Contents

Acknowledgements vii

1 A Roadmap to *Roget's Thesaurus* 1

2 *Roget's Thesaurus*, Deconstructed 8
2.1 Four assertions 8
2.2 The first and third assertions 9
2.3 The second and third assertions 14
2.4 The fourth assertion 17
2.5 The new text genre of synonym definition 19

3 *Roget's Thesaurus*, 1852 to 2002 22
3.1 Old and new: the macrostructure 22
3.2 Old and new: the microstructure and pragmatic structures 26
3.3 Old and new: *horse* 28
3.4 New into old: *photo* 33
3.5 Old: the introduction 35

4 Three Words from the *Thesaurus: Negro*, *Sex*, and *Tolerance* 37
4.1 Interest of topic 37
4.2 *Negress, Negro* 39
4.3 *Sex* 45
4.4 *Tolerance, toleration* 53
4.5 Conclusion 58

5 Roget in Germany: The Adaptation of the *Thesaurus* (1852) in Daniel Sanders' *Sprachschatz* (1873) 60
5.1 *Roget's Thesaurus* in Germany 60
5.2 The structure of *Roget's Thesaurus* 61
5.3 Daniel Sanders as lexicographer 63
5.4 Identical structures 65
5.5 Some divergent structures 67

6 Roget in the Romance World: Théodore Robertson's Translation of *Roget's Thesaurus* (1852) into French as *Le Dictionnaire Idéologique* (1859) 76
6.1 The teacher of modern languages 76
6.2 The semantic order of words 79
6.3 Comparing Roget and Robertson: introduction and macrostructure 84
6.4 Comparing Roget and Robertson: entry article 566 86
6.5 Detailed comparisons 89

7 Wilkins and Roget Meet. An Experiment in Thought 92
7.1 Structures of thesauri 92
7.2 John Wilkins' *Essay* (1668), chap. XI, genus XXXVI, Civil Relation II, *profession* or *vocation* 96
7.3 *Roget's Thesaurus* (2002), entry article 687 103

8 On Background Knowledge and Seriality 108
8.1 On background knowledge 108
8.2 A typology of seriality 111
8.3 The undergrowth 120

9 The Didactic Potential of Thesauri 122
9.1 Retrieval techniques 122
9.2 Thesaurus structure and word meanings 129
9.2.1 The macrostructure explicitly given 129
9.2.2 Pragmatic structures implied 132
9.2.2.1 Headword index 132
9.2.2.2 Entry articles 135
9.3 The essential gain 140

10 A Cognitive View of Synonymy 144
10.1 The cognitive groundwork 145
10.1.1 Linguistic competence as semiotic competence 145
10.1.2 Linguistic competence as communicative competence 151
10.1.3 The identification of meaning(s) 154
10.2 Meaning as construal 163
10.2.1 Componential aspects of meaning 163
10.2.2 Semantic malleability 166
10.3 On synonymy 174
10.3.1 Similarity and synonymy 174
10.3.2 Fields and frames 180
10.3.3 Antonyms 182
10.4 Synonyms and antonyms in texts 186
10.5 Dictionaries and thesauri 192

Bibliography 199
Index 209