

# Preface

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**The Rise of Functional Categories**

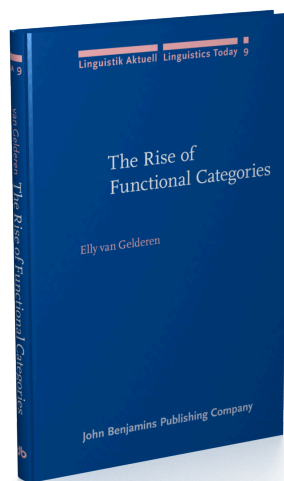
**Elly van Gelderen**

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## Preface

The basic idea behind this book came from work I did on split infinitives. That they occur in modern English but not in other Germanic languages known to me pointed to a difference in the status of the infinitival prefix: in modern English, *to* is quite separate from the verbal part but in, for instance, Dutch, *te* is not. This difference can quite easily be accounted for if *to* in modern English is in a separate position but is part of the Verb (a prefix) in other languages. If this separate position is present in English, one expects to find other differences and this is the case as will be discussed below.

Over the past several years I have presented ideas in this book at conferences in Turku (1986), Bern (1991), Québec (1992), Tucson (1992), Poznan (1992), Los Angeles (1993), Jena (1993) and New York (1993). I would like to thank the audiences at these conferences for useful suggestions.

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In addition, I am obliged to Wim Kosmeijer, Alasdair MacDonald and Herman Wekker for reading the complete manuscript and for commenting on it; and to Alexandra Gaylord for assistance with Old English inflection. Luuk Houwen helped me use a computer program (TACT) on Middle English databases (provided by the Oxford Text Archive); Ale de Boer, Sake Jager and Tjalling de Vries eased problems with WordPerfect. I also appreciate the helpful and patient assistance I have received from Kees Vaes of John Benjamins.

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