



Photo from the MPI Website

Melissa Bowerman (1942-2011)
passed away on October 31, 2011, Nijmegen

A distinguished scholar in the field of language acquisition and cognitive development.

Melissa Bowerman was a student of Roger Brown at Harvard University. After obtaining her PhD she held a faculty position at the University of Kansas, and from 1982 was a leading researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen.

In her contemporary and crosslinguistic studies she showed herself to be a passionate researcher of the mechanisms of language acquisition, development of concepts underlying language, argument structure and learnability, event representation, linguistic and nonlinguistic determinants of children's spatial semantic categories. Her studies on the relations between language and cognition, in both children and adults, were pioneering, theoretically original, and also innovative in terms of research procedures and methods of data analysis. Through her publications, university lectures, conference papers and discussions, Melissa Bowerman had a major influence on research projects conducted at many different psycholinguistic centers around the world.

We learned with great sadness that Melissa Bowerman passed away on October 31, 2011.

With Professor Melissa Bowerman's passing, *Psychology of Language and Communication* has lost an eminent member of its Editorial Advisory Board and a great expert reviewer on whose advice we could always rely.

We have lost a very good friend, a researcher with a brilliant mind, and a person of great human kindness.

Melissa, we miss you...

Barbara Bokus