Preface to the Third Edition

The Third Edition has been gently modernized, leaving the overview of traditional, theoretical, and computational linguistics, analytic philosophy of language, and mathematical complexity theory with their historical backgrounds intact. The format of the empirical analyses of English and German syntax and semantics has been adapted to current practice. Sects. 22.3–24.5 have been rewritten to focus more sharply on the construction of a talking robot.

Because the Second Edition is quite long, one aim of the present edition has been to shorten the number of pages. Little is lost, however, because later publications make up for a reduction of about 10 percent. The broad, leisurely style induced by the book’s origin as material for a four semester introductory lecture course, however, has been preserved.

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