

## Linguistic Knowledge and Language Use

One of the key challenges in linguistics is to account for the link between linguistic knowledge and our use of language in a way that is both descriptively accurate and cognitively plausible. This pioneering book addresses these challenges by combining insights from Construction Grammar and Relevance Theory, two influential approaches which until now have been considered incompatible. After a clear and detailed presentation of both theories, the author demonstrates that their integration is possible, and explains why this integration is necessary in order to understand exactly how meaning comes about. A new theoretical model is offered that provides groundbreaking insights into the semantics–pragmatics interface and addresses a variety of topics, including the nature of lexical and grammatical concepts, procedural meaning, coercion and idiom processing. This title is part of the Flip It Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

BENOÎT LECLERCQ is an Associate Professor in English Linguistics at the University of Paris 8. His research focuses on the semantics–pragmatics interface, with a particular interest in the domain of modality. Recent publications include *Models of Modals* (co-authored, De Gruyter, 2023).



# Linguistic Knowledge and Language Use

*Bridging Construction Grammar and Relevance  
Theory*

---

Benoît Leclercq

*Université Paris 8*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education,  
learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009273206](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009273206)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009273213](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009273213)

© Benoît Leclercq 2024

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions  
of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version  
the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009273213](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009273213)  
under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits  
re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes  
providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not  
distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third  
parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these  
third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009273213](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009273213)

First published 2024

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Leclercq, Benoît, 1992– author.

Title: Linguistic knowledge and language use : bridging construction grammar and relevance  
theory / Benoît Leclercq.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom : Cambridge University Press, 2024. | Includes  
bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023024148 (print) | LCCN 2023024149 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009273206  
(hardback) | ISBN 9781009273220 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009273213 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Semantics. | Pragmatics. | Construction grammar. | Relevance.

Classification: LCC P325 .L335 2024 (print) | LCC P325 (ebook) | DDC  
401/.43–dc23/eng/20230705

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023024148>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023024149>

ISBN 978-1-009-27320-6 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-27322-0 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,  
accurate or appropriate.