

**Minutes of the General assembly of the Linguistic Society of Belgium**  
**October 21, 2022, Université de Liège**  
**(13h40-14h30)**

**Present board members:** Marie Steffens (president), Thomas Hoelbeek (vice-president, minutes secretary), Tanja Mortelmans (treasurer), Damien De Meyere (webmaster)

**Absent board members:** Timothy Colleman (Belgian Journal of Linguistics editor), Philippine Geelhand (secretary)

**Agenda:**

1. Financial report
2. Publications
  - *Belgian Journal of Linguistics*
  - *Travaux du CBL/Studies van de BKL*
3. Linguists' day
4. Best paper presentation award
5. Mailing list – Website
6. CIPL membership
7. Board members
8. Any other business

**1. Financieel verslag - Rapport financier**

The financial situation is good, last year we had a lot of members (115), this year a lot less, members are invited to pay their membership fee.

We have 10.093 euros on our bank account, and are still awaiting the 1,500 euros of the University Foundation, for which we did a successful application in 2022.

**2. Publications**

- *Belgian Journal of Linguistics*
  - BJL 35 (2021):  
Emma Vanden Wyngaerd, Renata Enghels, Mena B. Lafkioui, and Marie Steffens (eds.), *Current Perspectives on Code-Switching*
  - introduction + 7 articles
  - has appeared electronically and in print earlier this year
  - paper copies will be sent to the members with a subscription in the course of October-November
  - BJL 36 (2022) – in preparation, to appear in +/- April 2023: Alysson Lepeut & Inez Beukeleers (eds.), *The Semiotic Diversity of Signed Language*
  - BJL 37 (2023) – proposal by Marie Steffens & collaborators about language ideologies
  - possibly: BJL 38 (2024) ???
  - The future:
  - Since 2018/2019:

- talks with John Benjamins about transition from a yearbook format to a journal with two issues a year
- related to this: talks with the Board of the Dutch AVT (Algemene Vereniging voor Taalwetenschap) about a possible merger of the present titles *Linguistics in the Netherlands* and *Belgian Journal of Linguistics* into a single journal
- Present situation:
- progress has been made, but it has been a slow process
- both Boards have now, in principle, agreed to a merger at the soonest possible time
  - for AVT: on the condition that this is accepted by a majority of members at the next Grote Taal dag in February 2023
  - for BKL/CBL: members had already delegated responsibility for reaching an agreement with Benjamins, AVT and/or other potential partners at the General Assembly of 2020
- but many details are still under discussion (cf. infra)
- Benjamins has extended the previous BJL agreement with (at least) another year: there will be a BJL “as we know it” in 2023 and quite possibly even in 2024 – first volume of the “new” journal will be 2024 or 2025
- Whether or not there will be a BJL 2024 should be clear by May/June 2023 (Call for proposals will follow)
- Some discussion points – input from the members is very welcome (now or in the course of this Fall & Winter):
- Structure and composition of the Board: two “sub-Boards” or a truly merged Board? How many representatives from both associations? Two editors-in-chief?
- Open Access formula: everyone agrees that some kind of OA would be desirable, but this has important budgetary implications
- Some discussion points – input from the members is very welcome (now or in the course of this Fall & Winter):
- Important condition for AVT: one of the two yearly issues has to remain directly linked to the Grote Taal dag (as Ling. in the Netherlands is now)
  - Do we as BKL/CBL want to claim the remaining issue?
  - Do we want to leave room for thematic issues? If so, on a regular or ad-hoc basis?
  - **Members are in favour of a thematic issue for the BJL. They think it is better to publish papers resulting from the Linguists’ day (often work in progress) in the online Papers of the LSB, and not in the BJL.**
- Title? Has to be general – John Benjamins has a veto against geographic labels such as ‘Dutch/Netherlandic’, ‘Belgian’, ‘Low Countries’ in the title (a subtitle would be allowed)
  - **An idea for a title is Nota BeNe, a subtitle could be “Linguistics in the low countries”.**
  - **A question to solve is the language policy. Will languages like Dutch be accepted, or only papers in English? Members are afraid indexing policies will disadvantage a multilingual journal.**

- Negotiations will be taken up again as soon as possible after the Grote Taaldag
- BKL/CBL Board would like to come to a formal agreement (also about financial matters) in the course of the first half of 2023
- Editor-in-chief:
- At the previous General Assembly, Timothy Coleman (editor-in-chief since 2016) had expressed his wish to step down at the end of 2023 at the latest;
- In view of the important decisions for the future that will have to be made in the course of 2023, it would be better if his successor (M/V/X) were to step in *now*
- If this helps, a division of labour and responsibilities could be arranged with the new Editor-in-chief elect taking over the lead in the negotiations for the future while TC still oversees the 2023 volume of the BJL
  - **The board is given the mandate to select a new editor-in-chief. This will not only be for the period of transition.**
  - **Probably it will be easier to have two boards: one for the issue of the AVT, and one for the issue of the LSB.**
- *Travaux du CBL/Studies van de BKL*  
Congrats to editors!
- Vol 15 (2021):
  - Editors: Sébastien Vandennitte, Alysson Lepeut, Laurence Meurant
- Vol 16 (2022):
  - Editors: Thomas Hoelbeek, Laura Rosseel
  - authors received reviews, reworked papers will be in at the end of November
  - **A member asks what the exact status is of papers published in the Papers of the LSB. The president explains it is a pre-publication that can be proposed elsewhere.**
  - **A question is asked about the number of visitors of the website. The webmaster answers that he has no exact numbers at the moment, but the website is visited frequently and the articles are read.**

### 3. Events

- Linguists' day:
  - October 2020: Université de Namur - Zoom
  - October 2021: Vrije Universiteit Brussel
  - October 2022: Université de Liège
  - October 2023 : ???
- Holidays?
- **It is agreed on that a week before the school holidays in Wallonia is a good moment (3<sup>rd</sup> week of October)**
- **The call for abstracts should not come to late next year.**

### 4. Best paper presentation award

- 2018 edition: 8 candidates (1/4 of the papers)
- 2019 edition: 12 candidates (1/3 of the papers)
- 2020 edition: 25 candidates (2/3 of the papers)
- 2021 edition: 27 candidates (2/3 of the papers)

- 2022 edition: 12 candidates (1/2 of the papers)
- Explicit criteria. Public vote.
- Symbolic prize:
  - free membership and certificate
  - recognition
  - PR online (e-mail – website)

## 5. Mailing list

- The mailing list is currently hosted at UAntwerpen
- We cannot access the mailing list administration interface outside UAntwerpen (since +/- June 2022)
  - Cannot add new members to the list
  - But we can approve incoming messages
  - Response from the IT department: in the process of setting up a new version of the listserver, but it is “taking longer than expected”
- Last update (September 2022): we are asked to be “patient”
- Option: moving the newsletter to another system, e.g. Google Groups? Framalistes? Wait?
- **It is suggested we should not wait longer than the end of the month, and then take action and find an alternative if the situation at UAntwerpen does not change.**

## 5. Website – list of members

- Payments verification is done regularly – it is not automatic
  - Don’t forget to mention your name so we can track your payment
  - The list of members and the newsletter are updated on that basis
  - We encourage you to support the association by renewing your membership
  - Your profile will only appear online if you have created one (GDPR)
  - <https://bkl-cbl.be> > Membership > Registration form
  - Please note that we are not technically able to send automatic payment confirmations for now, but we will work on it
  - You will receive a confirmation of your subscription to the mailing list (when we can access the interface again...)
  - You will receive the *BJL* if you asked for it

## 6. CIPL membership

- Comité International Permanent des Linguistes
- It is essentially a non-profit. Once every 5 years they organize a huge conference in a country where this is unusual
- Our Belgian colleague Frieda Steurs is CIPL-secretary general.
- BKL-CBL is a member association. (150 € /year)

## 7. Board: terms

- Board members are elected for a three-year term.
  - The positions of president and vice-president are once renewable. The other board positions are endlessly renewable.
- Term 2019-2022:
  - Philippine Geelhand (2021-2024), secretary

- Damien De Meyere, UCLouvain, webmaster
  - Tanja Mortelmans, Uantwerpen, treasurer
- Tanja will stay treasurer for the time being.**
- Term 2020-2023
  - President: Marie Steffens, ULiège – UUtrecht,
  - Vice-president: Thomas Hoelbeek, VUB
  - Editor-in-chief: Timothy Coleman (2020-2022)

#### **7. Board: vacancies**

- We are currently looking for a new replacement for:
  - a webmaster
  - an editor-in-chief

#### **8. Any other business**

None.

The assembly ends at 14h30.