

A NEW APPROACH
TO ENGLISH GRAMMAR,
ON SEMANTIC
PRINCIPLES

R. M. W. DIXON

CLARENDON



PAPERBACKS

New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles

Claudia Haase

New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles:

A New Approach to English Grammar, on Semantic Principles Robert M. W. Dixon, 1991 This work offers a fresh approach to grammar arguing that a speaker codes a meaning into grammatical forms in order to communicate them to a hearer. Investigating the interrelation of grammar and meaning, Dixon uncovers a rationale for the varying grammatical properties of different words. He offers a review of some of the main points of English syntax as well as a discussion of English verbs in terms of semantic types. Finally, he examines five specific grammatical topics: complement clauses, in detail, complement clauses, transitivity, and causatives; passive construction, promotion of a non subject to subject slot, and the relation between verb constructions.

A Semantic Approach to English Grammar R. M. W. Dixon, 2005-07-01 This book shows how grammar helps people communicate and looks at the ways grammar and meaning interrelate. The author starts from the notion that a speaker codes a meaning into grammatical forms which the listener is then able to recover. Each word he shows has its own meaning and each bit of grammar its own function, their combinations creating and limiting the possibilities for different words. He uncovers a rationale for the varying grammatical properties of different words and in the process explains many facts about English such as why we can say I wish to go, I wish that he would go and I want to go but not I want that he would go. The first part of the book reviews the main points of English syntax and discusses English verbs in terms of their semantic types, including those of Motion, Giving, Speaking, Liking, and Trying. In the second part, Professor Dixon looks at eight grammatical topics including complement clauses, transitivity, and causatives; passives and the promotion of a non subject to subject as in Dictionaries sell well. This is the updated and revised edition of *A New Approach to English Grammar on Semantic Principles*. It includes new chapters on tense and aspect, nominalizations and possession, and adverbs and negation, and contains a new discussion of comparative forms of adjectives. It also explains recent changes in English grammar, including how they have replaced the tabooed he as a pronoun referring to either gender as in When a student reads this book, they will learn a lot about English grammar in a most enjoyable manner.

A New Approach to English Grammar, on Semantic Principles Robert Malcolm Ward Dixon, 2023 Linguists often portray grammar as a kind of self-sufficient algebra. This book offers a new approach starting from the premise that a speaker codes meaning into grammatical forms in order to communicate them to a hearer who recovers the meaning.

A New Approach to English Grammar, on Semantic Principles Robert M. W. Dixon, 1992 Linguists often portray grammar as a kind of self-sufficient algebra. R. M. W. Dixon offers a new approach starting from the premise that a speaker codes a meaning into grammatical forms in order to communicate them to a hearer who recovers the meaning. He investigates the interrelation of grammar and meaning and uncovers a rationale for the varying grammatical properties of different words. Why, for instance, can we say I wish to go and I wish that he would go and then I want to go but not I want that he should go? In the first part of the book, there is a review of some of the main points of English syntax followed by a discussion of English verbs in terms of semantic types. About thirty of these

types are examined including verbs of Motion of Giving of Thinking of Speaking of Liking and of Typing In the last part of the book the author looks in detail at five grammatical topics complement clauses which can fill subject or object slot in a main clause the question of transitivity and causatives passives of all kinds promotion of a non subject to subject slot as in Dictionaries sellwellR and the relation between constructions such as They walked and They had a walk She punched him and She gave him a punchR and He looked and He took a look **Deconstructing Constructions** Christopher Butler,Javier Martín Arista,2008 Experts in functional linguistics and in Construction Grammar approaches explore the concept of construction what it is and what roles constructions play in the frameworks which can be located within a multidimensional functional cognitive space The volume also plots the developments which led to recent models **An Open Dimension of Meaning: A Semantic Study of Adjectives and Their Combinations** Jesús Gerardo Martínez del Castillo,1997-01-01

Adjectives are lexematic words functioning at the three levels of linguistic competence They form a category they belong to particular languages and they are elements of free use by speakers As virtual they belong to the system of the language as instruments of expression they belong to the norm of the language and as instruments of communication they belong to discourse At the same time adjectives are predicates the expression of a state of affairs provided with the instruments of relation and combination in a sentence or in a phrase This study analyses the potentialities of expression and interpretation of adjectives

The Anatomy of Avoidance R. M. W. Dixon,2025-05-19 Speakers of Dyirbal in North Queensland Australia have an everyday language style which has been well described They also have an avoidance style called Jalnguy which must be used in the presence of certain tabooed kin such as the mother in law Jalnguy has the same grammar and phonology as the everyday style but the vocabularies are entirely different Jalnguy has only about one sixth as many lexemes as the everyday style with various techniques used to create a Jalnguy correspondent for each everyday style word The underlying semantic system of Dyirbal is thus realised at two levels of generality and is revealed through detailed study of the correspondences between them This monograph is the first comprehensive study of this in law avoidance language providing fascinating new insights into register variation and the complexities of kinship in Australian languages **Semantics** John I. Saeed,2022-11-29

The latest edition of the bestselling introduction to the field of linguistic semantics updated throughout and featuring a wholly new chapter on inferential pragmatics Semantics Fifth Edition is a comprehensive and well balanced introduction to the study of the communication of meaning in language Assuming no previous background in semantics and limited familiarity with formal linguistics this student friendly textbook describes the concepts theory and study of semantics in an accessible and clear style Concise chapters describe the role of semantics within contemporary linguistics cover key topics in the analysis of word and sentence meaning and review major semantic theories such as componential theory formal semantics and cognitive semantics The updated fifth edition incorporates recent theoretical developments and important research in linguistic semantics featuring an entirely new chapter examining the overlap between inferential pragmatics and

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This book builds on R M W Dixon s most influential work on the languages of North Queensland It brings together studies in the fields of phonology syntax language contact and language attrition illustrated with examples of the unusual and theoretically significant features of the languages studied

Australia's Original Languages R. M. W. Dixon,2019-07-01 A must read for all who would like to understand the languages and culture of Indigenous Australians Dr Ernie Grant Elder of the Jirrbal nation When Captain Cook landed at Botany Bay about 250 distinct

languages were spoken across the continent Yet Australian Indigenous languages actually share many common features Bob Dixon has been working with elders to research Australian languages for half a century and he draws on this deep experience to outline the common features He provides a straightforward introduction to the sounds word building and wide ranging vocabulary of Indigenous languages and highlights distinctive grammatical features He explains how language is related to culture including kinship relationships gender systems and naming conventions With examples from over 30 languages and anecdotes illustrating language use and avoiding technical terms Australia s Original Languages is the indispensable starting point for anyone interested in learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait languages Written in an accessible easy to read style Professor Dixon s new book is an informative and entertaining introduction to Australia s original languages Dr Joe

Blythe Department of Linguistics Macquarie University [Middle Constructions in English](#) Claudia Haase,2005-04-09

Seminar paper from the year 2000 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies Linguistics grade 1 1 A University of Dusseldorf Heinrich Heine Anglistisches Institut III course Verb Classes and verb alternations in English language English abstract With this paper I want to give a survey about middles in English verbs which form middles general characteristics make obvious the relationship between middles and passives and middles and ergatives and in the end compare German and

English middles I dedicated this paper also to the question Are verbs which form middles transitive or intransitive Some experts claim that middle verbs can be both transitive or intransitive cf Dixon others try to prove that verbs which form middles are always transitive and that with middle formation the transitivity is lost **Are Some Languages Better than Others?** R. M. W. Dixon, 2016-04-28 This book sets out to answer a question that many linguists have been hesitant to ask are some languages better than others Can we say for instance that because German has three genders and French only two German is a better language in this respect Jarawara spoken in the Amazonian jungle has two ways of showing possession one for a part e g Father's foot and the other for something which is owned and can be given away or sold e g Father's knife is it thus a better language in this respect than English which marks all possession in the same way R M W Dixon begins by outlining what he feels are the essential components of any language such as the ability to pose questions command actions and provide statements He then discusses desirable features including gender agreement tenses and articles before concluding with his view of what the ideal language would look like and an explanation of why it does not and probably never will exist Written in the author's usual accessible and engaging style and full of personal anecdotes and unusual linguistic phenomena the book will be of interest to all general language enthusiasts as well as to a linguistics student audience and particularly to anyone with an interest in linguistic typology **The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics** R. E. Asher, J. M. Y. Simpson, 1994 Language, 1930 Linguistics, 2002 **Pragmatics & Cognition**, 1995 Papers in South East Asian Linguistics, 1967 **Studies in Burmese Languages** David Bradley, 1995 Studies in Language, 2005 **Tamambo** Dorothy Jauncey, 2011

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Table of Contents New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles

1. Understanding the eBook New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - The Rise of Digital Reading New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles User Reviews and Ratings
 - New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles Free and Paid eBooks
 - New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles Public Domain eBooks
 - New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles eBook Subscription Services
 - New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles eBook Formats
 - ePUB, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles Compatibility with Devices
 - New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Interactive Elements New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
8. Staying Engaged with New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Setting Reading Goals New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of New Approach To English Grammar On Semantic Principles
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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