



An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics

Friedrich Ungerer, Hans-Jorg Schmid

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Learning About Language is an exciting and ambitious series of introductions to fundamental topics in language, linguistics and related areas. The books are designed for students of linguistics and those who are studying language as part of a wider course.

Cognitive Linguistics explores the idea that language reflects our experience of the world. It shows that our ability to use language is closely related to other cognitive abilities such as categorization, perception, memory and attention allocation. Concepts and mental images expressed and evoked by linguistic means are linked by conceptual metaphors and metonymies and merged into more comprehensive cognitive and cultural models, frames or scenarios. It is only against this background that human communication makes sense. After 25 years of intensive research, cognitive-linguistic thinking now holds a firm place both in the wider linguistic and the cognitive-science communities.

An Introduction to Cognitive Linguistics carefully explains the central concepts of categorization, of prototype and gestalt perception, of basic level and conceptual hierarchies, of figure and ground, and of metaphor and metonymy, for which an innovative description is provided. It also brings together issues such as iconicity, lexical change, grammaticalization and language teaching that have profited considerably from being put on a cognitive basis.

The second edition of this popular introduction provides a comprehensive and accessible up-to-date overview of Cognitive Linguistics:

- Clarifies the basic notions supported by new evidence and examples for their application in language learning
- Discusses major recent developments in the field: the increasing attention paid to metonymies, Construction Grammar, Conceptual Blending and its role in online-processing.
- Explores links with neighbouring fields like Relevance Theory
- Uses many diagrams and illustrations to make the theoretical argument more tangible
- Includes extended exercises
- Provides substantial updated suggestions for further reading.

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