

## Conceptual Semantics

I'm very happy to be here. I'm grateful for the opportunity, the chance to come back to this great city in this great country, representing a great culture and the most unique language, and a strong linguistic tradition. It's a real pleasure to be here. My only regret is that I can not be speaking to you in Chinese. My parents were not very thoughtful in that regard. I also want to thank Thomas for the nice introduction. There will be a series of ten lectures if I survive this. Each lecture, I hope, will be self-contained so that people will be able to understand it by itself, but there will also be progression from one to the next, so things will get more complex and more interesting. Also we'll start out with semantics because a cognitive view of grammar has to be based on a conceptual view of meaning, and that has to be in place first before we can start to talk about grammar in a motivated way. So these first two presentations in particular will be about conceptual meaning, then with three and four tomorrow, we'll get into the basics of grammar, and then in five and six on the next day into more advanced things in grammar, including some things that are of interest to Chinese although it will not be focused on Chinese specifically. So this first presentation on conceptual semantics is quite introductory. Things will get less so with each successive talk. And I hope everyone has this handout called conceptual semantics.

(Now let's see. It must be on. OK, got all our technology in order here? Yes, OK. Somewhere there was also a pointer, a laser pointer. Ah, that ... Now we are all arranged.) Right, as I said to begin, a cognitive view of grammar has to be based on meaning. I think any sensible approach to grammar has to be based on meaning. A basic claim of cognitive grammar is that grammar is symbolic in nature, and by symbolic I mean that it symbolizes meaning. So we have to start with semantics, and in cognitive linguistics, meaning is identified with a kind of conceptualization. But conceptualization in a very broad sense of that term as I spell it out in No. (1) on the handout. Any aspect of our mental experience



All original audio-recordings and other supplementary material, such as any hand-outs and powerpoint presentations for the lecture series, have been made available online and are referenced via unique DOI numbers on the website [www.figshare.com](http://www.figshare.com). They may be accessed via a QR code for the print version of this book. In the e-book, both the QR code and dynamic links are available, and can be accessed by a mouse-click.