

# My memories of Carol Justus

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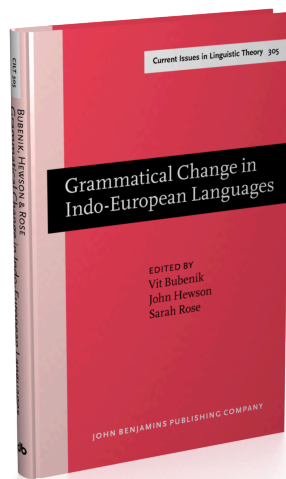
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## My memories of Carol Justus

My memories of Carol Justus reach back as far as my interest in Hittite linguistics. In the early 1980s, as a graduate student at the University of Pavia, where I was working with Professor Carruba, I developed an interest in comparative syntax and syntactic typology; needless to say, Carol's work on Hittite relative clauses was among my first readings. Several years later, I submitted a part of my thesis, which had now grown into a book on Old Hittite syntax, for publication to Routledge, and Carol was one of the readers chosen by the editor to comment on the manuscript. Actually, she acted as an anonymous reader, but after reading a couple of her remarks it was clear to me who the anonymous was. Her observations on the book were extremely helpful and useful, and I profited greatly from them. We finally met at an ICHL in New Brunswick, and, besides having interest in each other's work, we immediately became friends. Indeed, besides an outstanding scholar, she was a very nice person, one that you could trust, who could be sympathetic to friends, and was never too busy to give advice on whatever matter, either scholarly or personal. While we did not manage to get together as often as I would have liked, we always kept in touch, exchanged drafts of papers and opinions, tried to cheer each other up when academic life was hard. To her, it was certainly less rewarding than what she would have deserved.

The value of her work cannot be overestimated: she was among the very few who worked on Hittite syntax as early as the 1970s, and her research was really pioneering at a time when linguists and typologists knew virtually nothing about the Anatolian languages. If the situation now has changed, and many linguists outside the field of Indo-European studies have some notions of Hittite, its interest for linguistic typology and for linguistic theory, a big part of the credit is Carol's. And it must be emphasized that, contrary to many other linguists who are well prepared as far as theory is concerned, but have little familiarity with handling the data, Carol was both a linguist and a skilled philologist, who only used first hand data and remained close to the study of real texts. Of course, this was a heritage of her work at the Hittite Thesaurus in Munich, a place where she returned several times after her study years. In this respect, Carol should be an example for younger linguists, who too often work on second hand data and have little knowledge of the languages they are using in their arguments. Her interest in syntax, pragmatics and discourse was remarkable, and can be detected starting with her 1973

dissertation and going on in her subsequent work, especially in her papers on Hittite prayers, which appeared in the last two decades. I also admired her for her patience, for her willingness to look for new paths, and her readiness to take up new challenges.

The only thing I regret is that many of her papers are not easily accessible: it would be nice to have a collection of her most important works as a legacy to future linguists.

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