Contents

Part I. Meaning, History and Culture

1. English as a Cultural Universe	3
1.1. English—the most widely used language in the world	3
1.2. English and Englishes	5
1.3. An illustration: Words, scripts, and human lives	7
1.4. "Anglo English" as a historical formation	9
1.5. The tendency to mistake "Anglo English" for the human norm	11
1.6. The cultural underpinnings of (Anglo) English	13
1.7. A framework for studying and describing meaning	16
2. Anglo Cultural Scripts Seen through	
Middle Eastern Eyes	20
2.1. Linguistics and intercultural eCommunication	20
2.2. The theory of cultural scripts	22
2.3. The Anglo ideal of "accuracy" and the practice	
of "understatement"	25
2.4. "To the best of my knowledge"	35
2.5. Anglo respect for "facts"	41
2.6. "Cool reason": to think vs. to feel	46
2.7. To compel or not to compel? The value of autonomy	50
2.8. Conclusion	56
Part II. English Words: From Philosophy to Everyday Discourse	
3. The Story of RIGHT and WRONG and Its Cultural Implications	61
3.1. Introduction	61
3.2. "Right" and "wrong": A basis for ethics?	64

	3.3. The link between "right" and "reason"	70
	3.4. "That's right"	74
	3.5. An illustration: English vs. Italian	76
	3.6. "Right" as a neutral ground between "good" and "true"	78
	3.7. Procedural morality	80
	3.8. "Right" and "wrong": Increasingly asymmetrical	82
	3.9. The changing frequencies of true, truth, right, and wrong	85
	3.10. "Right" as a response in dialogue	87
	3.11. "Right" and cultural scripts	92
	3.12. Retrospect and conclusion: The Puritans, the Enlightenment,	
	the growth of democracy	95
	Being REASONABLE: A Key Anglo Value and	
4.	Its Cultural Roots	103
	its Cultural Roots	103
	4.1. Introduction	103
	4.2. The pre-Enlightenment uses of "reasonable"	104
	4.3. The main themes in the modern meanings	
	of the word reasonable	105
	4.4. "A reasonable man"	107
	4.5. "It is reasonable to" think (say, do)	112
	4.6. "Reasonable doubt"	117
	4.7. "Reasonable force" and "reasonable care"	123
	4.8. "A reasonable time," "A reasonable amount"	125
	4.9. "Reasonable" as "reasonably good"	127
	4.10. "Reasonable" and "unreasonable"	128
	4.11. An internal reconstruction of the semantic history	
	of "reasonable"	133
	4.12. "Reasonable" and Anglo cultural scripts	135
	4.13. Is the Anglo value of "reasonable" unique? English vs. French	138
_	Reing FAID: Another Voy Anala Value and	
۶.	Being FAIR: Another Key Anglo Value and	1.41
	Its Cultural Underpinnings	141
	5.1. The importance of "fairness" in modern Anglo culture	141
	5.2. The meaning of fair and not fair	144
	5.3. "Fairness" and Anglo political philosophy	152
	5.4. "Fairness" vs. "justice"	155
	5.5. The illusion of universality	160
	5.6. "Fairness" and "fair play": A historical perspective	163
	5.7. "Fairness" and "procedural morality"	165
P	art III. Anglo Culture Reflected in English Grammar	
	The English Causatives: Causation and Interpersonal Relations	171
	6.1. The cultural elaboration of causation	171
	6.2. The English "let"-constructions and the cultural ideal of "noninterference"	183

7. I THINK: The Rise of Epistemic Phrases in Modern English	204
7.1. Introduction	204
7.2. I think	208
7.3. I suppose	208
7.4. I guess	209
7.5. I gather	210
7.6. I presume	212
7.7. I believe	213
7.8. I find	220
7.9. I expect	226
7.10. I take It	230
7.11. I understand	233
7.12. I imagine	235
7.13. I bet	236
7.14. I suspect	237
7.15. I assume	239
7.16. Conclusion	241
8. PROBABLY: English Epistemic Adverbs and	
Their Cultural Significance	24 7
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
8.1. Introduction	24 7
8.2. Developing a format for the semantic analysis	
of epistemic adverbs	257
8.3. "Probably" and "likely": The heart of the category	
of epistemic adverbs	261
8.4. "Confident" adverbs: Evidently, clearly, obviously	270
8.5. "Nonconfident" adverbs: Possibly and conceivably	276
8.6. Hearsay adverbs: Apparently, supposedly, allegedly,	0
and reportedly	278
8.7. The "uncertain" status of certainly	284
8.8. Epistemic adverbs vs. discourse particles	287
8.9. The history of epistemic adverbs in modern english	291
D + B7 C = 1 - 1 - 1	
Part IV. Conclusion	
9. The "Cultural Baggage" of English and Its Significance	
in the World at Large	299
9.1. The legacy of history	299
9.2. Living with concepts	300
9.3. Two illustrations: International law and international aviation	301
9.4. Communication and "vibes"	305
9.5. Intercultural communication and cross-cultural education	308
9.6. English in the world today	310
Notes	315
References	325
Index	341
	<i>)</i>