

## POSTPRINT

### Preface

The availability of corpus-guided methods and the emergence of new semantic models, particularly cognitive and psycholinguistic frameworks, have prompted linguists to develop a range of immensely fruitful new approaches to sense relations. Not only does the field of sense relations have immediate relevance for the study of paradigmatic structures in lexicology, it is also a much discussed field for a variety of other application-oriented areas such as lexicography, Natural Language Processing and database engineering of lexical-semantic webs. It was in this context that the *Institut für Deutsche Sprache* in Mannheim (Germany) held an international colloquium from 5th–6th June 2008 on the subject of “Lexical-Semantic Relations from Theoretical and Practical Perspectives”. This event brought together researchers with an interest in semantic theory and experts with a more practical, application-based background looking at different languages.

The papers in this volume derive from the colloquium and address specific semantic, lexicographic, computational and technological approaches to a range of meaning relations, particularly those which have traditionally been classified as “paradigmatic” sense relations, as well as exploring the construction, representation, retrieval and documentation of relations of contrast and meaning equivalence in a variety of languages including German, English and Swedish. This book provides specialists from different disciplines and areas with the opportunity to gain an insight into current cross-linguistic research in semantics, corpus and computer linguistics, lexicology, applied teaching and learning, and lexical typology as well as technological applications such as computational lexical-semantic wordnets.

The overall aim of this book is to make up for some of the shortcomings of more traditional and often non-empirical studies, by providing an overview of current theoretical perspectives on lexical-semantic relations and presenting recent application-oriented research. Above all, its aim is to stimulate dialogue and revive discussion on sense relations in general, a subject which requires reappraisal in the light of recent semantic theories and which merits application via contemporary linguistic/lexicographic methods and procedures.

I am appreciative of the help of all authors who have contributed to this book and who have clearly demonstrated the tremendous scope of the field and the importance of current trends in the study of paradigmatic structures. I also wish to thank some colleagues and friends for their criticisms, their help and support. My gratitude also goes to that handful of very special people for their understanding, their sense and sensitivity when making this book. Beyond these, a sincere thanks also goes out to the *Institut für Deutsche Sprache Mannheim*, for hosting the colloquium, thereby enabling semanticists, lexicographers, experts in Natural Language Programming and computer linguists to share their common interest in lexical-semantic relations.

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