

CONTENTS

Introduction to Synthetic Syntax, Meaning and Philosophical Questions.....	9
1 Synthetic Syntax	17
1.1 Introductory remarks: background	17
1.2 Problems of analytic syntax.....	18
1.3 Alternative views.....	21
1.4 Synthetic syntax	23
1.4.1 Basic notions – combining or grouping	23
1.4.2 Ways of communicating experience	25
1.4.3 Synthesising different areas of experience	26
1.5 Considering the speaker	28
1.6 Considering the receiver	29
1.7 Further possibilities	32
2 The verb, feel, in English and its meanings – a ‘bottom-up’ approach.....	35
2.1 A few preliminary remarks.....	35
2.2 Why feel?.....	37
2.2.1 Phonological dimension.....	38
2.2.2 Allomorphic dimension for morphological combination	38
2.2.3 Syntactic dimension	39
2.2.4 Semantic dimension; the polysemy of feel.....	40
2.2.5 Lexical dimension.....	42
2.3 Feel and other verbs of sensation.....	42
2.3.1 Grammatical overlaps	42
2.3.2 Semantic overlaps with other verbs of sensation.....	44
2.4 Some conclusions.....	44
3 One banana, three oranges, no apples, some fruit, no fruit; the coherence of interpretation	46
3.1 Introduction.....	46
3.2 Range of uses	47
3.2.1 Pronominal.....	47
3.2.2 Nuclei of major grammatical functions.....	48
3.3 Some observations	49
3.3.1 No, one, some as noun determiners.....	49
3.3.2 Pronominal uses	52
3.3.3 None, one, and some as references to persons only in major constructions	54
3.3.4 Pronominal uses – non-count	54
3.4 Further questions	55
3.5 Conclusions	58
4 The Verbal Construction of Reality – Prepositions and Synthetic Syntax	61
4.1 The conventional verbal construction of reality	61
4.2 Why prepositions?	62
4.3 Some common views on prepositions.....	63
4.4 Synthetic syntax	64
4.5 Back to prepositions	66
4.6 Prepositions in English and conceived realities.....	67

4.7 Constructed realities.....	71
4.8 Concluding remarks	75
 5 Can Meanings Change?.....	78
5.1 Significance of the question.....	78
5.2 Some background and the apparent answer	78
5.3 Presuppositions of the theory of meaning change	80
5.4 Some problems.....	81
5.5 Some possible answers and objections to them	82
5.5.1 Utterance meaning	82
5.5.2 Language meaning change	84
5.6 An alternative view	88
5.7 Conclusion	90
 6 Are unanswerable questions ‘meaningless’?	93
6.1 Meaningful/meaningless for verbal units from a linguistic point of view	93
6.2 Some logical approaches to the meaning(lessness) of questions.....	94
6.3 Are there unanswerable questions?	96
6.3.1 Excluded by a theory.....	96
6.3.2 Non-central meaning in questions	99
6.3.3 Questions which are too vague or imprecisely worded/incoherent	100
6.3.4 Questions which are outside the belief system or world view of the receiver.....	100
6.4 Wider considerations of meaning in questions	102
6.5 Conclusion	107
 7 Some Dispositional Verbs in English – disposing factors	109
7.1 Introduction.....	109
7.2 Disposing factors	110
7.3 Some examples	111
7.4 Some scalar examples.....	113
7.5 Conclusion	114
 8 The verb, to know, and what it is to know.....	116
8.1 Significance of the problem	116
8.2 Linguistic issues	116
8.2.1 Grammatical.....	116
8.2.2 Semantic	117
8.3 Grammar/semantics	118
8.4 Philosophical issues	119
8.5 What do we know?.....	121
8.6 Conclusion	123
 9 What does good mean? Is that the same as ‘being good’?	125
9.1 Introduction – judgements and fundamental questions	125
9.2 Meaning	126
9.3 The necessity of verbal analysis.....	128
9.4 Good in English	129
9.5 Conclusions	132

10	Truth in Natural Language Utterances as Coherence of Models.....	135
	10.1. Introduction	135
	10.2 Significance.....	137
	10.3 Considerations in truth judgements	138
	10.4 Natural Language utterances.....	138
	10.5 Types of truth	139
	10.6 The argument	141
	10.7 Attraction of the correspondence theory of truth.....	142
	10.8 Limitations of a correspondence view; or correspondence with what?	144
	10.9 Constructs in natural language texts.....	146
	10.10 Truth and the ‘knowing subject’	148
	10.11 Monistic integration	151
	10.12 What is a coherence view of truth?	152
	10.13 A criticism of the coherence theory of truth.....	159
	10.14 Truth and modality.....	160
	10.15 Coherence and incoherence between verbal constructs	162
	10.16 Coherence – examples	163
	10.16.1 Text building a world or reality	163
	10.16.2 Consistency/inconsistency with previous knowledge or observables.....	164
11	Some Factors in the Verbal Construction of Reality as Human Characteristics.....	167
	11.1 Introduction	167
	11.2 ‘Language’ as a characteristic of humans	168
	11.3 Other possible characteristics of being human.....	169
	11.4 Asking and answering questions: ethics and aesthetics.....	171
	11.5 Ideas about the verbal construction of reality.....	171
	11.6 Types of meaning and features of verbally constructed reality	172
	11.7 Meaning and further factors in verbal constructions of reality.....	175
	11.8 Some conclusions.....	176
12	Twinkle, twinkle, little star – or why is language so successful when it is so misleading?	179
	12.1 The problem.....	179
	12.2 Conventional verbal construction of reality.....	180
	12.3 ‘Misleading’ language and some of its features	182
	12.4 ‘Primitive’ thinking in language and ‘enlightened common sense’	184
	12.5 Conclusion.....	187