Current Issues in Linguistic Theory
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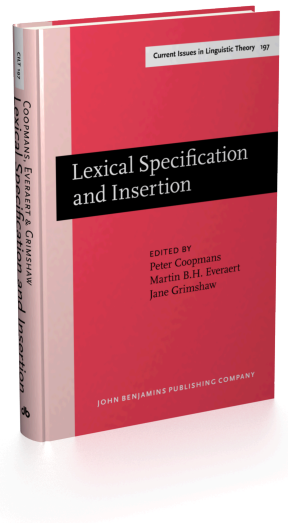
Preface

https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.197.01pre



Pages v–vi of
Lexical Specification and Insertion
Edited by Peter Coopmans, Martin B.H. Everaert and Jane Grimshaw
[**Current Issues in Linguistic Theory**, 197]
2000. xviii, 467 pp.

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Preface

This volume grew out of a conference on Lexical Specification and Insertion that we organized at Utrecht in December 1990. In addition to a number of the papers presented at that conference this volume also contains papers by other scholars who we specifically invited to contribute. Most of these papers were submitted in final form between 1994 and 1996.

The volume was originally intended to be published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates (LEA). Changes in their publishing plans led to Holland Academic Graphics (HAG) taking over the plans to publish the volume. When mid-1999 HAG suffered severe financial difficulties, they were forced to stop certain activities, including projects like the publication of books. John Benjamins Publishers were, in turn, prepared to publish the volume, as you can now witness. We would like to thank Anke de Looper for her support in the final stages of the editing process.

Since many of the papers in this volume have been frequently been referred to in the literature, we decided not to change the working title Lexical Specification and Insertion even though the notion of lexical insertion may now sound as a relict from another millennium. For the same reason we did not ask the authors to revise their papers and couch their proposals in terms that would reflect more recent developments in syntactic and lexical theories.

We believe that the issues dealt with this in the papers of this volume are still as topical as they were when submitted. Current developments, based for example on assumptions of the minimalist program, attribute a central role to lexical and morphological features, strengthening the general view of the importance of lexical specification and insertion in generative syntactic theorizing.

Peter Coopmans, Martin Everaert, Jane Grimshaw