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Preface

The subject for this dissertation was suggested to me by my "Doktorvater" Theo van den Hout. So first of all I want to thank him. But not only for the subject, also for keeping an eye on me through difficult years, and for patiently guiding me while my thoughts on the demonstratives and pronouns of Hittite were developing.

On the more personal level I owe much to Marcel, who suddenly appeared in my life and created peace these last two years. For ever there has been my family: mother, brother, aunt and the Oklahoma branch. Thanks for providing me with refuge! And also important was and is my music teacher, Ilda Simonian, who really 'pushed' me to relax by using my voice.

Kees Hengeveld kept an eye on my progress after Theo left for Chicago. And since there were not many Hittitologists around, I found a place in the Functional Grammar discussion group for the badly needed intellectual food.

Even Hittitologists travel, although mostly to Chicago. There I was granted access to the lexical files of the Hittite Dictionary Project of the Oriental Institute, for which I am very grateful to the editor, Theo van den Hout. Besides that, my stay in Chicago in 2002 could never have been as fruitful as it was without the generosity of Kathleen Mineck for letting me use her laptop and sharing a very tight space to work in, sitting back to back. I also owe much to the discussions with and the hospitality of Prof. Harry Hoffner, Richard Beal, Oğuz Soysal and the temporary Dutch colony, the only Dutch student Hittitology Willemijn Waal, and Wouter Henkelman, the only Dutch Ph.D. student of Elamite.

This dissertation is written in honour of my buddy Jan. Still thinking that there was a future, we decided to conquer our world. Sadly, I had to do it alone, for you had to go young. So I have worked for two. I hope you like the result.

Amstelveen, May 2003