

Looking back and looking forward

The Belgian Journal of Linguistics (1986–2023)

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The present 37th volume of the *Belgian Journal of Linguistics* (BJL) will be the very last one: 2024 will see the launch of the new journal *Nota BeNe*, jointly sponsored by the Linguistic Society of Belgium (Belgische Kring voor Linguïstiek/Cercle Linguistique de Belgique) and the Dutch Linguistics Association (Algemene Vereniging voor Taalwetenschap). *Nota BeNe*, published by John Benjamins, will supplant the respective journal/yearbook titles *Belgian Journal of Linguistics* (BJL) and *Linguistics in The Netherlands* (LIN). We will use this opportunity to briefly look back on the BJL's rich history, which started in 1986 (or, actually, in 1984, when the ambitious idea for the publication of an annual journal in general linguistics was approved by the association's General Assembly, and Marc Dominicy was appointed as the journal's editor-in-chief). Over the past 37 years, a wide variety of topics have been covered. Volumes either centered around a particular linguistic phenomenon or concept, ranging from sound change over bare plurals to non-prototypical clefts; or, they were devoted to a particular linguistic sub-discipline and/or methodological-theoretical perspective, as illustrated by volumes on, for instance, text linguistics, political linguistics, construction grammar, or linguistic approaches to poetry. The full overview of titles in Table 1 below clearly reflects the wide scope of language research, as well as the evolution of the field of linguistics over the past decades. What is not clear from the titles but becomes obvious from the tables of contents of the respective volumes, is the great diversity of language scholars – both junior and senior, active in Belgium or abroad, and representing various linguistic approaches or sub-disciplines – who have contributed to these different volumes. The BJL volumes were often the tangible follow-up of live workshops organized with the support of the Linguistic Society of Belgium (CBL/BKL). Each of them was guest edited by, occasionally, a single scholar, but, much more often, by a team of two, three or even more linguists with specific expertise in the covered field, always including at least one scholar affiliated with a Belgian university or university college. Looking back, it is fair to say (i) that a lot of linguistic scholars with an international reputation

that goes far beyond Belgium or even the Low Countries have been involved in the compilation of one or more BJL volumes, and (ii) that, together, these thematic volumes give a good impression of the range of topics and approaches that have been of central importance and concern in the discipline of linguistics and language studies as practiced at Belgian universities over the past 40 years or so.

Table 1. Overview of BJL volumes and editors

| Volume | Title | Edited by |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1 (1986) | Functional Explanations in Linguistics | Alain Bossuyt |
| 2 (1987) | Perspectives on Child Language | Annick De Houwer and Steven Gillis |
| 3 (1988) | Phonological Reconstruction | Marc Dominicy and Juliette Dror |
| 4 (1989) | Universals of Language | Michel Kefer and Johan van der Auwera |
| 5 (1990) | Diachronic Semantics | Dirk Geeraerts |
| 6 (1991) | Perspectives on Aspect and Aktionsart | Carl Vetters and Willy Vandeweghe |
| 7 (1992) | Predication | Johan De Caluwe, André Hantson and Willy Vandeweghe |
| 8 (1993) | Perspectives on Language and Conceptualization | Jan Nuyts and Eric Pederson |
| 9 (1994) | Sound Change | Marc Dominicy and Didier Demolin |
| 10 (1996) | Coherence and Anaphora | Walter De Mulder and Lilian Tasmowski |
| 11 (1997) | Political Linguistics | Jan Blommaert and Chris Bulcaen |
| 12 (1998) | Tense and Aspect: The Contextual Processing of Semantic Indeterminacy | Svetlana Vogeleeer, Walter De Mulder, and Ilse Depraetere |
| 13 (1999) | Variation in (Sub)standard Language | Rob Belemans and Reinhild Vandekerckhove |
| 14 (2000) | Modal Verbs in Germanic and Romance Languages | Johan van der Auwera and Patrick Dendale |
| 15 (2001) | Linguistic Approaches to Poetry | Christine Michaux and Marc Dominicy |
| 16 (2002) | Particles | Ton van der Wouden, Ad Foolen and Piet Van de Craen |
| 17 (2003) | Hybrid Quotations | Philippe De Brabanter |

Table 1. (*continued*)

| Volume | Title | Edited by |
|-----------|---|---|
| 18 (2004) | Adpositions of Movement | Hubert Cuyckens, Walter De Mulder, and Tanja Mortelmans |
| 19 (2005) | Bare Plurals, Indefinites, and Weak-Strong Distinction | Svetlana Vogeleer |
| 20 (2006) | Topics in Subjectification and Modalization | Bert Cornillie and Nicole Delbecque |
| 21 (2007) | The Study of Language and Translation | Willy Vandeweghe, Sonia Vandepitte, and Marc Van de Velde |
| 22 (2008) | Commitment | Philippe De Brabanter and Patrick Dendale |
| 23 (2009) | New Approaches in Text Linguistics | Sylvie Mellet and Dominique Longrée |
| 24 (2010) | Framing: From Grammar to Application | Paul Sambre and Maria-Cornelia Wermuth |
| 25 (2011) | Cognitive and Empirical Pragmatics: Issues and Perspectives | Gregory Bochner, Philippe De Brabanter, Mikhail Kissine, and Daniela Rossi |
| 26 (2012) | Information Structure, Discourse Structure and Grammatical Structure | Bart Defrancq, Gudrun Rawoens, and Els Tobback |
| 27 (2013) | Interference and Normalization in Genre-Controlled Multilingual Corpora | Marie-Aude Lefer and Svetlana Vogeleer |
| 28 (2014) | New Perspectives on Utterance Interpretation and Implicit Contents | Daniela Rossi and Nicolas Ruytenbeek |
| 29 (2015) | Evidentiality and the Semantics-Pragmatics Interface | Bert Cornillie and Juana I. Marín-Arrese |
| 30 (2016) | Computational Construction Grammar and Constructional Change | Katrien Beuls and Remi van Trijp |
| 31 (2017) | Current Trends in Analyzing Syntactic Variation | Ludovic De Cuypere, Clara Vanderschueren, and Gert de Sutter |
| 32 (2018) | Non-Prototypical Clefts | Lena Karssenbergh, Karen Lahousse, Béatrice Lamiroy, Stefania Marzo, and Ana Drobnjakovic |

Table 1. (continued)

| Volume | Title | Edited by |
|-----------|--|---|
| 33 (2019) | Latin Influence on the Syntax of the Languages of Europe | Bert Cornillie and Bridget Drinka |
| 34 (2020) | The Wealth and Breadth of Construction-Based Research | Timothy Colleman, Frank Brisard, Astrid De Wit, Renata Enghels, Nikos Koutsoukos, Tanja Mortelmans, and María Sol Sansiñena |
| 35 (2021) | Current Perspectives on Codeswitching | Emma Vanden Wyngaerd, Renata Enghels, Mena B. Lafkioui, and Marie Steffens |
| 36 (2022) | The Semiotic Diversity of Language: The Case of Signed Languages | Alysson Lepeut and Inez Beukeleers |
| 37 (2023) | Tangible Traces of Language Ideologies | Esther Baiwir, Janine Berns, and Marie Steffens |

All of these volumes would never have seen the day without the concerted efforts of these guest editors, the many contributing authors, and the members of the editorial and advisory boards. The successive editors-in-chief of the journal were Marc Dominicy (1986–2001), Patrick Dendale (2002–2005), Saskia Kindt (2006), Frank Brisard (2007–2011), Philippe De Brabanter (2012–2014), and Timothy Colleman (2015–2023). In addition, over the years, the B JL has been fortunate to be able to count on the expertise of numerous colleagues serving as peer reviewers, who, together with the editors and guest editors, were indispensable in guaranteeing the quality of the contributions. These collective efforts established the B JL as a well-respected journal. Its rich thematic volumes will remain available, and will hopefully continue to provide inspiration to linguists for years to come.

We are confident that the new journal *Nota BeNe* will be able to continue and expand this tradition and wish its team of editors the best of success. The close collaboration between the Linguistic Society of Belgium and the Dutch Linguistics Association will undoubtedly lead to new encounters and new synergies between linguists based in Belgium, The Netherlands, and abroad. There are still major projects to be carried out, and linguistics is a discipline that is constantly renewing itself, at the service of the scholarly community but also with a clear relevance for the world outside: for language learners, linguistic minorities, teachers, policy makers, or anyone interested in the intriguing human capacity that is language. Long live *Nota Bene*!

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