

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/tsl.11.01pre>

Pages vii–viii of

**Coherence and Grounding in Discourse: Outcome of a
Symposium, Eugene, Oregon, June 1984**

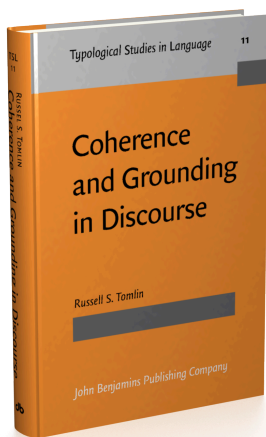
Russell S. Tomlin

[*Typological Studies in Language*, 11] 1987. viii, 512 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



PREFACE

In the spring of 1984 a symposium was held at the University of Oregon on the relationships holding among discourse relations like *foreground* and *background information*, linguistic or cognitive units like *events*, and linguistic coding. The basic themes of this symposium derived from early research by Grimes (1972), Longacre (1968, 1974, 1977), Hopper (1979, 1980), Jones and Jones (1979), and others. Their work proposed that some of the information in discourse is more central or significant than other, simply elaborative, information. For narrative discourse, this discourse relation has been argued to be related to the cognitive unit of *event*, and coded by numerous syntactic devices, including tense-aspect, word order, subordination, transitivity, participant coding and voice.

It was our feeling that this research, while an important beginning, was also too simplistic, depending for its insight too much on introspection and argument by example. The purpose of the symposium was to expand our understanding of the relation holding between discourse relations, cognitive units, and linguistic coding and to increase the empirical rigor of our efforts to do so.

Each of the twenty papers in this volume explores one or more of the following themes.

1. How point of view, or the salience of information in discourse, affects the organizational coherence of text and discourse (Carlson, Erbaugh, Flashner, Fox, Givón, Mithun)

2. The concept of cognitive and linguistic *event* and how events are reflected in text and discourse organization (Dixon, Pawley, Szatrowski, Thompson, Tomlin, Wald)

3. The nature of the linguistic coding of events and other kinds of significant information (Carlson, Demuth, Erbaugh, Flashner, Fox, Kumpf, Lambrecht, Marchese, Rafferty, Ramsey, Thompson)

- 4) The cognitive bases or cognitive correlates of the linguistic organization of discourse (Chafe, DeLancey, Dixon, Pawley, Tomlin)

Support for the Symposium was provided by the University of Oregon and by the Shao Lin West Foundation.

We hope that colleagues interested in problems of discourse organization, discourse processing, and functional grammar will find useful the contributions included here.

Russell S. Tomlin