Contents

	Preface	v
PA	RT 1	
AN	OUTLINE OF A SEMANTIC THEORY	
1	First principles	3
1. I	Preliminary remarks	3
I .2	What semantics is about	5 6
I. 3	Basic semantic concepts	
I. 4	The empirical ground of semantics	8
1 .5	Basic statements	11
1. 6	Competence and performance	12
1 .7	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	13
1.8	Analyticity/syntheticity and related distinctions	14
1 .9	Summary	17
2 1	The semantics of system and structure	19
2.1	System-and-structure theory	19
2. 2	Systemic analysis (componential analysis)	20
2 .3	Structural analysis	22
2.4	The marriage of systemic and structural analysis	23
2.5		25
	2.5.1 Rank-shift	26
	2.5.2 Downgrading	26

2 .6	Autonomy of levels	28
2 .0 2 .7	Rules of expression	31
2 .7 2 .8	Semantic categories and relations	34
2.0	2.8.1 Logical inclusion and exclusion	34
	2.8.2 Logical implication	35
	2.8.3 Logical inconsistency	38
	2.8.4 Tautologies	39
	2.8.5 Contradictions	40
2.9		40
	Justifying semantic analyses: an example	41
3 F	ormators	44
• •		
3.1	Some formators	44
	3.1.1 The negative formator 'not' (\sim)	45
	3.1.2 The conditional formator 'if' $(\rightarrow \supset)$	45
	3.1.3 Other formators	45
	3.1.4 How many formators are there?	45
3.2	Attribution: the formator system $\leq \beta$	46
3 ·3	The definite formator 'the' (θ)	47
3.4	Metalinguistic clusters	50
3 .5	Quantification	51
3 .6	The concept of "becoming"	57
4 5	Some extensions of the theory	60
4 .1	Semantic well-formedness	60
	4.1.1 Logical properties of relative systems	61
	4.1.2 Contextual properties of relative systems	62
	4.1.3 Nonsensical questions and commands	66
4.2	One-place and many-place predicates	66
	4.2.1 One-place predicates	67
	4.2.2 Many-place predicates	69
4 ·3	Formal rules of synonymy	71
	4.3.1 Rule of co-reference	72
	4.3.2 Rule of negated negation	72
	4.3.3 Rule of subordination	72
	4.3.4 First rule of attribution	72
	4.3.5 Second rule of attribution	73
4 ·4	Substantive rules of synonymy	75 76

х

CONTENTS		xi
5 -	The limits of semantics	80
5.I	Semantics and grammar	80
5.2	Semantics and context	83
5.3	Semantics and questions of fact or belief	85
5.4	Literal and transferred meaning	89

PART 2

ON THE SEMANTICS OF ENGLISH

6	Preliminaries to semantic description	97
6 .1	Semantic structure and clause structure	97
6.2	The semantics of adverbials	99
6.3	"General taxonomy"	103
Ū	6.3.1 System of 'concrete'/'abstract'	103
	6.3.2 System of countability	104
6 .4	Presentation of descriptive analyses	105

7 Time

108

7. 1	"Time when"	108
	7.1.1 Precedence in time	110
	7.1.2 Units of calendar time	113
	7.1.3 Calendar "addresses"	119
	7.1.4 Deictic definiteness of calendar meanings	120
	7.1.5 Generic definiteness of calendar meanings	122
7.2	The pluralisation of time segments	123
	7.2.1 Number of times	123
	7.2.2 Pluralisation of events	125
	7.2.3 Frequency	126
	7.2.4 Difficulties of interpretation	128
7 ·3	Duration	129
	7.3.1 'For six weeks', etc	129
	7.3.2 'While'	131
	7.3.3 'Since' and 'until'	132
7 ·4	The meaning of the tenses	1 34
	7.4.1 Event predications and state predications	134
	7.4.2 The present tense	137
	7.4.3 Past tense	142

202

	7.4.4 Time sequence	144
	7.4.5 Other tense forms	146
	7.4.6 Summary and conclusion	147
7.5	Continuous tense forms	148
7.6		152
/	7.6.1 Duration of state up to the present moment	153
	7.6.2 Duration of habit up to the present moment	154
	7.6.3 Indefinite past	155
	7.6.4 The resultative use of the perfective	157
8 F	Place	159
8.1	Position and "dimensionality"	159
	8.1.1 'At', 'on', and 'in'	161
	8.1.2 'Away from', 'off', 'out of'	163
8.2		164
	8.2.1 'With'	165
	8.2.2 'By'	166
	8.2.3 Vertical and horizontal relations	167
8.3	Extremities and parts of locations	173
	8.3.1 Extremities: 'side', 'top', etc	175
	8.3.2 Parts: 'side', 'top', etc	176
•	Compass points	178
8.5	Orientation	180
	8.5.1 Point of orientation and point of observation	180
	8.5.2 'Across' and 'through'	183
	8.5.3 'Past', 'over', and 'under'	186
•	8.5.4 'Towards'	186
8 .6		188
8.7		190
	8.7.1 'To', 'on to', and 'into'	191
	8.7.2 'From', 'off', and 'out of'	194
00	8.7.3 The dynamic use of other prepositions	195
8 .8		198
	8.8.1 Resultative position	198
	8.8.2 'Go' and 'stay'	200

9 Modality

9.1	Some meanings of some modal auxiliaries	202
-----	---	-----

cor	NTENTS	xiii
0.2	Agency and authority	
9.2		205
	9.2.1 Causation	207
	9.2.2 Actuality	208
	9.2.3 Constraint	211
	9.2.4 Authority	212
9 .3	Volition	214
9 .4	Possibility and (logical) necessity	217
	9.4.1 'Ought to'	220
	9.4.2 'Can', 'may', 'have to', and 'must'	220
	9.4.3 'Can' in the sense of 'ability'	222
	9.4.4 'Possibly' and 'perhaps'	224
	9.4.5 Probability	224
9 .5	Involvement of speaker and listener	225
	9.5.1 'Shall' and 'will'	225
	9.5.2 'May' and 'must'	227
	9.5.3 Questions: involvement of the listener	229
9 .6	Negative forms of modal auxiliaries	229
9 ·7	The hypothetical use of modal auxiliaries	232
	9.7.1 The hypothetical formator $(-\psi)$	233
	9.7.2 Hypothetical permission	234
	9.7.3 Hypothetical volition	236
	9.7.4 Hypothetical possibility	236
	····	•

10 Retrospect and prospect

Bibliography

f the semantic theory 243

Glossary of technical terms of the semantic theory	249
Summary of notation	255
List of formator and system symbols	259
Notes to chapters	263