Imperatives

Imperative sentences usually occur in speech acts such as orders, requests and pleas. However, they are also used to give advice, and to grant permission, and are sometimes found in advertisements, good wishes and conditional constructions. Yet, the relationship between the form of imperatives and the wide range of speech acts in which they occur remains unclear, as do the ways in which semantic theory should handle imperatives.

This book is the first to look systematically at both the data and the theory. Part I discusses data from a large set of languages, including many outside the Indo-European family, and analyses in detail the range of uses to which imperatives are put, paying particular attention to controversial cases. This provides the empirical background for Part II, where the authors offer an accessible, comprehensive and in-depth discussion of the major theoretical accounts of imperative semantics and pragmatics.

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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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Imperatives

MARK JARY AND
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Contents

Acknowledgements vi
List of abbreviations and notation vii

Introduction 1

Part I The data 7
1 What is the imperative mood? 9
2 The imperative mood and directive force 53
3 Imperatives with conditional meanings 110

Part II The theories 163
Introduction to Part II: from data to theory 163
4 The imperative is directive force 168
5 Declarative-like semantics for imperatives 212
6 The imperative as a distinct semantic type 258

An opinionated conclusion 292

Appendix A Possible worlds and semantics 294
Appendix B Modality in possible-word semantics 297
Appendix C Stalnaker’s common-ground model of assertion 303
Glossary 305
References 307
Index 320
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Abbreviations and notation

#: pragmatic unacceptability
?: semantic unacceptability
*: syntactic unacceptability
1: first person
2: second person
3: third person
A: addressee
ABL.: ablative case
ACC.: accusative case
ACT.: active voice
ACTN: action
ADE.: adessive
AUX.: auxiliary
CAUS.: causative
CG: common ground
CLASS.: classifier
COND.: conditional
CONV.: convorb
DAT.: dative case
DET.: determinant
DIM.: diminutive
DIR.: directional aspect
DUAL: dual number
EXCL.: exclusive
FEM.: feminine gender
FUT.: future tense
viii

**Abbreviations and notation**

- GEN.: genitive case
- ILCs: imperative-like conditionals
- IMP.: imperative mood
- IMPFV.: imperfective
- INCL.: inclusive
- IND.: indicative mood
- INF.: infinitive
- MAN.: manner
- MOD.: modal
- NEG.: negation
- NET.: neutral gender
- NON-PAST: non-past tense
- NP: nominal phrase
- OPT.: optative mood
- PART.: particle
- PARTP.: participle
- PASS.: passive voice
- PAST: past tense
- PERM.: permission
- PFV.: perfective
- PL.: plural
- PR.: pronoun
- PRS.: present tense
- PRTV.: partitive
- REFL.: reflexive
- RT: relevance theory
- S: speaker
- SBJV.: subjunctive mood
- SG.: singular
- SPCF.: specific
- ST: state
- TEMP.: temporal
- VP: verbal phrase