Relevance Theory
Recent developments, current challenges and future directions
Edited by Manuel Padilla Cruz
University of Seville

How hearers arrive at intended meaning, which elements encode processing instructions in certain languages, how procedural meaning and prosody interact, how diverse types of utterances are interpreted, how epistemic vigilance mechanisms work, which linguistic elements assist those mechanisms, how a critical attitude to information and informers develops when a second language is learnt, or why some perlocutionary effects originate are some of the varied issues that have intrigued pragmatists, and relevance theorists in particular, and continue to fuel research. In this collection readers will discover new proposals based on the cognitive framework put forward by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson three decades ago. Their gripping, insightful and stimulating discussions, combined in some cases with meticulous and in-depth analyses, show the directions relevance theory has recently followed. Moreover, this collection also unveils fruitful and promising interactions with areas like morphology, prosody, language typology, interlanguage pragmatics, machine translation, or rhetoric and argumentation, and avenues for future research.


Hb 978 90 272 5673 7 EUR 95.00
E-book 978 90 272 6648 4 EUR 95.00

Table of contents

Introduction
Three decades of relevance theory
Manuel Padilla Cruz

Part I: Issues on procedural meaning and procedural analyses
The speaker’s derivational intention
Thorstein Fretheim
Cracking the chestnut: How intonation interacts with procedural meaning in Colloquial Singapore English Lah Junwen Lee and Chonghyuck Kim
Reference assignment in pronominal argument languages: A relevance-theoretic perspective
Helga Schröder
Conceptual and procedural information for verb tense disambiguation: The English Simple Past
Cristina Grisot, Bruno Cartoni and Jacques Moeschler

Part II: Discourse issues
Relevance theory and contextual sources-centred analysis of irony: Current research and compatibility
Francisco Yus
Distinguishing rhetorical from ironical questions: A relevance-theoretic account
Thierry Raeber

Part III: Interpretive processes
Relevance theory, epistemic vigilance and pragmatic competence
Elly Ifantidou
Evidentials, genre and epistemic vigilance
Christoph Unger

Part IV: Rhetorical and perlocutionary effects of communication
Rhetoric and cognition: Pragmatic constraints on argument processing
Steve Oswald
Perlocutionary effects and relevance theory
Agnieszka Piskorska

Conclusion
Some directions for future research in relevance-theoretic pragmatics
Manuel Padilla Cruz
Contributors
Index