

# Assessing Grammar

## COMMUNICATION DISORDERS ACROSS LANGUAGES

**Series Editors:** Dr Nicole Müller and Dr Martin Ball, *University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA*

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# **Assessing Grammar**

The Languages of LARSP

Edited by

**Martin J. Ball, David Crystal and  
Paul Fletcher**

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F-TARSP, *F-TARSP: Fryske Taal Analyze Remediearring en Screening Prosedure. In Fryske bewurking fan 'e TARSP* (Fryske Akademy/Afûk, 2008).

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later language development', *Israel Studies in Language and Society*, 1, 10–47 (in Hebrew); Lustigman, L. (in press), 'Developing structural specification: Productivity in early Hebrew verb usage', *First Language*; Lustigman, L. (in press), 'Non-finiteness in early Hebrew verbs', *Brill's Annual of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics (BAALL)*.

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# Introduction

Martin J. Ball

The publication of *The grammatical analysis of language disability* (Crystal *et al.*, 1976) came as a most welcome boon for teachers of English grammatical structure to speech/language pathology students. At last we had a principled approach to clients' language data that allowed a comprehensive analysis together with a metric based on developmental norms.

So widely used was this approach at the time that a new verb was born: *to larsp*, and we all became expert *larspers*. Indeed, the profile approach to language data was soon recognized internationally, and only a few years later versions of LARSP appeared designed for other languages (Hebrew was the first in 1982, see Chapter 4). Over the three-plus decades since its first appearance, versions of LARSP have been designed for numerous languages, and one of the purposes of this book was to collect as many of these together as possible, to act as a source book for clinicians working with different languages. However, it was clear also that there were several lacunae in the provision of profiles, in that some major languages had had no profiles designed for them. Therefore, a second purpose of this collection was to provide a place where new versions of LARSP could be introduced (albeit some of these are still works in progress).

The editors of this collection provided guidelines to the contributors about how to structure chapters. We felt that readers would welcome a grammatical sketch of the language concerned; information, where available, on normal patterns of grammatical acquisition; details on the database used to draw up these patterns; and the design of the chart itself. However, different teams of authors are at different stages in the development of their profiles. Some are reporting on versions that were designed quite some time ago, whereas others are still in the process of finalizing their designs. This results, of course, in chapters that display quite some variation in content and approach. So, while some profiles are ready for clinical application (and indeed have been so applied), others are only at the trial stage and may lack details of grammatical patterns in the final developmental stages. This is unavoidable in a collection that includes both mature and new profiles.

There are also other differences between chapters. While authors have for the most part adhered to grammatical analyses along the lines described in Crystal *et al.* (1976; see also Chapter 2), there are some departures from this in certain chapters. Partly this is to do with the requirements of the