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Preface and acknowledgements

In June 2004, an image schema workshop – unrelated to the project of this edition, but accidentally coinciding with its first deadline for chapter submission – was announced on the “CogLing” mailing list as a satellite event to “Language, Culture and Mind” (Portsmouth, July 2004). This announcement immediately kindled an intense, even fiery, debate, which made it plain that the notion of image schema is so central to the Cognitive-Linguistics enterprise that the possibility of an *embodied* and *experiential* view of linguistic meaning may to a considerable extent hinge on an adequate and generally accepted understanding of this notion. Less conveniently, this internet exchange also reflected that the latter is exactly what Cognitive Linguistics had so far not achieved.

In order to give a broader audience in Cognitive Linguistics and its neighbouring disciplines in the social and cognitive sciences access to the current state-of-the-art in image schema theory, “*From Perception to Meaning*” unites a comprehensive range of original papers by renowned scholars – many of whom have shaped image schema theory from the very beginning. Rather than trying to resolve all currently existing tensions into a completely unified notion, however, this collection is intended to document the innovations as well as inconsistencies that have accumulated over the past two decades, to take stock of both the question marks that accompany them, and the great promise they hold for advancing the entire field.

As Part I of this edition surveys image schema theory in great detail from a range of different angles, and as most authors in the other sections individually do so, too, the editor’s introductory chapter will be restricted to a slim outline of the original conception as well as some of the major issues that have driven image schema research to date, and also shaped the contributions to this volume. In addition, all authors have provided summary abstracts of their chapters.

“*From Perception to Meaning*” is the result of the sustained commitment and joint hard work of a whole group of scholars. Without their outstanding sense of community and cooperation, this interdisciplinary edition could never have been assembled. The collection – for the most part made up of original papers elicited for the sole purpose of creating this book – brings together a range of divergent perspectives from Cognitive Linguistics and such neighbouring disciplines as anthropology, psychology, and the neuro-

sciences. Two chapters are continuations of pertinent earlier research on spatial cognition and language (Talmy, *this volume*; Deane, *this volume*); the four chapters that originate in pertinent conference talks delivered at, e.g., the “7th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference”, Santa Barbara 2001 (Grady, *this volume*; Popova, *this volume*), or the “Portsmouth Image Schema Workshop” (Zlatev, *this volume*; Beningfield et al., *this volume*), present much elaborated and updated versions of the respective earlier presentations. I thus wish to thank the contributors to this CLR volume for all of their patience and the efforts they have invested, which have ultimately turned their individual essays into the tightly connected chapters of a book project belonging to all of us.

I am also deeply grateful to the following colleagues from a range of disciplines, all of whom agreed to act as anonymous reviewers of the chapter drafts and thus provided the authors and myself with their invaluable feedback and support: *Benjamin Bergen, Geert Brône, Alan Cienki, Timothy Clausner, Herbert Colston, Seana Coulson, William Croft, Robert Dewell, René Dirven, Kurt Feyarts, Vittorio Galese, Dirk Geeraerts, Raymond Gibbs, Stefan Th. Gries, Ronald Langacker, Cornelia Müller, Gary Palmer, Naomi Quinn, Doris Schönefeld, Augusto Soares da Silva, Chris Sinha, Sarah Taub, Michael Tomasello, and Claude Vandeloise.*

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Lastly, but by no means least of all, I wish to thank *Joseph Grady* for joining me on this arduous journey. Without his initial encouragement, this project would probably never have got off the ground in the first place. Nor would I, without his continuous enthusiasm and feedback, have found the stamina to see this book all the way through to its final completion.

Beate Hampe,

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, September 2005

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