



Stellenbosch
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DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL LINGUISTICS

STELLENBOSCH PAPERS IN LINGUISTICS PLUS (SPiL plus)



**spil
plus**

AUTHOR GUIDELINES & STYLE SHEET

<http://spilplus.journals.ac.za>

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1. Author Guidelines

1.1 Submissions

Submissions should be made electronically through the [SPiL plus website](#). Please ensure that you consider the guidelines contained in this document when preparing your manuscript. Failure to do so may delay the processing of your submission.

1.2 Anonymisation

The names of all authors, affiliations, contact details, biography (optional) and the corresponding author details must be completed **online** as part of the **submission process** but should NOT be added to the submitted files until AFTER editorial acceptance.

1.3 Article types

1.3.1 Research articles

Research articles must describe the outcomes and application of unpublished original research. These should make a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding in the subject matter and should be supported by relevant figures and tabulated data. Research articles are subject to double blind peer review.

1.3.2 Research notes

Research notes are not subject to blind peer review but are assessed by the (guest) editors for inclusion in an ordinary or special issue. Research notes are typically brief descriptions of ongoing research and are in general by invitation only.

1.3.3 Review articles

Review articles present longer critical appraisals of one or more recent books and contain an original contribution or perspective on the book(s) reviewed. They may also describe the state-of-the art in a given sub-discipline or a specific topic in linguistics. Review articles will be reviewed by the editors and/or members of the editorial board.

1.3.4 Akkers ‘acorns’ (squibs)

Squibs are brief, self-contained and explicit notes which call attention to a theoretically unexpected observation about language without the need for a developed analysis or solution. They are none-the-less subject to blind peer review. The term “squib” was coined by Prof Háj Ross, one of the first editors of *Linguistic Inquiry*, who defines them as follows:

Squibs are short notes about kinky facts of language. They may occasionally be welcome, in that they provide evidence for someone’s pet theory. Most frequently, however, they are rambunctious, insolent, nose-thumbing bazookas, taunting theoreticians of every stripe, daring them to stretch their minds enough to wrap around the damned facts the squibs call to our attention. In Athenian Greece, poets were not allowed to be citizens – they were too unpredictable, irreverent. Squibs are the poets sneering outside the walls of Theoretopolis, mocking us. But with luck, squibs become seeds.

(<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jlawler/haj/Squibnet/>)

In a nod to the heritage of Stellenbosch University as the heart of the Eikestad ‘oak city’ in the Cape Winelands of South Africa, squibs are affectionately termed *Akkers* ‘acorns’. Manuscripts accepted as Akkers will not be required to propose a solution to problems they address as long as their relevance to theoretical issues is made clear. Akkers are subject to double blind peer review.

1.3.5 Special issues

Special issues are collections of papers devoted to a particular topic and edited by a (team of) guest editor(s). Although contributions to special issues are subject to the normal process of blind peer review, submissions are typically by invitation only. If you are interested in submitting or guest editing a special issue, please contact the editors.

1.4 Submission preparation checklist

As part of the submission process, authors are required to check off their submission’s compliance with all of the following items, and submissions may be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.

- The submission has **not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration** (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor).
- The text adheres to the **stylistic and bibliographic requirements**
- As SPiL plus is a peer-reviewed journal, every effort has been made to ensure that **author names are removed from the manuscript** (following the instructions in [Ensuring a Blind Review](#)).
- Any third party-owned materials used have been identified with **appropriate credit lines**, and permission obtained from the copyright holder.
- All authors have given permission to be listed on the submitted paper and satisfy the authorship guidelines.
- The submission file is in OpenOffice, Microsoft Word, or RTF document file format.
- All DOIs for the references have been provided, where available. These can be searched here if necessary: <https://search.crossref.org/search/references>

1.5 Copyright notice

Authors who publish with this journal agree to the following terms:

- Authors retain copyright and grant the journal right of first publication with the work simultaneously licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution License that allows others to share the work with an acknowledgement of the work's authorship and initial publication in this journal.
- Authors are able to enter into separate, additional contractual arrangements for the non-exclusive distribution of the journal's published version of the work (e.g., post it to an institutional repository or publish it in a book), with an acknowledgement of its initial publication in this journal.
- Authors are permitted and encouraged to post their work online (e.g., in institutional repositories or on their website) prior to and during the submission process, as it can lead to productive exchanges, as well as earlier and greater citation of published work (See [The Effect of Open Access](#)).

2. Style Sheet

The Stellenbosch Papers in Linguistics Plus (SPiL plus) style sheet is based on [The Generic Style Rules for Linguistics](#) (December 2014 version), developed under a CC-BY license by Martin Haspelmath, and the SU Department of General Linguistics' in-house style guide.

2.1 Font, margins, spacing

Body of the text is presented in single spacing, 12-point Times New Roman (with no additional space before or after paragraphs or headings). Single lines are left open between paragraphs and between indented quotations (longer than three lines). Paragraphs must be justified, with no indentation of the first line. Margins are custom, 30 mm top and bottom, 25 mm left and right. Paper size is A4, and header and footer are 12.5 mm. Do not leave any track changes, comments or highlighting in the document. Add automated page numbers.

2.2 Capitalization, small caps, boldface, italics

Sentences, proper names and titles/headings/captions start with a capital letter, but there is no special capitalization (“title case”) within English titles/headings, neither in the article title nor in section headings or figure captions. Capitalization is also used after the colon in titles, i.e. for the beginning of subtitles. Capitalization is used only for parts of the article (figures, tables, appendixes) when they are numbered. Please refrain from the use of FULL CAPS (except for abbreviations). Small caps are used for grammatical categories in the interlinear glosses in examples (e.g. FUT, NEG, SG, OBL, etc.) and for glossing sign languages. Boldface can be used to draw the reader's attention to particular aspects of a linguistic example, whether given within the text or as a numbered example. Full caps and underlining are not normally used for highlighting. Italics are used (i) for non-English text and linguistic material (i.e. sentences, phrases, words, morphemes, sounds) presented as part of a statement in the text, unless they are phonetic transcriptions or phonological representations in IPA, (ii) for technical terms, (iii) for emphasis of a particular word that is not a technical term, and (iv) for emphasis within a quotation, with the indication [emphasis mine/ours] at the end of the quotation.

2.3 Spelling conventions

SPiL plus follows the Oxford spelling conventions. This entails using *-ize* (and *-ization*) instead of *-ise* (and *-isation*). This use of *z* instead of *s* does not apply, however, to words ending in *-yse*, such as *analyse*, which are written with an *s*. In all other cases, the Oxford spelling standard follows the British or South African spelling standard (e.g. *centre*, *enrol/enrolment*, *programme*, *colour*, etc.)

2.4 Title

The title should not contain any capitalisation apart from the first word and words that need capitals in any context. In the **final version** of the accepted paper, the title is followed by the first and last name of the author(s), their affiliation, and e-mail. First names should not include only initials. Affiliations need to include: the Unit (where applicable), Department/School, University, City (unless indicated in the name of the University) and Country. To ensure blind peer review, please only list the title and abstract on the submitted manuscript.

2.5 Abstract and keywords

Articles must have the main text prefaced by an abstract of no more than 300 words summarising the main arguments and conclusions of the article. A list of up to six key words must be placed below the abstract. The abstract and keywords should also be added to the metadata when making the initial online submission. The abstract is automatically attached to the email message inviting reviewers to review the paper. If the article is in a language other than English, an English translation of the abstract must accompany the manuscript (for certain special issues an extended English abstract of 1500 words may be required).

2.6 Headings

Articles are subdivided into numbered sections (and possibly subsections, numbered 1.1 etc., and subsubsections, numbered 1.1.1 etc.), with a bold-faced heading in each case. The numbering always begins with 1, not 0. Section headings do not end with a period and have no special capitalization. More than three levels of subsections should only be used in special circumstances. If a (sub-)section has (sub-)subsections, there must be minimally two of them, and they must be exhaustive. This means that all text in a chapter must belong to some section, all text within a section must belong to some subsection, and so on. A short introductory paragraph is allowed by way of exception.

2.7 Numbered examples

Examples from languages other than English must be glossed (with word-by-word alignment) and translated (cf. the [Leipzig Glossing Rules](#) recommended as basic guidelines here). Example numbers are enclosed in parentheses and left-aligned. Example sentences usually have normal capitalization at the beginning and normal punctuation. The gloss line has no capitalization and no punctuation. When there are multiple examples (“sub-examples”) under a single number, they are distinguished by the letters a, b, etc. The text of numbered examples is normally in italics, just like the text of in-line examples, unless the example is not glossed and translated (i.e. in English works, when it is from English).

In numbered examples, do not use italics to highlight particular parts of the example; use bold instead. Linguistic material (i.e. sentences, phrases, words, morphemes, sounds) presented as part of a statement in the text must be italicized. Such material must not be enclosed in inverted commas.

For example, *mean* can be used in several ways, as illustrated by sentences (1) and (2) below.

- (1) a. I didn't **mean** to hurt you.
b. Those clouds **mean** rain.
- (2) That is quite a **mean** thing to say.

In both the sentences in (1), *mean* is used as a verb: in (1a) it is used in the sense of “intend”, and in (1b) in the sense of “indicate”. In sentence (2), by contrast, *mean* is used as an adjective in the sense of “nasty” or “unkind”. A child hearing *mean* will have to establish on the basis of non-linguistic context which sense of *mean* is intended on a particular occasion of usage.

When multiple languages are mentioned in a single text, the name of the language may be given to the right of the example, as in (3), or in the line next to the example number, as in (4). Sources of numbered examples are standardly given directly after the idiomatic translation. When the source is not a bibliographical reference but is the name of a text or corpus (perhaps unpublished), the source is given in square brackets and the article must contain a special section at the end where more information about the sources is given. Ungrammatical examples can be given a parenthesized idiomatic translation. A literal translation may be given in parentheses after the idiomatic translation.

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----------------|------------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| (3) | <i>das Kind,</i> | <i>dem</i> | <i>du</i> | <i>geholffen</i> | <i>hast</i> | (German) |
| | the child.NOM | who.DAT | you.NOM | helped | have | |
| | ‘the child that you helped’ | | | | | |
| (4) | Hatam | | | | | |
| | <i>a-yai</i> | <i>bi-dani</i> | <i>mem</i> | <i>di-ngat</i> | <i>i</i> | |
| | 2SG-get | to-me | for | 1SG-see | Q | |
| | “Would you give it to me so that I can see it?” (Reesink 1999: 69) | | | | | |

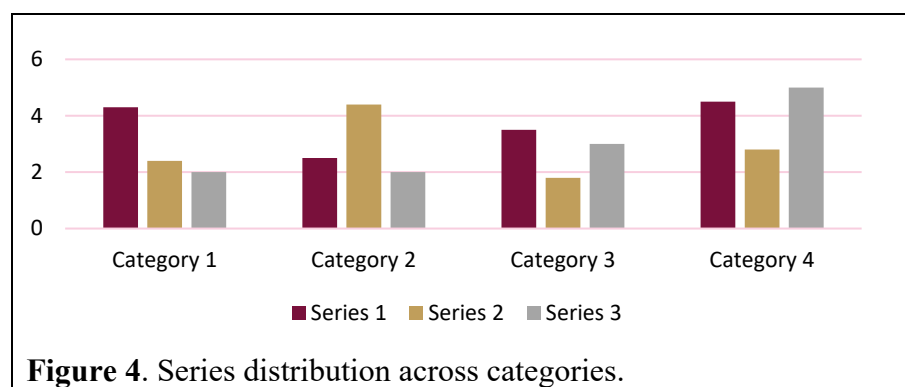
2.8 Tables and Figures

Tables and figures are treated as floats in typesetting. This means that their placement on the page will not necessarily be where you put it in your manuscript. For this reason, do not refer to tables and figures using the words “following”, “below” or “above”, as the final placement of your table or figure may be different from where you placed them in your manuscript; rather, refer to tables and figures as “Table 2” or “Figure 4”.

Table 2. Frequency and distribution of indefinite pronouns.

| Indefinite pronoun | Frequency | Distribution (%) |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------|
| something | 67 | 28% |
| nothing | 54 | 22% |
| someone | 78 | 32% |
| no-one | 45 | 18% |
| Total: | 244 | 100% |

Tables and figures are numbered consecutively (i.e., Table 1, Table 2.1, Table 2.2, Figure 1, Figure 2) and have their own captions. The caption is placed below figures, but above tables, with only the figure or table number in bold. The caption ends in a full stop. Tree diagrams should be treated as examples, not as figures. Consider Table 2 and Figure 4.



2.9 In-text Citations

The short reference form used in the text consists of the author's surname and the publication year, followed by page numbers where necessary. If the surname is used in the sentence, only the year and page number are included in parentheses. Separate authors with "and" and not "&" when surnames are used in the sentence.

Kageyama and Willows (1989: 74) claim that words have special morphological properties that distinguish them from syntactic phrases and sentences.

If the surname is not mentioned in the sentence, it is included in the parentheses along with the year and page number (if applicable). The ampersand "&" is used when citing a reference with two authors fully parenthetically.

Words have special morphological properties that distinguish them from syntactic phrases and sentences (Kageyama & Willows 1989: 74).

If there are more than two authors, the first reference to the co-authored work includes the names of all the authors. Subsequent reference to the co-authored work gives the name of the first author mentioned, followed by "et al." (not italicized).

Audiolingual theory "deals with the difference between explicit knowledge and implicit knowledge" (Smith, Sithole, Pieters & Bach 1989:34).

There is little agreement among linguists as to the nature of "explicit knowledge" (Smith et al. 1989: 34).

When multiple citations are listed in parentheses, they are separated by semicolons and listed in **chronological** order. When multiple works by the same author are cited, the author's name need not be repeated, and the years are separated by commas. Surnames with internal complexity have upper or lower case according to how the author spells his/her own name. Chinese and Korean names may be treated in a special way: as the surnames are often not very distinctive, the full name may be given in the in-text citation.

Although these domains of linguistic inquiry draw on classical pursuits, modern-day branches of linguistics like syntax and morphology have only relatively recently become formal branches of linguistics (Frederickson 1956; Dawley 1988; Aberdeen 2000; Fox 2017, 2018).

2.10 Quotations and quotation marks

Quotations longer than three lines (four lines or longer) are indented with the reference following on the next line (right aligned) as indicated here or contained in the previous sentence (preceding indented quotation).

Reference (2008: 143)

Double quotation marks are used when a passage (three lines or less) from another work is cited in the text.

In another context, Chomsky (1965: 24) claims that a grammar “is descriptively adequate to the extent that it correctly describes the intrinsic competence of the idealized native speaker”.

In another context, he claims that a grammar “is descriptively adequate to the extent that it correctly describes the intrinsic competence of the idealized native speaker” (Chomsky 1965: 24).

To indicate that (a) word(s) have been omitted from within a quoted passage, three dots are inserted in the place of the missing words.

Linguistics “is descriptively adequate [...] to the extent that it appropriately takes into account certain variation in language” (Fellerman 2003: iv).

To indicate that a word is inserted or modified from the original for clarity, i.e., uncapitalized, use square brackets:

He notes that “[i]t is uncertain whether he [Chomsky] intended for it to be understood this way” (Axen 2013: 54).

Quotation marks are also used to indicate that a word is being used in a particular sense or when a technical term or other expression is mentioned that the author does not want to adopt.

Single quotation marks are used exclusively for linguistic meanings.

In Latin there is no overt marker of nominative singular on the lexeme *puer* ‘boy’, even though there is one on the parallel lexeme *dominus* ‘lord’.

2.11 Use of footnotes/endnotes

Use footnotes rather than endnotes.¹ These will appear at the bottom of each page. Footnotes should be used only where crucial clarifying information needs to be conveyed. Avoid using notes for purposes of referencing, with in-text citations used instead. If in-text citations cannot be used, a source can be cited as part of a note. Please insert the footnote marker after the end punctuation. The footnote reference number normally follows a period or a comma, though exceptionally it may follow an individual word. Footnote numbers start with 1. Examples in footnotes have the numbers (i), (ii), etc.²

2.12 Abbreviations

When a complex term that is not widely known is referred to frequently, it may be abbreviated (e.g. DOC for “double-object construction”). The abbreviation should be given in the text when it is first used. Abbreviations of uncommon expressions are not used in headings or captions, and they should be avoided at the beginning of a chapter or major section. Abbreviations used in glossed examples should be listed in a separate section following the conclusions. For a list of standard abbreviations, refer to the [Leipzig glossing rules](#).

¹ Footnotes are in 10-point Times New Roman.

² Examples in footnotes are numbered with lower case Roman numerals enclosed between brackets:

(i) Colourless green ideas sleep furiously.

More text can follow the example.

2.13 Appendices and other optional sections

The conclusion is the last numbered section. It may be followed by several (optional) unnumbered sections: Abbreviations, Ethics and consent, Funding information, Competing interests, Authors' contributions and Acknowledgements. The list of bibliographical references (References) follows these optional sections. Appendices follow the references and are numbered using capital letters beginning at Appendix A. The appendix itself must have a descriptive heading. Appendices are used only for presenting linguistic data, linguistic transcripts, tables and figures, and other supplementary documents that cannot be incorporated in the text in a natural way.

2.14 References

Bibliographic entries are presented as a single **alphabetical** list and are not numbered. The references should be left-aligned. The formatting of an entry in a bibliography is determined by the nature of the source. There are four standard reference types: book, chapter in edited book, journal article, thesis. Works that do not fit easily into these types should be assimilated to them to the extent that this is possible. DOIs for all references, where available, should be provided. This can be done using the [Crossref Metadata Search](#).

2.14.1 Author names

The names of authors and editors should preferably be given in their full form as in the publication, without truncation of given names. All author names are given in the order First name Last name, except for the first author of a bibliography item whose name serves to place the item in the alphabetical order. In this case, the order is Last name, First name.

Surnames with internal complexity are never treated in a special way. Thus, Dutch or German surnames that begin with *van* or *von* (e.g. van Riemsdijk) or French and Dutch surnames that begin with *de* (e.g. de Saussure) are alphabetized under the first part, even though they begin with a lower-case letter.

No author names are omitted, i.e. et al. is not used in the references. When there are more than two authors (or editors), each pair of names is separated by a comma, except the last two, which are separated by an ampersand.

2.14.2 Titles in references

Capitalize all lexical words (title case) in **journal titles** and titles of **book series**. Capitalize only the first word (plus proper names and the first word after a colon) for book and dissertation titles, and article and chapter titles. The logic is to use title case for the titles that are recurring, lower case for those that are not.

Titles of books, journals, and larger works should be italicized, while titles of chapters, articles, and theses/dissertations are not italicized. Main title and subtitle are separated by a colon, not by a period. Journal titles are not abbreviated. Titles of works written in a language that readers cannot be expected to know should be accompanied by a translation, given in square brackets.

2.14.3 Books/chapters in edited volume

An entry for an entire book or edited volume is structured as follows:

Lastname, First name. Year. *Title in italics: Subtitle*. Place: Publisher.

Chomsky, Noam. 1965. *Aspects of the theory of syntax*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.

Booij, Gert & Jaap Van Marle (eds). 1988. *Yearbook of morphology*. Dordrecht: Foris Publications.

An entry for a book chapter is structured as follows:

Surname, First name. Year. Chapter title not italicized. In First Editor & Second Editor (eds.). *Title of larger volume in italics*, page-page. Place: Publisher.

Bauer, Laurie. 1988. A descriptive gap in morphology. In Gert Booij & Jaap Van Marle (eds). 1988. *Yearbook of morphology*, 17-28. Dordrecht: Foris Publications.

OR

Bauer, Laurie. 1988. A descriptive gap in morphology. In Booij & Van Marle (eds). 1988, 17-28.

[If you use this format, there must be a separate entry in your references for the volume edited by Booij & Van Marle.]

2.14.4 Journal articles

Page numbers of journals are obligatory (issue numbers preferred). Journal titles may not be abbreviated. The structure of journal article entries is as follows:

Surname, First name & First name Surname. Year. Article title: Not italicized. *Journal Title* volume(issue): page-page. DOI

Clarke, Eve V. & Herbert H. Clark. 1979. When nouns surface as verbs. *Language* 55(4): 767-811. <https://doi.org/10.2307/412745>

2.14.5 Thesis/dissertation

Theses and dissertations are structured as follows:

Surname, First name. Year. *Title italicized*. Thesis type, Institution.

Ross, John Robert. 1967. *Constraints on variables in syntax*. PhD Dissertation, MIT.

Sinclair, Melanie. 1977. *The refutability of Emonds' structure preserving hypothesis*. MA thesis, Stellenbosch University.

2.14.6 Documents obtained online

For sources obtained through the internet, references must follow the following structure:

Surname, Initial(s). Year of last update ([and if available] day and month). Title of document. Online: Full address of the site, including full path leading to document (date accessed)

Woolfe, Zachary. 2019 (11 October). Dying languages cry out in ‘Last Whispers’: Lena Herzog’s mixture of enigmatic film and immersive sound evokes a global crisis of linguistic disappearance. *The New York Times*. Online: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/11/arts/music/last-whispers-lena-herzog.html> (Accessed 4 April 2022)

2.14.7 Titles in unfamiliar languages

Titles of works written in a language that readers cannot be expected to know should be accompanied by a translation, given in brackets:

Haga, Yasushi. 1998. *Nihongo no shakaishinri* [Social psychology in the Japanese language]. Tokyo: Ningen no Kagaku Sha.

Li, Rulong. 1999. Minnan fangyan de daici [Demonstrative and personal pronouns in Southern Min]. In Rulong Li & Song-Hing Chang (eds). *Daici* [Demonstrative and personal pronouns], 263–287. Guangzhou: Ji’nan University Press.