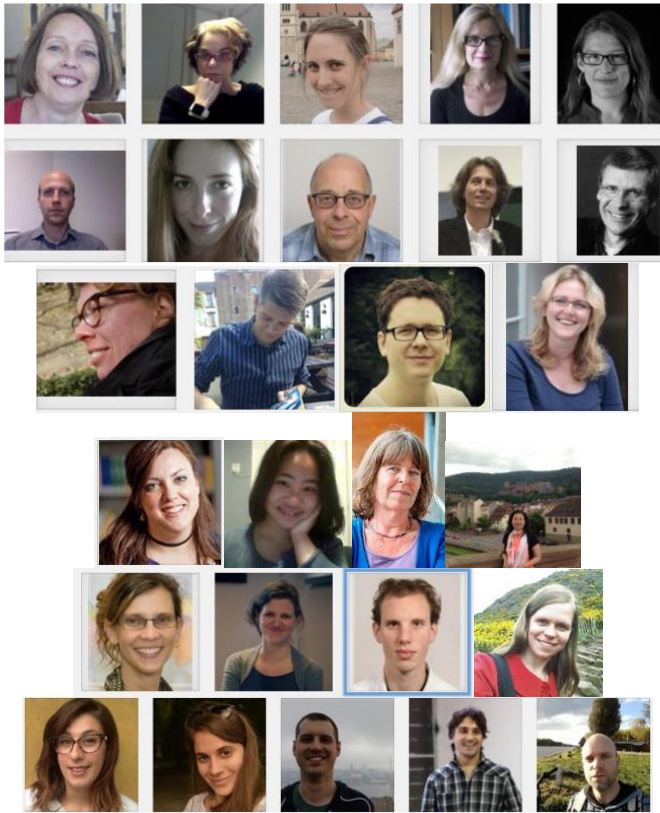


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THE GROUP AND ITS MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION



This research group has been established in 2013 and is part of Utrecht University, Faculty of humanities, Department Language, Literature and Communication, Research Institute UiL-OTS. We investigate language structure, language variation and change from the perspectives of the cognitive and social dimensions of human language.

The group is currently (spring 2018) built up as follows: it has 7.0 permanent research FTEs and 2.0 fixed-term research FTEs (divided over 20 tenured staff members, 5 non-tenured staff

members and 12 PhD-students). The current members of the group can be found on our [website](#).

We finance our research through university internal funds, funding from NWO-projects and ERC-projects. Occasionally there is a funding from another source like an assignment from the government to make a policy or the National Science Agenda.

MISSION

The **MISSION OF THIS RESEARCH GROUP** is to study the nature of language variation and change as the result of the interaction of social (and cultural) factors and our (specialized) cognitive abilities, underlying natural language in structure and use

Natural language is part of the cognition of individual language users and as such restricted by the properties of cognition in general and the cognitive system underlying language in particular. Human language is also a social system, used

as a means of communication and expression within a social context and as such interacting with social properties like social grouping, language contact, multilingualism and identity formation.

Language variation and change are the result of a dynamic interaction between these two systems and hence provides a perfect way to study language as a cognitive and social system.

AIM

We intend to study language variation and change with the aim to understand natural language as the result of the interaction of cognitive and social processes, and we do so from (a combination of) theoretical perspectives:

The **FORMAL LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE** which studies the ways in which linguistic diversity is encoded in the cognitive computational system that generates language structures and their interpretations, i.e. mental grammar. Which properties of grammar are open to language variation and change? Why are these properties variable while others are not? Is variability purely grammar-internal or does it also arise in interaction with other cognitive systems? How can social influences like multilingualism and language contact affect the manifestations of grammar, and what does that tell us about our mental grammar?

The **SOCIOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE** addresses the question of how the social context and language contact influences language. Why and how does language vary and change in the interaction between individuals and between groups? How do multilingualism and language contact affect language variation and historical changes? What are the effects of prestige, dominant language, speaker's attitude, and language identity on the way groups define themselves and position themselves in society.

AMBITIONS

- A. MAKE A SOLID CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE STRUCTURE, LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE, IDENTIFYING ITS COGNITIVE AND SOCIAL PROPERTIES
- B. PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH COMBINING OUR LINGUISTIC EXPERTISE WITH OTHER DISCIPLINES DEEPENING ON LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE
- C. CONDUCT SOCIETALLY RELEVANT RESEARCH FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH OR WITHIN MULTILINGUAL COMMUNITIES, THUS ALSO DISSEMINATING OUR RESEARCH TO THE WIDER PUBLIC

STRATEGY

1. SUSTAINING AND EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE STRUCTURE, LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE, VIA RECRUITMENT OF NEW TENURED STAFF WITH EXPERTISE ON (I) DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE STRUCTURE (D'ALESSANDRO, SEBREGTS), (II) INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE INCLUDING FORMAL LINGUISTICS AND SOCIOLINGUISTICS (D'ALESSANDRO, VAN DEN BERG, GRIFFITH, COLE, DE HAAS, PINGET, SEBREGTS) AND (III) RESEARCH RELEVANT FOR PROFESSIONALS/DISSEMINATION (COLE, VAN DEN BERG LEUFKENS) (AIMS A, B AND C)
2. APPLYING FOR GRANTS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS ERC, NWO, NATIONAL SCIENCE AGENDA (AIMS A-D, SEE BELOW IN SECTION 3.1) (WE APPLIED INTER ALIA FOR NWO VENI, VIDI, VICI, ERC ADVANCED GRANT, FREE COMPETITION)
3. PUBLISHING AND PRESENTING OUR WORK AT PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS AND CONFERENCES. (AIMS A-B, SEE BELOW IN SECTION 3.1)
4. ACTIVELY SEARCHING CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER DISCIPLINES WORKING ON LANGUAGE VARIATION AND CHANGE, LIKE LITERARY SCHOLARS (E.G. IN THE NWO-PROJECT LANGUAGE DYNAMICS IN THE DUTCH GOLDEN AGE) OR SOCIAL GEOGRAPHERS (E.G IN THE WORK BY JACOMINE NORTIER AND IRINA VAN AALST).
5. DEVELOPING PRODUCTS FOR PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN (SECOND) LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND MULTILINGUAL SETTINGS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC VIA BLOGS/WEBSITES, PUBLIC EVENTS, MEDIA (AIM D, SEE BELOW IN SECTION 3.2)
6. DISSEMINATING OUR RESEARCH TO OTHER RESEARCHERS VIA HANDBOOKS (E.G. THE BLACKWELL-WILEY COMPANION TO SYNTAX, MODERN REFERENCE GRAMMAR OF DUTCH), DATABASES AND WEBSITES (TAALPORTAAL). (AIM D, SEE ALSO BELOW IN SECTION 3)
7. INCREASING CO-OPERATION AND QUALITY CONTROL WITHIN THE GROUP (AS WELL AS BEYOND), VIA (I) OUR MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS WHERE WE DISCUSS ONGOING RESEARCH/RESEARCH PLANS, (II) A BLOG WHERE WE ANNOUNCE IMPORTANT OUTPUT, (III) INSTALLING SUPPORT COMMITTEES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS. (AIMS A-D)

METHODOLOGY

The members of this group have expertise in a wide range of methodologies to investigate language structure, variation and change, including the following (combination of) quantitative and qualitative methodologies: experiments, philology, corpus studies, questionnaire studies, observation, interviews and in depth description and analysis within a formal linguistic or sociolinguistic framework.

DISSEMINATION

We disseminate our results to different audiences: (i) **SCIENTIFIC AUDIENCES** (other linguist or scientist of other disciplines like biologists, psychologists and geographers) via publications (books, journals, conference proceedings), (invited) lectures for scientific audiences, (digital) language databases and digital tools to research these databases, (ii) **PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCES** like first and second language teachers, policy makers and government organizations via language policies, educational products, lectures and publications, language databases and tools, advice to committees/government organizations on topics like science, migration, language acquisition and (iii) **GENERAL PUBLIC** of interested layman via lectures for general audiences, like schools, dialect societies and publications in popular scientific journals.

INDICATORS

	<i>Research quality</i>	<i>Relevance to society</i>
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ journal papers ▪ books ▪ book chapters ▪ presentations at conferences ▪ papers in proceedings ▪ PhD dissertations ▪ Databases/websites/Software 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reports (advisory) ▪ publications directed to professional audiences ▪ Workshops/presentations/masterclasses directed to professional audiences ▪ Websites/software/Designs directed to professional audiences ▪ Rapports for professional audiences ▪ Outreach directed to general public (articles in popular press; public lectures, demonstrations, workshops)
Use		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ projects in co-operation with societal groups
Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ prizes, awards ▪ research grants ▪ invited lectures ▪ membership of scientific committees, editorial boards etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ funding for practice-oriented and applied research ▪ funding for valorisation ▪ membership of civil society advisory bodies

Authorized indicators of the group's research quality are its publications, as indicated by the quality of publication venues. This holds for both journal papers and chapters in scholarly books. We consider contributions to conferences and (ensuing) publications in proceedings volumes as indicative as well, since most of the major conferences in the field are competitive, operationalized by low (20-30%) acceptance rates.

Recognition of our work by the research community is primarily reflected in obtained research grants. Reasoned indicators include membership of editorial boards and scientific councils, and keynote/invited lectures in prestigious international conferences.

Reasoned indicators of societal relevance include publications targeting professionals (specifically in health care and [special] education), policy advising for professional and stakeholder (e.g. patient) organizations, instructing and

mentoring professionals, developing instruments (e.g. diagnostic) for use in professional settings, research in collaboration with professionals or other stakeholders (e.g. patients). Marks of recognition from societal groups are memberships of civil society boards or advisory bodies, and funding for applied and practice-oriented research.

SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIETAL RESULTS

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS (AMBITIONS A-B)

RESEARCH GRANTS

We have been successful in procuring research grants from different funding schemes, with a total sum in excess of € 6M:

- 2017-2022** *Microcontact. Language variation and change from the Italian heritage perspective.* (Roberta D'Alessandro - ERC Consolidator grant awarded in 2015, started in 2017, € 2M, 2 postdocs, 3 PhD students).
- 2012-2017** *The uniformity of linguistic variation: subject-predicate relations* (Marjo van Koppen, NWO-VIDI grant, €800k (1 postdoc, 2 PhD-students)
- 2013-2017** **ISCH COST ACTION IS1305** *European Network of e-Lexicography* (ENeL) (Martin Everaert, co-ordinator, main applicant € 800K
- 2015-2020** *Language Dynamics in the Dutch Golden Age* (Marjo van Koppen and Feike Dietz (ICON), NWO, Vrije Competitie € 750k)
- 2013-2018** *Lend me your ears: the grammar of (un)transferable possession* (Marjo van Koppen and Norbert Corver NWO, Vrije Competitie € 750k, with Leiden University)
- 2012-2016** *Bilingualism in Medieval Ireland* (Peter Schrijver - NWO, Vrije Competitie € 500k); Significant results: two dissertations *cum laude* (June 2017): Nike Stam, *A Typology of Code Switching in the Commentary to the Féilire Óengusso* (LOT 457), and Tom ter Horst, *Codeswitching in the Irish-Latin Leabhar Breac: Mediaeval Homiletic Culture* (LOT 452).
- 2012-2016** *The Syntax of Idioms* (with HU Brussels). (Norbert Corver, NWO research program grant); 2 postdocs. XXX K?

- 2014-2019 *Advancing the European Multilingual Experience* (AThEME) (Norbert Corver, European research consortium grant (FP7), consortium grant; Penvoerder Leiden university (prof. Lisa Cheng))
- 2017-2018 *Moedertaal in NT2* (project leader dr. Sterre Leufkens, co-applicants dr. J.M. Nortier (UU FGW), prof. Dr. P.P.M. Leseman (UU FSW), dr. José de Kruif (UU Digital Humanities Lab) - Nationale Wetenschapsagenda Startimpuls grant for [programme JOIN](#) in route '[Op weg naar veerkrachtige samenlevingen](#)'. Hoofdaanvrager: prof.dr. Bas van Bavel (UU). €75k).
- 2014 *YILUPS (Language of teenagers and adolescents as markers of group identity in multi-ethnic encounters in the urban space)*. (Jacomine Nortier: Strategisch Programma *Dynamics of Youth*. Utrecht University, €65K)
- 2016-2019 *Diccionario histórico de las perífrasis verbales del español. Gramática, pragmática y discurso (II). Perífrasis temporales y aspectuales* (Dorien Nieuwenhuijsen: Member of research project (MINECO FFI2016-77397-P), based at the University of Barcelona, €50K)
- 2012-2014 *Redes de variación microparamétricas en las lenguas románicas* (Roberta D'Alessandro: MINECO Project, Spain – consortium, € 48,4K)
- 2015-2019 *The Lindisfarne Gloss in its Dialect Context: A Comparison between Lindisfarne and the Glosses to the Durham Collectar*. (Marcelle Cole: member of following research projects, based at Seville University (Spain). Funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology and the European Regional development Fund: € 40K)
- 2012-2014 *The Lindisfarne Gospels Gloss: New Perspectives on the Morphosyntax and Lexis of Old Northumbrian*. (Marcelle Cole: member of following research projects, based at Seville University (Spain). Funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology and the European Regional development Fund: € 40K)
- 2013 *The Biology of Language: Evolution, Brain, Development*, KNAW Colloquium, co-applicant J. Bolhuis, M.A.C. Huybregts: € 23K
- 2018-2019 *Moedertaal in NT2* (Sterre Leufkens, preparatory grant from UU focus area [Education for Learning Societies](#) (ELS). €20k).
- 2014-2017 *Comparative linguistic analysis of the development of bird song and children's language*, [Dynamics of Youth](#) (Bolhuis, Kager, Beckers,

Everaert; Grant for PhD position Carien Mol (pillar Optimal development)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

We have been very successful in disseminating research to the scientific audience by publishing and presenting. We have published 84 articles in (inter)nationally recognized, peer reviewed journals (including *Acta Linguistica Hungarica*, *Cognition*, *Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics*, *English Language and Linguistics*, *Eriu*, *Etudes Celtiques*, *Diachronica*, *Folia Linguistica*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Geolinguistique*, *Germanistische Mitteilungen*, *Diachronica*, *Glossa*, *Internationale Neerlandistiek*, *Journal of Comparative Germanic linguistics*, *Journal of Language Contact*, *La Coronica*, *Language and Linguistics Compass*, *Language Learning and Development*, *Language Testing*). *Lingua Posnaniensis*, *Lingua*, *Linguistics*, *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Linguistica*, *Linguistics*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Nederlandse Taalkunde*, *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, *Revista de Filologia Espanola*, *Taal en Tongval*, *Theoretical*, *Trends in Cognitive Science*, *Wacana*.

Important publications include:

Language Structure:

Marelj, Marijana & Matushansky, Ora (2015). Mistaking For - Testing the Theory of Mediated Predication. Linguistic Inquiry, 46 (1), (pp. 43-76) (33 p.).

Language variation (cognitive dimension):

Reuland, E.J. (2017). Grammar of binding in the languages of the world: Unity versus diversity. Cognition, 168, (pp. 370-379).

D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2017. When you have too many features: auxiliaries, agreement, and clitics in Italian varieties. Glossa 2(1), 50.

van Koppen, Marjo, Sjef Barbiers, Hans Bennis, Norbert Corver (2016). Microcomparative Morphosyntactic Research (MIMORE): Mapping partial grammars of Flemish, Brabantish and Dutch. Lingua, 178, (pp. 5-31).

Language variation (social dimension):

Nortier, Jacomine. (2016). Characterizing Urban Youth Speech Styles in Utrecht and on the Internet. Journal of Language Contact 9-1, 159-18.

Pinget, A.C.H., Kager, R., & Van de Velde, H. (2016). Regional differences in the perception of a consonant change in progress. Journal of Linguistic Geography, 4(2), 65-75.

Language Change

Griffith, A. (2016). On the Old Irish third palatalization and the 3sg. present of the copula. Ériu 66: 39-62.

Cole, Marcelle. 2017. Pronominal anaphoric strategies in the West Saxon dialect of Old English. Special Issue: Cognitive approaches to the history of English. English Language and Linguistics, 21 (2), 381-408.

We have published (10) books with important publishers (including *Wiley-Blackwell, MIT-press, Oxford University Press, Ubiquity Press, John Benjamins, Brill, University of Wales Press, Mouton de Gruyter, Cambridge University Press*).

Language Structure

Reinhart, T. Everaert, M.B.H., Marelj, M. & Reuland, E.J. (2016). Concepts, Syntax and Their Interfaces - The Theta System. (262 p.). MIT Press.

Cheng, L.L.S. & Corver, N.F.M. (2014). Diagnosing Syntax. (596 p.). Oxford: Oxford University Press

Language Variation

Dimitriadis, A., Everaert, M.B.H. & Reuland, E.J. (2017). Special Issue on the world of reflexives: universal principles and a typology of variation. Studia Linguistica, 71 (1-2), (pp. 1-204).

Language Change

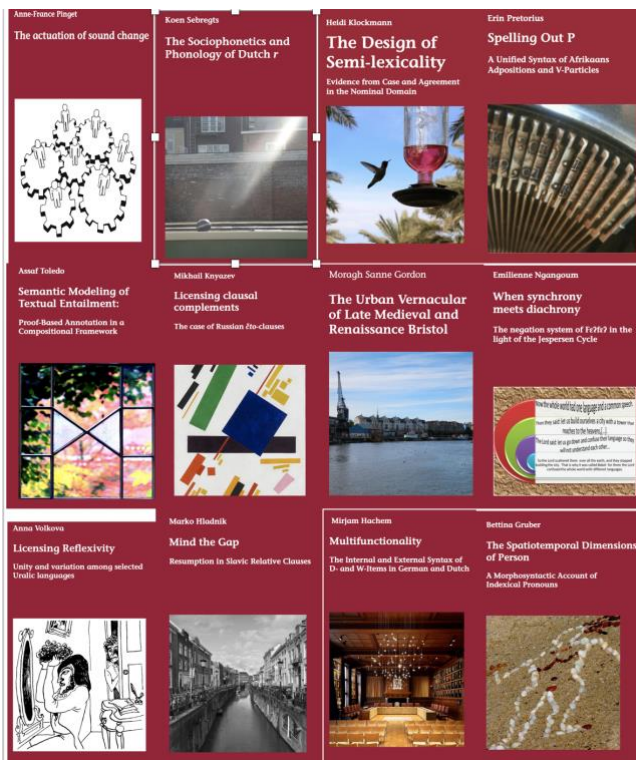
Schrijver, P. (2014). Language Contact and the Origins of the Germanic Languages, Routledge (New York - London).

Furthermore, we have been publishing 87 chapters in proceedings in high-impact volumes/handbooks/proceedings, among which *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Syntax*, *the Handbook of Germanic Linguistics*, *The Cambridge Handbook of Generative Syntax*, *Advances in Italian Dialectology*, *Sketches of Italo-Romance grammars*; *The Handbook of Ellipsis*; *Above and Beyond the Segments: Experimental linguistics and phonetics*, *Manuale di Linguistica Ladina*. The group was also involved in editing various important volumes.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The members of this group have also been successfully accepted in access of 500 times times to (inter)nationally recognized conferences, including *Generative Linguistics of the Old World (GLOW)*, *North-Eastern Linguistics Society (NELS)*, *West-Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)*, *Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop*, *Germanic Sandwich*, *International conference on functional Pragmatics*.

DISSERTATIONS



Our PhD-students have written 28 dissertations, some of them describe language variation from a cognitive point of view, identifying the structure of language: e.g. Heidi Klockmann's dissertation *The design of semi-lexicality* on agreement patterns in the Slavic languages compared to English or Jolien Scholten's dissertation on microvariation in the expression of possession in the Dutch Dialects. Others are approaching language variation and change from a social perspective like Mo Gordon's dissertation on Urban vernaculars in Renaissance Bristol or the dissertations by Koen Sebregts and Anne-France

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Pinget who combine language structure (phonology) with the social dimensions of language.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

The group is active in assembling (socio)linguistic knowledge resources in the form of databases, book series, lectures, participation and organisation of conferences on language structure, language variation and language change. Examples include:

1. The Syntax of Dutch (a grammar of Dutch in seven parts describing the syntactic knowledge of Dutch) and [Taalportaal](#) (Norbert Corver)
2. The Blackwell-Wiley Companion to Syntax (a collection of in depth discussion of syntactic phenomena by world-leading experts in five parts) (edited by Martin Everaert & Henk van Riemsdijk, with chapters by Norbert Corver, Eric Reuland)
3. The Wiley Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics (chapter by Jacomine Nortier)
4. The handbook of Hispanic linguistics (chapter by Dorien Nieuwenhuijsen)
5. The Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures (chapter by Margot van den Berg)
6. Several databases containing (socio)linguistically annotated and searchable data on language variation:
 - a. DiDDD/[Mimore](#) (Dutch dialect data), DADDI (Dutch dialect Idiom database),
 - b. Anaphora database (macrovariation), [The Berlin-Utrecht Reciprocals Survey](#); [The Typological Database System \(TDS\)](#); [The Anaphora Typology Database](#); APiCS (<http://apics-online.info/>); DEPICT (<http://www.uni-giessen.de/faculties/f05/engl/ling/staff/professors/mhuber/depict>);
 - c. Suriname Creole Archive, NEHOL database;
 - d. *Gustave*: Annotated Corpus on 17th century Dutch text;
 - e. Website for Abruzzese and Molisano crowdsourcing documentation (www.abruzzesemolisano.it);
 - f. Atlas of Heritage Italo-Romance (under construction for the ERC project)
 - g. The on-line database to the Milan Glosses. http://www.univie.ac.at/indogermanistik/milan_glosses.htm



EDITORS/EDITORIAL BOARDS OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT JOURNALS AND SERIES, e.g. Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory (Frank Drijkoningen), Open Generative Syntax (<http://langsci-press.org/catalog/series/ogs>), Romance Languages and Linguistic Theory (Roberta d'Alessandro), Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics (Norbert Corver, Marjo van Koppen), Linguistic variation (Marjo van Koppen), Mouton de Gruyter Studies in Generative Grammar series (Norbert Corver), Nederlandse Taalkunde (Norbert Corver), Linguistic Inquiry (Eric Reuland, Martin Everaert, Marijana Marelj), Research in Language, De Gruyter open access (Martin Everaert), Language (Peter Schrijver), Journal of Indo-European Studies (Peter Schrijver), Münchner Forschungen zur historischen Sprachwissenschaft (Peter Schrijver).

PRIZES that have been awarded to two of our former PhD-students:

- *Koen Sebregts* for his thesis (AVT/Anela dissertation Price and the Academic Year price of the Maatschappij der Nederlandse Letteren)
- *Anne France Pinget* has won the Price of the Maatschappij der Nederlandse Letteren for the best article in the field of linguistics

MEMBERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES: Roberta D'Alessandro is a member of KNAW Council for the Humanities (Raad van Geesteswetenschappen) (2017-); Member of the KNAW Committee for Freedom in Research Pursuit (2017-); Member of VSNU/KNAW Committee for the New Code of Conduct of the Dutch Universities (commissie Herziening Nederlandse Gedragcode Wetenschapsbeoefening) (2015-2018); Member of KNAW Committee Talen in Nederland-Talen voor Nederland (Languages in the Netherlands, Languages for the Netherlands) (2016-2018); Board member of GLOW (Generative Linguistics in the Old World); Member of Niels Stensen Fellowship committee; ICREA research professors: selection committee (2016, 2018); Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), Catalan Government: selection committee; ICSU: *Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science*; Global Young Academy: member; WG *Young Scientist Ambassador Program*; WG *Open Access*; WG *Fundamental Research*. Norbert Corver is a member of KNAW Council for the Humanities (Raad van Geesteswetenschappen) (2010-2016), Martin Everaert is member of the *University committee for academic integrity of the UU*, Chair board *Stichting Taaltechnologie* (Foundation for Language Technology), Member board of the *Niels Stensen Fellowship* committee (2008 - 2017), Member of the board of *CLARIN-NL* & *CLARIAH* (NWO/Senter Novem), Board member of GLOW (Generative Linguistics in the Old World).

MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP ARE FREQUENTLY INVITED TO SPEAK at (inter)national conferences and teach PhD or other courses at (inter)national universities/(inter)national summer/winter schools, e.g.

- Corver, Norbert. 2016. small but BIG: Augmentative schwa in the morphosyntactic build of Dutch, Syntax seminar, MIT (12-04-2016);
- D'Alessandro, Roberta. 2017. The achievements of Generative Grammar. A time chart (and some considerations). Keynote talk. *Generative Syntax. Questions, Crossroads and Challenges* conference. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 21-23 June 2017.;
- Koppen, Marjo van Keynote lecture at the Variation in C-workshop (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, October 21-22 2014) (Together with Jeroen van Craenenbroeck);
- Pinget, A.C.H. (2017, January 25). *Speech perception and production in sound change: evidence from a merger in Dutch*. MAMPF (Moderne Ansätze und Methoden der Phonetischen Forschung). IPS (Institut für Phonetik und Sprachverarbeitung) University of Munich. Germany. (Invited);
- Sebregts, Koen. 2018. Phonological identity of Dutch rhotics: variationist and articulatory evidence. Journée d'Étude, Université Paris 18; Stefan Sudhoff: *Das niederländische 'wel' als Modalpartikel und seine deutschen Äquivalente* – University of Tübingen, May 13th, 2015

SOCIETAL CONTRIBUTIONS (AMBITIONS C-D)

Our knowledge regarding linguistic variation and change, multilingualism, and language education put us in the unique position of being able to influence and direct societal choices in different ways. We undertake many societally relevant activities of the following kinds:

REPORTS AND ADVICE

Members of our group are frequently asked to write professional reports or give advice to professionals working in language education or multilingual situations. An important example is the work by Ellen-Petra Kester. She has participated in a **RESEARCH PROJECT CONCERNING THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION IN ONE OF THE ISLANDS OF THE FORMER NETHERLANDS ANTILLES**, St. Eustatius (Faraclas, Kester & Mijts, 2013, 2014). This project was initiated by educational authorities in the European Netherlands and in the Dutch Antilles, who approved and accepted the results of the research project, leading to a revision of the language policy in the education system on the island.

PUBLICATIONS DIRECTED TO PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCES

We often write publications for professional audiences. This includes the **EDUCATIONAL SECTOR**. Stefan Sudhoff has, for instance, written a series of textbooks for Dutch as a foreign language (18 components until now), which has a contrastive Dutch-German focus and is widely used in adult education in the German-speaking countries. Margot van den Berg helped translating an old Sranantongo text found in the City Archive of Amsterdam.

Other endeavors to reach out to the educational sector include writing articles in journals targeting professional audiences of language teachers, including *Vaktaal*, *Neerlandia*, *Les*, *Meertaligheid en Onderwijs: Nederlands Plus*.

We were also present at conferences/lectures/masterclasses for a general educational audience, e.g. *kennisoploop innovatie in onderwijs in vreemde talen (University of Applied Sciences, 2017)*, *Nationaal Congres Duits, Het Schoolvak Nederlands*, *Lectures at LES-congres (conference for teachers of Dutch as a second language)*, *Docentenmiddag Uitgeverij Boom NT2 (Teacher professionalization)*.

Other professional outreach targets **PEOPLE LIVING IN A MULTILINGUAL ENVIRONMENT**, for example in the LUCIDE network in which Jacomine Nortier participated. Within this network multilingual practices in (mostly) European cities in specific urban domains were brought together in 18 City Reports (www.urbanlanguages.eu/cityreports), leading to six toolkits, translated into ten languages, with practical advice for people living and/or working in urban domains (www.urbanlanguages.eu/toolkits).

Jacomine Nortier also wrote a series of six short popular articles for www.multilingualliving.com with advice and background information for **PARENTS ABOUT MULTILINGUALISM**, aimed at an international audience.

OUTREACH TO BROADER AUDIENCE

The members of this group are very active in dissemination of research to the general public.

Within the ATHEME-project there is the initiative **BILINGUALISM MATTERS** (meertalig.nl), a European research platform that spreads knowledge about multilingualism.

We are always present at **THE DRONGO TALEN-FESTIVAL** (UU-organization by Jacomine Nortier).

There are also **books/book chapters/articles** directed at a general audience, e.g.:

Leufkens, Sterre (2016). *Taal*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press; Leufkens, Sterre & Marten van der Meulen (2017). *Opzienbarende ontdekkingen over taal*. Utrecht: Van Dale Uitgeverijen

D'Alessandro, Roberta (ed.). 2018. *Il progetto Microcontact: l'eredità linguistica dei dialetti italiani*) and several articles in *Onze Taal*.

Blogs/websites Sterre Leufkens has build an information website about the app 'Moedertaal in NT2', <https://nt2.sites.uu.nl>. Includes information about multilingualism & education. She also has a blog together with Marten van der Meulen, blog on language & linguistics *De Taalpassie van Milfje*, <https://milfje.blogspot.nl>. 2 to 3 blogs per week, 2012 - present. Roberta D'Alessandro: Facebook page *Linguistica in pillole* for the popularization of linguistics (in Italian): 18,000 followers.

Marjo van Koppen has a column in the magazine *Gers* directed at the inhabitants of Rotterdam (4 per year); Members of the group also write columns on *Neerlandistiek.nl*.

There are frequently **(inter)national media performances** (newspaper/radio/television), to name just a few:

Marcelle Cole was an invited guest on BBC Radio 4's Word of Mouth "Snuck and Sung: Irregular Verbs" (10/05/2016).

Norber Corver contributed to a Dutch (popular science) television-program Labyrinth (NPO). Topic: the language of cursing. Dec 2015, 2013.

Koen Sebregts was interviewed about his PhD-research in NRC-Handelsblad and on Dutch and Flemish television.

Ellen-Petra Kester gave an interview on her research on Papiamentu for Radio-86 (Curacao).

Myrthe Bergstra gave an interview on her PhD-resarch for omrop Fryslan (Frisian Radio).

RECOGNITION

That the general audience also uses and values our research becomes clear from (i) projects members of the group perform together with societal partners. Sterre Leufkes has a research project 'Moedertaal in NT2' is a collaboration between UU, CITO (Martine Jetten & Margot Mol) and Stichting Leerplanontwikkeling SLO (Jantien Smit). The developed app and educational materials are used by a large group of teachers of Dutch as a second language, partly represented by societal institutions such as *Taal doet meer* and *Taalschool Utrecht*. Various members of our group are involved in rethinking Dutch education in high school, for instance participating in the discussions of the *Meesterschapsteams Nederlands* (an initiative by the government to change the contents of Dutch in high schools). Norbert Corver and Marjo van Koppen are both involved in Master Language Dutch, a master program that educates students on ways to incorporate linguistics at high schools. One of us is involved in the construction and assessment of the national language exams for secondary education. Our group is also engaged in the organization of a workshop in Africa (Gabon, very likely) regarding capacity building and containment of brain drain in developing countries, of which a good part will be dedicated to the importance of language identity and language-related issues.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SELF-EVALUATION

We have been very successful in the past six years in realizing our ambitions. Our research has been published in high impact, (inter)national journals, (hand)books with esteemed publishers. We have secured grants from local, national, international and European funding schemes. Much of this research is interdisciplinary, including sociolinguistic and formal linguistic research, developing innovative research lines. We have also been involved in societally relevant research, writing reports, educational modules and advice for professional partners, including the government, publishers and teachers. We have disseminated our research to the general public via different types of channels, including publications, presentations, websites and blogs.

STRENGTHS

- Strong publication record
- Success in obtaining externally funded research projects
- Large number of PhDs
- Increasingly successful links between linguistic knowledge and societal activities/purposes (valorisation).

- Strong both in fundamental research and in valorizing research
- Well-embedded in several strategic themes and focus areas of Utrecht University (dynamics of youth; brain and cognition; education for learning societies)

WEAKNESSES

- A lot of fixed-term positions, which means that there is a lot of change in our research group, which in turn makes it harder to sustain a good infrastructure between researchers.
- A lot of appointments with a fairly low amount of research time and a large amount of teaching time. Teaching tends to take up more time than the hours provided by the faculty, which leads to even less research time.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Research from different perspectives give the opportunity for interdisciplinary research.
- Interaction between different perspectives on language variation is already explored in several research teams.
- The group investigates many different languages and language groups (Italian, Bantu, Liangmai, Munda languages, Sranantongo, Dutch, German, English, Indonesian, Irish, Serbocroatian, Papiamentu) which makes it possible to investigate variation and change from a wide variety of language systems.
- Within our current society there are big debates and questions concerning language education, multilingual situations at home, at work, at schools etc., refugees etc. which provide opportunities for societally driven research from within this group.

THREATS

- Less money for research, especially for fundamental research. This means that it will be difficult to keep procuring money from local, national and international funding agencies.
- The faculty should cut-back on her expenses. This might have an effect on the (already tight) amount of research time provided by the University (either because the teaching load will become heavier or the research time will be minimalized)
- Researchers experience a lot of pressure and a heavy work load. This has a potential effect on research productivity.
- In competitions for grants or jobs, researchers from our group have a disadvantage over researchers in other fields because our publication strategy differs. It is normally not the case that supervisors publish

together with their PhD-students or postdocs, which leads to less output than in groups where this is the norm.

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Valorisation becomes more important, which is one of the strengths of this group.
- Within formal linguistics the trend is to investigate whether the cause of variation is outside of the language system itself, which leads to interdisciplinary research with sociolinguistics, biology and psycholinguistics.
- Within sociolinguistics the trend is to focus on language as a tool to identity formation which again leads to interdisciplinary research with sociologist, antropologists and goeographers.
- Developments in digital humanities: more data and tools become available which makes it possible to explore different research questions and to search in more data at the same time, substantiating our research results.

STRATEGY

- Sustaining and expanding our knowledge of language structure, language variation and change by recruiting researchers with relevant expertise;
- Safeguarding the international recognition of our group by conducting disciplinary research and initiating interdisciplinary research;
- Applying for funding to expand the disciplinary study of LVC and to initiate new interdisciplinary research;
- Developing products for professionals working in language education and multilingual settings; reaching out to the general public via media.