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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# Imperatives

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# Contents

# Acknowledgements

# 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.: converb

DAT.: dative case

DET.: determinant

DIM.: diminutive

DIR.: directional aspect

DUAL: dual number

EXCL.: exclusive

FEM.: feminine gender

FUT.: future tense

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