Preface	vii
Symbols and technical conventions	xv
INTRODUCTION	
1 The linguistic study of discourse	
1 Aims and problems	1
2 The organization of this study	8
3 The study of discourse	11
PART I SEMANTICS	
2 A brief introduction to formal semant	ics
1 Formal languages	19
2 Truth-functional semantics	21
3 Predicate logic and its semantics	23
4 Modal logics and their semantics	27
5 Extension and intension	33
6 Formal semantics and natural language	37
3 Connection and connectives	
1 Connection	43
1.1 Aims and problems of discourse semantics	43
1.2 Conditions of semantic connection	45
2 Connectives	52
2.1 Connectives in natural language	52
2.2 Natural and logical connectives	53
2.3 Conjunction	58

xii CONTENTS

	2.4 Disjunction	63
	2.5 Conditionals	67
	2.6 Contrastives	81
	2.7 Connectives combined	82
	2.8 Connected sequences	86
	2.9 Connection and connectives: conclusions	88
4	Coherence	
	1 Aims and problems	93
	2 The semantics of coherence	95
	3 Coherence analysis: some examples	98
	4 Fact ordering and sequence ordering	103
	5 Explicit and implicit information in discourse	108
	6 Topic, comment, focus, and their functions in discourse	114
5	Macro-structures	
	1 Introduction	130
	2 Topics of discourse	131
	3 Macro-operations and semantic information reduction	143
	4 Macro-structures and the conditions of	
	connection and coherence	148
	5 Linguistic evidence for macro-structures	149
	6 Macro-structures and discourse types	153
	7 The cognitive basis of macro-structures	155
P.	ART II PRAGMATICS	
6	Some notions from the theory of action	
	1 Introduction	167
	2 Events, actions, processes	168
	3 Doings, acts, actions	172
	4 Mental structures of action	178
	5 Negative action	181 182
	6 Interpretations and descriptions of action	184
	7 Action logic	185
	8 Interaction	183
7	Contexts and speech acts	0
	1 The aims of pragmatics	189
	2 The structure of context	191
	3 Acts of language	195

xiii
205
206
210
213
218
223
228
232
233
238
243
249
257