

Preface

A festschrift is an academic tradition where a scholar is honoured and thanked by fellow scholars. This festschrift with its papers on historical and comparative linguistics is dedicated to Johanna L. Wood on the occasion of her 65th birthday, January 31, 2016.

Born in Worcestershire, England, to a Dutch mother and an English father, Johanna's career inside and outside linguistics and English studies has taken her to London, England (1969-1972); to Glasgow, Scotland (1973-1978); to Munich, Germany (1978-1980); to Phoenix, Arizona (1980-2003), and most recently to Aarhus, Denmark (since 2004).

Apart from being a teacher of and a researcher in linguistics and English studies, first at Arizona State University and then at Aarhus University, Johanna has also worked as a chemical laboratory technician for Harris Plating Ltd. in London and later for Strathclyde Regional Council, she has worked for Her Majesty's Inland Revenue in Lanarkshire, and she has also found time to bring up her three sons, Graham, David and Chris, and to contribute to the bringing up of her three grandsons Daniel, Aaron and Alan (also known as AJ).

Johanna holds a PhD (2003), an MA (1997) and a BA (1994) in English, all from Arizona State University, and she also holds a degree in applied chemistry (1971) from what is now London South Bank University.

The title of this festschrift is a quote from *Cymbeline* by William Shakespeare (act 1, scene 4). In the Shakespeare's play, the words *Let us have articles betwixt us* signal the acceptance of a bet, but this fact is not related to the relevance of the quote here. The reasons why we found the title appropriate for this festschrift on historical and comparative linguistics were

- that the book contains 21 articles;
- that both the definite and the indefinite article are among the syntactic phenomena that Johanna herself has focused on in her research,
- which includes work on the unexpected occurrence of certain articles between (betwixt) other elements.

The fact that the author of the words in the title is the most famous (and most often quoted) speaker of any historical variant of English is of course not irrelevant either, given that all of Johanna's work has included some aspect of the history of English.

Johanna's diachronic and theoretical work on the negation phrase (NegP, Wood 1997) is significant in showing the variation that negatives display in occupying parts of the NegP. This investigation also led to her work on the difference between the various dialects of Middle English (Wood 2002b) and on historical pragmatics and the importance of register (Wood 2001, 2004b, 2009).

A substantial part of Johanna's work is on the definite aspects of the determiner phrase (DP), in particular on the universality of the DP and on the doubling of certain quantifiers (Wood 2003, 2004a). In the influential and often cited Wood (2002a), she also showed how important the use of corpora could be in generative analyses of language history. Wood (2004b, 2007a,b) all argue for an articulated architecture of the DP by showing the contribution of possessives and demonstratives and also where they are placed, including arguing for a number phrase above NP but inside DP. Most recently, when her teaching obligations and her administrative work in the English department have allowed it, she has worked on degree adverbs and indefinite articles (Wood and Vikner 2011, 2013), and on measure nouns from a cartographic to a feature to a cycle perspective (Wood 2016).

With this festschrift, we would like to express our gratitude to Johanna for her work in linguistics, for her commitment to her students and colleagues, to English linguistics, and to the English department, and for her generosity with her time, with comments, with references, and with general advice.

We would also like to say thanks to all of the contributors, to Theresa Biberauer and Jonathan White, to the School of Communication and Culture, Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University, and to Kirsten Lyshøj for her invaluable assistance with the typesetting and the lay-out of the book.

Sten Vikner, Henrik Jørgensen & Elly van Gelderen

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