Speech and sign perception in deaf children with cochlear implants
Giezen, M.R.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Evidently, at the end of a scientific journey of almost four years many people deserve to be thanked who made this research possible, contributed to the outcomes or shared their ideas and concerns with me.

I owe my deepest gratitude to Anne and Paola, for supervising this project from its formulation in a research proposal four years ago until its completion. Your endless interest, support and patience is reflected in every page of this dissertation and I have the greatest appreciation for all your efforts. In other words, you have been absolutely amazing! I would also like to express my gratitude to Steven Gillis, Gisela Szagun, Karen Emmorey, Paul Boersma and Roland Pfau. In the midst of end-of-year stress they found the time to read the manuscript and provide valuable comments on its content and structure.

This project would not have been possible without the cooperation and continuous support of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Doven en Slechthorenden in Hasselt and the Nederlandse Stichting voor het Dove en Slechthorende Kind in Amsterdam. In this respect I particularly wish to thank Leo de Raeve, Noëlle Uilenburg and Gerard Spaai for granting me permission to approach parents, sharing relevant information with me and facilitating testing of the children. I would also like to acknowledge the Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication for funding the project. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to current academic director Kees Hengeveld, previous academic director Anne Baker, and Josep Quer and Paul Boersma in the role of ACLC representatives in progress meetings for their confidence and support, as well as to managing director Els Verheugd and office manager Marijke Vuijk for their assistance in practical matter of all sorts.

It is beyond any doubt that, in addition to the above-mentioned institutes, this project would not have succeeded without the cooperation of many children and their parents, teachers and school principals. Also, I wish to sincerely thank all those who participated in the experiments as adult controls. Their important role in research projects that involve children is often underestimated.

Furthermore, Jan de Jong, Beppie van den Bogaerde, Mieke Beers and Ellen Gerrits supervised this project at a distance and their insightful comments and suggestions along the way have been extremely helpful. Judith Rispens, although not officially a member of the supervising committee, was my sparring partner during the past three years and endured endless discussions with me on neighborhood density, phonotactic probability, non-words, fuzzy phonological representations and many other topics. Dirk-Jan Vet provided technical advice and assistance in designing the
Acknowledgements

experiments and Marijke Scheffener and Myriam Vermeerbergen helped with the construction of non-signs.

Of course, I also have many colleagues and friends to thank who shared their ideas and opinions with me during conferences, workshops, symposia, summer schools, winter schools, research group meetings, lab meetings, and in the office, hallways, coffee room or canteen. Many of you unfortunately remain anonymous. A few people I would like to mention individually are Marjolein Cremer, Josefien Sweep and Wieneke Wesseling, for being awesome roommates throughout these years, and Elly ten Berge and Gerdien Kerssies, for being the most assistant and sociable neighbors I could have hoped for! Furthermore, Suzanne Aalberse, Titia Benders, Catherine van Beuning, Akke de Blauw, Bart de Boer, Marian Erkelens, Jan Hulstijn, Irene Jacobi, Kino Jansonius, Petra Jongmans, Marije Michel, Antje Orgassa, Esther Parigger, Daniela Polišenská, Louis Pols, Margot Rozendaal, Rob Schoonen, Joke Schuit and Jeannette van der Stelt, for being tremendously involved ACLC colleagues throughout the years. Also, Elise de Bree, Desiree Capel, Iris Duinmeijer, Patricia Gulpen and Caroline Junge, for being just as much involved, although not ACLC colleagues.

Marjolein, Wieneke, Akke, Marian, Petra, Marije, Antje, Esther, Daniela, Margot, Iris, Patricia and Caroline joined me in activities for the Werkverband Amsterdamse Psycholinguïsten (WAP) at one time or another in the past few years and have proven to be exceptional friends as well as colleagues. Editing the WAP newsletter has been a highly enjoyable and recurring passtime throughout my years as a PhD student and for that reason I would also like to thank Marieke Kolkman, Floor Landa, Anneriet Nubé, Ruth Timmer and Annemarie van de Zande for sharing that experience with me.

Last, but not least, I would like to acknowledge the Fulbright Center for providing me with the opportunity and means to spend four months in the Laboratory for Language and Cognitive Neuroscience in San Diego as part of the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program. These four months have been an amazing and invaluable experience that I once hope to renew and extend. Karen, Ally, Brenda, Shannon, Jill, Heather, Jenn, Amy, Bean, Cindy, Steve, Jonathan, Christiana, Ashley, Danielle and Alisha, thank you so much for sharing your knowledge, expertise and, not to forget, company with me! You rock! I also owe many thanks to Matt Hall and Rachel Mayberry for giving me a taste of the fantastic research that is carried out at the Laboratory for Comparative Language Acquisition at UCSD by inviting me to their lab meetings and sharing their work and thoughts with me. I sure hope to see you again sometime soon!