Acknowledgements

I am indebted to many people for their support over the past years, but especially so to Renate Bartsch and Martin Stokhof. If it were not for Renate’s interest in the odd subjects of philosophy of language, such as the interpretation of poetic text, I could never have got started on this project. Her enthusiasm, paired to critical inquiry, provided a continuous motivation in this investigation. Martin saw me through the process of writing over the past years. As a reader, he displays a rare combination of openmindedness and precision. His continuous feedback allowed me not only to develop, but also to structure the line of thought presented here.

Many people read parts or previous versions of this work, and I am grateful to them all. I particularly want to thank Remko Scha, for inspiring discussions and comments that never failed to be constructive; and Bipin Indurkhya, who helped me get started, and introduced me to a number of conferences and workshops on the subject.

I further thank the librarians at the Institute of Philosophy, especially Saskia Speur, and also Ria Beentjes, for her invaluable help in all practical matters.

Part of the research presented here was the result of an exciting and fruitful stay at the Humboldt University in Berlin in 1998. I am obliged to professor Ewald Lang for welcoming me, and to NWO for providing the funding that enabled my stay in Berlin.

Also thanks to Alice, Betsy, Marijke, and Karen for knowing when to pull me away from my computer (and when not), and to Pepita for being there during the last hectic weeks. To Hein Eberson for realizing this printed version, to Jill Jooren for last-minute corrections, and to Marianne Brouwer for helping out in many ways.

Finally, I could not have written this book without the support and encouragement of Mark Jooren. Without him, and without our son Raf, finishing it would not be half the fun it is.