Preface

Pages v–vi of
Grammars and Grammaticality
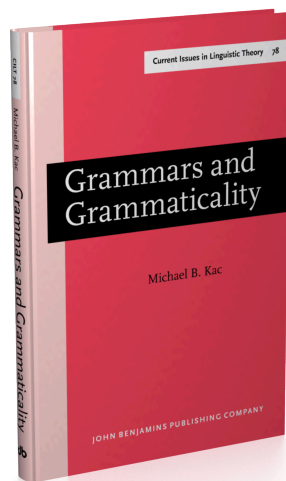Michael B. Kac
[**Current Issues in Linguistic Theory**, 78] 1992. x, 259 pp.

Preface

Since a variety of conditions and events have conspired to delay until now the appearance of this book, it is necessary to alert the reader to the fact that it is in some regards no longer as current as one would wish. I nonetheless believe that the issues it raises continue to be significant, and am accordingly committing it to publication now in the belief that it is preferable to bring these issues before the scholarly community in as timely a fashion as is possible in the circumstances. Thanks are due both to E.F. Konrad Koerner, editor of the series Current Issues in Linguistic Theory, and to a number of anonymous publishers' readers for their part in making this possible.

This study is an outgrowth of some thoughts that were first put in my head by Ray Cattell, whose 1976 paper on movement constraints converged interestingly on some ideas of my own (and diverged from them even more interestingly, as it turned out), and by Esa Itkonen, whose ideas regarding the epistemological status of linguistics came as a revelation once I had gotten past my initial incomprehension and attendant skepticism. Without Itkonen I would not have been able to develop the notion of N-description to which this study is devoted, nor the allied one of etiological analysis developed in Chapter 3; and without Cattell, the need for these ideas would in all likelihood not have occurred to me. To both of them my thanks (very belated) for helping to set the project in motion, and for outstanding collegiality which, given the great geographical distances involved, has brought home to me as nothing else could the true meaning of the phrase 'global village'. I would also be remiss if I did not mention Gilbert Harman, who offered some encouraging words as I first began to struggle with the question of the relationship of linguistics and psychology which plays such a crucial role in Part I.

Closer to home, I must mention the countless hours I have spent in talking linguistics with Alexis Manaster-Ramer and express my thanks for Herculean labor on his part as a result of which Chapter 3 is much improved over what it would have been without his efforts.

My gratitude to the aforementioned in no way implies any responsibility on their part for the contents of this study, nor should it be presumed that they

necessarily agree with me on points of controversy. I alone assume the burden of guilt for whatever crimes against truth or reason are committed in these pages.

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Finally, to Rachel Lord and Stefan Andrew Lord Kac, thanks for the things that words cannot describe.

M.B.K.
Minneapolis

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