

Preface

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Adverbs of Degree in Dutch and Related Languages

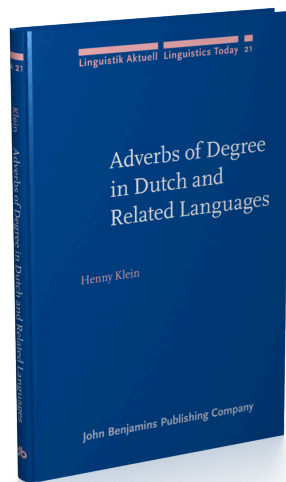
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Preface

This study is a revised version of the PhD thesis I wrote as a participant in an extensive research project, the *Pionier* project ‘Reflections of Logical Patterns in Language Structure and Language Use’ directed by Jack Hoeksema. The project was supported by the Netherlands organization for scientific research (NWO) and the University of Groningen. General subjects of investigation in this project included the use of negation, monotonicity properties, and the licensing of polarity items, themes which play an important role in this study of adverbs of degree as well.

The *Pionier* project proved to be the perfect setting for doing research. The Pioniers formed a real *team*, discussing literature and getting excited about new theories, writing papers together and revising individual ones. The different backgrounds of the members of the group (logic, psycholinguistics, semantics) made the cooperation even more fruitful. I would like to thank my colleagues Charlotte Koster, Hotze Rullmann, Víctor Sánchez-Valencia, Sjoukje van der Wal and Ton van der Wouden for their company and their support; in many different ways they have contributed much to the realization of my thesis.

I would like to thank my promotor, Frans Zwarts, for his confidence and support. For the contents and styling of my thesis and this book, I am mostly indebted to Jack Hoeksema, who read my manuscripts closely throughout the years. Furthermore, I would like to thank the members of the thesis committee, Werner Abraham, Piet Van de Craen and Larry Horn, who commented on the preliminary version of the thesis. I am particularly grateful to Larry for providing me with a great amount of substantive as well as stylistic remarks. Besides the reading committee, I would like to thank Jay Atlas for giving his comments.

I feel honoured that Werner Abraham encouraged me to prepare my thesis for publication, and I hope that reading about the intricacies of adverbs of degree will be as much a pleasure to the reader as was exploring them to me.

