

Contents

List of Figures page viii

List of Tables ix

- 1 Defining Connectives and Discourse Relations 1
 - 1.1 Introduction 1
 - 1.2 Defining the Main Constructs 2
 - 1.3 Key Considerations for the Study of Discourse Relations and Connectives 17
 - 1.4 Summary 20
- 2 Theoretical Models of Discourse Relations 23
 - 2.1 Introduction 23
 - 2.2 Rhetorical Structure Theory 24
 - 2.3 Segmented Discourse Representation Theory 28
 - 2.4 The Penn Discourse Treebank Framework 33
 - 2.5 A Cognitive Approach to Coherence Relations 38
 - 2.6 Can Different Frameworks Communicate? 43
 - 2.7 Summary 45
- 3 Connectives: Meanings and Functions 48
 - 3.1 Introduction 48
 - 3.2 Discourse Connectives as a Subcategory of Discourse Markers 49
 - 3.3 Polysemy and Polyfunctionality of Discourse Connectives 56
 - 3.4 Semasiological and Onomasiological Approaches to Discourse Connectives 60
 - 3.5 Summary 70
- 4 Connectives between Syntax and Discourse 72
 - 4.1 Introduction 72
 - 4.2 Morphosyntactic Distribution of Discourse Connectives 73

- 4.3 Using Syntactic Features to Disambiguate Discourse Connectives 78
- 4.4 The Impact of the Syntagmatic Position of Connectives on Their Meaning 87
- 4.5 Summary 90
- 5 The Evolution of Connectives' Meanings 92
 - 5.1 Introduction 92
 - 5.2 How Did Connectives Emerge in the Languages' Grammar? 94
 - 5.3 From Clause-Combining to Discourse Connectives 97
 - 5.4 The Emergence of Discourse Connectives: Some Illustrative Case Studies 107
 - 5.5 Summary 113
- 6 Processing and Understanding Discourse Relations and Connectives 116
 - 6.1 Introduction 116
 - 6.2 Processing Discourse Relations 119
 - 6.3 The Role of Connectives for Discourse Processing 124
 - 6.4 The Role of Connectives for Recall and Comprehension 132
 - 6.5 Individual Differences between Readers 135
 - 6.6 Similarities and Differences of Processing across Languages 137
 - 6.7 Summary 140
- 7 Discourse Relations and Connectives across Languages and Genres 142
 - 7.1 Introduction 142
 - 7.2 Variations across Languages 143
 - 7.3 Variations across Genres 152
 - 7.4 Studies Combining Variations across Languages in Genres 157
 - 7.5 Connectives in Translations 159
 - 7.6 Summary 161
- 8 Acquiring Connectives in a First Language 163
 - 8.1 Introduction 163
 - 8.2 Early Spontaneous Productions 164
 - 8.3 Acquiring Complex Form–Function Mappings between Relations and Connectives 168

8.4	The Comprehension of Connectives during Primary School Years	173
8.5	Mastering More Diverse Connectives during the Teenage Years	179
8.6	Connectives in Children with Language and Cognitive Impairments	183
8.7	Summary	186
9	Mastering Connectives in a Second Language	188
9.1	Introduction	188
9.2	Learners' Uses of Connectives	189
9.3	Learners' Comprehension of Connectives	193
9.4	Individual Differences in Learners' Mastery of Connectives	200
9.5	What Could Cause Learners' Difficulties with Connectives?	202
9.6	Suggestions of Teaching Techniques	205
9.7	Summary	207
	Conclusion	209
	Glossary	214
	References	218
	Index	252