Modifiers and modification have been a major focus of inquiry for as long as the formal study of semantics has existed, and remain at the heart of major theoretical debates in the field. Modification offers comprehensive coverage of a wide range of topics, including vagueness and gradability, comparatives and degree constructions, the lexical semantics of adjectives and adverbs, crosscategorial regularities, and the relation between meaning and syntactic category. Morzycki guides the reader through the varied and sometimes mysterious phenomena surrounding modification and the ideas that have been proposed to account for them. Presenting disparate approaches in a consistent analytical framework, this accessibly written work, which includes an extensive glossary of technical terms, is essential reading for researchers and students of all levels in linguistics, the philosophy of language, and psycholinguistics.

- Uses an accessible, pedagogical style for greater understanding of the empirical phenomena, theoretical proposals, and analytical tools
- Provides detailed, worked-out examples of technical computations
- Includes a glossary of technical terminology

MARCI Morzycki is Associate Professor of Linguistics at Michigan State University.
KEY TOPICS IN SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

‘Key Topics in Semantics and Pragmatics’ focuses on the main topics of study in semantics and pragmatics today. It consists of accessible yet challenging accounts of the most important issues, concepts and phenomena to consider when examining meaning in language. Some topics have been the subject of semantic and pragmatic study for many years, and are re-examined in this series in light of new developments in the field; others are issues of growing importance that have not so far been given a sustained treatment. Written by leading experts and designed to bridge the gap between textbooks and primary literature, the books in this series can either be used on courses and seminars, or as one-stop, succinct guides to a particular topic for individual students and researchers. Each book includes useful suggestions for further reading, discussion questions, and a helpful glossary.

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Modification

MARcin MORZyCKI
Contents

Acknowledgments  page x

1 Preliminaries  1
1.1 Two problems  1
1.2 What this book is and isn’t  2
1.3 Background assumptions  3
  1.3.1 Glossing logical notation  3
  1.3.2 Theoretical framework  4
  1.3.3 Notational and typographical conventions  7
1.4 What, if anything, is modification?  8
1.5 Roadmap  12

2 The lexical semantics of adjectives: more than just scales  13
2.1 Introduction  13
2.2 How adjectives and nouns combine: a typology  14
  2.2.1 Intersective interpretations  14
  2.2.2 Subsective interpretations  16
  2.2.3 Apparently subsective intersective interpretations  20
  2.2.4 Ordinary non-subsective adjectives  22
  2.2.5 Privative adjectives, which may not exist  24
2.3 The type of adjectives and the nature of subsectivity  26
  2.3.1 How powerful are adjectives?  26
  2.3.2 Siegel: the Doublet Theory  30
  2.3.3 Larson: events inside the nominal extended projection  34
  2.3.4 The implicit-argument approach  41
  2.3.5 How much power is too much? Impossible adjectives  42
2.4 The menagerie of adjectives  44
  2.4.1 A word about adjective classification  44
  2.4.2 Temporal-ordering adjectives  45
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4.3 Classificatory/relational adjectives</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.4 The trouble with stone lions</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.5 The attributive-with-infinitive construction</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.6 Adnominal degree modifiers</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Adjectives where they have no right to be: adverbial readings</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1 A scope puzzle</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.2 Frequency adjectives: the facts</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.3 The adverbial reading of frequency adjectives</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.4 The internal reading of frequency adjectives</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.5 Average Americans and parasitic scope</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.6 Sameness and difference</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.7 Other adverbial readings and the bigger picture</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Adjective position and syntactic issues</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.1 Attributive vs. predicative, prenominal vs. postnominal</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.2 Indirect modification</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.3 Stage-level/individual-level contrasts</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.4 A focus position?</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 What is it to be an adjective?</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 Questions for further reflection and discussion</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 Suggestions for further reading</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Vagueness, degrees, and gradable predicates</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Introduction</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Vagueness</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1 Identifying vagueness</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2 Vagueness vs. ambiguity</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3 Vagueness vs. imprecision</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4 Some foundational questions</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Theories of vagueness and gradability: a false start</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.1 Three approaches</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.2 Fuzzy logic</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 The inherent vagueness approach</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.1 Extension gaps</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.2 Precisification and supertruth</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.3 Comparatives</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.4 Degree words</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.5 Degree functions and comparatives revisited</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 The degree-based approach</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.1 Degrees</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

3.5.2 Gradable predicates 112
3.5.3 Borderline cases and context-dependence 115
3.5.4 The tautology and contradiction issue 117
3.5.5 Comparatives 118
3.5.6 Degree words 119
3.5.7 Varieties of degrees 119
3.6 Degree or not degree? That is the question 121
3.7 Scales and the lexical semantics of adjectives 124
3.7.1 Antonyms 124
3.7.2 Open and closed scales 131
3.7.3 Dimensional and non-dimensional adjectives 138
3.7.4 Extreme adjectives 140
3.7.5 Gradable modal adjectives 144
3.7.6 On scales and categories 145
3.8 Questions for further reflection and discussion 147
3.9 Suggestions for further reading 148

4 Comparatives and their kin 149
4.1 Introduction 149
4.2 The syntax and semantics of the extended AP 150
4.2.1 Getting terminology out of the way 150
4.2.2 The unpronounced in comparative clauses 150
4.2.3 First steps 152
4.2.4 The big DegP view 157
4.2.5 The small DegP view 159
4.2.6 Scope and degree operators 163
4.2.7 The Russell ambiguity 168
4.2.8 Quantification and comparative clauses 169
4.3 Other degree constructions 171
4.3.1 Differential comparatives and measure phrases 171
4.3.2 Equatives 173
4.3.3 Superlatives 174
4.3.4 Sufficiency and excess 176
4.3.5 Degree exclamatives and degree questions 177
4.3.6 Metalinguistic comparatives 178
4.3.7 Comparison of deviation 180
4.3.8 Indirect comparison 181
4.4 Neutralization and positive-entailingness 183
4.5 The crosslinguistic picture 186
4.5.1 Measure phrases 186
## Contents

4.5.2 Comparison strategies 187
4.5.3 How much degree is there in your degree constructions? 188
4.6 Questions for further reflection and discussion 191
4.7 Suggestions for further reading 191

5 Adverbs 193
5.1 Introduction 193
5.2 Classifying adverbials 194
5.3 The compositional puzzle 197
5.3.1 Modifiers of propositions? 197
5.3.2 Subject-oriented adverbs and the predicate-modifier approach 199
5.3.3 Problems for the intersective approach 201
5.3.4 Davidsonian events: the intersective approach redeemed 204
5.4 Manner and subject orientation 208
5.4.1 Augmentation and passive-sensitivity 208
5.4.2 The Neo-Davidsonian strategy and thematic roles 212
5.4.3 Comparison classes and related tools 215
5.4.4 The bottom-up analytical strategy 221
5.4.5 Topic-orientation 223
5.4.6 Is there such a thing as a manner? 226
5.5 Speaker-oriented adverbials 228
5.5.1 Speech-act adverbials 228
5.5.2 Evaluative adverbs 233
5.5.3 Modal adverbs 235
5.5.4 Polarity 236
5.6 Locative adverbials 237
5.6.1 Types and positions of locative adverbials 237
5.6.2 Vector Space Semantics 238
5.7 Adverbs as modifiers of adjectives 240
5.8 Phenomena we will mostly set aside 243
5.8.1 Temporal adverbials 243
5.8.2 Adverbs of quantification 245
5.9 Adverb order revisited 246
5.10 Questions for further reflection and discussion 248
5.11 Suggestions for further reading 249

6 Crosscategorial concerns 250
6.1 Introduction 250
6.2 Amounts and cardinality scales 251
Contents

6.2.1 Quantity adjectives and number words 251
6.2.2 Amount comparatives 255
6.3 Gradability and non-adjectival predicates 257
  6.3.1 Verbal gradability 257
  6.3.2 Nominal gradability 260
6.4 Hedging and reinforcing across categories 262
6.5 Nonrestrictive modifiers 267
6.6 Predicates of personal taste 271
6.7 Questions for further reflection and discussion 273
6.8 Suggestions for further reading 274

7 Taking stock 276
  7.1 Back to the beginning 276
  7.2 Where to from here? 279

Glossary 284
References 298
Index 330
A few years ago, I ran into a Polish expression: *nie mój cyrk, nie moje małpy* (‘not my circus, not my monkeys’). It means ‘ain’t my problem’. Of course, with any published piece of work, it’s always your monkey. You’re responsible, no matter how big a mess it has made or how incompletely it discussed measure phrases in Chapter 6. And the thing about a book is that it’s a ridiculously huge monkey, so there’s no telling what calamities it might have caused that will remain unnoticed until the monkey is in print. For that reason, I am indebted to the people below, who have helped keep it from running amok entirely.

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