

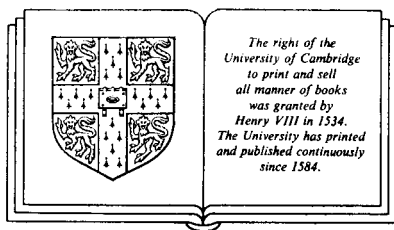
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PREFACE

In the past two decades the study of speech acts has become a thriving branch of the philosophy of language and linguistics. However, advances in the theory of speech acts have had little or nothing to do with contemporaneous advances in philosophical logic, and there have been few attempts to present formalized accounts of the logic of speech acts. True, there have been systematic logical studies of particular types of speech acts such as directives, but to our knowledge there has been no attempt to present a formalized logic of a general theory of speech acts. The aim of this book is to fill that gap by constructing a precise formalized theory of illocutionary acts using the resources of modern logic.

In presenting this account we attempt to answer such questions as the following: What is an illocutionary force? Can the set of all illocutionary forces be defined recursively from a few primitives, and if so, how? What are the conditions of success of elementary illocutionary acts which consist of an illocutionary force with a propositional content, such as statements, orders, promises, requests? How can the conditions of success of the complex illocutionary acts such as conditional speech acts and acts of illocutionary denegation be defined from the conditions of success of their constituent parts? What is the relation between illocutionary force and the meaning of sentences? What is the logical form of performative sentences?

The first chapters are introductory. Each of the fundamental notions, definitions or axioms is explained progressively from chapter to chapter. Chapter 1 presents a general introduction to the theory of speech acts. Chapters 2 and 3 discuss the nature of the components of illocutionary forces and the logical structure of the set of all illocutionary forces. Chapter 4 is concerned with the conditions of success of illocutionary acts and Chapter 5 gives

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further explanations of the components of illocutionary force. Chapter 6 is the central chapter of the book in the sense that it presents a systematic and complete exposition of the logical theory. All definitions and independent axioms and postulates of the logical theory are explicitly stated in that chapter. Chapters 7 and 8 enumerate a series of philosophically or linguistically significant laws concerning illocutionary forces, speech acts and propositions that follow deductively from the axioms. Finally, in Chapter 9 there are semantic definitions of over a hundred English performative or illocutionary verbs.

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Some of the formal material in this book has already been presented in earlier papers by D. Vanderveken and the authors are grateful to the following publishers for permission to use this material here: "Illocutionary logic and self-defeating speech acts", in J. R. Searle *et al.* (eds.), *Speech Act Theory and Pragmatics* (Reidel, 1980), and "What is an illocutionary force?", in M. Dascal (ed.), *Dialogue: An Interdisciplinary Study* (forthcoming).