

Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
1 Meaning and semantics	1
1.1 Levels of meaning	1
1.2 Sentence meaning and compositionality	7
1.3 Semantics: its scope and limits	14
Exercises	16
Further reading	17
2 Dimensions of meaning	18
2.1 Meanings are concepts	18
2.2 Descriptive meaning	21
2.3 Meaning and social interaction: the dimension of social meaning	28
2.4 Meaning and subjectivity: the dimension of expressive meaning	33
2.5 Connotations	36
2.6 Dimensions of meaning	37
Exercises	39
Further reading	40
3 Ambiguity	41
3.1 Lexemes	41
3.2 Lexical ambiguity	44
3.3 Compositional ambiguity	48
3.4 Contextual ambiguity	49
3.5 Meaning shifts and polysemy	57
Exercises	59
Further reading	60
4 Meaning and context	62
<i>Part 1: Deixis</i>	62
4.1 Person deixis	63
4.2 Demonstratives and place deixis	70
4.3 Time deixis	72
<i>Part 2: Determination</i>	74
4.4 Definiteness and indefiniteness	74
4.5 Quantification	83

4.6	Generic NPs	90
	<i>Part 3: Presuppositions</i>	94
4.7	Presuppositions	94
4.8	Summary	101
	Exercises	102
	Further reading	104
5	Predication	106
5.1	Predications contained in a sentence	106
5.2	Predicate terms and argument terms, predicates and arguments	108
5.3	Verbs	111
5.4	Nouns and adjectives	115
5.5	Predicate logic notation	120
5.6	Thematic roles	122
5.7	Selectional restrictions	125
5.8	Summary	130
	Exercises	131
	Further reading	133
6	Verbs	134
6.1	Argument structure, diatheses and alternations	135
6.2	Situation structure	140
6.3	Aspect	150
6.4	Tense	157
6.5	Selected tense and aspect systems	163
6.6	Concluding remark	164
	Exercises	165
	Further reading	166
7	Meaning and logic	167
7.1	Logical basics	167
7.2	Logical properties of sentences	172
7.3	Logical relations between sentences	175
7.4	Sentential logic	184
7.5	Logical relations between words	187
7.6	Logic and meaning	191
7.7	Classical logic and presuppositions	197
	Exercises	201
	Further reading	202
8	Meaning relations	203
8.1	Synonymy	203
8.2	Hyponymy	205
8.3	Oppositions	208
8.4	Lexical fields	215

Exercises	219
Further reading	220
9 Meaning components	221
9.1 The structuralist approach	223
9.2 Applying the structuralist approach to meaning	226
9.3 Semantic features	228
9.4 Semantic formulae	237
9.5 Semantic primes: Wierzbicka's Natural Semantic Metalanguage	242
9.6 Summary and evaluation of the approaches to decomposition	245
Exercises	246
Further reading	246
10 Meaning and language comparison	248
10.1 Translation problems	248
10.2 Headache, international	251
10.3 Relativism and universalism	256
10.4 Berlin and Kay's investigation of colour terms	258
10.5 Consequences	262
Exercises	263
Further reading	264
11 Meaning and cognition	265
11.1 Categories and concepts	266
11.2 Prototype theory	267
11.3 The hierarchical organization of categories	276
11.4 Challenges to prototype theory	279
11.5 Semantics and prototype theory	284
11.6 Semantic knowledge	292
11.7 Summary	298
Exercises	300
Further reading	300
12 Frames	301
12.1 Barsalou frames	301
12.2 Verbs and frames	311
12.3 Nouns and frames	313
12.4 Frames and composition	319
12.5 Frames and cognition	321
12.6 Conclusion	322
Exercises	323
Further reading	324
13 Formal semantics	325
13.1 Japanese numerals: a simple example of a compositional analysis	325

13.2 A small fragment of English	330
13.3 Model-theoretic semantics	342
13.4 Possible-world semantics	352
13.5 The scope and limits of possible-world semantics	358
Exercises	362
Further reading	363
References	364
Index	369