

Nekrologi / Obituaries

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In memoriam Hendrik Boeschoten (1950–2024)

Hendrik Boeschoten was born in Hilversum, the Netherlands, on 15 September 1950 and passed away on 18 February 2024 in the age of 73 in Mainz, Germany. He was buried on 28 February 2024 in Amsterdam. He was Dutch, but his education and professional career was divided between the Netherlands and Germany. The young Hendrik studied in a secondary school (Humanistisches Gymnasium) in Munich (1960–1966) and get his Abitur in a secondary school (Gemeentelijk Gymnasium) in his home city Hilversum in 1968. Between 1968 and 1980, he studied physics, mathematics, history and Turkish at Utrecht University. He get two “doctoraal” diplomas from Utrecht University, which are equivalent to master’s diplomas, one in mathematics (1975) and the other in Turcic studies (1980). Hendrik Boeschoten’s tutor in Turcology was Henri Hofman, the author of the amazing multi-volume *Turkish Literature: A Bio-Bibliographical Survey* from whom Hendrik mastered deep knowledge of Turcic literature and competence in reading manuscripts. The curriculum of Turkish at Utrecht included Arabic and Persian, but Hendrik also studied Mongolian. He get his PhD degree at Tilburg University in 1990. In the Netherlands, he did various jobs. Between 1979–1990, he worked as a freelance interpreter and translator at the Dutch TV, was a lecturer at the Seminar of Oriental Studies of Utrecht University between 1979–1982, docent at the Faculty of General Linguistics and Literature at Tilburg University between 1982–2002, but he also taught at various schools and institutions. To begin with 1990, he worked at times in Germany. From 1990 to 1991, he held a position of assistant professor at Frankfurt University, in 1998 at Bamberg University and from 2000 to 2001 at Gießen University. In 2002, he



was granted the position of full professor at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz as Prof. Lars Johanson's successor where he worked until his retirement in 2015. After retirement, he continued teaching at the university in Mainz as a senior teacher till 31 March 2017 when he was succeeded by Prof. Julian Rentzsch. He was also the head of the Department of Oriental Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University from 2002 to 2012 when Prof. László Károly was appointed as associate professor and the head of the department. After being retired, he often visited his colleagues at the Turkic section of the university and continued his research.

A remarkable feature of Hendrik Boeschoten's education is diversity of the scholarly interest. His secondary schools focused on humanities, while his first university choice was physics and mathematics. Afterwards his interest shifted to Turkic studies and the domains linked to this discipline such as Arabic, Persian and Mongolian. Within Turcology, Hendrik Boeschoten combined such fields as modern Western and Eastern Turkic, especially Turkish and Uzbek, respectively, middle Turkic languages including Middle Turkish, Khwarezmian Turkic, Chaghatay and Ajami Turkic.

As far as Turkish is concerned, his significant achievement is *Turkish Linguistics Today*, co-edited with Ludo Verhoeven, to which Hendrik Boeschoten contributed with a paper on language variation, including dialectology and language reform (1991a). He also published multiple articles and a teaching aid called *Turkisches Lesebuch* (1995b). This textbook contains a selection of twenty-six literary texts with a glossary to each text and notes on some selected grammatical forms.

Another modern Turkic language of Hendrik Boeschoten's interest was Uzbek. One of his first publications is a 82-page study on Uzbek variety of the Samangan province in north-western Afghanistan (1983). This study contains texts recorded from an informant with the German translation, basic information on the dialect and the linguistic analysis. Hendrik Boeschoten is also the author of a short description of Uzbek in a handbook (first published in 1998, the second edition in 2022c). In his studies on Middle Eastern Turkic, he often referred to Uzbek whenever a characteristic historical feature was found as a residue or was continued in this modern language.

However, in his later studies, he paid more attention to historical Turkic languages. In the field of Middle Turkish, he published studies on Evliya Çelebi (e.g., 1988 and 1992) and Dede Korkut (e.g., 2001 and 2010a).

Apart from Middle Turkish, i.e. a South-Western Middle Turkic language, he was also involved in the study on South-Eastern Middle Turkic, namely Khwarezmian Turkic and Chaghatay. With regard to Khwarezmian Turkic, the stress must be laid on his study on the Stories of Prophets, especially the second edition of this very important Khwarezmian Turkic oeuvre by Rabghūzī, co-edited with John O'Kane (2015). They critically edited the British Library manuscript, but also used four other manuscripts. Hendrik Boeschoten's other studies on Rabghūzī include, among others, an overview of the St Petersburg copies (1991b), the -z(-) layer in this work compared with other Khwarezmian documents (1993) and a study on the syntax (1994), co-authored with Mark Vandamme. Chaghatay was not a language of Hendrik Boeschoten's primary interest, but he published a general

paper on this Eastern Turkic literary language in a reference book (2022a), the first edition of which in 1998 was co-authored with Mark Vandamme. Apart from Rabghūzī's edition, Hendrik Boeschoten's most important contribution to Middle Turkic is certainly his dictionary of Early Middle Turkic (2023). This dictionary fills a gap between Old Turkic and Chaghatay which is a Late Middle Turkic language, but at the very end of its existence, it reaches to New Turkic. The dictionary presents the lexicon from Late Kharakhanid to Khwarezmian Turkic and Middle Kipchak, and also some Central Asian Oghuz, but not Anatolian Turkish.

Between Eastern and Western Turkic, there was so-called Ajami Turkic which also attracted Hendrik Boeschoten's interest. His remarkable achievement in this area was the publication of *Alexander Stories* (2009) from a manuscript copied in the respective part in the 18th or the 19th century.

Hendrik Boeschoten was interested in Turkic lexicology (e.g., 2012a and 2021) and published several important studies on Middle Turkic, especially East Middle Turkic lexicography (e.g., 2016, 2020a and 2020b).

Most of his studies on Turkic are linguistic, but some are literary studies (e.g., 1990b and 1995a), whereas many others should be qualified as philological in a broad sense.

Especially in the early stage of his professional career, Hendrik Boeschoten devoted much interest to various grammatical and lexical aspects of the speech of Turkish immigrants to the Netherlands and their language acquisition (e.g., 1985, 1986a, 1986b and 1990a).

Hendrik Boeschoten also co-edited a deal of volumes, e.g. *Utrecht Papers on Central Asia*, with Mark Vandamme (1987), *Turkish Linguistics Today*, with Ludo Verhoeven (1991c), *Turkic Languages in Contact*, with Lars Johanson (2006), *Turcology in Mainz/ Turkologie in Mainz*, with Julian Rentzsch (2010b) and *Musik im Orient*, with Reinhard Wiesend (2012b).

As a colleague, Hendrik Boeschoten was always nice, cheerful and helpful. He was critical, but his sense of critique never went so far to hurt or offend anybody. He was married, his wife Cheryl passed away in 2021. They had three daughters. Hendrik was Rik to his friends. In addition to our numerous meetings at the conferences, congresses and workshops in Oslo, Bamberg, Mainz, Istanbul, Ankara and other cities, I had the honour of hosting him in Poznań between 23 and 25 February 2015 at the workshop "Cultures in Conversation: Teaching Asian Languages and Cultures" when he talked on Makhtumquli and his reception in the West. He did not publish much on Turkmen and Makhtumquli, except for a review of Oskar Hanser's Turkmen grammar (1982), but he was interested and competent in this language and his presentation was insightful.

Hendrik Boeschoten's unexpected death is a great loss to Turcology. It will be very difficult to educate a researcher competent in historical languages, codicology, literature and modern linguistics as he was.

A selected bibliography of Hendrik Boeschoten's studies¹

- 1982 Review of: Oskar Hanser 1977. *Turkmen Manual: Descriptive Grammar of Contemporary Literary Turkmen, Texts, Glossary*. Beihefte zur Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes. *Bibliotheca Orientalis* 39: 227–228.
- 1983 *Özbekisches aus Aibak (Samangan)*. Utrecht (Utrechtse turkologische reeks 1).²
- 1985 [with Ludo Verhoeven] Integration niederländischer lexikalischer Elemente ins Türkische: Sprachmischung bei Immigranten der ersten und zweiten Generation. *Linguistische Berichte* 98: 347–364.
- 1986a Turkish Language Development of Turkish Children in the Netherlands. In: Ayhan Aksu-Koç et al. (eds) *Proceedings of the Turkish Linguistics Conference, August 9–10, 1984*. Istanbul: Boğaziçi University. 269–280.
- 1986b [with Ludo Verhoeven] First Language Acquisition in a Second Language Environment. *Applied Psycholinguistics* 7: 241–255.
- 1987 [with Mark Vandamme] (eds) *Utrecht Papers on Central Asia. Proceedings of the First European Seminar on Central Asian Studies held at Utrecht, 16–18 December 1985*. Utrecht: University of Utrecht.
- 1988 *Evliya Çelebi in Diyarbakir. The Relevant Section of the Seyahatname*. Edited with translation, commentary and introduction by Martin van Bruinessen and Hendrik Boeschoten. Leiden: Brill.
- 1990a *Acquisition of Turkish by Immigrant Children: A Multiple Case Study of Turkish Children in the Netherlands Aged 4 to 6*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- 1990b [with Mark Vandamme] The Poetry of Rabghuzi's Qisas. In: Rémy Dor (ed.) *L'Asie Central et ses voisins. Influences réciproques*. Paris: INALCO. 9–36.
- 1991a Aspects of Language Variation. In: Hendrik Boeschoten and Ludo Verhoeven (eds) *Turkish Linguistics Today*. Leiden: Brill. 150–176.
- 1991b The Leningrad Manuscripts of Rabghuzi's Qisas. *Türk Dilleri Araştırmaları* 1: 47–79.
- 1991c [with Ludo Verhoeven] (eds) *Turkish Linguistics Today*. Leiden: Brill.
- 1992 A Short Sample of Venetian Italian in Evliya Çelebi's Seyahatname. *Journal of Turkish Studies* 14: 139–146.
- 1993 Chwaresmtürkisch als z-Türkisch. *Journal of Turcology* 1, 2: 183–193.
- 1994 [with Mark Vandamme] Rabghuzi's Syntax Revisited. In: Ingeborg Baldauf and Michael Friedrich (eds) *Bamberger Zentralasienstudien. Konferenzakten/ESCAS IV, Bamberg 8.–12. Oktober 1991*. Berlin: Klaus Schwarz. 88–98.

¹ This bibliography does not aim to be comprehensive, only some studies of special importance or cited as examples discussed in this obituary are shown.

² Note that the word 'Uzbek' from the title of this publication is variously referred to in the studies, i.e. also 'Özbekisches' and 'Usbekisches'.

- 1995a Bosnische Metrik. In: Marcel Erdal and Semih Tezcan (eds) *Beläk bitig. Sprachstudien für Gerhard Doerfer zum 75. Geburtstag*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. 33–49.
- 1995b *Türkisches Lesebuch. Zeitgenössische Literatur mit Lexik und Grammatik*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- 1998 Uzbek. In: Lars Johanson and Éva Ágnes Csató (eds) *The Turkic Languages*. London: Routledge. 357–378, see also Boeschoten 2022c.
- 2001 [with Semih Tezcan] (eds) *Dede Korkut Oğuznameleri*. İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık.
- 2006 [with Lars Johanson] (eds) *Turkic Languages in Contact*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- 2009 *Alexander Stories in Ajami Turkic*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- 2010a Motive türksprachiger Epen und das Buch des Dede Korkut. In: Konrad Meisig (ed.) *Ruhm und Unsterblichkeit. Heldenepik im Kulturvergleich*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. 123–136.
- 2010b [with Julian Rentzsch] (eds) *Turcology in Mainz/Turkologie in Mainz*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.
- 2012a Botanisches in Evliya Çelebis Seyahatname. Marcel Erdal et al. (eds) *Botanica und Zoologica in der türkischen Welt. Festschrift für Ingeborg Hauenschild*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. 29–34.
- 2012b [with Reinhard Wiesend] (eds) *Musik im Orient: Zwischen Maqâm und Epengesang. Ringvorlesung Mainz 2006*. Mainz: Are Edition.
- 2015 [with J. O’Kane] *Al-Rabghūzī: The Stories of the Prophets. Qişaş al-Anbiyā’*: *An Eastern Turkish Version (Second Edition). Volumes I–II*. Leiden: Brill.
- 2016 Problems of the Lexicography of Middle Eastern Turkic, Illustrated by the Case of the *Kitāb al-af’āl*. *Turkic Languages* 20: 205–215.
- 2020a Contributions to the Lexicography of Early Middle Turkic. Part 1. *Turkic Languages* 24, 1: 110–143.
- 2020b Contributions to the Lexicography of Early Middle Turkic. Part 2. *Turkic Languages* 24, 2: 171–197.
- 2021 More on Early Middle Turkic Lexical Elements. In: István Zimonyi (ed.) *Altaic and Chagatay Lectures. Studies in Honour of Éva Kincses-Nagy*. Szeged: University of Szeged. 101–108.
- 2022a Chaghatay. In: Lars Johanson and Éva Ágnes Csató (eds) *The Turkic Languages*. London: Routledge. 160–173.
- 2022b The Speakers of Turkic Languages. In: Lars Johanson and Éva Ágnes Csató (eds) *The Turkic Languages*. London: Routledge. 1–12.
- 2022c Uzbek. In: Lars Johanson and Éva Ágnes Csató (eds) *The Turkic Languages*. London: Routledge. 388–408, see also Boeschoten 1998.
- 2023 *A Dictionary of Early Middle Turkic*. Leiden: Brill.