The meaning of vowels. A study on woman names.

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PHONETICS AND SEMANTICS

According to Steven Pinker (LANI) there exists no link between phonetics and semantics, consonance and meaning. According to Pinker meaning originates from grammar and phonetics thereby makes absolutely no contribution. "Phonemes do not contribute bits of meaning to the whole ... phonemes ... connect outward to speech, not inward to mentalese[1] : a phoneme corresponds to an act of making a sound". Do the new chomskyan methods have to be applied on grammar and are phonetics left to the good old behaviourists? Physiological functions, position of the tongue versus palate, the lips, the larynx... belong to the level of the phonemes. Still a level lower are the elementary signs situated from which those phonemes have been composed: "... features, not phonemes, are the atoms of linguistic sound stored and manipulated in the brain. A phoneme is merely a bundle of features." (LANI 179). And according to Pinker the giving of meaning is transmitted from the total to the partial and never the other way around.

Pinker, supporting on ' the common sense' and continuing building on Saussure's authority, repeats three times with the largest certainty that the relation between phonemes and meaning is "arbitrarily associated". The logical place to realise that connection, the phonetical Wernicke area, is according to Pinker: "once thought to underlie language comprehension." That out-of-date conception (?) is not clarified. If nevertheless meaning can be attached to consonances, then "some aspect of meaning", these that for example link to "geometry".

THE POPULAR 'DISPROVING' OF THE PHONETICAL CODE

It seems incredible that vowels should have meaning. The 'common sense' points on the broad diversity of the languages what concerns their sound form. "Dog" means outside English only in Mbararam also dog. (LANI 256). In all other languages we use other consonances. The main point of genetic semantics is of course not, that words mean approximately the same when phonetically approximately they have the same sound. "a careful mother" means something else then " een kar vol modder " and this says little concerning the possibility of a phonetical code. The option is certainly not refuted by it.

The existence of 'phonetical modules' explains the learning behaviour of children and assigns a role to the phonetical code. Phonetical modules exist according to Pinker. "... when children solve problems for which they have mental modules, they should look like geniuses ..." (LANI 419). And children are brilliant when learning ever new words. "... an average american high school graduate knows 45.000 words." (LANI 150). How many phone numbers is one able to learn in this period?

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[1]   Mentalese is the inner language assumed by semanticists (programming language, software) that the brain (computer, hardware) must

allow to process languages and sign systems.

The answer must be: much less, because we can store numbers in our memory, but they do not refer to the genetic code. They have no inner meaning. Numerology and gematria are nonsense. The link between phonetics and semantics is no nonsense. One retrieves it in the brain.

PHYSIOLOGICAL INDICATIONS: THE WERNICKE-AREA

The inner meaning of the words originates in the Wernicke area where sounds are composed. "It would be a logical place to store the links between sounds of words and the appearance and geometry of what they refer to." (LANI 311) and "the sounds of words, especially nouns and some aspects of their meaning." (LANI 313) "… the area was once thought to underlie language comprehensions. But that could not explain why the speech of these patients (with damaged Wernicke area) is so psychotic." (LANI 311)

Tik-tak phenomena are according to Pinker side phenomena. It is known that in a number of words and expressions the i-vowel comes prior to the a-vowel, like in tiktak, zigzag… "Why we say fiddle-faddle and not faddle-fiddle?… dribs and drabs, rather than vice-versa… Why can 't the kitchen be span and spic? Whence riff-raff, wish-wash, flim-flam, chit-chat, tit for that, knick-knack, zig-zag, shilly-shally, tic-tac-toe, bric-a-brac, clickety-clack" (LANI 167). Semantics can not give answers without a phonetical code.

According to genetic semantics vowels (and perhaps also consonants) are systematically applied with the coding of meaning. The language user expects that large objects are heavier than small ones, a statistic truth i.e. a probability. Behind the choice for i's and a's with regard to contrary qualities, a logic is hidden, signs and rules for using those signs. Large and heavy belong to the same category, it is this abstract partitioning which we indicate with a as in large and 'zwaar' (heavy), or with i as in little and 'licht' (light). The vowels a and i can, like Pinker determines, refer to positions in space and time. (LANI 168) According to De Denk-beeldige Ruimte each combination of three vowels refer to an angle point of an imaginary cube. (DERU) Each combination of the linear code (algebraic form) corresponds with positions in time and space (geometrical form).

When we use 'hier' (here) or 'daar' (there), 'dit' (this) or 'dat' (that), 'ik' (me) or 'de ander' (the other) we are tended to respect the motorial or natural ia-sequence. Probably this does not apply only for Dutch but for all languages which reflect the DHB-sequence (depth - height - breadth). (Fig.1)
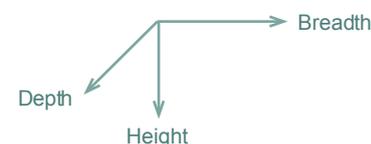
In French for example 'ici' stands to 'la bas', and 'ceci' to 'cela'.

Fig.1

here	there
zig -	zag
kris -	kras
wir -	war
kip -	kap

now	later
tik -	tak
klik -	klak
pif -	paf
bim -	bam

DUTCH TIK-TAK WORDS

We examine 'all well-known cases' in which ia- or ai-combinations occur and of which the consonants remain equal. We found in Dutch 23 examples, viz. 20 ia-combinations and 3 ai-combinations.

i a	a i
bimbam	barbier
dit en dat	mammie
ditjes en datjes	pappie
fikfakken	
gyga	
imam	
kipkap	
klikken en klakken	
klikklak	
kriskras	
liflafjes	
lila	
Nina	
pifpaf	
prietpraat	
rifraf	
tiktak	
tingeltangel	
wirwar	
zigzag	

There are considerably more ia- than ai-combinations. The tiktak sequence dominates. We say in dutch "ditjes en datjes" (Eng: this and that, Fr: Patati et pa-tata), not "datjes en ditjes".

THE AIA-COMBINATIONS

"Barbier"is the Dutch form of a French word that 'barbjee' is pronounced. In the Dutch form also the consonants are similar. "Mammie" and "pappie" (Eng. daddy) are artificial infantile words, which rather reflect the misconception of the parents about the natural order. In all three cases a semantic contrast is lacking between the syllables, necessary to reflect an antagonism. "Mam" is not opposed to "mie", "pap" is not opposed to "pie" nor "bar" to "beer".

We found no example where the ai-order orients the thinking according to space or time.

GENETIC SEMANTICS: THE VOWELS AS GENETIC LETTERS

Words have not only an external, referent meaning, but also an inner, codic meaning. The codic, genetic signs of the mentalese can be represented in a language by vowels. The 4 vowels a, e, i and o represent the 4 letters of the genetic code in Dutch and other languages. The vowels such as they are classified by prof. A. W. De Groot (ALTA) can be compared with other genetic classifications, incl. the chemical classification of the D.N.A.-letters.

	0	1
0	A	E
1	O	I

Words consists of syllables i.e. combinations of vowels supported by consonants. Words contain codic vowel combinations for example "valavond" (gloaming) contains the aao-combination, "kapitaal" (capital) the aia-combination. Woman names contain strikingly often the aia-combination, but also some male names e.g. Garcia. One finds also woman names with other then aia-combinations but relatively little. The aia-combination predominates.

"Female", as woman names show, is linked in a lot of cultures with the aia-form. That also becomes clear from "vagina" for the female genital, "anima" for the female soul in the psychology of Jung, "Ambika", source of all life and the title of Hindu goddess Parvati (ENMY 20), "Gaïa" the name for 'mother earth' represented as a snake (MYGR 46), "Altjira" the name of the female totem (SOPH 329) and even from "matriarchy" as female sovereignty compared with "patriarchate" an exception on the aia-form.

The water goddess Mami Wata (aia-sound) originates from Nigerian antique mythology. She is honoured in Haitian Voodoo, Folk Catholicism, Yoruba religion and in West African Vodun. Her main attribute is the snake. She keeps patronage over water, the sea, nature, but also over markets and money, luck and healing. (fig.2)
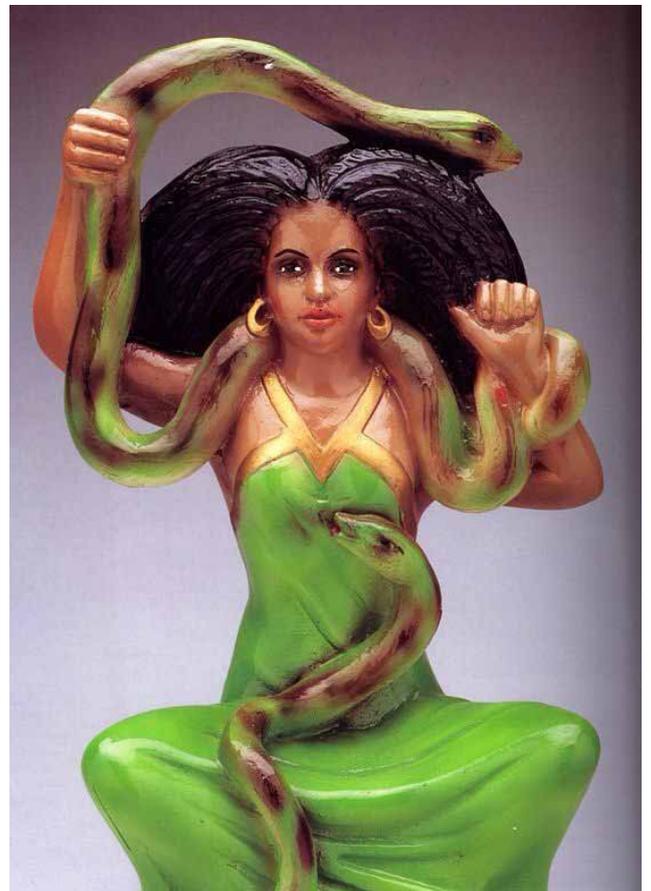

Fig.2 Mami Wata

230 EXAMPLES OF AIA-COMBINATIONS

In several languages woman names containing the aia-combination appear strikingly often:

Aaliyah (U.S.), Abibah (Mal.), Abida (Pak.), Abigaïl (Hebr.), Adajania (India), Adinda (Belg.), Adira (Turk.), Ahalia (India), Ahilya (India), Aicha, Aïchaz (Mar.), Aida (Mosl.), Aila (Mosl.), Aleena (U.S.), Alicja (Polish?), Alida (Mosl.), Alifah (Mal.), Alima (Belg.), Alina (Cuba), Alindja (Afr.), Alisa (Bosn.), Allicja (Mosl.), Alvina (Mex.), Alzira (Goa), Ambiga (Tamil), Ambika (India), Amina (Fr.), Amira (Jewish), Amisha (India), Amitav (Hind.), Amitha (Lanka), Amrita (Ind.), Amritpal (Ind.), Ancika (Kroat.), Aneesa (Pak.), Angelina (Eur.), Aninha (Belg.), Anissa (Mosl.), Anita (Eur.), Anjalica (India), Ankica (), Annika (Zw.), Ariadne, Ariane (Fr.), Arinna (Hett.(), Arlina (Indon.), Arminda (Eur.), Arria (Lat.), Asia (Belg.), Asima (Pak.), Asirat (Fen.), Asmila (Mosl.), Assia (U.S.), Assila (Mar.), Athina (Greek), Athirat (Fen.), Ayida (Voodoo), Aziza (Mosl.), Azizah (Arab.), Azizsa, Baiba (Letland), Banita (India), Baptista (Lat.), Bashiyra (Ar.), Bhagita (India), Caissa (the muse of chess), Calista (U.S.), Camilla (Eng.), Candida (Eur.), Capriati (Ital.), Caridad (Sp.), Carita (Sp.), Catalina (Sp.), Cavitha (India), Chadia (Belg.), Chafia (Mar.), Chandrika (SriL.), Charima (Dts), Charissa (Belg.), Clarissa (Eur.), Clasina (Nl.), Czarina (Rs.), Dalia (Israel), Dalida (), Dalilla (Afr.), Dalina, Daria (), Davina (Eng.), Davita (), Fadia (Ar.), Fadila, Fadiya (Eg.), Faïda (Cong.), Faïza (Mar.), Farida (Ar.), Farisha, Farishta (Pak.), Fatiha (Mar.), Fatima (Pak.), Fatimah (Mosl.), Flavia (It.), Gabija (Lit.), Gadiga (Mar.), Galina (Rus.), Garnica (Mex.), Ghariba (Mar.), Gnazia (It.), Haïfa (Mosl.), Hakima (Mar.), Haleema (Pak.), Halima (Mar.), Halina (Belg.), Halinka (Nl.), Hamida (Pak.), Hapipah (Mal.), Hasina (Mosl.), Hasnia (Tks.), Hasnita (Mal.), Hassiba (Mar.), Hassina (Afgh.), Hassina (Mosl.), Jacinnta (Belg.), Jacinta (Belg.), Jacintha (Belg.), Jakica (Serv.), Jameela (India), Janita (Goa), Janitha (India), Jaslina (Mal.), Kadyja (Mosl.), Kahina (Mosl.), Kalifa (Mar.), Kalina (Russ.), Kalinka (Rus.), Kalinka (Russ.), Kamila (Pak.), Kapinga (Cong.), Kareena (Pak.), Karima (Mar.), Karisma (India), Karthika (India), Kasrishma (India), Kavita (India), Kavitha (India), Khalida (Ar.), Laïla (Mosl.), Laima (Letl.), Lalima (Mosl.), Lalita (Hind.), Lalitha (India), Lamia, Lamiya (Mar.), Lanita (Mex.), Latifa (Tks., Laziza (Mosl.), Mahila (India), Mahima (India), Malika (Ar.), Malinda (Fr.), Maliwan (Thai), Malkiat (Pak.), Malliga (India), Mallika (Hind.), Malwida (Germ.), Manisah (Mal.), Manisha (India), Maria (Eur.), Mariamma (Mosl.), Mariska (Hong.), Marissa (U.S.), Marita (Sp.), Mariza (Fillip.), Martina (Eur.), Mathilda (Eur.), Maxima (Arg.), Mazida (Mal.), Nabila (Mar.), Nadia (Belg.), Nadija (Alg.), Nadira (India), Nagisa (Japan), Naima (Alg.), Naina (India), Namita (Papoea), Nandita (India), Nanhijan (Indon.), Narnia, Natalia (India), Natia (Koerdisch), Naziha (Egypte), Octavia (Lat.), Padilla (Sp.), Pamina (Duitsl.), Pratibha (Hind.), Rabbia (Mar.), Rabiaa (Mar.), Rachida (N-Afrika), Radhika (India), Raheela (Pak.), Rahima (Afgan.), Rajiya (India), Rania (Mar.), Ranjita (Hind.), Ransika (Lanka), Rasika (Lanka), Ravina (India), Razia (Mosl.), Raziyya (Tks.), Sabiha (Afghanistan), Sabita (India), Sabrina (Eur.), Sadia (Pak.), Sadiqua (U.S.), Sadira (Belg.), Safia (Pak.), Safira (Be.), Safiya (Nig.), Saïda (Mar.), Saima (Pak.), Sajitha (Hind.), Sakina (Mar.), Saliha (Mosl.), Salima (Mar.), Salinah (Palest.), Saliya (Mosl.), Sameea (Pak.), Samia (Mosl.), Samiha (Mosl.), Samila (Kosovo), Sanchia (Gr.Br.), Sanilha (India), Saphia, Saraniya (India), Sarida (Mal.), Sarika (Ind.), Sarimah (Mosl.), Sarinah (Mosl.), Sarita (), Saritha (Surin.), Sasikala (India), Saskia (Eur.), Savita (Ind), Sayeeda (Mosl.), Shaila (Hind.), Shamina (BanglaD.), Shamita (Ind.), Sharifah (Mal.), Sharmila (India), Shayla (U.S.), Shazia (Pak.), Stefania (It.), Tabita (Cong.), Tacita (Gr.Br.), Taglia (U.S.), Tahina (Mosl.), Tahmina (Pak.), Talitha (Belg.), Tamila (Zw.), Tamisa (Fiction, Tamiya (Jap.), Tangina (U.S.), Taslima (India), Tativa (Fr.), Thacia (Lat.), Thalia (Lat.), Valinda (U.S.), Vanitha (Ind.), Vartika (India), Yamila (Mar), Yamilah (Mosl.), Yanika (ElSalv.), Yanira (Mosl.), Zabibah (Irak), Zahia (Mar.), Zaina (Iran), Zainah (Mal.), Zakia (Isl.), Zarinah (Mal.).

ELEMENTS OF PROOF FROM SEMANTIC DICTIONARY AND SYMBOLEN CONSTRUCTIES

The Semantic Dictionary (SEWO) shows the possibility of subdividing 22.000 words on the basis of among others their phonetical form in meaningful categories. (table1) It's hard to cite the hundreds of pages with examples of this work in this paper but it must be clear that one can build no coherent structure of such scope on the basis of coincidence.

	000	001	010	011	100	101	110	111
000	AAA	AAE	AEA	AEE	EAA	EAE	EEA	EEE
001	AAO	AAI	AEO	AEI	EAO	EAI	EEO	EEI
010	AOA	AOE	AIA	AIE	EOA	EOE	EIA	EIE
011	AOO	AOI	AIO	AII	EOO	EOI	EIO	EII
100	OAA	OAE	OEA	OEE	IAA	IAE	IEA	IEE
101	OAO	OAI	OEO	OEI	IAO	IAI	IEO	IEI
110	OOA	OOE	OIA	OIE	IOA	IOE	IIA	IIE
111	OOO	OOI	OIO	OII	IOO	IOI	IIO	III

Table 1: 64 vowel combinations

The study of I. Michiels into Symbolen Constructies (SYCO) links the 64 colour combinations to the genetic code viz. hexagrams which consists of six zeros or ones: 000,000. 000,001... 111.111. (table 2) Sometimes we retrieve that code in the sound form of the subtitles.

000	001	010	011	100	101	110	111
blue BL	black BK	green GR	purple PL	orange OR	red RD	white WH	yellow YL

Tafel 2: Eight basic colours and their code.

EXAMPLE 1: AIA-combinations.

The colour combination GR:GR gets the code 010.010. With the green-on-green symbols two have the vowel combination aia "kapitaal" (capital) and "barricade" (barricade) and one symbol has the subtitle "vrouw" (woman). (SYCO)

kapitaal

vrouw

barricade

EXAMPLE 2: EIA-combinations.

In the local (Belgian) tel. book we find strikingly many banks, credit institutions, insurance and social care institutions with eia-combinations. Dexia, Ethias, Zelia, Kredietbank, to name but a few.. Moreover also colour combinations with the same codic meaning are particularly popular: green-on-white occurs often in imaging of banks, insurance. GR:WH has the code 010.110 and the vowel combination eia like in "medicament" (medical) and the keyword "bank". (SYCO)

bank

medicament

EXAMPLE 3: OIO-combinations.

In adventure tales we find many names of heroes who contain oio-combinations: Robin Hood, Don Quichotte, Robinson Crusoë, Pinocchio, Zorrino, the earl of Monte Christo... The according colour combination yellow-on-green appears strikingly often in comic adventure tales for e.g. the hero in yellow and the dragon which is beaten in green to the example of St Georges, St Michael a.o. YL:GR has the code 111.010, and the according vowels oio as in "voorhistorisch" (pre-historic), "horizon" and (satirical) Don Quichotte as dragon-killer. (SYCO)
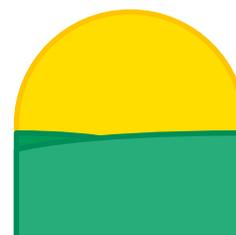
horizont
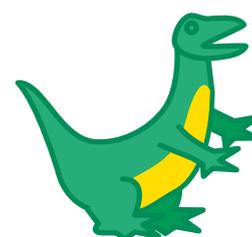
voorhistorisch

EXAMPLE 4: AAO-combinations.

A study of words with aao-form in five languages produce 600 examples. Those clearly form groups according to 12 meanings. The 12 keywords with which we indicate these groups, form an understandable entity in the work of well-known anthropologists e.g. Mary Douglas (REGE). The aao-combination is e.g. in comic st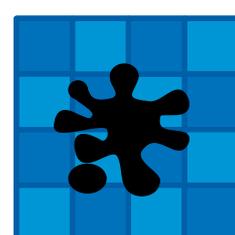rips reflected by black-on-blue colour combinations. BK:BL i.e. the code 001.000. (SYCO) Within the black-on-blue symbols two have the vowel combinations aao "valavond" (gloaming) and "kapsalon" (barder shop) and one symbol has the subtitle "smet" i.e. contaminated.

kapsalon

valavond

smet

DISYLLABIC WORDS AS ABBREVIATIONS OF TRISYLLABIC ONES

Words which consists of two syllables, and that are no doublings of one syllabic words, have an unused potential, an empty syllable. A large number of examples presume that either the first or the last syllable can be empty. It seems also logical that the core of the word, the second syllable while abbreviating, is preserved. If we indicate the empty place with a period then there are two possibilities concerning the abbreviations of aia-combinations: .ia words and ai. words.

- 'Paniek' (panic) is an ai.-word, the abbreviation of the aio-form, the code 011.010 according to the Semantic Dictionary (SEWO).

- 'Statig' (stately) is an .ai-word, the abbreviation of an aai-combination, code 001.001. (SEWO).

- The o of aio and the a of aai has either disappeared, or they were never used.

We call abbreviation axiom, the assumption that words of two syllables have also an empty syllable. A syllable which accords to an invisibly third part of the genetic combination. A syllable which there perhaps never was, which for certain reasons is not (anymore) used, which became superfluous or went lost. Cases in which orientation logic foresees no unambiguous solution…

THE ABBREVIATION AXIOM APPLIED ON FIRST NAMES

The aia-code for "female" lends itself to a test with the abbreviation to disyllabic words. We apply the rules of abbreviations and emphasis concerning the gender. To this goal 63 disyllabic first names from several languages were collected. 38 woman names and 25 male names which either contained the ai- or ia-combination. We consider these 63 words as abbreviations of trisyllabic words. The aia-code for woman names becomes then .ia or ai. . We tested the proposition that the stress lies on the core of the word: the H-location of DHB. We can shorten aia then as .ia, as in Rita, or ai. as in Marie. The stress falls always on the second syllable and therefore in the case of an aia-form on the i.

We do not have sufficient certainty concerning the code sign for "male". We try with iai-combination, complementary with female aia-combination. According to the rules of abbreviations and emphasis one can shorten to .ai in "Harry" or as ia. in "Ignace". The stress falls on the a, the second syllable of the triplet, the H of DHB.

Now it must be simple to define the gender of disyllabic first names (ai or ia). If stress falls on the a like in Richard or Harry then it concerns a male first name, same reasoning with the stress on the i at female first names as in Marie or Rita. The exceptions got asterix. (table 3)

It appears that the rule in 50 of the 63 cases is valid. That is 79% or 1.6 times of what we can expect according to coincidence.

The rules of abbreviations and emphasis are confirmed for the entire research up to 79%. That does not mean that they fail for 21%. An ai.-combination does not need to be an abbreviation of an aia-triplet, but can also originate from aio -, aie - or aii-triplet. Without semantic coding the chance on each of the 4 possibilities is the

same. That we nevertheless finish on 79% and not on 25% indicates a strong preference for genetic aia-combinations.

M	F	M	F
(i) a i	a i (a)	i a (i)	(a) i a
Ali Alice(Eng.)* Annie* Barry David Fatih Frankie Harry Hein- rich Kaïn Maggy* Patsy* Radjiv Saïd Salif Sammy Yanni(e)	Achille* Alice (Fr.) Aline Annemie Annick Basiel* Carine Francine Jacqueline Jeanine Kamiel* Margriet Marie Rachid* Sabine	Ignace Ignatius Ivan (Fr.) Richard Vital	Britta Christa Dina Frieda Hilda Ida Ivan* Ilja* Iqbal* Irma Liliane Mia Micha Milan* Mina Mirjam Nina Pina Ria Rika Rina Rita Stina Tina Wiebrand* Wilma
13/17 = 76%	11/15 = 73%	5/5 = 100%	21/26 = 81%

SOURCES

ALTA Inleiding tot de Algemene Taalwetenschap, prof. A.W. De Groot, Wolters Noord-hoff. 1968.

DERU De Denk-beeldige Ruimte, Ferre Alpaerts, Genetische Kodering, 1981.

ENMY Larousse Encyclopedia of Mythology, Hamlyn 1972.

LANI The Language Instinct, Steven Pinker, Pinguin 1995.

MYGR Mythologie der Grieken, H. H. Diephuis, Univers. voor Zelfstudie, onged.

REGE Reinheid en Gevaar, Mary Douglas, Aula-reeks.

SEWO Semantisch Woordenboek, Ferre Alpaerts, VZW Genetic Coding. 2008.

SOPH Sociology and Philosophy, Emile Durkheim, The Free Press, N.Y. 1974.

SYCO Symbolen Constructies, Inez Michiels, ACCO-Leuven, 2006.