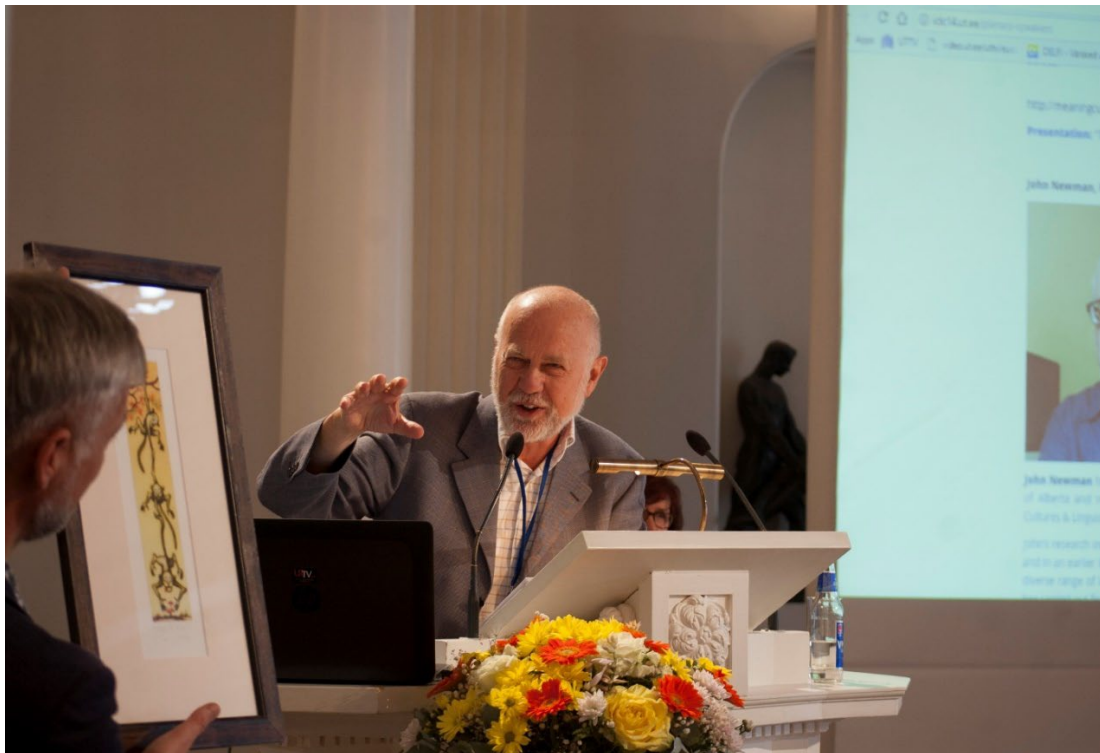


From Brabants to pragmatics: Ad Foolen 75 years¹

Maarten Lemmens

It was a fairly chilly day in the Netherlands, that April 6, 1950, with a mild wind from the north to north-east, with an average temperature of 8.4°C (minimum 4°C to maximum 13.3° C), no rain fell.² Nothing unusual for that time of the year in that part of the world, if it weren't for a small event, in a small village Breugel (province of Brabant), not too far from the city of Eindhoven. There, on that day, was born a child whom, many many years later, I came to meet at one of my first Cognitive Linguistics conferences. Ad Foolen made a strong first impression by not trying to make an impression. Since then, we have met at regular intervals, mostly at the biennial ICLC conferences, in Amsterdam, Leuven, Krakow, Seoul, Xi' an, and so many more to come. I distinctly remember how I managed to impress Ad in the hotel in Seoul that we both stayed out by my capacity to imitate the (to us incomprehensible) Korean sentences that were said in the elevator, most likely referring to doors opening or closing, or to which floor we were arriving at.



Ad Foolen explaining the artwork I received as a gift (ICLC-14 Tartu, Estonia, July 14 2017).

¹ Brabants is the dialect of the province of Brabant (the one in The Netherlands) that is Ad Foolen's native language, as he himself states quite clearly on the website of Radboud University, Nijmegen (<https://www.ru.nl/en/people/foolen-a>). His research centers mostly around pragmatics (e.g., modal particles) which inspired this title.

² Information obtained via historical weather reports on <https://weerverleden.nl/19500406-280&all>

Later (from 2007 onwards), Ad Foolen and I became much more closely involved as we were both members of the ICLA board, I as a regular member, Ad as the association's treasurer, a job which he took care of diligently. During my ICLA presidency, from 2013 till 2017, our contacts and relationships intensified quite drastically (with many hundreds of email exchanges) and our friendship deepened. It even came to us going to the opera together in Berlin with our respective spouses, when we were there for ICLA business. Ad Foolen was my reliable side-kick, quietly present yet assertive when needed.

The rhythm of contact has decreased over the last years, but that is merely a matter of form. In view of our friendship that I hold dear, it is a great honour for me to write a small word of introduction to this special issue of *Lege artis*, as a present to his 75th birthday.

Congratulations, Ad!