

The Legacy of Zellig Harris

Language and information into the 21st century

Volume 1: Philosophy of science, syntax and semantics

Edited by Bruce E. Nevin

Cisco Systems, Inc.

Zellig Harris opened many lines of research in language, information, and culture, from generative grammar to informatics, from mathematics to language pedagogy. An international array of scholars here describe further developments and relate this work to that of others. Volume 1 begins with a survey article by Harris himself, previously unavailable in English. T.A. Ryckman, Paul Mattick, Maurice Gross, and Francis Lin show the importance of Harris's methodology for philosophy of science, the first two with reference especially to his remarkable findings on the form of information in science. Themes of discourse and sublanguage analysis are developed further in chapters by Michael Gottfried, James Munz, Robert Longacre, and Carlota Smith. Morris Salkoff, Peter Seuren, and Lila Gleitman present diverse developments in syntax and semantics. Phonology is represented in chapters by Leigh Lisker and by Frank Harary and Stephen Helmreich. Daythal Kendall applies operator grammar to literary analysis of Sapir's Takelma texts, and Fred Lukoff's chapter describes benefits of string analysis for language pedagogy.

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Volume 2: Mathematics and computability of language

Edited by Bruce E. Nevin and Stephen M. Johnson

Cisco Systems, Inc. / Columbia University

Zellig Harris had a profound influence in formal systems and applied mathematics, in demonstrations of the computability of language, and in informatics. Volume 2 begins with a commentary by André Lentin on Harris's grounding in constructivist, intuitionist mathematics, drawing a parallel between Harris's central insights and those of Gödel and others which were of like import in the foundations of mathematics. An international array of scholars describe further developments and relate this work to that of others. Fernando Pereira argues that Harrisian 'linguistic information' can effect a reunion of linguistics with information theory that has not been considered possible since Chomsky's declaration of irrelevance in 1957. Chapters by Richard Oehrle and by Terence Langendoen develop two novel formal systems with intriguing properties. Chapters by Naomi Sager and Ngo Thanh Nhan, by Aravind Joshi, and by Stephen Johnson describe the history of work on the computability of language and project exciting prospects ahead. Karel van den Eynde and colleagues describe use of distributional methods, refined beyond those of Harris, to develop comprehensive computer dictionaries for several languages. The chapter by Benoît Habert and Pierre Zweigenbaum surveys the field of automatic acquisition of information categories, and that by Richard Kittredge surveys work on text generation. Richard Smaby shows how distributional analysis can even inform design of computer user interfaces.

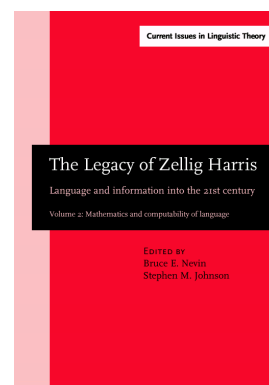
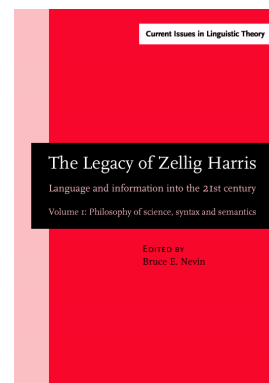
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