

We first met twenty five years, almost to the day, Antwerp, 1986, the 2nd Functional Grammar Conference and Anna's second conference presentation in Europe. Anna was then an English lecturer at the University of Gdansk.

Two years earlier, 1984, once again almost to the day, Anna had her first conference paper in Europe. It was in Spain, and it was a meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea, in Toledo. There she met the Amsterdam Latinist Harm Pinkster, who had earlier browsed through the conference program with his colleague, Simon Dik. That meeting confirmed to both of them that Anna really was a fabulous linguist, not only to Harm Pinkster, but indirectly also to Simon Dik, who was external reviewer for Anna's PhD that same year. Fabulous she was for she had already published her first monograph, *The Passive, a comparative linguistic analysis*, which, remarkably, was the book version of her 1980 MA thesis and which, again remarkably, remained her most cited publication in a long list of influential books and papers. And it was also remarkable that both the MA and the doctorate were actually defended in Melbourne, where business had provided Anna's parents with temporary residence.

2 years later, in 1988, the year that *Word Order Rules* appeared, her second monograph appeared and the book version of her PhD, Anna started the first of two research fellowships in the Netherlands, preparing her for the Lancaster professorship that would begin in 1994.

Perhaps two features characterized Anna's work from early on, partially under the influence of Barry Blake, her Australian mentor. One passion was cross-linguistic variation, from the MA thesis passives to today's impersonals and ditransitives, with focal points on word order, alignment, argument structure, agreement, and referential hierarchies. Her second passion was cross-theoretical variation. She consistently took a specific functional-typological perspective, but much more than most she compared and applied assumptions and methods from various functionalist as well as formal approaches and this made her unique.

Anna's own language came in a continuum of three registers. In academic affairs, she explained difficult matters with a sparkling matter of factness, which baffled the less sparkling of us. In organizational matters in which at least in the nineties she was often the only woman, she convincingly appealed to common sense and efficiency. And in private conversation she spoke with warmth and empathy so that colleagues became true friends. The time in which I had the privilege of seeing Anna and also Dik Bakker a few times a year was the 1990-1995 period of the so-called EUROTYP project – Typology of the languages of Europe, and I remember with particular fondness a 5 hour car drive from Strasbourg to Brussels. This project also illustrates Anna's efficiency: 9 big edited volumes and 9 editors, one of whom was Anna; and the big volume that was published first was indeed Anna's.

A little over 26 years ago Andy Warhol predicted that everyone will be famous for 15 minutes. This does not apply to Anna – she will remain famous for as long as we all live.

Johan van der Auwera

Antwerp – Logroño, September 2011.