



THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF

**COGNITIVE
LINGUISTICS**

Edited by

DIRK GEERAERTS
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PREFACE

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In the past decade, Cognitive Linguistics has developed into one of the most dynamic and attractive frameworks within theoretical and descriptive linguistics. With about fifty chapters written by experts in the field, the *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics* intends to provide a comprehensive overview of the entire domain of Cognitive Linguistics, from basic concepts to practical applications.

We thank the publisher, Oxford University Press, and its responsible editor Peter Ohlin, for the initiative they took to commission this reference work and the subsequent freedom they gave us in shaping it. The overall design and organization of the book, the selection of the topics to be treated, and the identification of the experts to treat them, were predominantly the work of the first editor of this volume, Dirk Geeraerts. The second editor, Hubert Cuyckens, was responsible for the inevitably long and painstaking task of guiding the authors from the initial versions of their texts, over numerous revisions on the content-side as well as the formal side, to the published versions.

At various moments in the course of this huge editorial task, Hubert received help from Koen Plevoets, Hendrik De Smet, Gert De Sutter, José Tummers, Van Linden, and Sofie Van Gijsel. We thank all of them for their generous support. A special word of thanks also goes to Daniela Kolbe (University of Hannover) for her meticulous help in formatting the references.

In addition, we particularly thank the authors for their chapters: if the Handbook achieves its goal of providing a uniquely wide-ranging and authoritative coverage of the most significant topics and viewpoints in Cognitive Linguistics, it will be through the professional and expert nature of the authors' contributions.

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