



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Introduction.

van Eemeren, F.H.; Grootendorst, R.

Publication date
1989

Published in
Argumentation

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

van Eemeren, F. H., & Grootendorst, R. (1989). Introduction. *Argumentation*, 3(4), 341-343.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.



A078475074

NCC/IBL AANVRAAGBON

KOPIE PERIODIEK EGB

(9)

28-04-2005

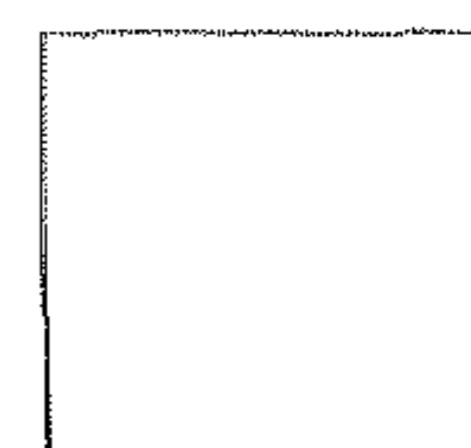
Datum indienen : 27-04-2005 21:08 5493-1 Clearing House
 Datum plaatsen : 27-04-2005 21:08
 Aanvrager : 0004/9998
 Aanvraagident :
 Aanvragerident : 0004/9999
 Eindgebruiker : 041631433

Telefoonnummer : 050-3635057
 Cooperatiecode : R

Leverwijze : Elektronisch
 Fax :
 Ftp :
 E-Mail : m.s.van.delden@rug.nl
 Ariel :

Plaatscode : 863273092 ; CBa 1811 ; ; 1987 V1 - 2001 V15

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) [] Origineel gestuurd | (6) [] Niet beschikbaar |
| (2) [] Copie gestuurd | (7) [] Uitgeleend |
| (3) [] Overige | (8) [] Wordt niet uitgeleend |
| (4) [] Nog niet aanwezig | (9) [] Bibliografisch onjuist |
| (5) [] Niet aanwezig | (0) [] Bij de binder |



A078475074

NCC/IBL AANVRAAGBON

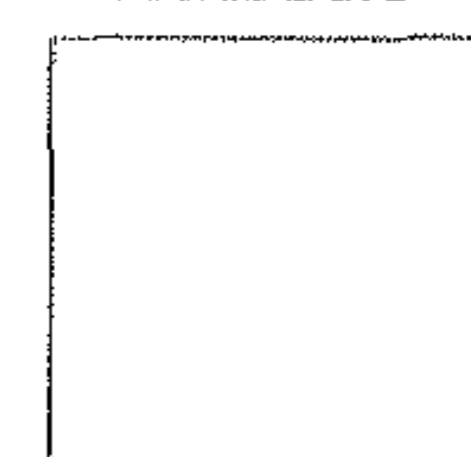
Verzamelnota volgt.

KOPIE PERIODIEK EGB

28-04-2005

Datum indienen : 27-04-2005 21:08 9620-1 UB Groningen
 Datum plaatsen : 27-04-2005 21:08 UvA Keur
 Aanvrager : 0004/9998 Broerstraat 4
 Aanvraagident : 9700 AN Groningen
 Aanvragerident : 0004/9999
 Eindgebruiker : 041631433 tav

Aantal



PPN Titel : 863273092
 Titel : Argumentation : an international journal on reasoning
 :
 Auteur :
 Deel/Supplem. :
 Corporatie : Externe database:
 Jaar/Editie : 1987 Extern nummer :
 Uitgave : Dordrecht D. Reidel Publishing Company
 Serie/Sectie :
 Pag-ISSN/ISBN : 0920-427X

Plaatscode : 863273092 ; CBa 1811 ; ; 1987 V1 - 2001 V15

Jaar : 1989-00-00
 Volume : 3
 Aflevering :
 Eindgebruiker : 041631433 Aanvraagident. :
 Auteur : F.H. van Eemeren, R. Grootendorst: UVA KEUR (UB GRONINGEN)
 Artikel : Introduction.
 Bladzijden : 341-343
 Bron :
 Opmerking : arno ID: 127702

Argumentation and Speech Act Theory

Editors' Introduction

After the notion of 'speech act' had been introduced by the ordinary language philosopher J. L. Austin, John Searle developed a more systematic theoretical framework for dealing with speech acts that is known nowadays as the *standard theory of speech acts*. This standard theory has been a major factor in promoting the new discipline of linguistic pragmatics in the seventies. Meanwhile, many authors have contributed to the elaboration and refinement of speech act theory, thus accounting for some of the criticisms they themselves and others had put forward. No exaggeration is involved in saying that speech act theory is flourishing, though, just like any important theory, it also has its repudiators.

Although this is so far not recognized by everybody, speech act theory also proves to be quite useful for the study of argumentation. It can be helpful in carrying out the various tasks involved in the comprehensive research programme of this discipline. In this issue on 'Argumentation and speech act theory', the authors try to elucidate, in various ways, the connections between argumentation and speech act theory. In doing this, they concentrate on the role of speech acts when analysing argumentative discourse.

All the authors agree that speech act theory can contribute substantially to making adequate analyses of argumentative discourse, but each of them also sees certain shortcomings in the standard theory as it is. In their articles they explain what speech act theory has to offer for the resolution of some important problems in the theory of argumentation, what its shortcomings are, and how these could be remedied.

In 'Speech acts and arguments', Scott Jacobs acknowledges that speech act theory provides useful tools for the analysis of argumentative discourse, but in his view arguments are not a homogeneous class of speech act. Speech act theorists who claim that they *are* confuse the meaning of speech act verbs with the pragmatic structure of actual language use and overlook the role played by the context of activity and the form of expression. According to Jacobs, folk terminology should be used as a heuristic tool for the analysis.

According to Frans van Eemeren and Rob Grootendorst, the analysis of argumentative discourse as a critical discussion requires a normative reconstruction which encompasses four kinds of pragma-dialectical transformations. In 'Speech act conditions as tools for reconstructing argumentative discourse', they explain how speech act conditions can play a part in carrying out such a reconstruction. They argue that integrating Searlean

insights concerning speech acts with Gricean insights concerning conversational maxims can provide us with the necessary tools if the standard theory of speech acts is adequately amended and the conversational maxims are translated into speech act conditions. Using indirect speech acts as an example, they then demonstrate how argumentative discourse can be reconstructed.

In 'Conversation, relevance, and argumentation', Agnes Haft-van Rees sketches relevant connections between speech acts and between various levels of speech acts in argumentative discourse. She specifically pays attention to the explanation provided by the maxim of relevance for the way utterances in argumentative discourse follow each other in an orderly and coherent fashion. According to Haft-van Rees, an utterance can be considered relevant as an interactional act, as an illocutionary act, as a propositional act, and as an elocutionary act: these four kinds of relevance manifest the rational organization of discourse.

In order to account for a reconstruction of argumentative discourse, normative as well as descriptive insights are needed. In 'Confrontation in conversations', Agnes Verbiest concentrates on the systematic description of the confrontation stage of an argumentative conversation by discussing adjacency pairs of speech acts which are performed in that stage. She shows that the description of confrontation in conversation largely agrees with Jackson and Jacobs's model of conversational coherence. Where the concept of adjacency pair is unsatisfactory, she recommends using notions from Edmondson's model of interactional analysis.

In 'Suppositions in argumentation', Alec Fisher draws our attention to a much neglected type of speech act which is very important in argumentation. He criticizes Searle for omitting suppositions entirely from his taxonomy which omission appears to lead to a similar omission in the pragma-dialectical theory of argumentation. He argues that suppositional argument can be understood properly with the help of Frege's distinction between 'asserted' and 'unasserted' propositions; according to Fisher, suppositions are neither assertions nor assertives.

In 'Indirect directives in monological argumentation', Antoinette Primatarova-Miltscheva discusses adverbials and clauses as illocutionary indicators of indirect directives aimed at influencing the reader's behaviour. If such an attempt to influence the reader's behaviour anticipates his objections, it can be fair, but if it serves to suppress them, it can also be manipulative. She gives some guidelines for distinguishing between these discourse-organising and manipulative functions of indirect directives.

Finally, Pam Benoit aims for an extension of speech act theory that makes it fit to deal with verbal interaction. In 'Relationship arguments', she argues that speech act theories were not developed to explain interaction. For understanding relationship arguments, an extension of speech act theory is needed that takes the function of relational goals into con-

sideration and makes clear which resources are available when making inferences.

University of Amsterdam

FRANS H. VAN EEMEREN AND
ROB GROOTENDORST