

**In memoriam**  
**HANS DEN BESTEN**  
**(1948-2010)**

On 19 July 2010, the multi-talented linguist Prof. Dr. J.B. (Hans) den Besten passed away in Amsterdam. He had been working at the University of Amsterdam since 1974, where he consecutively taught German, General Linguistics and Dutch Linguistics. In recent years, he was a prominent member of the Amsterdam Graduate School in Linguistics. Since 2007, Hans was also Extraordinary Professor at the Department of General Linguistics at the University of Stellenbosch.

During his long career, Hans published several influential articles on a wide variety of subjects, e.g. theoretical syntax, Dutch and Afrikaans linguistics, creolistics (in particular so-called 'Negerhollands'), contact linguistics, the study of Yiddish, Dutch slang (Bargoens), and etymology (also as collaborator of the *Etymologisch Woordenboek van het Nederlands*). Owing to his knowledge of Khoikhoi and several Eastern languages, he could shed new light on the role of Khoikhoi pidgin, which was later adopted by slaves, in the development of Afrikaans. This changed, in a profound way, the perception of Afrikaans as a language derived directly from Dutch.

Despite his illness, Hans kept on working. He attended conferences and, for example, held a lecture on the hybrid pronoun system in Afrikaans at the University of Pretoria in late July of last year. One of his last publications was an article in the first issue of the 2010 volume of *Werkwinkel*. We will miss Hans both as a gifted linguist and as a friend.

Jac Conradie

