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Caroline Kroon

Latin Linguistics in Harm's Way



Harm Pinkster (1942–2021)

Abstract: This article is a slightly adapted version of a lecture held at the 21st International Colloquium on Latin Linguistics in Santiago de Compostela in commemoration of Harm Pinkster, founder of the *International Colloquia on Latin Linguistics*. Harm Pinkster died on 14 December 2021, only a couple of months after the publication of the second volume of his formidable lifework *The Oxford Latin Syntax (OLS, 2015–2021)*. The article traces the major developments in Harm Pinkster's scholarly career leading up to the publication of the *OLS*, with emphasis on the earliest periods and with due attention to his general humanity and the way in which he professionalized the discipline.

1 Introduction

Two decades ago, at the *Twelfth International Colloquium on Latin Linguistics* in Bologna (June 2003), Harm Pinkster opened the conference with a moving com-

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memoration to Machtelt Bolkestein, his former partner and prominent member of the international Latin linguistics community. Machtelt Bolkestein had suddenly died in October 2001, at the age of 57, and only shortly after she had organized in Amsterdam the 11th edition of the International Colloquium. Harm Pinkster's honorary paper two years later, entitled 'Latin Linguistics in Machtelt's way', was later published in the proceedings of the Bologna conference and contained a discussion of Machtelt Bolkestein's main contributions to the development of Latin linguistics, illustrated by a summary of three of her articles.¹ It is a sad honour for me, as the scholarly daughter of both of them, to deliver an article in this volume in memory of Harm Pinkster, respected and beloved founder of the ICLL community, and one of the greatest linguists and Latinists of the last fifty years. Harm Pinkster died on 14 December 2021, after a short and severe illness, but in the comforting knowledge that he had managed to complete his most important contribution to scholarship just in time. With the two volumes of *The Oxford Latin Syntax* (Pinkster 2015–2021) he has left us, and future generations of Latinists, an invaluable legacy.

2 A programmatic start

The start of Harm Pinkster's career can be qualified as no less than spectacular, and if we put his earliest publications side by side, the conclusion might even be that there was a master plan behind it from the very beginning. At least, it is not difficult to discern in these early publications some of the ingredients that would eventually converge into a comprehensive, integrated, theoretically and methodologically well-founded new Latin grammar.

Already at the age of twenty-five, in 1967, Harm Pinkster was appointed assistant professor of Latin at the University of Amsterdam, to be promoted to associate professor only five years later. The earliest publication I could find in the box that his daughters generously provided me with for this commemorative article also dates from 1967, and must therefore have been prepared while he was still a student.² I am not sure if he would have liked the confrontation with it more than half a century later, but it is amazing how much 'Harm' is in it already. The publication is a one-page review of a book by an Italian scholar on Cicero's theory *de ridiculis* in the second book of *De Oratore*. After having criticized the author for what I conveniently summarize here as 'philological laziness', and after having corrected several errors, the student Pinkster concludes his review with the following, rather devas-

1 Pinkster (2005).

2 Pinkster (1967).

tating final judgement: “As a whole, the work does not further our understanding of Cicero’s theory *de ridiculis*. It is not based on detailed study and it omits to discuss the views of modern writers on the subject” (end of quote and of review).³

To readers at the time, this might have sounded like a rather bluntly worded criticism of an inexperienced, overambitious, and therefore overconfident junior. For present day Latinists who are now able to oversee Harm’s entire career, and are privileged, like me, to have known him, it is clear that the above quoted words should in fact be read as a programmatic statement for the rest of Harm Pinkster’s academic career. The words do not demonstrate arrogance, but a deep and sincere conviction of how scientific research should be practiced, which Harm Pinkster summarized, in this review, in terms of three simple requirements. In reverse order these are: first, a fair discussion of the views of other writers on the subject; second, a detailed study by the researcher himself; and third, providing new insights and a better understanding.⁴ To these three guidelines Harm Pinkster always remained true, and they formed the explicit outline of every article he wrote and every paper he presented.

The ultra-brief, unadorned style in which the review was written – well illustrated by the conclusion of the review quoted above, in which there is not a word too much – also remained a characteristic of Harm Pinkster’s work throughout his career. Harm had a mission to fulfil that did not tolerate any distractions from the final objective, and his writing style fully matched the urgency of this mission: straightforward, economical, and without any embellishments, irrelevant digressions or obligatory flattery. His judgments were critical, but always fair and well founded.

In the rest of this commemorative article I will briefly sketch the various elements of Harm Pinkster’s master plan which he unfolded in between this first publication in 1967, and the appearance of the second volume of *The Oxford Latin Syntax* in 2021, by following the various strands of this plan, and by referring, every now and then, to examples of Harm’s ideas and approach. As the later phases of his research are now well documented in the various reviews that have recently appeared of the *OLS*, my main focus will be on Harm Pinkster’s early career.⁵

3 Pinkster (1967: 499).

4 See Pinkster (1986: 120) for the last of these three requirements, which seems to be a reaction to studies of Latin that, according to Pinkster, had little respect for the actual linguistic data and were predominantly meant to provide material for deductive linguistic theories like Generative Grammar.

5 For reviews of the *OLS*, see e.g. Hoffmann (2016); Dyck (2017); de Melo (2017); Ashdowne (2022); Christenson (to app).

3 The prolific years 1967–1972: Valency grammar and the Latin case system

The first five years of Harm Pinkster's career attest to a productivity that verges on the improbable. Trained as an all-round classical philologist, he is involved in these years in Professor Anton Leeman's commentary project on Cicero's *de Oratore*, and, consequently, an intensive user of the standard manuals, especially Kühner and Stegmann's *Ausführliche Grammatik der Lateinische Sprache* (1912–1914), which he admired immensely but also approached critically. These years are also marked by his growing interest in the field of general linguistics, which was undergoing major developments at the time, and made him aware of the shortcomings of common descriptions of the Latin language. Together with Machtelt Bolkestein and his college friend Simon Dik, the later professor of General Linguistics in Amsterdam, he formed the forefront of a group of young Amsterdam scholars who were looking for new approaches in linguistics and were developing a valency-based theoretical model in which function rather than form was given pride of place, and which was given the name Functional Grammar.⁶

This new way of looking at language, with its emphasis on semantics over syntax, and on function over form, opened up a whole new array of research questions, to be answered by a new methodology that in large part still had to be developed. Rather than contributing to the development of the model of Functional Grammar itself, which he mainly left to Simon Dik and Machtelt Bolkestein, Pinkster eagerly took up the challenge to bring the new ideas to the study of Latin, and to let the subsequent results flow back to the theory. He was not a model designer himself, and open-minded as he was, he never restricted his scope to a single model, school or framework.

As has already been said, Pinkster's productivity in these early years is downright staggering. In the box I received from his family I came across much more than can be found in his official bibliography as published on the webpage <https://www.harmpinkster.nl/>. For the years 1967–1972 I encountered: a series of critical notes on Cicero in *Mnemosyne*;⁷ various reviews;⁸ a number of contributions to the Dutch Journal *Lampas* (especially meant for Latin teachers at secondary schools),

⁶ The model was first presented in Dik (1968). See Dik (1978) for a more elaborate version of the model.

⁷ E.g. Leeman and Pinkster (1968); (1972); Pinkster (1970). That Pinkster kept publishing critical notes on Cicero's *de Oratore* throughout his career appears e.g. from Pinkster (2006).

⁸ E.g. Pinkster (1967); (1970a); (1972d); (1972e). Pinkster (1969c) critically discusses 38 publications on the Latin verb that appeared in the years 1960–1969.

dealing with e.g. tense/aspect and the Latin case system;⁹ material for post-graduate summer courses; two review articles, among which a review article of almost 40 pages of Robin Lakoff's study on Latin complements;¹⁰ an article in *Mnemosyne* on Latin coordination;¹¹ and – last but not least, of course – his influential monography on Latin Adverbs.¹² This pile of publications evokes the picture of Harm working fanatically, searching for new solutions to old problems, and being determined to get more insight into the system of the Latin language than previous scholarship had been able to provide. We sometimes even see his haste reflected in his articles, in which he shows little patience with readers who have not been able to keep up with the most recent developments in the field. His 1972 article on the Latin case system in the Dutch journal *Lampas*, for instance, starts with the words (I quote them in the most literal English translation): “This is the unaltered (. . .) text of the summer course Linguistics. Due to time constraints, I am unable to relate to readers who have not attended the summer course.”¹³

In these early publications, various things stand out, in particular Pinkster's broad scholarly scope and interests, and his maturity as a philologist (remember, he was not even thirty at the time . . .). Phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicography, stylistics, textual criticism, Italian dialectology: Pinkster seemed to move effortlessly across all sub-disciplines, with expertise and authority. And although the harvest of these years might at first sight appear rather diffuse and quite randomly focused (both in the topics treated and the audiences addressed), we can, with hindsight, conclude that this was far from the case. Harm was, in fact, purposefully carrying out part one of his scientific agenda, in which the various sub-projects were firmly held together by the overarching conceptual framework he used. The various research lines that we see emerging at this stage, such as tense and aspect, co-ordination, cases, participle constructions and adverbs, are all natural choices from the point of view of a functional and valency-driven grammar and seem almost designed from the beginning as part of a larger project Harm had in mind, each filling in (or illustrating) a part of the system as a whole.

In these early years the emphasis is especially focussed on pointing out the shortcomings of previous descriptions of the topics mentioned, and on providing well-argued alternative descriptions, from a mainly synchronic, classical Latin point of view. In the later stages of his career, for which see below, the same topics will regularly return as objects of research, but then Harm's attention will appear to be

9 Pinkster (1971a); (1972 a); (1972b); (1972f).

10 Pinkster (1969b); (1971b).

11 Pinkster (1969a).

12 Pinkster (1972).

13 Pinkster(1972a: 28).

more directed to the study of remaining problems in the description, and to deviations (or seeming deviations) from the general rules that he had sketched out earlier, such as the use of non-accusative cases for marking the second obligatory constituent,¹⁴ or, to mention just one other example, the deviant use of the present tense for describing past and future events, which Pinkster explains in terms of his semantic rather than aspectual conception of the Latin tense system.¹⁵ In these later stages of his career he would also investigate the earlier discussed topics from a diachronic, generic or stylistic point of view, as a methodologically necessary step towards a complete understanding of the system, and in order to do away with certain persistent but erroneous conventional opinions.

Of all the research lines set up in the early years 1967–1972, the line of the Latin case system is clearly the most prominent one. In a number of articles and papers stemming from the late sixties and seventies, Pinkster lays out step-by-step the basics of his view on the subject, which differs fundamentally from the conventional approach that had been dominated by the search for a synchronic *Grundbedeutung* of the individual Latin cases – a fruitless enterprise in his opinion, and also counter-intuitive in the light of the results of modern linguistic and typological research.¹⁶ What Harm Pinkster puts in its place is a rather straightforward description of the Latin case system *as a whole*, made possible by a consistent application of the valency view on sentence grammar – which, incidentally, would also strongly determine the design of his *Oxford Latin Syntax* many years later.

In this valency approach, which is different from the traditional division of the sentence into subject and predicate, the predicate is considered the central building block of the sentence, which to a high degree determines the rest of it. Along the lines of this theory, Pinkster offers an explanation of the Latin case system in which the five Latin cases largely serve to mark the function of the nominal constituent in the basic structure of the sentence. This means that the various cases work together in marking two essential structural distinctions: on the one hand, the distinction between sentence level and noun phrase level, which explains the *raison d'être* of the genitive case in the system as opposed to the other cases; and on the other hand, the further distinction at the sentence level between the nucleus and one or more satellites in the periphery, which explains the existence of the ablative as opposed to the typical nucleus-cases: the nominative, accusative and, to a lesser degree, the dative.

14 E.g. Pinkster (1988b).

15 E.g. Pinkster (1998); (1999).

16 See e.g. Pinkster (1971); (1972a); (1980).

By applying this theory, Pinkster reduces considerably the semantic load commonly ascribed to the individual Latin cases, and rationalizes the role they play in the understanding of the sentence. The interpretation of a sentence can, he argues, to a large extent be inferred from the lexical meaning of the words involved – that is, of the predicate and the nominal constituents – and only seldom depends on case form only. The contribution of the cases in the Latin language system is therefore overrated, and to be considered additional rather than essential.

In the later stages of his career Harm would take extensive time to prove and further support his views on the Latin case system by incessantly playing the devil's advocate to himself, and by addressing as many problems, deviations and possible exceptions as he could come up with. My personal favourite among the evidential material for his views on the Latin case system are the results of a funny experiment he conducted in the Latin Linguistics class he taught while I was myself an undergraduate student in the early 1980's: he had left out all the case endings in a Latin prose text and let the students try, in class, to interpret the text without this help. We did, as he had expected, amazingly well.¹⁷ This brief anecdote has brought us to the next stage of Harm Pinkster's career, which is the topic of the next section.

4 1972–1990: International community building and an intermediate step towards a comprehensive Latin syntax

After the first five prolific years, ending with the publication of his dissertation and monograph *On Latin Adverbs* in 1972, we see a notable decline in the number of Harm Pinkster's publications. Three factors may have been involved in this. The first immediately presents itself from the biography on the aforementioned webpage <https://www.harmpinkster.nl/>: in 1975, at the age of only 33, Harm Pinkster became dean of the Faculty of Arts for three years. Another explanatory factor, not in the published biography, might be found in the fact that in the same year his eldest daughter Fenne was born, and two years later his second daughter Akke. Fenne Pinkster told me the other day that Harm took his role as a father seriously, and that it was he, for instance, and not her mother Machtelt who scoured department stores looking for nice dresses for the girls. But the final and probably main factor that may have played a role in the temporary stagnation of Harm Pinkster's

¹⁷ The experiment was later reported in a more sophisticated form in chapter 5 of the various editions of Pinkster's *Latin Syntax and Semantics* (English version 1990).

publications was his growing awareness that the harvest of the first stage of his master plan had to be presented now in a more integrated way, and needed to be shared and discussed with a larger audience. Behind the scenes, in the late hours and on weekends, Harm started working on the first version of a book he intended “as an introduction for advanced students in the university into topics of Latin syntax and semantics which can be studied or have been studied more fruitfully due to contemporary insights in linguistic theory and linguistic analysis”.¹⁸

The prototype of the intended book first appeared, in separate chapters, as teaching material to which Harm Pinkster himself at the time (the late 70’s and early 80’s of the last century) referred to as *Introduction Latin Grammar*. In addition to an exposition of the semantic, valency-driven sentence model, it contained chapters about topics on which he had published before, such as the Latin case system, adjuncts and the Latin tense system, but also entirely new material, based on empirical research carried out by himself, now also including the field of pragmatics, and addressing topics like word order and illocutionary force. In 1984 the book was finally published, in Dutch, under the title *Latijnse Syntaxis en Semantiek*, after which various translations would follow, into German (1988), English (revised version, 1990), Italian (1991) and Spanish (1995, with extended bibliographical update).

Pinkster’s intention with the book appeared to be broader, however, than just an “introduction for advanced students in the Latin grammar”. Given the fact that it treats only a selection of syntactic topics and abounds in remarks like “this requires further research”, it was clearly also meant as an invitation to all interested Latinists to join Pinkster’s enterprise and take up the challenge of answering the host of remaining research questions the book offered. As such, the book provided a research agenda for new generations of Latin linguists all over the world, many of whom were also formally or informally supervised by Harm, who hospitably invited them for research stays in Amsterdam or advised them privately during conferences or at other meetings. But also, many established scholars profited in one way or other from his encouraging and constructive advice and comments, which were always constructive and to the point.

¹⁸ The quotation is taken from the preface of *Latin Syntax and Semantics*; see Pinkster (1990: xi). My explanation of the drop in Pinkster’s production in the years 1973–1980 seems to be shared by Christian Lehman, who in his review of Pinkster’s original Dutch version of *Latin Syntax and Semantics* observes: “Von Harm Pinkster, Professor für Lateinische Linguistik an der Universität Amsterdam, hat man seit seiner Dissertation *On Latin Adverbs* (1972) nicht viel zu lesen bekommen (. . .). In diesem Buch nun legt er zusammenfassende Rechenschaft über seine Forschungen der letzten Jahre ab” (Lehmann, 1986: 131).

In addition to this book project, we must here mention one other important factor of the boost Harm Pinkster gave to the thorough innovation of the field of Latin Linguistics in the early 80's. He fully realized that the challenge was too big and too complex to be a one-man enterprise, and that forces had to be united and an exchange of ideas stimulated. In 1981 he therefore invited to a conference in Amsterdam a number of international colleagues whom he considered kindred spirits in that they closely followed major developments in contemporary linguistics and made intensive use of recent methods and types of argumentation.¹⁹ This conference turned out to be a milestone in the formation of a very vital international community of Latin linguists, and marked the beginning of a tradition of biennial colloquia, the 21st iteration of which was organized in Santiago de Compostela in June 2022. The first meeting in 1981 had only twenty speakers, from seven countries, who together covered no less than five different linguistic theories in vogue at the time: American structuralism, the psychomechanistic theory of Guillaume, Happ's Dependency Grammar, Dik's Functional Grammar, and the Chomskyan Government and Binding theory. Such theoretical pluriformity Pinkster considered a great asset, and has remained a characteristic of the colloquia and community ever since. The twenty papers were published in 1983, under the title *Latin Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*, and were preceded, by way of introduction, by a state-of-the art article by Pinkster himself.²⁰

I will not go through Harm Pinkster's other publications and activities in this period 1972–1990 here, but there is one that I would like to mention in relation to a project that would dominate his activities over the next ten years (see section 5 below), namely his review in *Lampas* 1984 of Glare's *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, which had reached completion in 1982.²¹ The review testifies to Harm's interest in lexicography, which is also evidenced by the fact that he was, for many years, closely involved with the TLL in Munich, both as a member of the international committee and as a so-called *Fahnenleser*, a task he continued to perform until his death. In his review of the OLD in 1984 he pays his respects to the monumental work, praises and criticizes it in his typically 'Harmean' way, and in the end proves himself a true frugal Dutchman when he concludes the review with a humorous remark about the price of the dictionary: "The high price of the book (just under 500 guilders) should not be an obstacle for any professional classicist or for any school: the price of only 4 tires for a mid-range car *and* you do much longer with this."²²

¹⁹ See Pinkster (1983: ix).

²⁰ Pinkster (1983).

²¹ Pinkster (1984b).

²² Pinkster (1984b: 4).

5 1991–2021: A dictionary and a comprehensive Latin Syntax

In a way, Harm Pinkster's review of the OLD in 1984 can be seen as already heralding the last thirty years of his career (1991–2021), which are probably better known and about which I can therefore be brief. This period is dominated by two major projects in which the various strands of the first half of his career seem effectively to have come together.

The first big project was his *Dictionary Latin-Dutch*, which appeared in 1998, also in an online version. Twenty years later, in 2018, the 7th revised edition of this dictionary appeared and was festively received by Harm's two granddaughters, both actual users of the book, as it is the prescribed dictionary for all high school students in the Netherlands who study Latin. The dictionary has benefitted noticeably from the conceptual framework underlying Pinkster's overall oeuvre and is illustrative of his great affinity for education at large.

The other project is, of course, the comprehensive Latin syntax that was still out of Harm's reach in 1990, when he wrote in the preface of his *Latin Syntax and Semantics*: "It has never been my intention to write a comprehensive Latin grammar from the point of view of contemporary linguistics".²³ Still, I think, such a real successor to Kühner and Stegmann's syntax is what Harm Pinkster must have had in mind very early on in his career. He started the first concrete preparations in the early 1990's, and from his formal retirement in 2006 onwards he was working continuously on it, providing us every now and then with small pieces of research meant eventually to find their place in one of the two volumes he envisaged, and which occasionally appeared in the form of an article.

The very last of this type of article appeared posthumously in 2021, and it brought together the harvest of Pinkster's research on word order, illustrated with case studies from different diachronic phases of Latin.²⁴ Already in 1990, in an article in a volume on Latin and the Romance Languages in the Early Middle Ages, Harm had done away with standard opinions on Latin word order by concluding that there is no reason for assuming a S(subject)O(bject)V(erb) word order in Classical Latin, nor that there is one for assuming a SVO order by AD 400, and that more research on the word order of both Classical Latin and later stages of the language was needed in order to arrive at sound conclusions on the topic.²⁵ Research of this

²³ Pinkster (1990: xi).

²⁴ Pinkster (2021b).

²⁵ Pinkster (1990d).

type, by Pinkster himself and by others,²⁶ led to the conclusion that Latin has no syntactically determined word order, either in the early period or in Late Latin, and that pragmatic, stylistic and social factors have to be taken into account in explaining the word order phenomena in individual texts of any period.²⁷ In the 2021 article ‘Evidence for word order change in Latin: OV>VO?’ Harm Pinkster once more adduces additional evidence for this conclusion, while firmly stressing the shortcomings of the commonly used method of just counting how many instances there are of VO and OV in a text, without explaining the numerical outcomes by taking various types of variables into account. In the article he shows, for instance, that even with apparently rigid OV expressions like *bellum gero* and *aciem instruo* a detailed qualitative analysis seems to be rewarding in order to explain the quantitative word order data. By a detailed analysis of pairs with as few variables as possible (so-called ‘minimal pairs’), he furthermore illustrates, in a broad variety of texts from different periods of the language, the type of pragmatic principles that may be at work, and which seem to have remained stable throughout the development of the language. Texts as different from one another (in genre, style and period) as the *Senatus Consultum de Bacchanalibus* (186 BCE), inscriptions on the ‘singing’ Colossus of Memnon (20–c. 205 CE), the *Passio Sanctarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis* (early third century CE), and the *Gesta Conlationis Carthagiensis* (411 CE) pass through here, and provide further evidence for the position that word order in Latin remained remarkably stable over time.

In this last period of his career Pinkster also kept writing reviews of work by others, such as a review of Jim Adam’s 2007 book *The Regional Diversification of Latin 200BC–AD 600*, which he praised in his review as a “monument of Classical scholarship”.²⁸ Harm and Jim met in the early 1990’s and spent much time together during Harm’s later visiting professorships in Oxford. As kindred spirits with a similar outlook on methodological principles (including an appropriate use of statistics), and sharing the same eagerness for revising persistent standard opinions that proved to be wrong, they had great respect for each other. It is a wry coincidence that these two leading figures of Latin linguistics died shortly after one another in the autumn of 2021, at about the same age.

In 2015, almost a quarter of a century after Pinkster had officially started the project, volume 1 of the *Oxford Latin Syntax* appeared, dealing with the simple

²⁶ See especially Spevak (2010).

²⁷ For a detailed discussion see Pinkster (2021, Chapter 23). See also Baños and Cabrillana (2021: 897–944).

²⁸ Pinkster (2010: 333). This review is missing in the bibliography published on <https://www.harm-pinkster.nl/>.

clause.²⁹ The occasion was celebrated – together with his 75th birthday – in 2017 at the 19th International Colloquium in Munich with a festive ‘*Harm Abend*’, at which various colleagues from different backgrounds and perspectives shared their experiences of working with this new reference grammar. In the same year Harm received an honorary doctorate from the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid, an honour he had already received in 2006 from the University of Chicago. I refrain here from a description of the *OLS* and refer instead to the thorough reviews by Hoffmann (2016), Dyck (2017), de Melo (2017), Ashdown (2022), and Christenson (to app.) that have appeared in the meantime.³⁰

After the publication of volume 1 of the *OLS*, the completion of volume 2, on the complex sentence and discourse, became a race against the clock, as Harm developed health problems and had to undergo open heart surgery. He fortunately recovered and volume 2 appeared in early 2021. On October 8 of that year, Harm Pinkster was honoured for this monumental achievement with a symposium at which a number of his close colleagues were present, and at which he also received a prestigious royal distinction from the mayor of the city of Amsterdam. He also held a presentation himself, which – although no one knew at that moment – would be his very last one. Only two weeks later he was diagnosed with an aggressive and incurable disease, and he died less than two months later, on 14 December 2021.

6 Anchoring Innovation: Harm Pinkster as an ‘agent of change’

In this commemorative article, I have followed Harm Pinkster’s career along the various strands that he seems to have more or less purposefully set out at a very early stage, and which, as we can see now with hindsight, has innovated the field of Latin linguistics in an exceptional way, eventually providing us with an up-to-date comprehensive reference work for the 21st century, and perhaps also beyond. In the Netherlands, classicists are involved at the moment in a large-scale, multi-year project that studies the human factor in successful innovation, financed by the Dutch ministry of Education, Culture and Science.³¹ An important thesis and insight

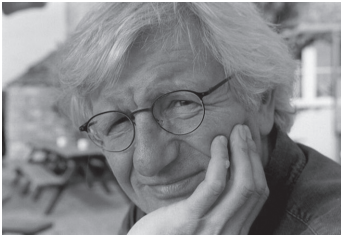
²⁹ The six good reasons he had for spending twenty-five years writing his comprehensive grammar was outlined by Pinkster in the preface of volume I (2016: xxxi), and in two articles, Pinkster (2015b) and (2016).

³⁰ See also n. 5 above.

³¹ For the Latin language experts’ part in this project, see Kroon (2021). For the project as a whole, see <https://anchoringinnovation.nl/>.

of this project, called *Anchoring Innovation*, is that successful innovation depends on a number of factors. First and foremost, innovation has to be strongly *anchored in tradition*, something that Harm Pinkster took extremely seriously, as we have seen above. And second, the successful spreading of such anchored innovation needs an *agent* (or a collective of agents) that combines three essential capacities in one, which Malcolm Gladwell in his popular book *The Tipping Point* (2000) calls *connector*, *maven* and *salesman*. Harm Pinkster was without doubt a connector, as he was able, like no other, to connect people with each other, being the real social equivalent of a computer network hub. He was also a prototypical maven, which Gladwell defines as a person who accumulates new knowledge and tends to share it generously with others. Was Harm also a salesman? I had to think a little bit longer about this particular question, but, of course, Harm was a salesman in the positive sense of the word: a charismatic person who was able to carry others along with him in his innovative ideas, not by presenting things as better than they were, but by both overseeing the bigger picture *and* the tiny details.³²

We will miss Harm dearly.



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³² I would like to thank Lidewij van Gils and Rodie Risselada for their comments on an earlier version, and Fenne and Akke Pinkster for generously granting me access to documents and photographs held by the family.

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