

1. Introduction

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Le voilà: the twenty-fifth edition of the GLOW Conference, back in Amsterdam, the town where it all started. We thought it appropriate to celebrate this special occasion not just by organising a special evening programme, but also by presenting this booklet as a souvenir to all participants of the present conference.

There are various ways of counting GLOWs. There were at least two precursors to the programme. In 1976 there was the Amsterdam conference *Green ideas blown up* and an unofficial GLOW was held in Amsterdam in 1977. At any rate, the first 'real' GLOW Conference took place in 1978, and was organized mainly by members of the General Linguistics department of the University of Amsterdam.

The GLOW Conferences have always been the most important activity of the GLOW Association. This is reflected in the Newsletter (one issue every year is devoted to the programme and abstracts of that year's conference) and also in this booklet. We have compiled a list of all talks which were given during (the Main Sessions of) all conferences. This list can be used as an index to the abstracts which were published in the newsletter; it also provides an overview of the wealth of topics that have been investigated and discussed over the years, and the range of linguists that have spoken here. It seems safe to say that there hasn't been a leading generative linguist who has not presented at least one lecture at GLOW in the course of his or her career.

We have also included various pieces of historical interest to the generative linguistic community. From the first volume of the Newsletter, we copied several founding documents of the GLOW organisation, such as the first Editorial, the so-called GLOW Manifesto, a reaction to this manifesto by Jean-Claude Milner, and the very first version of the GLOW Guidelines. From later documents we added some more worked-out versions of the official 'constitution' and 'guidelines'. Over the years, editors of the GLOW Newsletters have sometimes published articles which presented the state-of-the-art in certain subfields. Of these, we republish here articles by Joseph Aoun and Dominique Sportiche, by Jonathan Kaye and by John McCarthy. Finally, a note that Noam Chomsky wrote on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of GLOW is included here as well.

The editors of the first Newsletters defined the goals of GLOW in the following way: "We aim at creating a platform for the intellectual and social wellbeing of transformationalists in and around Europe, as well as all other transformationalists eager to participate." Opinions seem to vary whether or not the 'intellectual and social wellbeing of transformationalists' has indeed improved in Europe over the past 25 years. The editors of this booklet, at least, tend to be on the optimistic side. In any case, it seems clear that the position of generative grammar in Europe would have been much weaker without GLOW the association or GLOW the conference.