

## Contents

---

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <i>List of figures</i>   | page viii |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i>  | ix        |
| <i>List of abbreviations</i>   | xi        |
| <b>Introduction</b>  | 1         |
| 0.1 Motivation   | 1         |
| 0.2 Conventional and non-conventional speech acts                          | 2         |
| 0.3 The two main ingredients of the account                                | 4         |
| 0.4 Outline of the book  | 5         |
| <b>1 Austin's distinctions revisited</b>                                   | 8         |
| 1.1 Austin's levels of meaning and Davidson's philosophy of action         | 9         |
| 1.2 Perlocutionary acts and causal effects                                 | 12        |
| 1.3 From phatic to locutionary acts  | 16        |
| 1.3.1 <i>Phatic acts and semantic contents</i>                             | 16        |
| 1.3.2 <i>Austin on rhetoric and locutionary acts</i>                       | 18        |
| 1.3.3 <i>Locutionary acts and propositional content</i>                    | 20        |
| 1.4 Locutionary acts and expressions of Intentional states                 | 22        |
| 1.5 Conclusion   | 29        |
| <b>2 Intentional states and locutionary acts</b>                           | 31        |
| 2.1 Direction of fit   | 31        |
| 2.2 <i>De re</i> and <i>de dicto</i>                                       | 34        |
| 2.3 Potentiality and Intentional states                                    | 39        |
| 2.4 Intentions   | 41        |
| 2.5 Potentiality in language   | 45        |
| 2.5.1 <i>Updating information states</i>                                   | 45        |
| 2.5.2 <i>A short excursus on epistemic possibility</i>                     | 49        |
| 2.5.3 <i>Potentiality: a property of locutionary acts</i>                  | 50        |
| 2.5.4 <i>Precautionary notes</i>   | 51        |
| 2.6 Functions in language and mind   | 52        |
| 2.6.1 <i>Functions: direct and derived</i>                                 | 53        |
| 2.6.2 <i>Functions and context</i>   | 56        |
| 2.6.3 <i>Locutionary and illocutionary functions</i>                       | 57        |
| 2.7 Functional isomorphism between locutionary acts and Intentional states | 59        |
| 2.8 Conclusion   | 60        |

|       |   |     |
|-------|---|-----|
| vi    | Contents  |     |
| 3     | Constative speech acts  | 61  |
| 3.1   | Influencing the addressee's beliefs                                   | 63  |
| 3.2   | Constative speech acts as reasons to believe                          | 67  |
| 3.3   | When the constative force is missing                                  | 71  |
| 3.3.1 | <i>Irony</i>  | 71  |
| 3.3.2 | <i>Platitudes</i>   | 75  |
| 3.3.3 | <i>Soliloquies</i>  | 76  |
| 3.4   | The function of constative illocutionary acts                         | 78  |
| 3.5   | The contents of constative illocutionary acts                         | 80  |
| 3.5.1 | <i>Direct versus indirect</i>   | 80  |
| 3.5.2 | <i>Commitment to the performance versus commitment to the content</i> | 81  |
| 3.6   | Trust and communication   | 83  |
| 3.7   | The origins of truth-commitment                                       | 89  |
| 3.8   | Assertions and commitment   | 92  |
| 3.9   | Presupposition accommodation  | 96  |
| 3.10  | Conclusion  | 100 |
| 4     | Directive speech acts   | 102 |
| 4.1   | Against perlocutionary accounts: again                                | 103 |
| 4.2   | Directive speech acts as reasons to act                               | 104 |
| 4.3   | Directive speech acts, potentiality and possibility                   | 106 |
| 4.4   | Desirability  | 108 |
| 4.5   | Indirect versus secondary directive speech acts                       | 111 |
| 4.5.1 | <i>Sentence-types and illocutionary forces</i>                        | 112 |
| 4.5.2 | <i>Primary and indirect speech acts</i>                               | 118 |
| 4.6   | When the directive force is missing                                   | 122 |
| 4.7   | Conclusion  | 124 |
| 5     | Speech acts, autism spectrum disorders and typical development        | 126 |
| 5.1   | Autism spectrum disorders: pragmatics and mindreading                 | 127 |
| 5.2   | Varieties of false-belief tasks                                       | 130 |
| 5.3   | False-belief tasks and cognitive flexibility                          | 132 |
| 5.4   | Perspective-shifting: immature versus impaired                        | 136 |
| 5.4.1 | <i>Implicit belief attribution</i>                                    | 136 |
| 5.4.2 | <i>Counterfactual reasoning</i>                                       | 137 |
| 5.4.3 | <i>Pretence</i>   | 138 |
| 5.4.4 | <i>Joint attention</i>  | 138 |
| 5.5   | Perspective-shifting and communication                                | 139 |
| 5.5.1 | <i>Constative speech acts</i>   | 139 |
| 5.5.2 | <i>Directive speech acts</i>  | 143 |
| 5.6   | Pragmatics in ASDs  | 144 |
| 5.7   | Conclusion  | 147 |
| 6     | Commissive speech acts  | 148 |
| 6.1   | Conventions and promises  | 148 |
| 6.2   | A semantic solution?  | 152 |
| 6.3   | Explaining the commitment   | 154 |
| 6.3.1 | <i>Commissives versus first-person directives</i>                     | 154 |
| 6.3.2 | <i>Expression of intentions</i>                                       | 155 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Contents  | vii |
| 6.3.3 <i>Predictions and expression of intentions</i> | 156 |
| 6.3.4 <i>Commitment</i>                               | 158 |
| 6.4 Threats   | 161 |
| 6.5 Cognitive underpinnings of commissives            | 163 |
| 6.6 Conclusion  | 165 |
| Conclusion  | 166 |
| <i>References</i>                                     | 168 |
| <i>Index</i>  | 190 |