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Healing speech, wandering names, contests of words : ideas about language in Euripides

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HEALING SPEECH, WANDERING NAMES, CONTESTS OF WORDS

IDEAS ABOUT LANGUAGE IN EURIPIDES

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van

de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,

op gezag van de Rector Magnificus prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden,

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door

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geboren te Amersfoort

in 1978

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project 'The Limits of Language' (360-30-090)

Preface

ἔστιν οὐ σιγή λόγου
κρείσσων γένοιτ' ἄν, ἔστι δ' οὐ σιγῆς λόγος.
(Euripides, *Orestes* 638-9)

This dissertation on 'Ideas about Language in Euripides' presents a part of the research and writing that I have done in the context of the NWO-funded programme 'The Limits of Language' (360-30-090). Two related studies, presented separately, are listed in the bibliography and referred to in the appropriate places.

In the preface to his novella *Out of Focus* (Dublin: The O'Brien Press 1977), the Irish librarian and author Alf MacLochlain memorably writes:

My wife did not do any of the typing, and remains convinced that the whole thing is a complete waste of time.

The text processing of this dissertation is, similarly, all my own, but I have been lucky to have enjoyed the support, help and encouragement of a number of people, not least my wife; and I thank all persons and institutions that enabled me to spend one more half-decade studying a language that I love, and reading and re-reading an author for whom my admiration has only increased as I went along.

Vleuten/Alkmaar, August 2010

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