

新世纪语言探索丛书

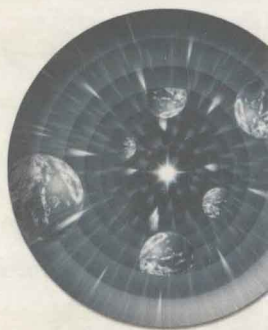


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话语意义的 建构

吕明臣 著

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序 言

吕明臣教授 1985 年获得现代汉语专业硕士学位，二十多年来一直从事语言学方面的教学和科研工作，专业素养深厚，科研成果丰硕。2001 年开始在职攻读心理学博士学位，在国内学习及去日本做高级访问学者期间，研读了国内外许多语言哲学和认知心理学的论著，这为他从跨学科角度研究话语意义的建构奠定了基础。

该书是在他的博士论文基础上修改而成的，选题具有前沿性和开创性，作者从跨学科角度入手，采用史论结合、虚实并举的方法，多侧面地阐释了话语意义的建构。该书视角新颖，资料翔实，作者颇有见地地阐明了话语意义以心理学内涵及其有关理论研究的历史逻辑与发展现状，深刻地剖析了话语意义以意图为核心的认知建构的相关要素、原则和途径，紧密结合语言事实提示了话语意义建构的心理历程。这一研究不仅对建构认知语言学、发展认知心理学具有重要的学术价值，而且对提高人们的言语交际能力、促进相互沟通也具有重要的实践意义。

语言本来就是语言学、哲学、心理学等学科都关注和研究的对象，只是每个学科都有自己特殊的视角，运用自己的方法对语言问题作出阐释。随着学术的进展，不同学科的交融日益广泛，心理语言学、认知语言学的兴起和发展就是学科交融的产物。话语意义建构问题正处在一个多学科的交叉点上，单一学科的解释总是有难以避免的局限性，而整合不同学科的理论和方法去阐释话语意义的生成和理解则是一条具有开拓性的新思路。该书正是按照这一新取向撰写的一部融创新性、学术性、理论性和应用性为一体的优秀学术专著。我认为，该书不仅是语言学、心理学、语言哲学的教学与研究的一部重要参考书，而且是相关专业本科生、硕士生、博士生的良师益友。

车文博

2005 年 9 月

内 容 提 要

话语意义的建构是语言学和语言哲学研究的热点问题，也是语言心理学研究的一个崭新课题。本书从跨学科的视角，主要是从当代认知心理学角度，采用史论结合、虚实并举的方法探讨了话语意义的建构——言语交际过程中的信息加工。这一课题的研究，不仅对建构认知语言学、发展认知心理学具有重要的学术价值，而且对提高人们的言语交际能力，促进彼此沟通具有重要的实践意义。

本书由五个章节和一个结语共六个部分构成。

第一章讨论话语意义的性质及其研究目标和方法等问题。本书用话语意义指称言语交际中的意义，包括一般所说的“字面意义”和“会话含义”。话语意义和语言意义不同，尽管话语意义包含有语言意义，但话语意义是个人的、动态的和具体的，语言意义是社会的、静态的和抽象的。从认知心理学的角度看，话语意义是在认知加工中的短时记忆中临时建构的，语言意义是在人的长时记忆结构中贮存的。强调话语意义的心理学内涵极为重要，这意味着将言语交际的主体——人置于言语交际行为的中心地位，说话人和听话人不再是“意义”简单的传达者和接受者，而是“意义”的创造者。

话语意义建构和语言理解问题相关。语言理解一直是心理学，尤其是认知心理学的重要研究课题。不过，关于语言理解的研究主要集中在词语、句子和语篇方面，对言语交际意义，尤其是话语意义并没有正面的涉及。但认知心理学和认知语言学的理论方法却为我们深入研究言语交际中的意义问题提供了思路和方法。

本书强调话语意义具有的心理学内涵，从认知心理学的信息加工理论出发，借鉴认知语言学、分析哲学、语言学等学科的研究方法，揭示了话语意义建构的属性和内在心理过程。

第二章以话语意义为中心回顾了有关研究理论的进展，这是本书研

究的起点。言语交际中的意义有两种表现：一种是“字面意义”，一种是“言外之义”。如何理解这样的意义成了语言学、哲学、心理学研究的重要课题。结构语言学从修辞、语法的角度解释它们；日常语言学派哲学家从言语行为、人类交际的角度加以阐释，出现了奥斯汀和塞尔的言语行为理论和格莱斯的会话含义理论；语用学家斯波珀和威尔逊站在认知心理学的立场上提出了关联理论，对言语交际意义给出了认知解释。在对这些相关研究理论的回顾中不难发现话语意义研究的发展趋向：从结构语言学走向语用学；从语言学、哲学研究走向认知心理学研究；从静态解释走向动态的解释；从注重言语交际的外部描述走向言语交际主体的内在心理过程的分析。

第三章讨论话语意义的构成。本书从静态和动态两个方面阐述了话语意义的构成。静态方面是话语意义的来源和构成成分。从来源上看，话语意义由被主体认知到的主体需要、主体认知状况、交际背景、交际情境、语言结构和副语言构成。在话语意义的整体中，不同来源的意义处在互补的关系之中。从意义成分性质方面看，话语意义主要由四种成分构成：表意成分、表事成分、表情成分和表象成分。在话语意义的认知加工中，这些成分是渗透在其中的。

从动态的方面看，话语意义不是预先存在的，而是在言语交际行为中主体围绕着交际意图的一种认知建构。交际意图源于主体对某种需要的满足，它是言语交际行为产生的动机，也是话语意义的基础和核心。交际意图的结构分为意向和意向内容两部分，意向规定了交际意图的属性，意向内容是意向的具体方面。交际意图可以用图式的概念加以表达，主要有告知图式、请求图式和意愿图式。

交际意图是话语意义的核心，主体围绕这个核心建构话语形式，在这个建构过程中出现了围绕交际意图的衍生意义。话语意义是由交际意图和衍生意义构成的，是言语交际主体的一种认知加工结果。

第四章论述话语意义建构因素、原则和途径。话语意义的认知加工实际上是围绕交际意图和话语形式标识进行的。主体的认知加工涉及一些相关要素，包括交际意图的类型、交际主体自身、背景知识、交际情境、话语形式和主体具有的认知能力和经验。主体的认知能力和经验是

基础,其他的要素只有在言语交际能认知到并成为主体认知背景的一部分时才会对话语意义的认知加工产生影响。

相关要素能否对话语意义建构发生影响、发生什么样的影响是通过主体的选择来决定的。主体的选择遵守了一些原则,这些原则可以视为言语交际主体的认知策略。本书概括的原则有:关联原则,指话语形式一定和交际意图相关联;显著性原则,交际意图和话语形式的关联越显著,就越容易为主体加工,相反,主体就会投入更多的认知努力;简洁性原则,指言语交际的经济性,即以尽可能少的话语形式标识交际意图,简洁性与主体的认知加工速度有一定关系;适宜性原则,广义是指标识交际意图的话语形式具有心理的可接受性。在主体的认知加工中,这些原则的制约力是不同的,必须要遵守关联性原则并在此基础上选择其他原则。话语意义是这些原则综合平衡的结果。

话语意义的建构与如何用话语形式标识交际意图的途径有关。言语交际的实现途径主要包括:明示途径,用结构化的语言成分标识交际意图;暗示途径,话语形式和交际意图的连接经过一些中间环节,表现为主体认知加工中的推断,这些推断是通过主体内在的逻辑结构、有关常识经验的认知图式和语义结构实现的;隐喻途径,通过人普遍具有的隐喻认知方式完成话语意义的建构。

第五章描述了话语意义建构的心理过程。话语意义的建构过程是由说话人和听话人共同完成的:说话人为交际意图选择话语形式标识,听话人通过话语形式标识寻找到交际意图。言语交际的两个主体由话语形式连接起来,话语意义就是在这样的连接过程中建构出来的。说话人和听话人的认知加工过程方向不同,但具有相同的加工环节:相关知识激活阶段、假设形成阶段和选择决定阶段。

话语意义是以交际意图为核心的认知建构,这种认知建构体现为在言语交际行为的认知加工中主体所具有的各种知识的激活、连接和重组。可以说,话语意义是认知主体知识的一种以交际意图为核心的临时组合状态。相关知识激活就是把主体认知背景中的那些与交际意图相关的知识调动起来,这是话语意义产生的前提。相关知识的连接就是被激活的相关知识以某种方式发生关系,表现为相关知识和交际意图连接以

及各种相关知识之间的相互连接。相关知识的重组是在各种相关知识的连接中加以选择以找出最适宜的连接，话语意义在相关知识的重组中建构出来。话语意义的临时性就决定于这种重组的暂时性，交际行为结束了重组就消失，除非某种重组被放进长时记忆中，成为主体知识的一部分。

认知心理学、心理语言学以及在认知语言学旗帜下的理论都关注语言内在的心理结构和过程，并在句子和语篇的理解研究领域取得了很大的进展。随着研究的深入，言语交际行为中的话语意义建构问题必然成为关注的焦点。本书的研究就是这种意义上的一种理论尝试。

关键词：话语意义 认知 信息加工 建构过程

Abstract

The construction of speech meaning is a hot topic in the studies of linguistics and lingo-philosophy. It is also a brand new subject field for psycholinguistics. From an interdisciplinary background, and especially from the view point of modern cognitive psychology, by means of combining history and theory, the book discusses the construction of meaning of speech—the processing of information in speech communication. The subject is not only important theoretically to constructing cognitive linguistics and to developing cognitive psychology, but also has important practical significance to improving human speech communicative ability and promoting communication.

The book is made up of six parts which are five chapters and an epilogue.

Chapter One discusses the problems such as the character of speech meaning, the research aims and methods. The book exploits the concept of speech meaning to refer to the meaning in the speech communication. Speech meaning includes the literal meaning and the conversational implicature. Speech meaning is different with language meaning. Though speech meaning contains language meaning, speech meaning is individual, dynamic and specific. Language meaning is social, static and abstract. From the viewpoint of cognitive psychology, speech meaning is constructed temporarily in short-term memory, and language meaning is stored in the long-term memory. It is extremely to emphasize the psychological connotation of speech meaning, which means that human being is put in the central position in verbal communication, addresser and addressee are not the simple deliver and

receiver, but creator concerning the meaning.

The construction of speech meaning has much to do with language comprehension, which has been an important research subject in psychology, especially cognitive psychology. However, studies about language comprehension has been mainly focusing on words, sentences, and passages instead of directly dealing with the meaning of speech communication, especially speech meaning. By comparison, theories and methods of cognitive psychology and cognitive linguistics provide us with new ideas and methodologies to further our studies about meaning in speech communication.

The book stresses speech meaning has psychological connotation. Based on information processing theories of cognitive psychology, by borrowing research ideas from such disciplines as cognitive linguistics, analytical philosophy, and linguistics, the book tries to reveal the attributes and internal psychological processes of the construction of the speech meaning.

Chapter Two takes speech meaning as the center to review the related theories development. That is starting point of our research. The meaning in speech communication manifests itself into two sides: the literal meaning and the illocutionary force. How to understand such meaning becomes an important task for the study of linguistics, philosophy, and psychology. Structuralist linguistics explains from a rhetoric and grammar point of view; philosophers from the Everyday Language School illustrate it by way of speech act and human communication, leading to J. S. Austin and J. Searl's Speech Act Theory and H. D. Grice's Conversational Implicature Theory; Pragmatics experts, Dan. Sperber and Wilson, starting from cognitive psychology, propose the Relevance Theory, giving a cognitive explanation to the meaning of speech communication. By reviewing those relevant theories, it is not difficult to find the developing tendency

of the study of speech meaning: from Structural Linguistics to Pragmatics; from the study of Linguistics and Philosophy to the study of Cognitive Psychology; from the static explanation to the dynamic explanation; from the external description stressing speech communication to the analysis of the internal psychological process of the speech communication subject.

Chapter Three discusses the constitution of speech meaning. It is divided into static aspect and dynamic aspect. The static aspect is the source of speech meaning and the components of speech meaning. According to the sources, speech meaning consists of the known needs and cognitive situation of subject, communication background, context of situation, linguistic structure and paralanguage. Furthermore, meanings of different sources exist complementarily. On the basis of the properties of meanings, speech meaning consists of four elements, namely, element of meaning, element of acts, element of emotion, and element of images, which permeate each other in the cognitive processing of speech meaning.

From the dynamic aspect, Speech meaning does not form itself in advance. Rather, it is a kind of cognitive construction in speech communication act, centered around the subject's communicative intentions. Communication intentions originate from the needs of subject, serves as motivation of speech communication and the base and core in speech meaning. The structure of it is divided into two parts: intention which formulates properties of communicational intention and contents of intention which express intentions in details. The communicative intention can be expressed by the concept of schemata, mainly: Informing Schemata, Request Schemata, and Intention Schemata.

The core of speech meaning is the communicative intention, around which the utterance form is constructed. During this process, derivative

meaning comes up around the communicative intention. Speech meaning, is the product of cognitive processing by the subject of speech communication.

Chapter Four dissertates the factors, principles and approaches of construction of speech meaning. The cognitive processing of speech meaning is actually conducted around communicative intention and the marks of discourse forms. The subject's cognitive processing is also related to some other elements, such as the type of communicative intention, the subject of communication himself, background knowledge, communicative context, discourse form, the cognitive capacity and experience of the subject. While the cognitive capacity and experience forms the basis, the other elements can influence the cognitive processing of speech meaning only when the utterance communication is recognized and come into part of the cognitive background of the subject.

Whether the relevant elements can influence the construction of speech meaning, or what influence it will exert depends on the choice of the subject, and it is in accordance with some principles that can be viewed as the cognitive strategy of the subject's utterance. The principles concluded in this dissertation include the following. Relevance Principle, i. e., utterance form is related to communicative intention. Obviousness Principle, i. e., the more obvious the communicative intention is related to utterance form, the easier they will be processed, and the more cognitive effort the subject will put into it. Brevity Principle, i. e., the economy of speech communication, that is, the least speech form is used to signify communicative intention. This principle is related to the speed of the subject's cognitive processing. Appropriateness Principle, broadly speaking, refers to the psychological acceptability of utterance form that signifies communicative intention. The restriction of these principles is different

in the cognitive processing of the subject. Based on the Relevance Principle, which must be followed, other principles are chosen. Speech meaning is the product of comprehensive balance of these principles.

The construction of speech meaning is related to the paths of how discourse forms mark communication intention. The paths used to realize speech communication recognized by the dissertation include: ostensive path, in which the structurized language marks communication intention; suggestive path, appears to be inference of subject in cognition processing used to link discourse forms and communication intentions, and the inference is realized by means of logical structure of subject, the cognitive schema of relevant common sense and experiences, semantic structure as well; metaphorical path, appears to complete the construction of utterance meaning by means of metaphorical cognition subject has in common.

Chapter Five describes the cognitive course of construction of speech meaning. The construction of speech meaning is completed by addresser and addressee mutually; on the one hand, addresser chooses discourse form marks based on communication intentions; on the other hand addressee finds the communication intentions by discourse form marks. Through discourse forms the two subjects are connected, and therefore, speech meaning results. Although addresser and addressee have the different direction in cognitive processing, they share the same steps of processing: activation of the relevant knowledge, formation of assumption, language choice and determination.

Speech meaning is a cognitive construction centered around communicative intention. The cognitive construction is displayed as the activation connection, and reconstruction of various knowledge of the subject. That is, speech meaning is a temporary combined state of cognitive knowledge of the subject focusing on communication intention. Activation of relevant knowledge is to motivate the

knowledge relevant to communicative intention in the subject's cognitive background, which is the premise for speech meaning to be produced. Connection of relevant knowledge means the activated relevant knowledge is connected to each other in some way and is displayed as the connection between relevant knowledge and communicative intention, as well as connection between the various relevant knowledge. Reconstruction of relevant knowledge means choosing in the connection between various relevant knowledge to find out the most suitable one and then speech meaning is constructed in the reconstruction. The temporariness of speech meaning is due to the temporariness of the reconstruction. Once communicative act finishes, the reconstruction also disappears, except that a certain type of reconstruction is put into long-term memory and becomes a part of the subject's knowledge.

All the theories under the banners of cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics, and cognitive linguistics pay close attention to inner psychological structures and processes of language. They have been greatly advancing the research progress concerning sentence and text-comprehension. As research goes on, the construction of speech meaning in speech communicative act will surely become the focus of attention. In this sense, the dissertation is a theoretical try moving in that direction.

Keywords: speech meaning , cognition , information processing , process of construction

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