Report 2014 & 2015 of ACLC research group:
Functional Discourse Grammar

Coordinator
Kees Hengeveld

Web page
see the members' personal pages, the ACLC website, and www.functionaldiscoursegrammar.info

Funding
UvA

Participants in 2014-2015
Kees Hengeveld (ACLC), senior researcher
Wim Honselaar (ACLC), senior researcher
Wim Jansen (ACLC), senior researcher
Caroline Kroon (ACLC), senior researcher
Hella Olbertz (ACLC), senior researcher
Sterre Leufkens (ACLC), PhD-candidate, project: *Transparency in language*
Marlou van Rijn (ACLC), PhD-candidate, project: *Predication and modification within the noun phrase: a typological study*

External members
Lois Kemp (UvA), Evelien Keizer (Univ. of Vienna), Sterre Leufkens (Univ. Utrecht), Lachlan Mackenzie (VU, Amsterdam), Ewa Zakrzewska (UBA)

Description
FDG arose in the first decade of this century in response to intensive discussion of its predecessor theory, Functional Grammar (Dik 1997). What these theories share is the belief that most formal properties of languages can best be understood if they are brought into correspondence with semantic and pragmatic categories that are rooted in human thought and in communication.
In the debate between formal and functional theories in linguistics, FDG adopts a middle position, believing that the forms and structures of languages should be properly described but also that these should be linked through the theory to the uses to which these forms are put.
The theory models the grammatical competence of individual language users. It is envisaged as the grammatical component, alongside a conceptual, a contextual, and an output component, of a larger model of a language user. A distinction is made between an interpersonal, a representational, a morphosyntactic and a phonological level of linguistic organization and the levels are ordered in a top-down fashion. It starts with the representation of linguistic manifestations of the speaker's intentions at the interpersonal level, and gradually works down to the phonological level with each of the levels of linguistic organization being structured hierarchically.
By organizing the grammar in this way, FDG takes the functional approach to language to its logical extreme: within the top-down organization of grammar, pragmatic governs semantics, pragmatics and semantics govern morphosyntax, and pragmatics, semantics and morphosyntax govern phonology. This organization furthermore enables FDG to be a discourse grammar rather than a

sentence grammar, since the relevant units of communicative behaviour form its point of departure, whether they are expressed as sentences or not. The basic tenets of the theory have been described in Kees Hengeveld & Lachlan Mackenzie (2008) *Functional Discourse Grammar: a typologically based theory of language structure.* Oxford: OUP.

Overview of progress in 2014-2015
The group continued its work on grammaticalization, following up on a two-day workshop organized in October 2013 by Kees Hengeveld, Heiko Narrog (Tohuku University Sendai, Japan) and Hella Olbertz and entitled "Grammaticalization of Tense, Aspect, Mood and Modality from a Functional Perspective". The members of the research group worked on the papers coming out of these workshop, discussed them in group meetings, and sent in the refined versions of these papers. The edited volume prepared by the workshop organizers has been submitted to the prestigious series *Trends in Linguistics* published by De Gruyter Mouton. This volume contains papers by group members Kees Hengeveld, Wim Honselaar and Hella Olberz, and by RMA students Sophie Villerius and Jimena Tena Davalós.
A second topic that received special interest concerns the position of the lexicon in FDG. During an international workshop in Vienna this topic was discussed in a group of international specialists, and the contributions that came out of this workshop were converted into a special issue of the journal *Linguistics*. Members of the ACLC group that contributed to this volume are Kees Hengeveld, Wim Jansen, and Hella Olbertz. The papers were discussed in the research group, which led to various improvements.

As regards PhD candidates, Sterre Leufkens succesfully defended her thesis on transparency in 2015. Marlou van Rijn continues her typological work on predication and modification within the noun phrase. Two of her papers were accepted for publication, one in *Transactions of the Philological Society* and the other in *Folia Linguistica.*

The research group continues to meet (more or less) fortnightly for the so-called "FDG colloquium", which is open to everyone interested in the topic to be discussed. The aim of the meetings is (i) the discussion of theoretical and practical problems that arise from the application of the theory, and (ii) the presentation of work in progress within the framework of FDG or related functional approaches.