

Annual report 2016 of ACLC research group: *Talking about Learners*

Coordinator: Enoch O. Aboh

Web page: [TAL](#)

Current external funding: None

Participants in 2016:

- Prof. A. Baker
- Prof. E.M. van den Bogaerde
- Dr. M. Dorleijn
- Prof. O. Fischer
- Prof. F. Gobbo
- Prof. P. C. Hengeveld
- Prof. H. J. Honing
- Prof. A. C. J. Hulk
- Dr. R. Pfau
- Prof. J. C. Schaeffer
- Dr. M. Scorretti
- Dr. A. P. Sleeman
- Dr. J. K. Szymanik
- Dr. N. Smith (Associate member)

Description of the research group:

This project seeks to investigate the emergence of linguistic competence in multi-language contexts and how knowledge of language changes overtime. Our working hypothesis is that language learners are internally multilingual: that is, they learn to master different domains of the language, which they combine to various degrees while speaking. This view leads to the radical conclusion that there is no qualitative difference between a child learning her/his language in multilingual community where many languages are spoken interchangeably on a daily basis (e.g., communities where pidgins and creoles emerged) and a child raised in a (nearly) monolingual community with one major language (e.g., France). In both situations, children learn to bring together a coherent language of their own based on different variants or varieties used in the community. This is because acquisition results from contact.

Research highlights in 2016:

- Because researchers within the ACLC have the possibility to participate in several research groups TaL-related activities mainly consist in organising workshops and working toward publications. 2016 mainly served to organise a workshop in

collaboration with Ghent University with the collaboration of Prof. dr. Liliane Haegeman and her colleagues. This workshop “A probe into the multilingual mind” was held in Ghent on October 19th and 20th. This workshop was partially supported by SMART and included eleven speakers from the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Italy, and North America. Details of the program can be found on the following link <http://www.gist.ugent.be/node/116>. During this meeting the decision was made to develop an international research network that will further investigate issues of acquisition in a multilingual setting. Enoch Aboh is in charge of writing the proposal to be submitted to the European Research Council.

- The second highlight of our activities in 2016 is the completion of the volume on linguistic complexity which appeared in *Language Sciences* with the title: *Complexity in human languages: A multifaceted approach* (Aboh ed. 2017). This volume includes 12 articles from some members of TaL (E. O. Aboh, M. Dorleijn, F. Gobbo, A. Hulk, J. Schaeffer, P. Sleeman), one member of Grammar and Cognition (J. Rispens), a member of Phonetics and phonology (K. Seinhorst), one member of ILLC (J. Szymanik), a contributor from Leiden (J. Audring), a contributor from University of Hong Kong (U. Ansaldo), and one from Göttingen University (H. Zeijlstra).
- Most participants of TaL also contribute to other research groups to which they have already sent their research activities. To avoid, doubling the same information, this report does not include individual reports.