

ACLC RESEARCH GROUP

COMPLEXITY

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Why complexity?

- Language complexity is a hot debated issue, at the interface of linguistic structure, quantitative linguistics, cognitive processing and social processes

- A multidisciplinary theme *par excellence*, which can be investigated from different perspectives and (sub)disciplines, present at the ACLC
  - Language typology, language evolution, first and second language acquisition, language impairment, grammaticalization, cognitive linguistics, computational linguistics, neurolinguistics

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Leading questions (1)

- Are all languages of equal complexity?
- In how far is language complexity related to social characteristics (population size, number of non-native speakers, language contact)?
- How should complexity be operationalized and to what extent do different complexity metrics correlate?
- What is the relationship between complexity and learnability?

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Leading questions (2)

- How does complexity develop in typical and a-typical L1 and L2 learners?
- To what extent does statistical complexity correlate with processing difficulty?
- Are there any trade-offs between different levels of language representation (e.g., morphology versus syntax)?
- How is complexity in performance affected by factors like personality, socio-psychological features, task related characteristics and features of pedagogic intervention?

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Research directions

- The need for non-redundant, valid and reliable measures
- The need for developmental measures
- The need for a broad scope of language complexity
- The need for longitudinal and cross-linguistic research
- The need for research in instructional practice

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Deliverables and partners

- Deliverables
  - Workshops, conferences, papers, special issues, books, PhD projects, LOT courses
- (Envisaged) partners
  - Within UvA: ILLC (Institute for Logic, Language and Computation), ABC (Amsterdam Brain and Cognition)
  - (Inter)national: FRIAS (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies), ILC-CNR Pisa (Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), KU Leuven, RU Groningen, University of Helsinki, University of Modena & Reggio Emilia, Universität Tübingen, VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

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Members ACLC Complexity

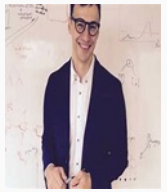
- Coordinators: *Folkert Kuiken, Ineke Vedder*



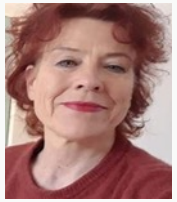

- Group members: *Enoch Aboh, Kees Hengeveld, Petra Sleeman, Klaas Seinhorst, Jacub Szymanik, Thom Westveer*








- Guests: *Margreet Dorleijn, Federico Gobbo, Aafke Hulk, Jan Hulstijn, Caitlin Meyer, Arjen Versloot*








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Recent Special Issues (co-)edited by ACLC members

Aboh, E.O. (ed.) (2017). Special issue on Complexity in human languages: A multifaceted approach. *Language Sciences 60*(X), 1-198.

Housen, A., De Clercq, B., Kuiken, F. & Vedder, I. (eds.) (2019). Special Issue on Linguistic Complexity. *Second Language Research 35*(1), 1-145.

Kuiken, F., Michel, M. & Vedder, I. (2019). Special Issue on Linguistic Complexity and Instruction in SLA. *Instructed Second Language Acquisition 3*(2), 119-257.

Kuiken, F., Vedder, I., De Clercq, B. & Housen, A. (2019). Special Issue on Syntactic Complexity. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics 29*(2), 159-264.