

Introduction To Natural Language Semantics

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natural language semantics discusses fundamental concepts for linguistic semantics this book combines theoretical explanations of several methods of inquiry with detailed semantic analysis and emphasises the philosophy that semantics is about meaning in human languages and that linguistic meaning is

cognitively and functionally motivated

the idea that prompted the conference for which many of these papers were written and that inspired this book is stated in the editorial introduction reprinted below from volume 21 of *Synthese* the present volume contains the articles in *Synthese* 21 numbers 3 4 and *Synthese* 22 numbers 1 2 in addition it includes new papers by Saul Kripke James McCawley John R. Ross and Paul Ziff and reprints grammar and philosophy by P. F. Strawson Strawson's article first appeared in the proceedings of the Aristotelian Society volume 70 and is reprinted with the kind permission of the author and the Aristotelian Society we also repeat our thanks to the Olivetti Company and Edizione di Comunità of Milan for permission to include the paper by Dana Scott it also appeared in *Synthese* 21 Donald Davidson Gilbert Harman editorial introduction the success of linguistics in treating natural languages as formal syntactic systems has aroused the interest of a number of linguists in a parallel or related development of semantics for the most part quite independently many philosophers and logicians have recently been applying formal semantic methods to structures increasingly like natural languages while differences in training method and vocabulary tend to veil the fact philosophers and linguists are converging it seems on a common set of interrelated problems since philosophers and linguists are working on the same or very similar problems it would obviously be instructive to compare notes

this volume LNCS 14213 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 19th international conference *LNLS 2019* held in November 2022 in Tokyo Japan the 13 full papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 34 submissions the conference focuses on theoretical and computational linguistics covering topics ranging from syntax semantics and pragmatics to the philosophy of language and natural language processing

an introduction to natural language semantics that offers an overview of the empirical domain and an explanation of the mathematical concepts that underpin the discipline this textbook offers a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of those approaches to natural language semantics that use the insights of logic many other texts on the subject focus on presenting a particular theory of natural language semantics this text instead offers an overview of the empirical domain drawn largely from standard descriptive grammars of English as well as the mathematical tools that are applied to it readers are shown where the concepts of logic apply where they fail to apply and where they might apply if suitably adjusted the presentation of logic is completely self-contained with concepts of logic used in the book presented in all the necessary detail this includes propositional logic first order predicate logic generalized quantifier

theory and the lambek and lambda calculi the chapters on logic are paired with chapters on english grammar for example the chapter on propositional logic is paired with a chapter on the grammar of coordination and subordination of english clauses the chapter on predicate logic is paired with a chapter on the grammar of simple independent english clauses and so on the book includes more than five hundred exercises not only for the mathematical concepts introduced but also for their application to the analysis of natural language the latter exercises include some aimed at helping the reader to understand how to formulate and test hypotheses

a volume of studies in natural language semantics which brings together work by philosophers logicians and linguists the main topics treated are quantification and reference in natural language the relations between formal logic programming languages and natural language pragmatics and discourse meaning surface syntax and logical meaning the volume derives from a colloquium organised in 1973 by the kings college research centre cambridge and the papers have been edited for publication by professor keenan it is hoped that the collection will make available some of the best work in this fast moving field and will stimulate further progress by juxtaposing the different approaches and interests represented here

this successor to language meaning and context provides an invaluable introduction to linguistic semantics

this introduction examines the semantics of natural languages

selection of papers from the first international conference in contrastive semantics and pragmatics held at the university of brighton from 6 to 9 april 1995

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