

# Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/la.239.preface>

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**Boundaries, Phases and Interfaces: Case studies in honor of Violeta Demonte**

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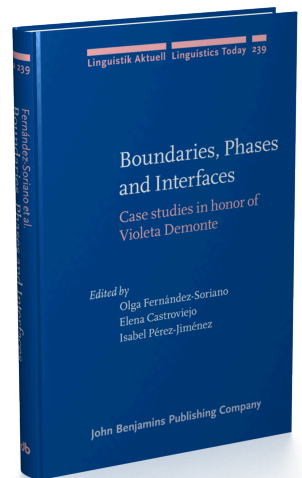
[*Linguistik Aktuell/Linguistics Today*, 239]

2017. viii, 369 pp.

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# Preface

In May of 2014, we celebrated the 24th Colloquium on Generative Grammar in the city that first hosted it, Madrid. This nowadays well known conference was first conceived of by Violeta Demonte, who thought, back in the 1990s, that Spain had to foster research in the domain of theoretical linguistics as other countries had done. In that month of May of 2014, many friends and colleagues got together again to homage Violeta by presenting their cutting-edge work and discussing it with her. This volume is a selection of the revised versions of the papers presented at the CGG and the workshop on interfaces that followed it.

In a hypothetical word cloud of Violeta Demonte's past and current life experience, nouns like *innovation*, *science*, *creativity* and *public service* would stand out at least as much as other bundles of concepts such as *formal linguistics* and *generative grammar*, or such as *teacher*, *mentor* and *friend*. Then, of course, we would be missing her adjective cloud, with items such as *strong*, *intelligent*, *perceptive*, *passionate*, *persistent*, *proactive*... Violeta has made a life of building groups from scratch and leading them with the sole criterion of excellence; she has learned, brought and implemented the most novel and revolutionary ideas; she has shared her knowledge with the community and brought up several generations of linguists; she has given life opportunities to many young researchers, and she has taught us enthusiasm for pursuing explanatory, rigorous and accurate analyses.

Along years of productive work in theoretical linguistics, Violeta Demonte has led many research projects and her work has touched upon and deepened many central themes in linguistic theory, from (Extended) Standard Theory to Minimalism. Chronologically, her first research works were on sentential boundaries, in particular subordination, and this is precisely the topic underlying her latest publications: embedded clauses, sentence left periphery and the status of stratified CP. Boundaries and barriers within DP's (and AP's) have also been among the topics covered by her work. In between, interfaces have been at the heart of her research. She has contributed to our understanding of the nature of the Lexicon-Syntax-Semantics interface and has elaborated penetrating inquiries into particular empirical issues such as verb types, lexical alternations, the nature of datives, event structure or telicity (through the study of phenomena such as passives, the *ser/estar* distinction or prepositional verbs). She has also crucially contributed to the study of adjectives (classes, ordering, features...) and secondary predicates. Her work on infinitives and variation on agreement in different constructions (coordinate NPs, partitive structures) concerns the Syntax-Morphology interface, and the Syntax-Pragmatics interface studies have

benefited from her work on Evidentiality and sentence structure. Also, the *Gramática Descriptiva de la Lengua Española*, which she co-directed with I. Bosque, is probably the most important contribution to the descriptive study of Spanish.

But Violeta Demonte's importance in the field goes further: We should highlight the organization of the PhD Program in Linguistics of the Instituto Universitario de Investigación Ortega y Gasset, which brought to Madrid the most prestigious names of international linguistics to teach the new generations of researchers. Moreover, she has fostered scientific research by teaching all of us to avoid hasty conclusions and side-stepping of problems, to handle hectic and frantic periods and concentrate on rigorous work... in sum, to strive for excellence. We have learned to endorse her respect for a job well done, and we will live by this teaching ever after.

The impact she has had in our lives and careers cannot be mapped into the brief preface of a book on phases and interfaces (here, we refer the interested reader to <<http://palabrasparavioleta.weebly.com/palabras.html>>). However, we have attempted to provide a context for the publication of this thematic volume, which was born, grew and was completed out of many people's affection and admiration towards Violeta.