

## Expressions, Speech Acts and Discourse

First published in 1981, *Let's Talk and Talk About It* is regarded as a cornerstone of research in pragmatics, which laid new and lasting foundations for the teaching of English. Forty years on, this extensively updated version is fully tailored for the 21st century. It provides a pedagogic interactional grammar of English, designed for learners and teachers of English and textbook writers, as well as experts of pragmatics and applied linguistics. The book includes a rigorous pragmatic system through which interaction in English and other languages can be captured in a replicable way, covering pragmatically important expressions, types of talk and other interactional phenomena, as well as a ground-breaking interactional typology of speech acts. The book is also illustrated with a legion of interactional and entertaining examples, showing how the framework can be put to use. It will remain a seminal work in the field for years to come.

WILLIS EDMONDSON was Professor of Applied Linguistics at Hamburg University. His research interests included language teaching and learning, English studies and pragmatics. He was Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Applied Linguistics* (Wiley).

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-84514-4 — Expressions, Speech Acts and Discourse  
Willis J. Edmondson, Juliane House, Daniel Z. Kadar  
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‘A fully updated version of one of the most influential books on the pedagogy of pragmatics. *Expressions, Speech Acts and Discourse: A Pedagogic Interactional Grammar of English* gives thorough attention to relevant theoretical frameworks and provides a myriad of illustrative examples that make it accessible, practical and enjoyable. This crucially makes *Expressions* both student friendly and of interest to instructors and scholars of pragmatics. Versatile and unique: another classic in the making.’

**Pilar G. Blitvich, Professor of Linguistics, University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

‘This volume constitutes a highly creative update of Edmondson’s pioneering effort from 45 years ago. It provides a delightfully detailed description of types of talk from small talk to business talk, while continually calling attention to the significant role that grammar plays in interactional discourse. The book includes a timely focus on contrastive pragmatics, comparing empirically greetings and complaints in English and Chinese.’

**Andrew Cohen, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota**

‘This book is a brilliantly revised and updated version of an early classic. It should be essential reading for language teachers and students as well as applied linguists and pragmaticians.’

**Themis Kaniklidou, Associate Professor of Translation and Communication Studies, Hellenic American University**

‘This timely book not only re-animates, but also updates and extends, *Let’s Talk and Talk about It*, the influential interactional grammar of English published by Edmondson and House in 1981. Based on an extensive database of real-life data, it offers an invaluable typology of the most frequently used speech acts in communication in English among native and non-native speakers. With its numerous examples taken from everyday life and from the global classroom, and its suggestions for teaching, the book should be a most useful companion to any researcher or teacher studying or teaching how communicative competence is achieved in any language.’

**Claire Kramersch, Emerita Professor of German, University of California, Berkeley**

‘“Boldly” billed as a “pedagogic interactional grammar of English”, this renewed and extended reincarnation of *Let’s Talk and Talk about It* is a welcome contribution to the field of interactional linguistics. Its distinctive otherness lies in marrying pragmatics, pedagogy and practical use. The interactional typology of speech acts, complemented with illuminating real-life examples, is exemplary and refreshing, giving a feel of an “embodied grammar”. The book is well structured and is written in accessible style – keeping in mind the users, teachers and learners in particular – with thoroughness and in-depth analyses. In its goal, it is agenda-driven – not an end in and of itself – and will remain a nuanced resource in the envisioned future.’

**Srikant Sarangi, Aalborg University, Denmark / Cardiff University, UK**

‘This book is testimony to the innovative thinking of Willis Edmondson, and this revised version of the original publication he authored with Juliane House indicates its continuing potential relevance to the practical pedagogic concerns of the present.’

**Henry Widdowson, Emeritus Professor of Education, University of London**

‘This book is an ingeniously updated and extended version of an early classic. It is a must-read for applied linguists and pragmaticians, as well as language teachers and students across the globe.’

**Zhou Ling, Northeast Normal University**

# Expressions, Speech Acts and Discourse

*A Pedagogic Interactional Grammar of English*

---

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314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108845144](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108845144)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781108954662

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First published 2023

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-108-84514-4 Hardback  
ISBN 978-1-108-94959-0 Paperback

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## Acknowledgements

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First of all, we are indebted to both the reviewers and the clearance reader who helped us to improve the quality of the present manuscript. We are also grateful to Helen Barton – the best editor one can imagine. We would also like to say thank you to all those colleagues who contributed to the birth of this book. In particular, we would like to say thank you to Emily Fengguang Liu, who contributed to the case studies involving Chinese learners of English that we presented in this book, as well as all those who agreed to join our case studies as subjects. Our thanks go to Puyu Ning for inputting and formatting various figures presented in this book.

On an institutional level, we would like to acknowledge the funding of the National Excellence Programme of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary (grant number: TKP202-NKTA-02). This grant, which is the continuation of another one (Momentum Grant of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, grant number LP2017/5) allowed Juliane House and Dániel Kádár to collaborate. We would also like to acknowledge the funding of the National Research Development and Innovation Office of Hungary (grant number: 132969). All the above grants have been hosted by the Research Centre for Linguistics, Hungary. Dániel Kádár is also grateful to Dalian University of Foreign Language for all the institutional support he received.

On a personal note, this book could have never been completed without the fascinating input by Willis Edmondson, who unfortunately passed away some years ago. The current book is an updated and extended version of a grammar that was originally written by the first two authors, Willis Edmondson and Juliane House, in 1981. If Willis is in Heaven – and we are sure he is! – we are confident that he is delighted to see the original work in a new form. As his daughter Miriam put it, by writing this book we have brought him back to life. As well as to Willis, we are indebted to our families for all their loving support. Juliane would like to say thank you to Patrick, Miriam, Tessa, Wissem, Mailin, Lucia and Emilia, as well as Bobby. Dániel would like to say thank you to Keiko, Naoka, Zita, András and Eszter, as well as Koma. Thank you all for bearing with us while we spent very long hours in front of our computers.

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