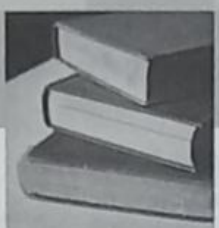
原版现代语言学丛书

SEMANTICS (Second Edition)

语义学（第二版）

Kate Kearns

上海外语教育出版社
外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS
www.sflep.com



原版现代语言学丛书

SEMANTICS (Second Edition)

语义学（第二版）

Kate Kearns

TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC CÔNG NGHIỆP HÀ NỘI
TRUNG TÂM THÔNG TIN THƯ VIỆN
02 07
01234

Người kiểm tra:
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC CÔNG NGHIỆP HÀ NỘI
TRUNG TÂM THÔNG TIN THƯ VIỆN

上海外语教育出版社
外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

图书在版编目（CIP）数据

语义学/凯特·卡恩斯（Kate Kearns）著. - 2版
—上海：上海外语教育出版社，2016
（原版现代语言学丛书）
ISBN 978-7-5446-4505-8

I. ①语… II. ①凯… III. ①语义学—英文 IV. ①H030

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字（2016）第218039号

图字：09-2015-1040号

© Kate Kearns 2000, 2011
First published in English by Palgrave Macmillan, a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited under the title *Semantics*. This edition has been reprinted under license from Palgrave Macmillan. The author has asserted her right to be identified as the author of this Work.
For copyright reasons this edition is not for sale outside of the mainland part of China.

本书由Palgrave Macmillan授权上海外语教育出版社有限公司出版。
仅供在中华人民共和国境内（香港、澳门、台湾除外）销售。

出版发行：上海外语教育出版社
（上海外国语大学内） 邮编：200083
电　　话：021-65425300（总机）
电子邮箱：bookinfo@sflep.com.cn
网　　址：http://www.sflep.com.cn http://www.sflep.com
责任编辑：张亚东

印　　刷：上海叶大印务发展有限公司
开　　本：700×1000 1/16 印张 18 字数 490千字
版　　次：2016年9月第1版 2016年9月第1次印刷
印　　数：2 100册

书　　号：ISBN 978-7-5446-4505-8 / H · 2064
定　　价：58.00元
本版图书如有印装质量问题，可向本社调换

出版说明

语言学研究是外教社学术出版的重要领域之一。外教社坚持原创与引进并举，近年来陆续引进出版了《语言与教育百科全书》（第2版）、《语言与语言学百科全书》（第2版）、“牛津应用语言学丛书”、“牛津语言学入门丛书”、“语用学研究前沿丛书”等国外语言学研究的一流成果，广受赞誉，为我国语言学的教学研究和改革提供了宝贵的启示。

为了帮助广大语言学初学者更好地掌握语言学的最新成果和研究热点，外教社特从Palgrave出版社遴选引进了这套权威、实用的“原版现代语言学丛书”，其中不少分册都是几经修订的最新版。

本套丛书对当代语言学和相关学科的基本知识做了全面简介，涉及语用学、语义学、音系学、句法理论、交际障碍等研究领域，语言简明，举例丰富，注重与学习者的互动，设置了练习题（部分含答案）、扩展阅读等辅助学习的内容。丛书既可作为语言学入门教材在高校课堂上使用，也可供感兴趣的读者自学阅读，具有很强的可读性和实用性。

相信本套丛书的引进将进一步满足广大语言学专业师生对权威、实用的语言学教材及课外阅读资料的需求，推动我国语言学教学和科研事业的长远发展。

Semantics

Second Edition

Kate Kearns

© Kate Kearns 2000, 2011

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, Saffron House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

Any person who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted her right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First edition published 2000
Second edition published 2011 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN

Palgrave Macmillan in the UK is an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Limited, registered in England, company number 785998, of Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS.

Palgrave Macmillan in the US is a division of St Martin's Press LLC, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010.

Palgrave Macmillan is the global academic imprint of the above companies and has companies and representatives throughout the world.

Palgrave® and Macmillan® are registered trademarks in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and other countries.

Contents

Acknowledgements viii
Preface to the First Edition ix
Preface to the Second Edition x

1 Introduction 1
1.1 Semantics and pragmatics 1
1.2 Kinds of meaning 2
1.2.1 Denotation and Sense 2
1.2.2 Lexical and structural meaning 3
1.2.3 Categorematic and syncategorematic expressions 5
1.3 Truth-conditional theories of meaning 6
1.3.1 Denotations 6
1.3.2 Possible worlds, extension and intension 8
1.3.3 Truth conditions 8
1.3.4 Truth-based relations between statements 11
1.4 Implicature 12
1.4.1 The Principle of Relevance 13
1.4.2 The Principle of Informativeness 13
1.5 Other contextual factors: indexicality and anaphors 16
1.6 Presupposition 17
Exercises 20
Further Reading 23

2 Basic Logical Tools 24
2.1 Representations for meanings 24
2.2 The logical connectives 25
2.2.1 Conjunction 25
2.2.2 Negation 27
2.2.3 Disjunction 28
2.2.4 The material implication connective 29
2.2.5 The biconditional connective 31
2.3 Predicates and arguments 32
2.3.1 Predicates, verbs and the number of arguments 35
2.3.2 Sentences as arguments 38
2.3.3 Path arguments 39
Exercises 40
Further Reading 44

3 The Logical Quantifiers 45
3.1 The universal quantifier 45

3.2 The existential quantifier 47
3.3 Intersective and non-intersective adjectives 48
3.4 The logical quantifiers are interdefinable 49
3.5 Scope and scopal ambiguity 50
3.5.1 Scope and tree diagrams 50
3.5.2 Scopal ambiguity 53
Exercises 55
Further Reading 56

4 Formal Composition 57
4.1 Types 57
4.2 Functions 57
4.3 Types of function 58
4.4 Lambda abstraction 62
4.5 Some general rules for semantic composition 66
4.6 Predicate variables 70
Summary of rules and definitions 74
Exercises 75
Further Reading 78

5 Modality and Possible Worlds 79
5.1 Kinds of modality 79
5.1.1 Logical modality 79
5.1.2 Epistemic modality 80
5.1.3 Deontic modality 82
5.2 Modality and possible worlds 82
5.2.1 Logical modality and possible worlds 83
5.2.2 Epistemic modality and possible worlds 83
5.2.3 Deontic modality and possible worlds 84
5.2.4 Interdefinability with negation 85
5.3 Counterfactuals 88
Exercises 92
Further Reading 93

6 Generalized Quantifiers 94
6.1 Quantification beyond first order logic 94
6.2 Generalized Quantifier Theory 96
6.3 Different types of quantifier determiner 99
6.3.1 Group 1 and Group 2 determiners 99
6.3.2 The ambiguity of *few* and *many* 100
6.3.3 *Few* and a *few* 102
6.3.4 *Some* and *several* 103
6.4 Restricted quantifier notation 103
6.5 Scopal ambiguity 105
6.6 Proportional determiners and discourse familiarity 106
6.7 Strong and weak determiners and *there BE* sentences 107
6.7.1 The definiteness effect 107
6.7.2 Types of *there BE* sentence 108

6.8 Determiner *the* and definite descriptions 111
6.8.1 Russell's Theory of Descriptions 112
6.8.2 *The* as a generalized quantifier 113
6.8.3 Definite descriptions as strong NPs 114
Familiarity effects 114
Definite descriptions in *there BE* contexts 117
Definite descriptions and scopal ambiguity 117
6.9 Quantifiers and negative polarity items 118
6.10 Generalized quantifiers as lambda functions 121
Exercises 128
Further Reading 133

7 Referential Opacity 134
7.1 Quine's referential opacity 134
7.2 Modality, descriptions and names 138
7.2.1 Modality and names 138
7.2.2 Modality and descriptions 139
7.3 Propositional attitudes and descriptions 141
7.4 Summary: descriptions and scope 144
7.5 Propositional attitudes and names 144
7.6 *De re* and *de dicto* readings with other quantifiers 148
7.7 Indefinite descriptions and specificity 149
Exercises 152
Further Reading 155

8 *Aktionsarten*: Aspectual Classes of Events 156
8.1 Vendler's four aspectual classes 157
8.2 Diagnostic tests for *aktionsarten* 159
8.2.1 *In* adverbials 159
8.2.2 The *take* time construction 161
8.2.3 *For* adverbials 162
8.2.4 The sub-interval property 163
8.2.5 Entailments of the progressive 164
8.2.6 Duration and the progressive 165
8.3 Telicity and boundedness 166
8.4 Semelfactive predicates 166
8.5 *Aktionsarten* and agentivity 168
8.6 Nominal and verbal aspect 171
8.7 Closing comment 172
Exercises 173
Further Reading 175

9 Tense and Aspect 176
9.1 Introduction 176
9.2 The English verb group 176
9.3 Interpretations of present, past, progressive and perfect 178
9.3.1 Interpretations of the present tense 178
9.3.2 Interpretations of the past tense 180

9.3.3 Other forms for future and habitual 180
9.3.4 Interpretations of the progressive 181
9.3.5 Interpretations of the present perfect 182
Present time adverbials 182
Current result states 182
'Hot news' perfect 183
Continuing state 184
9.4 Tense as an operator 185
9.5 Tense and reference to times 187
9.6 Reichenbach's analysis of tense 189
9.7 Reference to times in a narrative 192
9.7.1 Reference time movement 194
9.7.2 State/progressive includes reference time: reference time includes bounded event 196
9.7.3 Is r the same as Reichenbach's R? 196
9.7.4 General principles for temporal interpretation in narrative 197
9.7.5 Adding tense 198
9.8 Closing comment 200
Exercises 200
Further Reading 205

10 Thematic Roles and Lexical Conceptual Structure 206
10.1 Introduction 206
10.2 Traditional thematic roles 206
10.2.1 Agent/Actor and Patient 207
10.2.2 Localist roles 209
10.2.3 Recipient and benefactive 211
10.2.4 Experiencer and stimulus 212
10.2.5 Do adjuncts have thematic roles? 213
10.2.6 Themes and Patients 215
10.2.7 Summary 215
10.3 More detailed analysis of thematic roles 217
10.4 Lexical conceptual structure and thematic roles 221
10.4.1 The action tier 221
10.4.2 Theme, goal and location 223
10.4.3 Experiencer and stimulus 223
10.4.4 Motion event roles 224
10.4.5 Recipient and benefactive 227
10.4.6 Summary of theta roles in LCS 229
10.5 Verb classes and LCS 229
10.6 Closing comment 233
Summary of LCS symbols and definitions with selected examples 233
Exercises 236
Further Reading 239

11 Events 241
11.1 Davidson's analysis of action sentences 241
11.2 Neodavidsonian developments 246
11.2.1 Separation of direct arguments 246
11.2.2 Relations to events 248
11.2.3 The adicity of verbal predicates 249
11.3 Events and perception verbs 250
11.4 Adding tense and NP quantifiers 252
Exercises 253
Further Reading 256

Bibliography 257
Index 265

Preface to the First Edition

This book grew out of a semantics course taught at the second-year level in the general Arts or Sciences bachelor's degree at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Most of the students are studying linguistics or philosophy as a major subject, but they also come from a number of other fields in the humanities, physical sciences or professional studies. They generally have taken an introductory course in either linguistics or philosophy.

A mixed undergraduate class in semantics presents the dilemma of deciding what to do about the conceptual and notational complexity of formal theories. A detailed formalization procedure is not of the greatest interest to many of the students, and if the full formal apparatus is used, it isn't possible to introduce more than a limited range of data. If a very limited range of data is covered, this leaves a gap in the linguistics programme, particularly for the teaching of syntax, where some acquaintance with semantic issues is increasingly useful and important. The aim of this book is to introduce a wider range of topics in formal semantics with a limited formal apparatus.

Chapters 1–4 are introductory to the rest of the book, but a selection can be made from the remaining chapters. There are several themes that could be followed: Chapters 4–6 cover NP interpretation and Chapters 8–10 cover events and thematic roles. Verbal and nominal aspect is covered in sections of Chapters 6 and 7 and Chapter 9.

The text is intended to be used as a coursebook, accompanied by lectures on the topics covered and by discussion of the exercises. This book is not a 'teach yourself' text for private, unassisted study. The exercises included are of varying difficulty – some are for basic review and are suitable for private revision, but the more demanding of exercises may best be used as the basis of class discussion sessions.

As always, students are urged to also read other introductions to semantics which take a different approach.