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### Studies on the Polisch verbal prefix prze-

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**Publication date**  
2008

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#### **Citation for published version (APA):**

Genis, R. M. (2008). *Studies on the Polisch verbal prefix prze-*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam]. Uitgeverij Pegasus.

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Of course, I wanted to produce the ultimate monograph on all aspects concerning verbal prefixes in Polish, be they semantics, aspect, terminativity, syntax ... And yes there was once the ambition to include all prefixes in all Slavic languages as well. The fact is though: such a task is for greater minds with greater abilities and talents. Compared to my original ambitions then, this book must surely look rather diminutive, and what there is, is largely due to the input and inspiration of those Greater Minds I was lucky to have around me. I acknowledge that wholly and gratefully.

I could not have done without my chief supervisor and colleague Wim Honselaar. Without his help I would certainly have gone lost amidst my ambitions. He kept me on the proverbial rails, and more, he did in fact lay the track, points and junctions at times, especially those difficult ones. If there is any discernible direction in my shunting it is entirely due to him. It is amazing how he kept finding time and patience for me in spite of my reluctance to hand over newly written fragments, never doing so until the very last moment. This forced him to read everything in minimal amounts of time but there wasn't a single occasion that he had not actually managed to do so. It must have been so frustrating though and I know that he actually worried. Apologies and gratitude cannot suffice.

The really big brain behind my work and also my achievements, if indeed any are truly mine, is Adrie Barentsen. He is an enormous asset of the Slavic department in Amsterdam. When he left a few years ago it was immediately felt as a great loss. But, nothing can stop him; he is still here and he has even returned to lecturing. His infectious enthusiasm for the subject as well as his great knowledge is always inspirational. I owe a lot to Adrie. His own work is of

the highest quality and I could never equal his example but thanks to Adrie I got where I am today: firmly in the Barentsen school of thought about aspect and related matters. Adrie is building the Amsterdam Slavic Parallel Aligned Corpus (ASPAC) almost single-handedly and I thank him also for giving me access.

Thanks are also due to my colleagues Janneke Kalsbeek, Radovan 'Lutz' Lučić and Magda van Duijkeren-Hrabová. Together with Adrie Barentsen we form the "Amsterdam Aspect Club". The deliberations of this group turned out to form a very important basis for my work.

The Polish section of the University of Amsterdam has also supported me and especially both Ela's – Elżbieta Meijknecht and Elżbieta Weiss – have proved great colleagues as well as reliable and invaluable native informants. I also thank 'my' other natives, Agnieszka Sips, Aleksandra Rekowa, Ewa Amghar and Paweł Serda.

Poland and the Poles have always been kind to me. Whenever I needed to be there I had a bed, great food and a lot of warmth and friendship. My palls from Kraków gave me a lot. I already mentioned Paweł but I owe thanks to his entire family, for the real Polish hospitality and especially the soups of "Serdowa Starsza". The beginnings of my studies took place in Warsaw and professor Krystyna Waszakowa initially helped me find my bearings there and ultimately set me on my way into Polish linguistics. I acknowledge this fully and gratefully.

In the final stages of this work Joop IJisberg of Pegasus showed himself a real ally. I was heavily involved in the production of a Polish-Dutch dictionary and juggling my time and attention between that job and this proved to be rather tough. Joop always understood and so made it possible to deal with both. I am very grateful that he publishes both books.

Nobody is as important as my family, on whom I have always been able to fall back. I thank my parents Willem and Mariette and my brother and sisters. There are no words to express my indebtedness to them, as well as to my sons

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thom and Luuk, daughter Nozomi and dear wife Mikae. I do not know how you have managed to put up with my unavailability and make up for all my shortcomings, especially during the period of writing this little book that must have seemed so irrelevant to you... “A whole book about not even half a word!”

