

A sublime impression in the memory

I am writing this brief message from Amsterdam, 18 years and a half after my first meeting with Hagit, all from memory.

Not only linguist colleagues and, of course, students, but also my friends, family, mum, husband and children know how much I admire Hagit. How I find her a sublime mind to surrender to. I intuitively related to her vision on the syntax-lexicon division very soon in my PhD studies. "This looks very Hagitarian", said Tim (Stowell) to me one day at a dissertation meeting. "Have you ever talked to Hagit about this?" "No, I have not met her personally yet". "OK, I'll organise it. I'll invite you both for dinner one day." And he did. Tim arranged a dinner at his house and prepared lamb with mint sauce (very English, maybe a premonitory sign of my later life). After that dinner, Hagit and I met to discuss my thesis at a café, which was in a corner, not far from where she had a dentist appointment –I think to remember. She then sent me the manuscript of *The Normal Course of Events*, which I printed, had bound and read with fruition. Thesis discussions followed, combined with playing Catan some Friday nights. Several months later I sent her the chapter 4 of my dissertation, which I considered to be the critical one. She sent me great feedback very generously. She had no immediate response from me, though. She emailed me again. It turned out she had sent me the comments around May 21st, the day I had my first child. How much Borer 2005, 2013 etc., has meant and shaped my way of thinking can be seen in what I write and teach. I wish she could see the admiring comments from the students of others. "Wow, she can explain how come we can say 'zero chairs'; this is the coolest thing I've seen". I do not always remember how I first met people but I certainly remember how I met Hagit. She has made a long-lasting impression in my life.

I want to celebrate her life and work in Linguistics. Thank you very much for everything you have given us all.

Maria J Arche