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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift
Possessive constructions in Tongugbe, an Ewe dialect
van
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1. Tongugbe (tɔŋúgbe) is a distinct dialect. It should not be assimilated to coastal dialects.
2. The alienability split in Tongugbe is largely motivated by the distance a speaker conceives between a possessor and a possessee.
3. Tongugbe expresses belongingness relations in two constructions: one construction centres the relation on the possessor, and the other centers the relation on the possessee.
4. In Tongugbe locative predicative possessive constructions, the possessee is construed as "located" in an area of the possessor; and this area is typically expressed by a word that also means 'hand'.
5. Linguistic analysis is best done with a combination of naturalistic data and native speaker judgements.
6. Linguistic structures are reflective of the different ways in which different societies conceptualize the world.
7. Syntactic typology which closes its eyes to semantic and cultural dimensions of formal diversity of languages is ultimately sterile and unilluminating (Wierzbicka 2002: 200).
8. Linguistics without ethnography would fare as badly as ethnography would without the light thrown on it by language (Malinowski 1920: 78).
9. Africa does not need "a unifying language" as proposed by Julius Malema of the Economic Freedom Fighters in South Africa.
10. Life is a spaceship. Every man fortunate to be on it is vested with a mission that is critical to the advancement of the human cause.