

Contributors

IRIS ANTOONS

Iris Antoons is a doctoral student in the Department of Germanic Languages at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where she also received a Master's degree in Germanic languages in 2000. She then worked for the Vlaams GebarentaalCentrum (Flemish Sign Language Center) on a project to develop teaching materials for courses in Flemish Sign Language. She is currently carrying out a research project on bimodal and bilingual language acquisition of prelingually deaf children, which is underwritten by the Fund for Scientific Research-Flanders.

DIANE BOONEN

In 1987 Diane Boonen began working for Fevlado, the Flemish Deaf Association, as an administrative employee in one of the regional offices. She first became involved in linguistic research on Flemish Sign Language (VGT) when Myriam Vermeerbergen asked her to act as the main informant for a study on prepositions in VGT in 1988. In 1992 Boonen began teaching Flemish Sign Language in the Department of Germanic Languages at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. In the following five years she regularly participated in various research activities on the grammar of Flemish Sign Language. In 1997 Fevlado agreed to give her an opportunity to concentrate on the linguistic study and teaching of Flemish Sign Language, and she became a full-time collaborator of Vermeerbergen at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

KRISTOF DE WEERDT

Kristof De Weerdt is a second-generation, Deaf native signer. He began working for the English Department of Ghent University in October 1999 as a researcher in a project focusing on lexicographic aspects of Flemish Sign Language. He is an active member of the Flemish Deaf com-

munity, past president of the Flemish Deaf Youth Organization (Jong-Fevlado), and a member of the Turnhout chapter of Fevlado, the Flemish Deaf Association.

SANGEETA BAGGA-GUPTA

Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta cochairs the KKOM-DS (Communication, Culture, and Diversity-Deaf Studies) Research group at the Department of Education, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden. She is an Associate Professor at Örebro University and was the Powrie V. Doctor chair in Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University from 2001 to 2002. In 1995 she received her Ph.D. in Communication Studies from Linköping University, Sweden. Her research interests include human communication and identity issues, multilingualism, literacies, and interaction in educational settings.

VICTÒRIA GRAS I FERRER

Victòria Gras i Ferrer is a doctoral student at the University of Barcelona. She has been a sign-language interpreter since 1998 and a teacher in the interpreter-training program since 2001. She has worked as a linguist for the Spanish Association of the Deaf and the Catalan Federation of the Deaf, for whom she developed sign-language teaching materials. She spearheaded the Language Census of Sign Language Users in Spain project, which part of her dissertation addresses.

CARMEL GREHAN

Carmel Grehan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Deaf Studies from the University of Bristol and a Diploma in Irish Sign Language (ISL) Teaching from the University College Cork, University of Bristol. Having previously worked on a research project on poverty in the Irish Deaf Community sponsored by the Irish Deaf Society, she is currently an ISL tutor at the Centre for Deaf Studies, University of Dublin, where she is involved in the development and delivery of ISL courses for native and nonnative signers.

MIEKE VAN HERREWEGHE

Mieke Van Herreweghe received a Ph.D. from Ghent University, Belgium, in 1996 with a dissertation titled “Prelingually Deaf Pupils and Dutch: A Syntactic Study.” From 1996 until 2002 she was a postdoctoral researcher, and since October 2002 she has been a Professor in the English Department at Ghent University. Her research specializes in the contrastive analysis of certain aspects of Flemish Sign Language in comparison with Dutch, sociolinguistic aspects of Flemish Sign Language, and sign-language interpretation. She is also a certified sign-language interpreter and one of the founding members of the Flemish Sign Language Center, a nonprofit organization founded in 1997.

KARIN HOYER

Karin Hoyer is a doctoral student at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She received a degree in sign-language interpreting in 1993 and a Master’s degree in General Linguistics in 1999. From 1998 to 2002 she worked as a sign-language researcher in a project involving the lexicon of Finland-Swedish Sign Language (FinSSL) at the Finnish Association of the Deaf. She is the editor of the FinSSL-Swedish/Finnish dictionary *Se vårt språk! Näe kieleemme!* (2002). Currently she is a researcher in a sign-language project in Albania, which is directed by the Finnish Association of the Deaf and financed by the Foreign Ministry of Finland.

LORRAINE LEESON

Lorraine Leeson holds a Ph.D. and a Master of Philosophy degree in linguistics from the Centre for Language and Communication Studies, Trinity College, Dublin. Her undergraduate work was in Deaf Studies at the University of Bristol. She is a registered, qualified Irish Sign Language and English interpreter. Through her work with the European Union of the Deaf, she has had experience in working with Deaf communities throughout the European Union. She has also worked as an interpreter trainer both in Ireland and the UK and is currently the director of the Centre for Deaf Studies, University of Dublin, Trinity College, where she teaches sign linguistics and interpreting courses.

CAROLINA PLAZA PUST

Carolina Plaza Pust is a Lecturer in Linguistics at the University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany. She also teaches linguistics in the sign-language interpreter-training program at the University of Applied Sciences. She received her Ph.D. in 1998, and her current research project on bilingualism and Deafness focuses on language contact in the bilingual acquisition of sign language and oral/written language. Her interests include sign linguistics, language contact, child bilingualism, and adult second-language acquisition.

TRUDE SCHERMER

Trude Schermer has been active in sign-language research since 1979. She completed her Ph.D. in General Linguistics at the University of Amsterdam and her M.A. in Experimental Psychology at Northeastern University, Boston. Her doctoral dissertation focuses on the relationship between Sign Language of the Netherlands (SLN) and Dutch.

She was head of the research department of the Dutch Foundation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child (NSDSK, Amsterdam) until 2000. She has been project coordinator of numerous national and international research projects concerning the lexicon and grammar of SLN, the development of a guidance program for parents of deaf children, the language growth of deaf children in a bilingual environment, the development of a sign-language database and of multimedia educational materials, and the production of a number of sign-language dictionaries on CD-ROM. Currently she directs the Dutch Sign Language Center in Bunnik.

GRAHAM TURNER

Graham H. Turner is a Senior Lecturer in Deaf Studies at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in Preston, England. He studied linguistics at the University of York, England, from 1984 to 1988 before working as a Research Assistant in the Deaf Studies Research Unit at the University of Durham, England. There he completed a Master's degree in Sign Linguistics and also edited *Signpost*, the quarterly periodical of the International Sign Linguistics Association, while working on projects

in sign lexicography and interpreting. In 1995 he took up his present post at UCLAN, where he teaches a range of courses in British Sign Language and English and maintains research interests in social and applied areas of sign linguistics. He is currently the editor of *Deaf Worlds: International Journal of Deaf Studies* and has produced more than 100 publications and presentations in the last decade.

ELINE VANHECKE

Eline Vanhecke studied Germanic Languages at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and is now carrying out doctoral research on Dutch historical sociolinguistics there. Before that she participated in the first lexicographical project on Flemish Sign Language, which was carried out at Ghent University.

MYRIAM VERMEERBERGEN

In 1996 Myriam Vermeerbergen received a Ph.D. in the morphosyntax of Flemish Sign Language from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and became a postdoctoral researcher there a year later. Since September 2003 she has also been appointed as guest lecturer at the same university. Her current research focuses on the morphosyntax of Flemish Sign Language, and she has also been involved in and published articles on lexicographical and sociolinguistic work; she is interested in cross-linguistic studies as well. She is cofounder and current president of the Vlaams Gebarentaal-Centrum (Flemish Sign Language Center).