

Preface

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**Structures, Strategies and Beyond: Studies in honour of
Adriana Belletti**

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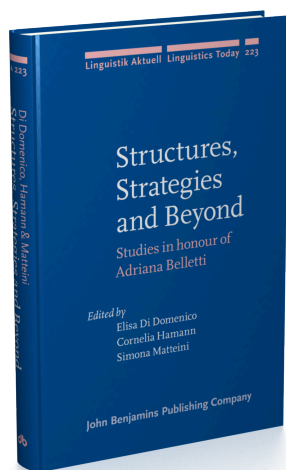
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Preface

Liliane Haegeman

The present volume unites eighteen papers by both junior and senior linguists, written around a number of different themes, ranging from the discussion of very detailed cartographic maps to issues of dyslexia, from morphology to processing, but all papers have one feature in common: one way or another, whether it be in theme, in methodology, or more generally in their approach, they were all written to celebrate Adriana Belletti's contributions to syntax. The very wealth of subject matters dealt with here is testimony to her rich and varied output and her impact in the field. But Adriana's importance in the field goes further than in terms of the issues she has contributed to (clitics, inaccusatives, case, verb movement, remnant movement, passive, locality, clefts, first language acquisition, second language acquisition, clitic doubling, clitic left dislocation, the low periphery, postverbal subjects, double object patterns etc): what is unique about her work is the crystal clarity of the reasoning, which always takes the reader step by step through complex arguments and which never loses the contact with the empirical data.

Reading work by Adriana is at the same time exhilarating and 'soothing' because of the way that the reader is taken on an exciting discovery trip along new empirical routes but at the same time has the feeling that at all times they keep a strong and steady foothold in the impeccably rigorous argumentation.

By these qualities, by her unique combination of creativity and rigour, Adriana must be an example, inspiration, and an encouragement to all of us working in the field. Her work is inspiring by the breadth of the topics covered and by the fact that she shows how step by step we can reach a better understanding of complex issues which might at first sight look insurmountable. Her work gives us the enthusiasm and the courage 'to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield' (*Ulysses*, Tennyson).

