The acquisition of reference: a cross-linguistic study
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Acknowledgements

When I arrived at the University of Amsterdam as a very young student of Swedish Language and Literature, I was interested in language, but did not know exactly what I liked about it. This I discovered at the end of my first year at university. The linguistics course in the Scandinavian department (including the infamous ‘phonetics week’), taught by Harry Perridon, and the Introduction to General Linguistics, taught by Kees Hengeveld, were real eye-openers. These inspired me to follow into my father’s footsteps and to concentrate on linguistics. I left the field of Scandinavian Languages and continued as a student of General Linguistics. Courses by Folkert Kuiken, Anne Baker and Jan de Jong fired my enthusiasm for language acquisition. While doing research for my MA-thesis, this enthusiasm grew even stronger. Therefore, I took on a PhD-project that combined the two aspects of linguistics that I had always been interested in most: morphosyntax and pragmatics. Now finally, my dissertation is finished. In spite of the proverbially blood, sweat and (true) tears, which inevitably accompany the writing of a dissertation, the past six years have been a wonderful period, not in the least because of the many people who have supported me.

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