Learning the latent structure of translation
Mylonakis, M.

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A thesis is perhaps the most personal and solitary piece of work that a scientist will ever produce. We young researchers must find the courage to venture for the first time alone to the dark corners of knowledge and make a bold step forward where nobody has ever been before, which is outright scary! Luckily, even though in this age-old intellectual rite-of-passage we are the ones who ultimately have to call the shots, we are never truly alone. There is a university, a promotor and a supervisor, there are also committee members and colleagues, friends, relatives and loved ones. There are the people who helped us make it to the starting line and those that are waiting for us after the end of the journey. I feel deeply indebted to all those who, in every possible way, accompanied me in these scientific and personal explorations. In these few lines, I would like to express my utmost gratitude for their help and encouragement.

In the beginning there was hope, aspirations and the great unknown. And God said: ‘Let there be a supervisor’, and there was Khalil Sima’an. I would like to thank Khalil for his continuous support for more than six years now, all the way from supervising my Master thesis to my PhD defence. He would pose the great questions and encourage me to go out and find my own answers. He taught me how to move past the surface and dare to face the deeper facets of scientific problems, however frightening this may be. He made this project possible with his constant encouragement and sincere belief that I could do it, even in my moments of doubt. For all this I am truly indebted to him, but most importantly I thank him for providing the living example of a true scientist.

I was also privileged to have Remko Scha as my promotor. Remko provided exceptional feedback through all the process of writing the thesis. His insightful comments decisively aided in increasing the quality of this work, as well as my own intuitive understanding of the material, and helped to bring everything into context. Throughout my PhD, I enjoyed the purest moments of scientific bliss during the discussions that I held with Remko and Khalil on the chapters of this thesis.
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and the people who helped me to arrive in this amazing country. First of all, I
would like to thank the anonymous employee of the European Space Agency
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remain a story worth telling. Then, it was Theo Gevers who gave me a place
in the Master of Artificial Intelligence of the University of Amsterdam and Niels
Molenaar, Hideko Gieske and the other people at the International Office who
made sure, in a most surrealistic way, that I would start a great new life here.

Back then, I took the decision to get on a one-way flight and arrive in Ams-
terdam, without any reassurances that there was even a place for me at the MSc
programme, as it was weeks before I finally got formally accepted and courses
had already began. I was living out of a suitcase and sleeping on a hostel bed.
After checking in my hostel, I took the tram and went, without an appointment,
to see Niels. Right there in the middle of my daring leap of faith, I was not sure
if I would land on a new adventure or if my trip would end as a big disaster.
Niels sat to talk to me, smiled and said ‘well, now that you’re here, let’s just fix
everything’. After a couple of days, I had a new apartment and I was following
courses. I will always remember these days as a time when I was taught how
pure kindness and human interest can transform the most perilous moments into
bright new beginnings.

Apart from all these wonderful people that I was lucky enough to encounter
during my time at the UvA, I would also like to acknowledge the enduring support
and encouragement that I received during this period from my friends and beloved
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One thing that kept me going through all this time was my love of the moun-
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my decision to come to the Netherlands meant that I would have to travel a bit
further away to come closer to the windy peaks, somehow magically there was
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Markos Mylonakis
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