
Contents

Preface x

Acknowledgements xvi

List of Semantic Elements and Other Symbols xvii

Chapter 1 On Entering the Realms 1

Limits of study, basic notions (referent, meaning, content, concept, proposition). Relations with linguistics, human sciences and humanity.

Chapter 2 Markedness and Blocking 20

Marked situations, marked adjectives, stress and presupposition. The lexicon and its hierarchy. Lexical blocking.

Chapter 3 Opposites and Negatives 40

Kinds of opposites, negative prefixes, double negatives, logical negation, and more presuppositions.

Chapter 4 Deixis 61

Deictic words in Japanese, Spanish and English, semantic atoms and how different languages use the same elements in different combinations.

Chapter 5 Orientations 77

Orientations: towards speaker, towards subject, towards other things; *please* and politeness.

Chapter 6 Modal Verbs 95

The modal verbs of English, logical modality, epistemic – deontic – capacity – other.

Chapter 7 Time: Tense and Aspect 119

Difference between simple past and present perfect. Tense and aspectual auxiliaries in SER terms, extended for beginning and end of event.

Chapter 8 Limits to Events 139

Progressive and volitionality. Aspect in English verbs (punctive, durative, stative, achievement, activity, accomplishment) in extended SER terms. Adverbial phrases expressing limits.

Chapter 9 Prepositions 159

Locative and temporal prepositions of English and other languages, stress placement in written English.

Chapter 10 Reference and Predication 180

Referring expressions, nominals, names, denotation, singular reference, predicating elements (transitive and intransitive), attributive elements.

Chapter 11 Words to Sentences 203

Semantic structure of simple and more complex propositions, the notion of (complete) sentences, semantics of *to be*, graphic and predicate calculus notations, performatives.

Chapter 12 Word Meanings 226

Cross-classifying vocabulary in nouns, kinship terminology, central to peripheral vocabulary. Enchoative, causative and verb meanings.

Chapter 13 Combining Sentences 249

Ambiguity and how it is avoided in speech and in writing, clarity, how semantics works in the paragraph, and what a paragraph is.

Chapter 14 Meaning and Context 273

Pragmatics; conversational maxims, illocutionary potential, speech acts, performatives, conversational implicatures, background knowledge, frames, reinterpretation.

Chapter 15 Afterwords 293

Pasigraphy, writing by meaning. Notable theories of meaning and what is meaning, after all?

Answers to Exercises 313

Word/Topic Index 337