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New in the Synthese Language Library

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by Victor Raskin, *Purdue University, Indiana*

1985, 304 pp.

paper $24.00 ISBN 90-277-1891-1
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As the first ever book-length study of the linguistics of humor, this work represents an attempt to apply formal methods of contemporary semantics to verbal humor.

The linguistic material exposed in the first part of the book is an original semantic theory — script-based semantics — and has thus far been available in short articles only. In the second part of the book, the script-based semantic theory is applied to three specific types of verval humor: sexual humor, ethnic humor, and political humor.

Boolean Semantics for Natural Language

by **Edward L. Keenan,** *University of California at Los Angeles,* and **Leonard M. Faltz,** *Arizona State University*

1985, 400 pp.

paper $24.50 ISBN 90-277-1842-3
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Within the tradition of model-theoretic possible world semantics, the use of Boolean algebraic structure in the models allows direct interpretation of a language whose syntax approximates well that of a natural language. The system presented here covers a more extensive fragment of English than other comparable approaches. The authors propose a systematic treatment of adjective subclasses and of subclasses of prepositional phrases, a novel treatment of passives (including agent phrases), and a general approach to predicatives which includes relational nouns (*friend of*), adjectives with complements (*fond of*), and prepositions, as well as verbs.

The Semantic Variability of Absolute Constructions

by **Gregory T. Stump,** *University of Kentucky*

1985, 424 pp.

paper $24.00 ISBN 90-277-1896-2
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As has been widely observed in traditional grammatical studies of English, the logical role played by an absolute construction within its sentence is highly variable, ranging from temporal to conditional to causal, among other possibilities.

In this book, the reasons for this variability are investigated. The author argues that the logical relation between an absolute construction and the clause which it modifies may depend on a variety of factors — that this relation is, in some cases, determined by the semantic properties of an overt operator appearing in the modified clause, but must, in other cases, simply be inferred.

NOW IN PAPERBACK

Quantification and Syntactic Theory

by **Robin Cooper,** *University of Wisconsin, Madison*

1984, 227 pp.

paper $19.50 ISBN 90-277-1892-X
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This book attempts to give a model-theoretic account for the semantics of quantification in natural language without either adjusting the syntactic analysis to accommodate the semantics, or introducing a logical language of translation. It takes as a starting point Richard Montague's analysis of noun-phrases, and then presents a method of treating quantifier scope ambiguities (called quantifier storage), which does not involve the kind of syntactic representation of scope which is to be found, for example, in generative semantics or developments from the Extended Standard Theory, as well as Montague Grammar.



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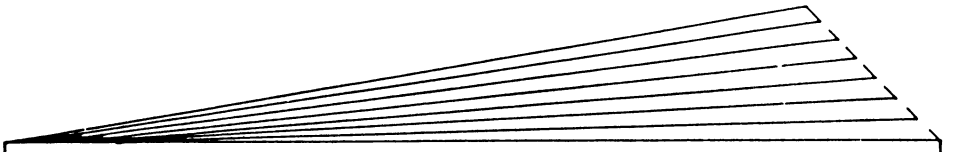
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Nico Willems 216 pp.
Bnd. Dfl. 58,50/US $23.40 ISBN 90 70176 73 4
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This book contains a contrastive study of formal characteristics of (some) Dutch and British English pitch movements and intonation patterns. In contrast to classical impressionistic studies on British English intonation, this research employs an analysis-by-synthesis method in which the natural, complex pitch movements are replaced, through resynthesis, by melodically equivalent but highly simplified straight line approximations. Using the same experimental methodology and descriptive apparatus, the author develops specifications of British English pitch movements and establishes differences between the Dutch and English intonation systems.
The study is of interest for phoneticians, applied linguists and teachers of English as a foreign language.

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   The Search for Voices from the Kitchens and Classrooms of Brooklyn through the Anglo-Irish Literature of the Abbey Theatre

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BOOK NOTICES IN THIS ISSUE

Rosier: La grammaire spéculative des Modistes ..... *M. A. Covington* 212
Pedersen: A glance at the history of linguistics ..... *D. Bates* 212
Christy: Uniformitarianism in linguistics ..... *I. Rauch* 212
Szemerényi: Richtungen der modernen Sprachwissenschaft, II ..... *P. Swiggers* 213
Zwirner & Zwirner: Grundfragen der phonometrischen Linguistik ..... *B. J. Koekkoek* 214
Pike: Linguistic concepts ..... *M. L. Bender* 214
Besch et al. (ed.): Dialektologie I:2 ..... *J. Leopold* 215
Bammesberger (ed.): Das etymologische Wörterbuch ..... *L. Zgusta* 215
Schofield & Nussbaum (eds.): Language and logos ..... *M. Amsler* 217
Brixhe: Essai sur le grec anatolien au début de notre ère ..... *L. Zgusta* 217
Granger: The *be* + *past participle* construction in spoken English ..... *D. J. Napoli* 218
Oomen: Die englische Sprache in den USA ..... *D. Stark* 219
Peters & Swan: American English ..... *T. C. Frazer* 220
Olofsson: Relative junctions in written American English ..... *M. Celce-Murcia* 220
Schrodt: System und Norm in der Diachronie des deutschen Konjunktivs ..... *T. A. Lovik* 221
Snell-Hornby: Verb-descriptivity in German and English ..... *B. J. Koekkoek* 222
Kranzmayer: Laut- und Flexionslehre der deutschen zimbrischen Mundart ..... *G. A. Henrotte* 222
Gregor: Genuszuordnung ..... *D. Stark* 223
Schneider: Probensprache der Oper ..... *H. Penzl* 224
Melis: Les circonstants et la phrase ..... *P. Swiggers* 225
Garde (ed.): III^{e} Colloque de Linguistique Russe ..... *E. Klenin* 226
Nawata: Parachi ..... *B. Comrie* 226
Datta: A linguistic study of personal names and surnames in Bengali ..... *M. L. Apte* 227
Nebes: Funktionsanalyse von *kana yafᶜalu* ..... *J. Heath* 228
Kharma: A conceptive analysis of the use of verb forms in English and Arabic ..... *H. Gaballa* 229
Rafferty: Discourse structures of the Chinese Indonesian of Malang ..... *S. Cumming* 230
Geraghty: The history of the Fijian languages ..... *N. Besnier* 231
Hawkins: Hawaiian sentence structures ..... *P. Munro* 231
Wise & Boonstra (eds.): Conjunciones y otros nexos en tres idiomas amazónicos ..... *W. Frawley* 232
Tobler: The grammar of Karipúna Creole ..... *C. Corne* 233
Desse: Thought into speech ..... *T. C. Christy* 234
Solan: Pronominal reference ..... *R. J. Bogue* 235
Peters: The units of language acquisition ..... *W. Frawley* 235
Kroll & Wells (eds.): Explorations in the development of writing ..... *W. Frawley* 236
Martlew (ed.): The psychology of written language ..... *W. Frawley* 237
Miño-Garcés: Early reading acquisition ..... *D. Biber* 239
Diller (ed.): Individual differences & universals in language learning aptitude ..... *B. Saint-Jacques* 239
Palmer et al. (eds.): The construct validation of tests of communicative competence ..... *D. Biber* 240
Bailey: On the yin and yang nature of language ..... *J. P. Stemberger* 241
Žuravlev: Vnešnie i vnutrennie faktory jazykovoj èvolucii ..... *H. Birnbaum* 242
Wardhaugh: Language & nationhood ..... *T. C. Frazer* 243
Veltman: Language shift in the United States ..... *T. C. Frazer* 243
Taeschner: The sun is feminine ..... *S. Gal* 244
Prince: Narratology ..... *M. L. Apte* 245
Gladkij & Mel'čuk: Elements of mathematical linguistics ..... *W. Frawley* 246
Horecký (ed.): COLING 82 ..... *W. Frawley* 247
Sedelow & Sedelow (eds.): Computers in language research, 2 ..... *M. A. Covington* 248
Sparck Jones & Wilks (eds.): Automatic natural language parsing ..... *M. A. Covington* 248

LANGUAGE, volume 61, number 1 (1985)

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