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The impact of dyslexia in higher education

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The impact of dyslexia in higher education

Liset Rouweler

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The work reported in this dissertation has been carried out under the auspices of the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen (CLCG) and the School for Behavioral and Cognitive Neurosciences (BCN) of the University Medical Center Groningen.

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The impact of dyslexia in higher education

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*To learn to read is to light a fire;
every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.*

VICTOR HUGO

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Wow, this is it! My PhD adventure has come to an end, and that it was, an adventure, both personally and academically. Most people would argue that doing a PhD is a job for a lone wolf. I would argue the contrary, as it takes so many people to successfully complete a PhD – and also at least the same number - or even more - to keep you sane, especially if you're writing a big part of your thesis during a global pandemic.

My interest for the topic dyslexia already started way before I started thinking about higher education and science. Dyslexia runs in my family and at some point, I started wondering about why the number of people diagnosed with dyslexia, relatively speaking of course, was so high in my family. Thinking about future studies I accidentally stumbled upon linguistics in Groningen and I noticed that in this study there was a big focus on neurolinguistics and also dyslexia. In the first year of my bachelors, during the intro course about dyslexia, I already met my promotor, Ben Maassen, who since then played a large role during my studies and PhD. Starting as a first-year bachelor student, you taught me the first steps in the world of dyslexia and over the past ten years, you made sure that dyslexia also became more and more my field of expertise. I would like to thank you for your expertise and guidance throughout my studies and PhD, and furthermore for inspiring me to always think one step ahead.

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List of Abbreviations

Acc	Accuracy
ANCOVA	Analysis of Covariance
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
APA	American Psychiatric Association
BDA	British Dyslexia Association
C-test	Cloze-test
DAP	Dyslexia Assessment Protocol
Dys	Dyslexia
EMT	Een Minuut Test
FIQ	Fluid IQ
FR	Free-recall
GL&SCHR	Test voor Gevorderd Lezen en Schrijven
IDA	International Dyslexia Association
IDAA	Interactive Dyslexia test Amsterdam-Antwerpen
IQ	Intelligence Quotient
L1	First language
L2	Second language
LCDH	Linguistic Coding Differences Hypothesis

LEMs	Leestest Een Minuut voor Studenten
LOP-effect	Levels of Processing effect
M	Mean
N	Number
NonDys	Non Dyslexia
NPV	Negative Predictive Value
OMT	One Minute Test
PA	Phonological Awareness
Pc	Percentile
PE	Print Exposure
PPV	Positive Predictive Value
RC	Reading Comprehension
RSF	Reading Systems Framework
RT	Reading Time
SD	Standard Deviation
SDN	Stichting Dyslexie Nederland (Dutch Dyslexia Association)
SON	Non-verbal Intelligence Test
SR	Self Reported
TF	True/false
WAIS	Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale
WM	Working Memory
WRAT	Wide Range Achievement Test
WRpM	Words read per minute

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