

Foreword

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We are happy to present a new volume of *Linguistics in the Netherlands*, a collection of internationally peer-reviewed articles presenting current linguistic research. This volume is based on the 54th annual conference of the Linguistics Society of the Netherlands (AVT), convened on February 3, 2023. This meeting was the first to take place on location again, after two online conferences in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a great joy to be able to meet each other in person again. The conference featured 66 contributions in 8 parallel tracks, among which two special panels: one on science communication of linguistics in the Netherlands, and one on the riches of intercultural communication. A duo keynote was delivered by Annemiek Hammer and Martine Coene (Free University, Amsterdam), paying special attention to the day's theme of inclusion. They provided a comprehensive overview of the obstacles faced by individuals with hearing disabilities when it comes to accessing spoken communication. Furthermore, they shed light on how everyday communication and interactions have undergone significant transformations due to Covid-19-induced social distancing measures and the use of personal protective equipment. They effectively conveyed the paramount significance of ensuring equal accessibility to communication for people of all ages, promoting the active participation of every individual within society.

Following the conference we received 16 submissions, of which we were able to accept 14 for publication in the present volume (the other 2 being invited to resubmit for the next volume). The volume also contains two papers presented at the 2022 conference. We thank the 35 reviewers who were able to provide us with their expert judgements in a timely manner. Just like last year, we are happy to report that all empirical and experimental contributions to this volume contain a link to materials, data, and/or analysis code available online, in support of our commitment to open and durable science. Besides a sustainable science, we are also committed to a sustainable environment. For this reason, *Linguistics in the Netherlands* is only printed on demand. All volumes in full are available online on the publisher's website: <https://benjamins.com/catalog/avt/>.

Included in this issue are three brief essays that received first and shared second prize in the first essay competition organized by the the Netherlands National Graduate School of Linguistics (LOT). LOT asked interdisciplinary teams to formulate some of the big questions that can occupy the language sciences in the coming ten years. The winning essay (Van Lier et al., this issue) envisages an Urban Field Station that would serve as a central hub to coordinate research projects connected to language diversity and multilingualism. The essay stresses the scientific and societal relevance of linguistic research on language diversity in the international decade of indigenous language. The two essays that share the 2nd prize (Rasenberg et al., this issue and Backus et al., this issue) propose interdisciplinary research programmes that aim to broaden the horizons of the language sciences. All three essays show a strongly multidisciplinary orientation and have diverse contributors from a range of institutions. They showcase the vitality of the current landscape of linguistics in the Netherlands.

This 40th issue marks the final publication of *Linguistics in the Netherlands* as we all know it. Starting next year, *Linguistics in the Netherlands* will merge with its Belgian counterpart, the *Belgian Journal of Linguistics*, to create the new journal *Nota Bene – Journal for Linguistics in Belgium and the Netherlands*. *Nota Bene* will appear twice a year, one issue containing papers presented on the Dutch Annual Linguistics Day (“Grote Taaldag”) and edited by two guest editors from AVT. The other issue will be a thematic one, edited by two guest editors from the Belgian Circle of Linguistics (Belgische Kring voor Linguïstiek). Two editors-in-chief, yet to be appointed, will be the faces of the journal. As editors of the final “LIN-bundel”, we are pleased with the new journal as it showcases a wonderful example of international collaboration from which both societies, as well as linguists and linguistics in Belgium and the Netherlands, will benefit.

With a new journal comes a new editorial board. We would like to seize this opportunity to thank the departing editorial board members of *Linguistics in the Netherlands* for all their support and efforts for the journal. Hans Broekhuis, Marcel den Dikken, Janet Grijzenhout, Paula Fikkert, Helen de Hoop, Henk van Riemsdijk, Jeroen van de Weijer, and Wim van der Wurff, we have very much appreciated your ongoing efforts, as well as your willingness to serve as a sounding board, especially in our journey to becoming an open access journal and in shaping the collaboration with our Belgian sister society. Thanks to your engagement, linguistics in the Netherlands has grown stronger than ever.

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The editors

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