

A splendid series of squibs

In honour of Kees Hengeveld
on the occasion of his retirement from the
University of Amsterdam

Edited by
Hella Olbertz and Evelien Keizer

A splendid series of squibs: Preface*

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Twelve years ago, Lachlan Mackenzie and Hella Olbertz took the initiative for the publication of an edited volume on the occasion of Kees Hengeveld's 55th birthday. This volume, which appeared in 2013 under the title of *Casebook in Functional Discourse Grammar* (John Benjamins, Studies in Language Companion Series 137), was meant as "a tribute to the intellectual father of FDG" (p. 1) and consisted of ten peer-reviewed chapters written by practitioners of Functional Discourse Grammar – including Kees himself.

Now, twelve years later, Hella took a similar initiative, not so much to celebrate Kees's 67th birthday, but rather on the occasion of his retirement as Professor of Theoretical Linguistics at the University of Amsterdam, a post he took up in 1997 and held for 27 years. This second tribute, however, is very different in form from the first, more resembling a traditional Festschrift. Rather than complete papers, the collection consists of a number of squibs, which meant that more people (22 authors, responsible for 21 squibs) could participate. Secondly, this is not a special issue on FDG; although, unsurprisingly, many of the squibs offer FDG analyses of specific constructions and/or emphasize Kees's role in the development of the theory, others pay tribute to Kees as a world-leading typologist, represent different areas of research (applied linguistics, creole studies, lexicology, language revitalization), or use other theories (e.g. generative syntax) – thus reflecting Kees's wide range of interests and expertise in various fields of linguistics. Authors include former PhD students of Kees, collaborators from the FDG community, as well as long-time colleagues from the Linguistics Department in Amsterdam.

Finally, the style of the squibs is sometimes quite informal. While some adopt a neutral academic style, others address Kees directly and are (in part) anecdotal in nature. This is, of course, entirely appropriate, given Kees's own aversion to formality and hierarchical thinking (except in a theoretical sense). This informal approach is also reflected in the way the squibs are ordered: alphabetically on first name. We are, after all, all friends of Kees.

* We would like to thank the editors of *Linguistics in Amsterdam* for their willingness to publish this collection of squibs as a special issue, all the authors for contributing to the issue, and Sebastian Nordhoff for spontaneously offering to produce a single printed copy just for Kees.

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