

PREFACE

The present five volumes of *Pragmatics: Critical Concepts, Second Series*, are related to the six volumes of *Pragmatics: Critical Concepts*, which appeared in 1998. However, they also differ in some important respects.

The volumes of the first series were meant to include around 100 book chapters and journal papers that constituted the most important contributions to modern Pragmatics during the twentieth century. They include 112 contributions written by philosophers, linguists, psychologists and sociologists, all interested in Pragmatics as a science of language use. Major parts of these volumes are devoted to the classical studies of speech act theory; particular speech acts and indirect speech acts; of reference and indexicals; presuppositions and implicatures; communication, discourse and talk in interaction; and the interfaces of Pragmatics with Grammar, Psychology and Sociology. For one to master a certain branch of Pragmatics, one ought to understand the contributions made in the relevant parts of these volumes, which serve as the foundations of that branch of the science of language use. The conceptual frameworks and major theories presented in these volumes continue to play a role in the current development of Pragmatics.

The present volumes serve another purpose. They do not consist of the classical contributions to Pragmatics, but rather of the most advanced contributions to it, made from since around 1995 until 2010. Whereas the former volumes could serve the novices of the study of Pragmatics or of a certain branch of it, the present volumes are intended to serve the more advanced participant in the study of language use or parts thereof.

Our collection of contributions for the present volumes reflects two policies. One, which was used in the collection for the first series of volumes, is related to our delineation of Pragmatics. Roughly speaking, there are two major ways do delineate the field, a broad one and a narrow one. According to the former, every type of language use is entitled to be studied under the title of Pragmatics. In a recent issue of one of the journals devoted to Pragmatics, I saw papers on 'playfulness in buying lottery tickets at convenience stores', 'metaphors and metonymies in *New York Times* and *Times Supplement* news headlines' and 'verbal assaults in Fuji music', among many others. These are excellent examples of the

broad delineation of Pragmatics. Our delineation is the narrow one. We are interested in studies of the competency of language use, in its conceptual elements and theoretical claims and in experimental investigations that cast light on conceptual frameworks and theoretical systems. Our focus is on the language use competency that we bring with us to every context of language use, rather than on the variety of such contexts. The 70 contributions included in the present collection advance our understanding of the language use competency in significant ways.

It has not been a simple task to opt for 70 contributions, given the explosion of what has been published under the title of Pragmatics since 1995. The first 2011 issue of *Journal of Pragmatics* includes more papers than those included in whole volumes of it decades ago. The journal now includes 15 issues per year and more than 3,000 pages per volume.

In creating my own list of the best of the best, I had the benefit of getting the advice of some of the leading scholars of Pragmatics: Kent Bach, Robert Harnish, Laurence R. Horn, Deirdre Wilson, as well as Chaoqun Xie. Their suggestions were extremely helpful, most illuminating and absolutely fair. I am grateful to each of them for her or his wonderful generosity. As editor, I do, indeed, shoulder responsibility to create a reasonable collection, and if some aspect of the present collection is taken by some reader to reflect a misjudgment, only I should be blamed for it.

An additional difference between the first series of *Pragmatics: Critical Concepts* and the present one has to do with yet another policy of narrow delineation. The present collection does not include papers or chapters related to each of the fundamental topics presented in the first series, though each of those topics has been discussed in the literature during the years since 1995. The present volumes include contributions to a certain, more restricted family of topics of two kinds. First, advanced studies of some fundamental topics; and second, interesting studies of new conceptual and theoretical dimensions, such as variations in time, space and culture. The families of these fundamental topics and new dimensions seem to us to be of highest significance. If their choice is going to be taken as reflecting the philosophical and scientific perspective of the present editor as well as his intellectual fascinations and personal taste, so be it.

We approached all the authors of the contributions to be included in the present volumes. All but one answered us at once, kindly and mostly enthusiastically, and we are grateful to each and every one of them. Then we approached all the publishers or institutions that hold the related rights. The publishers answered us and granted permissions for republication. Some institutions, usually university units, have not replied and we invite them to approach us at their convenience. This preface is followed by a list of the authors, their affiliations and addresses.

Although the present collection was meant to include contributions published since 1995, it includes additional items of three kinds. First, some papers that had been published earlier are here republished, because they seem to us to be of

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much importance. Second, some of the papers have not been previously published and we are very grateful to their authors for granting us permission to use their Manuscripts. Finally, there are 50 papers and chapters we could have included in a much larger collection. Since we are unable to do so, we included the list of these items at the end of the last volume, under the title 'Additional references'. The list mentions, in addition to these papers, 20-odd books devoted mainly to Pragmatics, in a sense similar enough to our own one, and the eight journals devoted to Pragmatics in one sense or another.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Ms Maria Barrow of Routledge for her constant help and encouragement. The present collection owes its existence to her as well.

Asa Kasher