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CROSSING THE BOUNDARIES IN LINGUISTICS

Studies Presented to Manfred Bierwisch

Edited by

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MANFRED BIERWISCH

PREFACE

It was in the course of 1980 that it dawned upon several friends and colleagues of Manfred Bierwisch that a half century had passed since his birth in 1930. Manfred's youthful appearance had prevented a timely appreciation of this fact, and these friends and colleagues are, therefore, not at all embarrassed to be presenting him, almost a year late, with a Festschrift which will leave a trace of this noteworthy occasion in the archives of linguistics. It should be realized, however, that the delay would have easily extended to 1990 if all those who had wanted to contribute to this book had in fact written their chapters. Under the pressure of actuality, several colleagues who had genuinely hoped or even promised to contribute, just couldn't make it in time. Still, their greetings and best wishes are also, be it tacitly, expressed by this volume.

Especially important for the archives would be a record of the celebrated one's works and physical appearance. For the convenience of present and future generations this Festschrift contains a bibliography of Manfred Bierwisch's scientific publications, which forms a chapter in itself. The frontispiece photograph was taken unawares by one of our accomplices.

The title of this Festschrift may allow for free associations of various sorts. One interpretation, however, should not be missed: there is the existential presupposition that boundaries do exist in linguistics. One of the most characteristic aspects of Manfred's work is that these boundaries are recognized. Bierwisch will never confuse syntax, semantics and pragmatics, nor, under his hands, will linguistics fade into psychology. But at the same time the conscious crossing of these boundaries is an equally characteristic trait of his approach in the study of language: Manfred Bierwisch has published in almost all areas of linguistics, and has worked in many adjacent disciplines. The list includes syntax, semantics, phonology, pragmatics, historical linguistics, language variation, aphasiology, graphematics, psycholinguistics – especially language and memory, and language and music – to mention the most important ones. In performing these wide-ranging studies, Manfred Bierwisch shows a trait somewhat similar to what we know about Leibniz's way of work: it is all done in the solitary enclosure of the library, but at the same time in intensive interaction with the major intellectual currents of his

era. Boundaries don't count here; Manfred quietly resides in the midst of his web, registering far away vibrations just as well as close-by turbulence.

Leibniz, the great founder of the Akademie der Wissenschaften, would doubtless appreciate the fact that, three centuries later, his spirit is still alive in this illustrious place.

Nijmegen, The Netherlands

W. K.

W. L.