

Acknowledgements

This not-so-little festschrift is, we feel, a tribute not just to Johan Oosthuizen, whose distinctive presence in South African and Germanic Linguistics we are so happy to have the opportunity to celebrate; it is also a wonderful tribute to the remarkable things that become possible where there is a real will to make them happen.

As those who know him will be well aware, Johan is not someone who likes fanfares or “big shows”. By nature a *sluiper*¹ - someone who likes to go on his way without attracting undue attention - he very nearly managed to call time on his “official” academic career² in such a way that it was upon us all before we’d fully registered that it would actually be happening. There certainly weren’t many months to plan a suitable send-off for someone who has made the contributions Johan has over many decades.

As it happens, however, Johan has remarkable colleagues and friends, and so the implausibly small window that we had to respond to the news of his imminent departure proved to be sufficient to put together this ultimately not-so-little something. Without the astonishing willingness of the contributors to this volume to work with, objectively, quite crazy deadlines, this project would never have come to fruition. A heartfelt *baie, BAIE dankie*, therefore, to all our contributors! We very much hope that you will share our delight at what your commitment has produced in such a very short time.

Without the willingness of a knowledgeable team of reviewers to work with very short deadlines, this *klein ietsie* would also never have become something, little or otherwise. So another heartfelt *BAIE dankie* goes to the following for their invaluable and enormously appreciated input:

Anne Baker
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Jac Conradie
Anne-Maria Fehn
Kate Huddleston

¹ *Sluip* is a Dutch-derived Afrikaans word meaning approximately “slink, sneak”. At the time when Johan was teaching Theresa about Language Contact (**not** Syntax, note!) while she was a Linguistics undergraduate at Stellenbosch University - so, a **very** long time ago! - it was customary to refer to students who suddenly emerged out of the blue with some previously unsuspected knowledge, skill or achievement as a *supersluiper*. Anyone who has had the chance to get to know Johan a little will, we are sure, have had a(t least one) *supersluiper* experience with him too!

² Note to Johan: all the many linguistic *klein ietsies* (“little somethings”) you have discussed with us and others over the years are still out there, waiting to be fully understood. And “unofficial”, post-retirement academia is “a thing” ...

Marjo van Koppen
Heidrun Kröger
Christian Locatell
Christo van der Merwe
Pieter Muysken
Hirosi Nakagawa
Menán du Plessis
Cora Pots
Erin Pretorius (iteratively!)
Craig Sailor
Mark de Vos

In this connection, the editors also thank each other (iteratively) for their reviewing work.

Finally, on-line publications don't magically come into being, and here an enormous *BAIE dankie* must go to Robyn Berghoff, Kate Huddleston, and Jean-Marie Potgieter for all their careful work, and their patience in dealing with it without much in the way of advance warning.

Thank you, one and all! And now we hope that you will also enjoy reading at least some of what your energy, effort and enthusiasm have made possible.

Alex Andrason and Theresa Biberauer
Stellenbosch
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