

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
1.1 The Puzzle	2
1.2 The Roadmap	3
1.3 The CENCE ME Principles	5
1.4 Speakers Are Efficient and Expressive and also Conform	7
2 Word Meanings	11
2.1 Meanings Are Rich, Structured, and Partially Abstracted	11
2.2 Vast Implicit Memory	13
2.3 Clusters of Conventional, Related Senses	18
2.4 Creativity	21
2.5 Competition Constrains Word Meanings	23
2.6 Learning and Fluency Reduce Overgeneralizations	25
2.7 Summary	27
3 Constructions as Invitations to Form Categories	28
3.1 Meaning (Semantics)	29
3.1.1 Evidence	31
3.1.2 The Construct-i-con	34
3.1.3 Compatibility	37
3.2 Form (Syntax)	39
3.3 Sound Patterns (Phonology)	40
3.4 Discourse Context (Information Structure)	42
3.5 Social Context	43
3.6 Variation across Dialects	43
3.7 Variation across Languages	45
3.7.1 One-Participant Events	46
3.7.2 Two-Participant Events	47
3.7.3 Three-Participant Events	47
3.7.4 Serial Verb Languages	48
3.8 Constructions Are Combined (Recursively)	49
3.9 Summary	49

4 Creativity: Coverage Is Key	51
4.1 Knowledge and Memory	51
4.2 Memory for Language	53
4.3 Verbs in ASCs	57
4.4 Why Noun Phrases Are Open Slots in ASCs	59
4.5 Simple Entrenchment	60
4.6 Creativity and Productivity	61
4.7 Coverage: Clustering of Partially Abstract Exemplars	62
4.7.1 Evidence	65
4.7.2 Token Frequencies	68
4.8 Modeling Coverage	70
4.9 Summary	72
5 Competition: Statistical Preemption	74
5.1 Constraining Morphology and Meaning	74
5.2 Statistical Preemption	75
5.3 Evidence	77
5.4 Recasts	84
5.5 Explain Me This	85
5.6 Calculating the Probabilities	87
5.7 A Secondary Factor: Confidence	87
5.8 Mechanism: Error-Driven Learning	91
5.9 What Coverage Adds to Statistical Preemption	92
5.10 Summary	94
6 Age and Accessibility Effects	95
6.1 Younger Children Are More Conservative	98
6.2 Younger Children Are More Likely to Simplify in Production	101
6.3 Scaffolding Encourages “Early Abstraction”	105
6.4 Why Adult Learners of English Are Prone to Continuing Errors	110
6.4.1 Highly Entrenched L1 Warps Representational Space	111
6.4.2 Reduced Tendency to Predict Grammatical Forms	115
6.5 Summary	117
7 The Roads Not Taken	120
7.1 Is Compatibility between Verb and Construction Enough?	120
7.2 Are Invisible Features or Underlying Structure Explanatory?	121
7.3 Conservatism via Entrenchment?	122
7.4 Are “Tolerance” and “Sufficiency” Numbers Explanatory?	128
7.5 Are Frequencies without Function Effective?	133
7.6 Are Storage and Productivity Inversely Related?	134

7.7 Preempted Forms Need Not Be Created	136
7.8 Witnessing Enough Data	137
7.9 Summary	138
8 Where We Are and What Lies Ahead	140
<i>References</i>	147
<i>Index</i>	183