

Summaries

► *Ingrid van Alphen*

These are not my words!

Gender and (pseudo-)quotations

This article aims at opening a new area of enquiry in genderlinguistics: gender and fictive interaction, or more specifically *direct reported speech*. The object is to initiate research into the form and nature of gender construction by means of quotations, pseudo-quotations and speaking *for* another. Detailed discourse analyses shows the interactional and strategic effects of constructed dialogue of self and others in daily conversation, (painful) memories of World War II, and political discourse in interviews as well as in the Dutch Parliament. Interactional functions of direct reported speech are discussed in terms of gender. Unexpected is the finding that speaking *to* an absent person seems to be relevant for sociolinguistic research: non-dominant groups (i.e. non-Dutch non-working people) were addressed in Parliament in a demeaning manner using 'pseudo-quotations'.

The results lead to the hypothesis that a new linguistic vehicle, fictive interaction as pseudo-quotations and recycled speech, sneaked into the Dutch (as well as many other) language(s), creating stereotypical images of women (and men) and magnifying power inequalities. Using direct reported speech enables persons to distance themselves from painful events or dialogues. By using a distancing 'quotation' it is also possible to express unacceptable or dispreferred ideas "*These are not my words!*" and get away with it. Unfortunately, some groups of people are more likely to fall victim to this verbal practice than others.

► *Dorian de Haan en Elly Singer*

Us both can do that

Conflict management of young children in daycare centers

Recent research of gender and language of young children has changed the focus from the study of gender differences and deficiencies to studying context bound gender differences and children's constructive roles in organizing their interactions in specific contexts. This paper reports about research of conflict management of 96 two and three year old children in multi-ethnic childcare centres in the Netherlands. Our main question was how these young children resolve their conflicts and whether the gender of children of different ethnic backgrounds is a relevant issue.

The overall conclusion is that two- and three-year-olds already have a broad repertoire of oppositional and resolving strategies. No differences are found between girls and boys of different ethnic backgrounds. Compared with boys, girls make more often use of cooperative strategies in resolving their conflicts, but this result is mediated by their play preference. In line with the recent constructivist theories of context bound gender differences, gendered preferences in play activity settings turned out to have a major impact on conflict management of boys and girls.

► *Erica Huls*

A politician's answer

Gender and political interviews

In Dutch, the (evasive) answers politicians give may be called 'answers from the Hague'. In this study observational categories for eva-

sive conversational behavior are applied to interviewees differing in gender. Its main question is: do interviewees of different gender differ in their evasive reactions to questions? Theoretically, the study is embedded in various views on the relationship between gender and language use. The data consist of 16 10-minute clips from interviews broadcast on Dutch TV or radio in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

In the analysis, four different types of evasion were distinguished:

- 1 Evasion by changing the discourse roles. Interviewees can avoid answering questions by adopting behavior typical of the interviewer role, such as posing counter questions or changing the agenda of the interview.
- 2 Evasion by playing with the rules for turn taking, for example, by interrupting the interviewer.
- 3 Evasion by couching the answer in avoiding terms or by being polite and indirect.
- 4 Evasion by questioning the question (its relevance, appropriateness or formulation), questioning a presupposition or giving a non-answer.

The results show that the participations of female and male politicians in current politics – while equal in most respects – have historically different roots.

► *Tanja Mortelmans*

She's a power feminist

Once more about names of professions in Dutch from a contrastive point of view

With Dutch professional names, it can be observed that neither neutralisation nor specification is consequently used as a strategy to refer to women. Rather, actual usage shows a remarkable mix of both feminised professional names and neutral ones. Both language planners and linguists seem to agree

on the fact that for Dutch, both strategies have their advantages so that neither strategy is actually officially promoted as a means to achieve gender fair language. This situation clearly deviates from the German or French one, in which a tendency towards specification (i.e. feminisation of occupational terms) is prevalent. In this contribution, it is argued that this is very much influenced by the Dutch language system as such, in which formal gender distinctions (more in particular: the distinction between masculine and feminine) are getting lost. In Dutch, the form of the definite (*de*) and indefinite (*een*) article and the declension of adjectives, for instance, are independent of the fact whether the relevant noun is feminine or masculine, and this grammatical 'disinterest' is also reflected in a certain disinterest in a consequent use of feminised occupational terms. The 'neutral' noun in Dutch is less biased towards male referents, and therefore capable of actually referring to both women and men, much more so than the so-called neutral (but grammatically masculine) ones in languages like German and French, in which the grammatical distinction between masculine and feminine is still productive and clearly marked.

► *Willien van Wieringen*

Living in language

Being bound to Delila (Judges 16)

The syntactic analysis, with special attention to grammatical constructions and relations between sentences and the grammatical positions of the characters, of the text of Judges 13-16 (the rise and fall of Samson) sheds new light on the female characters. In this study the attention is primarily fixed focused on the characters as grammatical subjects. The analysis of the text grammar elucidates the technical way in which the narrator has used the language (structure) and how (s)he

played with it so as to take the reader by the hand (strategy). Thus it becomes clear that the Delilah episode, that has often been highlighted throughout the reception history, is a relatively small part of the whole story, only necessary to capture Samson. Readers who consider Delilah the principal person in Samson's life and flesh out her personality, have appropriated the empty spaces the author left in the story.

This method sheds a different light on the roles of the female characters than most other literary studies of these chapters. The method of moving from syntax to structure through exegesis and theological concept is a passible road which guards the researcher from the danger of divorcing the characters from their narrative context as it is composed by the author and from the danger of allowing them to lead a life on their own.

Gegevens auteurs

Ingrid van Alphen is universitair docente Taalwetenschap aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam. Zij promoveerde op de verbale interactie van Nederlandse adolescente meisjes en jongens (1999) en is als senior researcher verbonden aan het ACLC (Amsterdam Center of Language and Communication). Zij doet onderzoek op het gebied van de semantiek en pragmatiek; in het bijzonder gender en gespreksvoering. Zij geeft onderwijs op bachelor- en masterniveau op het terrein van de (interactionele) sociolinguïstiek.
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Dorian de Haan is als taalkundige werkzaam bij Ontwikkelingspsychologie van de Universiteit Utrecht. Naast het universitaire doctentschap is zij lector Ontwikkelingsgericht Onderwijs bij Hogeschool INHOLLAND. Haar werkterrein is dat van de taalontwikkeling van kinderen in relatie tot hun omgeving, meer in het bijzonder de interactie tussen kind en leidster/leerkracht in multi-etnische instellingen van de kinderopvang en de basisschool.

Erica Huls studeerde Taalwetenschap en Psychologie aan de universiteit van Nijmegen. Haar proefschrift behandelde communicatiepatronen in gezinnen uit verschillende sociale milieus. Eerder onderzocht ze interactie in Turkse gezinnen, gesprekken tussen vrouwen en mannen en interculturele communicatie. Ze werkt op het departement Communicatie- en Informatiewetenschap van de Universiteit van Tilburg. De thema's in haar huidige onderwijs en onderzoek zijn 'beleefdheid op het internet' en 'macht in institutionele discourse'. Ze schreef het studieboek *Dilemma's in menselijke interactie; een inleiding in de strategische mogelijkheden van taalgebruik* (uitgeverij Lemma). huls@uvt.nl

Tanja Mortelmans promoveerde in 1999 met een studie over de Duitse modale werkwoorden aan de Universiteit Antwerpen, waar ze nu hoofddocent Duitse Taalkunde is. Haar belangstelling voor grammatica en het taalsysteem komt tot uitdrukking in verschillende publicaties over de grammaticale uitdrukking van modaliteit en tijd, en over het grammaticalisatieproces in het algemeen. Verder doceert ze sinds een drietal jaar het vak 'Spraa-

che und Geschlecht', en besteedde daarbij onder andere aandacht aan de soms gespannen verhouding tussen feministische taalkritiek, enerzijds, en de grammaticale categorie *gender*, anderzijds.

Elly Singer is pedagoog en ontwikkelingspsycholoog. Zij werkt als Universitair docent bij Ontwikkelingspsychologie, Universiteit Utrecht en bij Pedagogische Wetenschappen, Universiteit van Amsterdam. Ze heeft zich gespecialiseerd in observatieonderzoek in kindercentra. Daarnaast doet ze onderzoek naar de 'innerlijke logica' van schoolkinderen: hoe ze omgaan met pleegouders, dyslexie of agressie op school.

Willien C.G. van Wieringen (1964) is neerlandica en bijbelwetenschapper. Ze is verbonden aan de Faculteit Katholieke Theologie van de Universiteit van Tilburg en werkzaam bij de afdeling Pers en Communicatie van het Bisdome Rotterdam. Zij was betrokken als meelezer bij de Groeibijbel (uitgegeven bij SGO) en supervisor bij de Nieuwe Bijbelvertaling (NBG/KBS). In 2007 is zij gepromoveerd aan de UvT op het proefschrift 'Delila en de anderen. Een syntactisch georiënteerd bijbeltheologisch onderzoek naar de rol van de vrouwen in de Simsoncyclus (Richteren 13-16)', met als promotores prof. dr. A.J.A.C.M. Korte, prof. dr. P.C. Beentjes en prof. dr. K.A. Deurloo. In dat zelfde jaar is bij de KBS de gepopulariseerde versie van de dissertatie verschenen: 'Dochter in de aanbidding'. Ze is redactievoorzitter van *Interpretatie*, tijdschrift voor bijbelse theologie.

Rectificatie

Tot onze grote spijt is in het vorige nummer de naam van de vertaalster weggevalen bij de oratie van Saskia Wieringa, 'De opdracht van "vegetarische oudtante"'. Die was van Femke Pos. Onze welgemeende verontschuldiging voor deze onvergeeflijke ommissie.