

# **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.

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\* 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.

## Table of contents

Arok Wolvengrey	
Verbs within verbs in Plains Cree	1–9
Carmen Portero Muñoz	
Multifunctionality in FDG: Spanish <i>mismo</i>	11–18
Caroline Roset	
Water jars do not go to the well themselves: Shared universal wisdom in Darfurian proverbs	19–25
Daniel García Velasco	
No, we don't need predicate frames	27–33
Enoch Aboh	
Tense, mood, and aspect sequencing: The universals FDG and Cartography can't escape	35–42
Evelien Keizer	
<i>Straight to the point</i> : Modified PPs in FDG	43–48
Folkert Kuiken	
Language theory and/or language acquisition theory?	49–54
Hella Olbertz	
Spanish emphatic rhetorical questions with <i>cómo</i>	55–61
Hongmei Fang	
The iterative construction V- <i>lái</i> -V- <i>qù</i> in Mandarin	63–68
Inge Genee	
A first look at copular verbs in Niitsi'powahsin (Blackfoot)	69–79
J. Lachlan Mackenzie	
<i>In case</i> for Kees	81–88
Marize Hattnher	
The contribution of Functional Discourse Grammar to typological studies of Brazilian native languages	89–96
Mark Schmalz	
Typological quirks in Tundra Yukaghir	97–102
Matthew Anstey	
Reflections on the early days of Functional Discourse Grammar	103–105
Mily Crevels	
Lessons to be learned from politically driven language revitalization: The case of Itonama (Isolate, Bolivia)	107–113
Norval Smith	
A tale of two tribes – and the emergence of a language	115–119

Pilar Guerrero Medina	
Noun incorporation in English deverbal compounding: Lexical and semantic factors in incorporability	121–126
Riccardo Giomi	
The future indicative as an expression of general truth in European Portuguese	127–133
Roland Pfau	
When shifts root: Some observations regarding nouns and noun phrases in spontaneous speech errors	135–142
Sterre Leufkens & Eva van Lier	
Three (distinct yet related) functional perspectives on verbal indexing	143–151
Sune Gregersen	
Complement-dependent semantics in Wangerooze Frisian <i>quídder</i> ‘say, tell; ask’	153–158