

## Foreword

Several years ago, I came to the Institute of Phonetic Sciences of the University of Amsterdam to apply for a job with only a vague idea about phonetics and its relation to speech. Since then, numerous people have helped me in many different ways to understand phonetics, to perform experiments, to write comprehensible papers, and to complete this thesis. I hope that this book will do justice to their efforts and that they will consider their time well spent.

At this point it is good custom to thank the one who generally shares much of the burden but none of the credit. Sylvia, without you, this would only have been half the book it is now.