

# AGW 2023

## Proceedings of the 4th International Afrikaans Grammar Workshop

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# Table of Contents

<b>Conference organising committee</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>Note from the editor</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Keynote speakers</b> .....	<b>v</b>
Frank Hendricks.....	v
Prolepsis in Afrikaans: A three-dimensional approach	
Timothy Colleman.....	vii
Argument structure attention in Afrikaans as compared to Dutch and English: Macro-, meso-, and micro-level differences	
<b>Conference programme</b> .....	<b>ix</b>
<b>Full papers</b>	
Analysing Afrikaans lexical blends using Levenshtein distances.....	1
Benito Trollip & Trudie Strauss	
Afrikaans epithetical, suffixoidal, metonymic, exocentric attributive compounds.....	17
Gerhard B. van Huyssteen	
Afrikaans in a quantitative typology of Germanic standard and non-standard varieties .....	39
Simon Pröll & Thilo Weber	
Timing differences in the acquisition of <i>geen</i> in Afrikaans and Dutch.....	69
Theresa Biberauer & Marie-Louise van Heukelum	
A corpus-based exploration of conditional markers in Afrikaans.....	93
Lande Botha & Karien van den Berg	
A Categorisation of non-clauses in Afrikaans .....	113
Adri Breed, Nadine Fouché-Karsten, Suléne Pilon & Roné Wierenga	
<i>Dat ek so onnose! kon wees!</i> An insubordination typology for Afrikaans .....	145
Peter Dirix	
Postpositions take centre stage.....	171
Suléne Pilon, Lande Botha, Maristi Partridge, Adri Breed, Anneke Butler, Monique Rabé & Gerhard van Huyssteen	

# Conference organising committee

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- The Research Unit: Understanding and Processing Language in Complex Settings (UPSET) of the School of Languages at the NWU, in particular Prof. Gustav Butler and Ms. Soné Anthony
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- The Centre for Text Technology (CTexT) at the NWU, in particular Dr. Martin Puttkammer and Ms. Charlene Schoeman
- The Virtual Institute for Afrikaans (VivA), in particular Ms. Marlie Coetzee and Ms. Roné Wierenga
- Staff members of the Subject Group: Afrikaans and Dutch, in particular Ms. Nina Brink
- Johanna Monama from 26 Degrees South Hotel
- Mr. Cornelius van der Walt from BlueTek Computers

The editorial committee would also like to thank the anonymous reviewers of all paper abstracts, as well as the reviewers of the full paper submissions for the 4th International Afrikaans Grammar Workshop 2023.



## Note from the editor

It is with great pleasure that we present the conference proceedings of the 4th International Afrikaans Grammar Workshop (AGW), hosted by the North-West University, South Africa, in 2023. Following the success of previous editions in Johannesburg (2016), Ghent (2018), and Amsterdam (2021), this workshop continued to serve as a platform for scholars exploring various aspects of Afrikaans grammar.

Held in a hybrid format, both online and at the beautiful 26 Degrees South Hotel in Muldersdrift, Gauteng, South Africa, the workshop aimed to facilitate collaboration among researchers from diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives focusing on Afrikaans grammar.

Besides the keynote lectures by Prof Frank Hendricks (University of the Western Cape) and Prof Timothy Coleman (Ghent University, Belgium), the workshop also included sixteen presentations covering topics such as Afrikaans sociophonetics (session 2), Afrikaanse morphology (session 2), Afrikaans syntax and semantics (sessions 3, 4, 7, and 8), and Afrikaans in comparison with other West-Germanic languages (session 6). All submitted conference abstracts underwent a thorough double-blind peer-review evaluation.

For the first time in the workshop series, authors were also given the opportunity to submit full papers for publication in the digital conference proceedings, in addition to the traditional "abstract only" presentations. Eight contributions from the workshop presenters are included in this volume as full papers. These submissions underwent a rigorous double-blind peer-review process by expert reviewers, enhancing the scholarly value of this addition to the AGW.

Two papers in the collection focus on morphology. Benito Trollip and Trudie Straus's article, "Analysing Afrikaans lexical blends using Levenshtein distances," illustrates how the utility of language extends beyond communication. It explores blends, such as *kapoen* (a fusion of *kak* 'shit' and *pampoens* 'pumpkin'), to designate a specific color, showcasing language creativity. The article specifically analyses Afrikaans blends like these through the Levenshtein distance metric. Gerhard van Huyssteen's article, titled "Afrikaans epithetical exocentric compounds," demonstrates that Afrikaans (like various other languages) forms exocentric compounds as proper nouns, akin to the French *garde-malade* 'guard-sick 'nurse', known as *bahuvrihi* or possessive compounds. This article focuses specifically on two Afrikaans metonymic *bahuvrihi* compounds, namely *BODY PART FOR PERSON* and *CLOTHING ITEM FOR PERSON*, using an annotated dataset and proposing directions for future research on this phenomenon in Afrikaans.

Simon Pröll and Thilo Weber's paper, "Afrikaans in a quantitative typology of Germanic standard and non-standard varieties," employs functional-typological and dialectometric perspectives to examine grammatical deviations in Afrikaans compared to other Germanic languages and non-standard varieties. The analysis reveals a significant distinction between Continental West-Germanic and North-Germanic, positioning Afrikaans as relatively deviant within Continental West-Germanic.

The remaining five full papers in this issue focus on the intersections between semantics and syntax in Afrikaans. The article by Theresa Biberauer and Marie-Louise van Heukelum, titled "Timing differences in the acquisition of *geen* in Afrikaans and Dutch: an exploratory corpus-based study," reveals an until now unnoticed temporal difference in the first language (L1) acquisition of *geen* in Afrikaans and Dutch. The corpus study indicates clear distinctions and explores the potential impact of a reversal in the default negation pattern with indefinite numerals in Afrikaans.

Yolande Botha and Karien van den Berg's "A corpus-based exploration of conditional markers in Afrikaans" addresses a research gap by providing a corpus-based description of Spoken Afrikaans, focusing on the distinctive lexical markers *as* and *indien*, with attention to modality and polarity marking. This study has the potential to deepen our understanding of the form and function of conditional constructions in Afrikaans, with implications for pedagogical and forensic purposes.

In the article "A categorisation of non-clauses in Afrikaans," authors Adri Breed, Nadine Fouché-Karsten, Suléne Pilon, and Roné Wierenga identify and categorise various types of non-clauses in Afrikaans through a corpus study. This study aims to provide a working definition and examples for each category while bridging existing gaps in Afrikaans grammar.

Peter Dirix's "Hoe hy na jou gekyk het: Further investigations on insubordination in Afrikaans" uses a corpus study to examine insubordinate complement clauses in Afrikaans and suggests an extension of D'Hertefelt's Germanic insubordination typology to include Afrikaans.

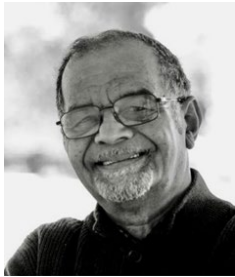
Lastly, in "Postpositions take centre stage: What can we learn about Afrikaans postpositions from descriptions in Dutch and English?" authors Suléne Pilon, Lande Botha, Maristi Partridge, Adri Breed, Anneke Butler, Monique Rabé and Gerhard van Huyssteen, investigate the identification of P-items in Afrikaans, Dutch, and English, exploring various strategies to distinguish these lexical units and providing a set of questions as a strategy for systematically identifying postpositions.

On behalf of the conference committee, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in this year's AGW, including presenters, attendees, reviewers, sponsors, and supporters. We look forward to the 5th International Afrikaans Grammar Workshop planned for 2025.

Adri Breed

## Keynote speakers

### Frank Hendricks



Prof. Frank Hendricks  
University of the  
Western Cape

*Frank Hendricks is an Emeritus Professor affiliated to the University of the Western Cape. As an Afrikaans linguist, he specialises in syntax, variational linguistics, and onomastics, and favours a pragmatic/contextual approach to the study of language.*

*In 1978 he obtained his MA degree in Afrikaans and Dutch cum laude with the thesis 'n Sinchronies-diachroniese studie van die taalgebruik in die drama Kanna hy kô hystoe van Adam Small, and in 1988 he received his doctorate with the dissertation Prolepsis in Afrikaans.*

*He is co-editor (with Prof. Charlyn Dyers) of the award-winning book Kaaps in fokus (2016) and author of the book Taalkundige essays: 'n gerf uit die vroegskemer (2017). He has also published several academic articles and book chapters.*

*Among other things, he has served as Vice Chairman of the Language Commission of the South African Academy for Science and the Arts (SAAWK), and as a Board Member of the Afrikaans Language Council (ATR) and of the Bureau of the Dictionary of the Afrikaans Language (WAT).*

*In 2019, he received a Quiver Award from the Afrikaans Language Council for the Protection of Afrikaans, as well as an award from the Han Ami Arts, Culture and Development Forum for his service regarding the upliftment, promotion and preservation of Afrikaans.*

### Prolepsis in Afrikaans: A three-dimensional approach

Prolepsis, also known as “hervatting” (“resumption”), “left dislocation” and “reinforcement”, is a syntactic phenomenon, or process, whereby an element in the input position of a syntactic construction is mostly prosodically isolated (but not necessarily) and resumed by means of an anaphoric element that follows later in the construction. The proleptic construction (the resulting construction) is typically encoded as a sentence in which an anaphoric chain is established between the antecedent in the input position of the sentence and the resumptive element that is positioned either immediately after or further on in the sentence. The following sentences are therefore proleptic sentences because anaphoric chains are established between **Pollard** and **dié**, between **Mary** and **haar**, between **op 'n plaas in die Overberg** and **daar** and between **winters** and **dan**:

***Pollard, dié** is 'n knap losskakel.  
**Mary**, almal hou van **haar**.  
**Op 'n plaas in die Overberg, dáár** is hy gebore.  
**Winters dan** val die sneeu.*

The input element (**Pollard/Mary/Op 'n plaas in die Overberg/Winters**) and its resumptive element (**dié/haar/daar/dan**) are called the PROLEPTIC ELEMENT (PE) and the PROLEPTIC ANAPHOR (PA) respectively.

Prolepsis is a universal language phenomenon that has been investigated from various theoretical perspectives to date. Frank Hendricks' contribution to this workshop involves primarily a reflection on the grammatical nature of prolepsis, as manifested in the Afrikaans language. This reflection is based on the findings of his doctoral study, entitled PROLEPSIS IN AFRIKAANS, which was completed in 1988 (i.e., 45 years ago). As such, Hendricks' contribution represents a revisit to, and at the same time an innovative interpretation of, the findings of his doctoral study.

The theoretical approach that is followed is primarily pragmatic (or contextual/functional), but also polylectic and panchronic (or synchronic-diachronic) - hence the typification "three-dimensional approach".

In accordance with the theoretical and methodological premises of this three-dimensional approach, the syntactic encoding and grammatical-semantic differentiation of prolepsis are explained in functional terms and, furthermore, light is shed on the historical roots of prolepsis and on its use in the register and user varieties of Afrikaans.

A variety of texts are used as a database. The text corpus comprises spontaneous (or unplanned) discourse types, including interviews and sports commentary; as well as non-spontaneous (or planned) discourse types such as the following: published sermons (as representative of orations); selected passages from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible; journalistic texts, including reports, articles, columns and advertisements; literary texts,



## Timothy Coleman



Prof. Timothy Coleman  
Ghent University,  
Belgium

Timothy Coleman (PhD 2006) is an Associate Professor of Dutch Linguistics at Ghent University, where he teaches classes on Dutch grammar, historical linguistics, and theoretical/methodological subjects (construction grammar, corpus-based linguistics, etc.). His research is primarily situated at the intersection of construction grammar and variationist linguistics, with an important focus on diachronic and present-day lectal variation in the formal and semantic properties of argument structure constructions in Dutch and related languages, including Afrikaans.

### Argument structure attention in Afrikaans as compared to Dutch and English: Macro-, meso-, and micro-level differences

Argument structure alternations – i.e., when sets of verbs systematically occur in two (or more) syntactic frames – have been a key area of investigation in grammatical theory for over 50 years now (see, e.g., Levin 2015). In cognitive and functionalist approaches, there are at least two main reasons why they have been singled out for investigation. First, they provide a unique insight into the relation between grammar and meaning, i.e., they illustrate how different constructions can be used for encoding the same scene in subtly different ways (cf. the notion of “construal”, see, e.g., Langacker 2019). Second, quantitative investigations of the formal, semantic, discourse-pragmatic, etc. variables co-determining speakers’ choices between pairs of near-synonymous constructions in real language use have furnished evidence for the probabilistic nature of grammatical knowledge (see, e.g., Grafmiller et al. 2018).

In this talk, I will discuss a number of different argument structure alternations in present-day Afrikaans against the background of similar alternations in Dutch and English. I will illustrate differences at three levels and discuss their potential theoretical relevance.

- macro-level differences, i.e., where Afrikaans has an alternation that does not occur in Dutch and/or English, or vice versa;
- meso-level differences, i.e., where Afrikaans has an alternation that occurs in Dutch and/or English, too, but where, e.g., the formal properties of the alternating constructions differ;
- micro-level differences, i.e., where Afrikaans displays an alternation that occurs in Dutch and/or English, too, and where the alternating constructions are relevantly equivalent formally and semantically, but where, e.g., the sets of alternating verbs differ, or where the alternation does not seem to be driven by exactly the same factors.

Alternations discussed include the well-known dative alternation (*Jan het my 'n boek gegee* vs. *Jan het 'n boek aan my gegee*) as well as phenomena such as the three-way *krioel*-alternation in 1 or the alternation between the Afrikaans *way*-construction in 2a and its

intransitive-motion equivalent in 2b (in a context where Dutch would rather use a reflexive construction, cf. Verhagen 2002).

(1)

- 1 a. *Polisiemanne met sambokke krioel nou op die skoolterrein.*
- b. *Die vlakke om ons krioel van blouwildebeeste .*
- c. *Op die bodem krioel dit van alle moontlike soorte gedrogte.*

(2)

- 2 a. *... want die sonbesie het reeds sy pad deur die kokon gevreet en weggevlieg .*
- b. *Jong herfskommandowurm-larwes verwyder die boonste laag van die blaar **en vreet daarna deur die blare.***

(examples from VivA-Korpusportaal)

## Conference programme

Monday, 27 November 2023

Time	Activity	Speaker	
08:00-09:00	Registration		
09:00-09:15	Opening and welcoming		
<b>Session 1</b> [Chair: Nina Brink]			
09:15-10:15	<b>Keynote address: Prolepsis in Afrikaans: A three-dimensional approach</b>	<b>Frank Hendricks (University of the Western Cape)</b>	Keynote paper
10:15-10:30	Coffee/tea		
<b>Session 2</b> [Chair: Anneke Butler]			
10:30-11:00	Regional and socioethnic variation in the Afrikaans vowel system	Andries Coetsee (University of Michigan)	Paper
11:00-11:30	Analysing Afrikaans lexical blends using Levenshtein distances	Benito Trollip (SADiLaR) & Trudie Strauss (University of the Free State)	Full paper (p.1-16)
11:30-12:00	Afrikaans epithetical exocentric compounds	Gerhard van Huyssteen (North-West University)	Full paper (p.17-38)
12:00-13:30	Lunch		
<b>Session 3</b> [Chair : Marie-Louise van Heukelum]			
13:30-14:00	Using Afrikaans progressive constructions to convey unconventionality	Astrid de Wit (University of Antwerp)	Paper
14:00-14:30	Afrikaans <i>met</i> and <i>van</i> prepositional constructions expressing fear and loneliness	Luna Bergh & Tanya Beelders (University of the Free State)	Paper
14:30-15:00	<i>Skreeu van blydschap</i> of <i>het uitschreeuwen van blijdschap</i> : An exploratory study on the use of emotion words in the VP of NP EMOTIVE construction in Afrikaans and Dutch	Gonneke Groenen (North-West University)	Paper
15:00-15:30	Coffee/tea		
<b>Session 4</b> [Chair: Nadine Fouché-Karsten]			
15:30-16:00	The semantic role of <i>eintlik</i> 'actually' in modal claims: What does <i>eintlik</i> actually do?	Siena Weingartz (University of Manchester)	Paper
18:00 for 18:30	Conference dinner (for everyone)		

Tuesday, 28 November 2023

Time	Activity	Speaker	
06:30-08:00	Breakfast (for hotel guests) and coffee/tea (for everyone)		
<b>Session 5</b> [Chair: Monique Rabé]			
08:00-09:00	<b>Keynote address: Argument structure attention in Afrikaans as compared to Dutch and English: Macro-, meso-, and micro-level differences</b>	<b>Timothy Colleman (Ghent University)</b>	Keynote paper
09:00-09:15	Break		
<b>Session 6</b> [Chair: Astrid de Wit]			
09:15-09:45	Afrikaans in a quantitative microtypology of Germanic standard and non-standard varieties	Thilo Weber (Leibniz Institute for the German Language) & Simon Pröll (University of Freiburg)	Full paper (p.39-68)
09:45-10:15	Standard Average European: Anticausative prominence in Dutch and Afrikaans	Adri Breed (North-West University)	Paper
10:15-10:45	Adjectival intensification in Afrikaans from a West Germanic perspective	Daniel van Olmen (Lancaster University)	Paper
10:45-11:15	Coffee/tea		
<b>Session 7</b> [Chair: Roné Wierenga]			
11:15-11:45	Timing differences in the acquisition of <i>geen</i> in Afrikaans and Dutch: A corpus-based study	Theresa Biberauer & Marie-Louise van Heukelum (Stellenbosch University)	Full paper (p.69-92)
11:45-12:15	A closer look at <i>moenie</i> and <i>moet+nie</i> in imperative and declarative constructions	Engela de Villiers (KU Leuven)	Paper
12:15-12:45	A corpus-based exploration of conditional markers in Afrikaans: <i>as, indien, sou</i>	Yolande Botha & Karien van den Berg (North-West University)	Full paper (p.93-112)
12:45-14:00	Lunch		
<b>Session 8</b> [Chair: Benito Trollip]			
14:00-14:30	A Categorisation of non-clauses in Afrikaans	Adri Breed (North-West University), Nadine Fouché-Karsten (VivA), Suléne Pilon (University of Pretoria) & Roné Wierenga (VivA)	Full paper (p.113-144)
14:30-15:00	<i>Hoe hy na jou gekyk het</i> : Further investigations on insubordination in Afrikaans	Peter Dirix (KU Leuven)	Full paper (p.145-170)
15:00-15:30	Postpositions take centre stage: What can we learn about Afrikaans postpositions from descriptions in Dutch and English?	Suléne Pilon (University of Pretoria), Lande Botha, Maristi Partridge, Adri Breed, Anneke Butler, Monique Rabé & Gerhard van Huyssteen (North-West University)	Full paper (p. 171-190)
15:30-15:45	<b>Closing</b>		