Discourse Modes and Bases
A Study of the Use of Tenses in Vergil’s Aeneid

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

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door

Suzanne Maria Adema

geboren te Amsterdam
promotor: prof.dr. C.H.M. Kroon
copromotor: dr. H.J. van Dam
Preface

Ever since I started working on this project, I have worked many pleasant hours. Apparently, the mind can only remember a restricted amount of such similar hours, because I do not really recall the specifics of many of them. Far more present in my mind are the people I met and spent time with during these years. I would like to thank them for being there, in this past, and will make some of them appear here now, in my mind and yours.

I cannot think about my dissertation without seeing the faces of my promotores, Caroline Kroon and Harm-Jan van Dam, always with a very encouraging look and prepared to read yet another version of (parts of) this book. Also my other colleagues appear in my mind, my office mates Lidewij and Corrien with whom I have had many interesting discussions and pleasant coffee breaks and lunches, and also Gerard, Rutger, Mieke, Nienke, Emilie, Michiel, Paula and, of course, Siem, the late professor Slings. His presence is still as sharp in my mind as his observations and remarks used to be.

Part of this dissertation was written at the University of Texas in Austin. I would like to thank the department of Classics of this University for welcoming me as a visiting researcher. The Promovendi Fonds Letteren of the VU University provided the funds for this stay. I deeply enjoyed my meetings in Austin with the late Professor Carlota Smith, and especially thank Professor Egbert Bakker for our enthusiastic discussions. I also learned many things from the graduate students at the UT Classics Department, and particularly enjoyed their lessons in Texas hold’em and where to eat good Tex-Mex food (Trudy’s) or barbecue meat (The Salt Lick) – fortunately one can remember tastes as well as images!

During the last two years, my pupils at the gymnasium department of OSG West Friesland kept me down to earth and never ceased to remind me that I should keep my explanations as clear and simple as possible: they thought it was cool I was writing a book ‘and stuff’, but could I please just explain the difference between the perfect and imperfect in one sentence. I want to thank them, and my colleagues at school. I am grateful that they treated my academic work as a genuine other job and respected the time slots in the week that I needed to spent on it.

When I worked on this project, and, of course, many years before, my parents and my sister Annemieke supported me in many ways: by taking me shopping and helping me redecorate a new house, but also by listening to complaints and by enduring utter grumpiness. By being there, basically. This also holds for Matthijs, whom I met at the very beginning of this job. Now that the book is finished, I would like to say to him: let’s live happily ever after!