

# Foreword & Acknowledgements

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**Cognition and Representation in Linguistic Theory**

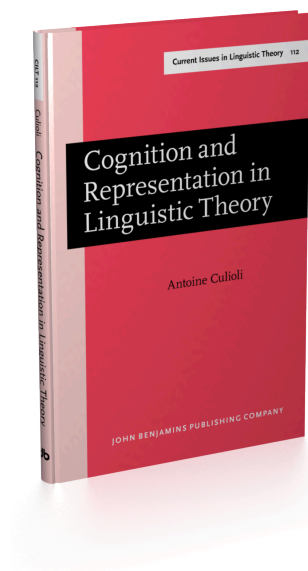
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## FOREWORD & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

French-speaking and English-speaking linguistic cultures have seemed destined to pursue separate paths. British and North American practitioners tend to ignore the heirs, gainsayers and transcendents of the framework set out by Ferdinand de Saussure. Although even the most open-minded among them still do not cite French linguistic texts, today I can more easily be assured of at least polite interest for a French linguist's major contributions to cognitive and formal linguistics, than someone attempting to present a posthumous synthesis of Émile Benveniste's research some twenty years ago. My apparent optimism is grounded in the on-going rejection — or, more conservatively, relativization — in the English-speaking world, of so-called 'autonomous' syntax-based linguistics, in favour of more holistic, discourse-oriented approaches. As the stultifying reductions, the artificial-language-based models, the truth-table logic, gradually recede into the collective past, and make way for a return to the formation of hypotheses based on the study of natural languages, real speakers and real addressees, three-quarters of a century of French publications, and continuing explorations in a wide-range of directions, proposing sometimes contradictory solutions, await discovery in the Anglo-Saxon world.

The present volume is an attempt to lift the veil of at least one framework that has been in use in France for decades. In preparing it, my first thanks go to Professor Antoine Culioli for allowing me to translate the transcription of his Seminar, and to the General Editor of the CILT series, Professor Konrad Koerner, for his continued support for this project and enlightened correction of the manuscript — beyond the call of duty. I also extend my warmest appreciation to Professor Pierre Lardet of the University of Paris 7 (Jussieu) for his help in procuring a copy of unpublished documents by Antoine Culioli and to Professor Sylvain Auroux for biographical information. Many thanks to Dr. John T. Stonham for his intelligent and systematic re-reading and correction of my English translation, and for his enlightened comments, to a first re-reader, Paul Peranteau of John Benjamins. My thanks and best wishes must also go to Professor Janine Bouscaren and to her collection of Culioli-related material *L'Homme dans la langue*, a most important enterprise.