In recent years, the study of formal semantics and formal pragmatics has grown tremendously showing that core aspects of language meaning can be explained by a few principles. These principles are grounded in the logic that is behind – and tightly intertwined with – the grammar of human language. In this book, some of the most prominent figures in linguistics, including Noam Chomsky and Barbara H. Partee, offer new insights into the nature of linguistic meaning and pave the way for the further development of formal semantics and formal pragmatics. Each chapter investigates various dimensions in which the logical nature of human language manifests itself within a language and/or across languages. Phenomena like bare plurals, free choice items, scalar implicatures, intervention effects, and logical operators are investigated in depth and at times cross-linguistically and/or experimentally. This volume will be of interest to scholars working within the fields of semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, and psycholinguistics.

Ivano Caponigro is an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, San Diego.

Carlo Cecchetto is a Full Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Milan-Bicocca.
From Grammar to Meaning

*The Spontaneous Logicality of Language*

*Edited by*

Ivano Caponigro  
*University of California, San Diego*

Carlo Cecchetto  
*University of Milan-Bicocca*
Studies offered to Gennaro Chierchia
Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-03310-8 - From Grammar to Meaning: The Spontaneous Logicality of Language
Edited by Ivano Caponigro and Carlo Cecchetto
Frontmatter
More information
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of contributors</th>
<th>page  ix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of abbreviations</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Introduction**  
**IVANO CAPONIGRO AND CARLO CECCHETTO**

**Part I  From grammar to meaning: foundational issues**

**BARBARA H. PARTEE**

2. Notes on denotation and denoting  
**NOAM CHOMSKY**

**Part II  From grammar to meaning: formal developments, new findings, and challenges**

3. On the existential force of bare plurals across languages  
**VENEETA DAYAL**

4. Broaden your views, but try to stay focused: a missing piece in the polarity system  
**ANAMARIA FĂLĂUŞ**

5. On the free choice potential of epistemic and deontic modals  
**MARIA ALONI AND MICHAEL FRANKE**

6. Implicatures of modified numerals  
**CLEMENS MAYR**

7. A scalar semantics for scalar readings of number words  
**CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY**

© in this web service Cambridge University Press  
www.cambridge.org
viii Contents

8 Presupposition projection from quantificational sentences: trivalence, local accommodation, and presupposition strengthening
DANNY FOX 201

Part III From grammar to meaning: experimental insights 233

9 Unification in child language
STEPHEN CRAIN AND ROSALIND THORNTON 235

10 Acquisition meets comparison: an investigation of gradable adjectives
FRANCESCA PANZERI, FRANCESCA FOPPOLO, AND MARIA TERESA GUASTI 266

11 Intervention in grammar and processing
ADRIANA BELLETTI AND LUIGI RIZZI 294

Appendix A Gennaro Chierchia’s list of publications 312
Appendix B “Logic and Linguistics: A Marriage of Inconvenience” 318
References 332
Index of names 356
Index of subjects 361
Contributors

Maria Aloni  
ILLC/Department of Philosophy  
University of Amsterdam

Adriana Belletti  
University of Siena

Ivano Caponigro  
Department of Linguistics  
University of California, San Diego

Carlo Cecchetto  
Department of Psychology  
University of Milan-Bicocca

Noam Chomsky  
Department of Linguistics and Philosophy  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Stephen Crain  
Department of Linguistics and ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders  
Macquarie University

Veneeta Dayal  
Department of Linguistics  
Rutgers University

Anamaria Fălăuş  
Department of Linguistics and Basque Studies  
University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU)  
and Linguistics Laboratory of Nantes (LLING)
List of contributors

FRANCESCA FOPPOLO
Department of Psychology
University of Milan-Bicocca

DANNY FOX
Department of Linguistics
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

MICHAEL FRANKE
ILLC/Department of Philosophy
University of Amsterdam

MARIA TERESA GUASTI
Department of Psychology
University of Milan-Bicocca

CHRISTOPHER KENNEDY
Department of Linguistics
University of Chicago

CLEMENS MAYR
Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft
Center for General Linguistics
Berlin

FRANCESCA PANZERI
Department of Psychology
University of Milan-Bicocca

BARBARA H. PARTEE
Department of Linguistics
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

LUIGI RIZZI
University of Siena

ROSALIND THORNTON
Department of Linguistics and ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders
Macquarie University
Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our authors and reviewers for their willingness to help us in preparing the book, their extremely valuable feedback, and their cooperation with our strict time line. Our reviewers are: Flavia Adani, Maria Aloni, David Barner, Gregory Carlson, Jonathan Cohen, Luka Ćrnč, Veneeta Dayal, Edit Doron, Anamaria Fălăuş, Francesca Foppolo, Jon Gajewski, Maria Teresa Guasti, Christopher Kennedy, Giorgio Magri, Clemens Mayr, Isa Orvieto, Daniele Panizza, Francesca Panzeri, Jacopo Romoli, Uli Sauerland, and Benjamin Spector.

Thanks to Helen Barton, Helena Dowson, and all the other members of the CUP editorial team who supported the idea of this book from the very beginning and who have always been willing and ready to help us with our many questions and issues.

Thanks to Patrick Munoz for his extremely valuable help with formatting and editing and with the preparation of the bibliography and the indices.

Thanks to Daniel B. Kane for helping with editing the book proposal and the introduction.

Special thanks to Barbara H. Partee for her excellent feedback on the introduction and for bringing the play *Logic and Linguistics: A Marriage of Inconvenience* to our attention.

Thanks to Kathleen Adamczyk for finding an actual copy of the play, and to Kathleen Adamczyk and Raymond Turner for permission to publish it in this book as an appendix.

Grazie di tutto cuore to Isa Orvieto for her enthusiastic support of our plans for this book and for helping us in many ways, including making sure the project was kept hidden from Gennaro and providing us with a picture of Gennaro in collaboration with Marco Santambrogio, who we thank as well.

Veneeta Dayal deserves our highest gratitude. She was an extremely valuable consultant throughout the entire project; she was very generous in sharing her knowledge and wisdom; and, among many other things, she provided invaluable meticulous feedback on the introduction. Dhanyavaad!
Abbreviations

1  first person
2  second person
3  third person
ACC  accusative
ASP  aspect
CL  clitic
CONN  connective
DECL  declarative
IMP  imperative
MASC  masculine
NEG  negative
NOM  nominative
PAST  past tense
PL  plural
PROG  progressive
REFL  reflexive
SG  singular
SUBJ  subjunctive
TOP  topic