

Preface

We have edited this book, *Doing Pragmatics Interculturally: Cognitive, Philosophical, and Sociopragmatic Perspectives*, as a token of our appreciation of István Kecskés' scientific achievements. We have known Kecskés for many years now and think very highly of him. He is a phenomenal linguist whose impact on his various fields of expertise is unprecedented. For one, he is the forefather of **Intercultural Pragmatics**, a new field in linguistics which he started from scratch, and which has attracted numerous scholars in the years since its inception. Thanks to him, the field of Intercultural Pragmatics has now a journal of its own (*Intercultural Pragmatics*), its own international conference (*INPRA: International Conference on Intercultural Pragmatics and Communication*), and is also a key pillar of the bi-annual pragmatics conference in the Americas (*AMPRA: International American Pragmatics Association Conference*). Intercultural Pragmatics also has a seminal book of its own, authored by Kecskés (*Intercultural Pragmatics*, Oxford University Press, 2014), which provides a platform for the field, while also moving beyond traditional pragmatics. And what's more, now, thanks to Kecskés, Intercultural Pragmatics has also a book series of its own (*Mouton Series in Pragmatics*, with Kecskés as Editor-in-Chief). Add to this another three books he has co-edited on Intercultural Pragmatics (Kecskés & Assimakopoulos 2017; Kecskés & Horn 2007; Kecskés & Romero-Trillo 2013), and the extent of his impact on the field of Intercultural Pragmatics is self-explanatory.

István Kecskés has also contributed significantly to other research areas such as **Socio-Pragmatics and Cognitive Pragmatics**, in which his work on **bilingualism** features as a prominent strand. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Chinese as a Second Language Research*, as well as being President of *CASLAR* (Chinese as a Second Language Research Association), alongside being the co-director and founder of the biannual Barcelona Summer School on Bi- and Multilingualism. On top of all that, he has authored a number of books on bilingualism (Kecskés 2002, 2003; Kecskés & Papp 2000), in addition to (co-) editing a number of other volumes on the topic (Kecskés 2013; Kecskés & Albertazzi 2007). His most important contribution is his evidence-based finding that foreign language learning benefits from one's mother tongue. In his co-authored book *Foreign Language and Mother Tongue* (Kecskés & Papp 2000), Kecskés and Papp present empirical data garnered through a longitudinal study on the effects of foreign language learning on one's first language. While relying on psycholinguistic findings, Kecskés and Papp have further shown that the factor of salience (Giora 1997, 2003), found to affect children and adult L1 language comprehension and production, has observable bearings on how we interpret

learners' difficulties with idioms, formulaic implicatures, and situation-bound utterances in L2 production and comprehension. In order for an adult L2 learner to perform adequately, s/he needs to be familiar with the conventional, frequent, and prototypical meanings of a situation-bound utterance in a given situation. This, however, is something L2 learners do not always have access to because of their insufficient common ground knowledge and conceptual fluency in the target language (Kecskés 2002).

Another area of expertise of István Kecskés is **Discourse Pragmatics** and **Cognitive Pragmatics**, in which he features dominantly. He has published extensively on the topic. He has authored and co-edited six books (Allan, Capone & Kecskés 2016; Kecskés 2014; Kecskés & Mey 2008; Kecskés & Horn 2007; Kecskés & Papp 1991, 1994) and written over fifty articles in refereed journals and books. A recent publication of his (Kecskés 2016) focuses on a highly original topic, arguing that deliberate creativity, which allows speakers to resort to non-formulaic language, is more pervasive among second language learners than native speakers. The latter, however, are creative in a different way.

His rich and varied expertise has allowed him to enrich linguistics both theoretically and empirically. Not least significant is his work developing the **Socio-Cognitive Approach to Communication**, through which he incorporates not only the cooperative, context-dependent aspects of interaction, but also its egocentric, untidy, trial-and-error features. He has already published several papers on this approach in the *Journal of Pragmatics*, *Pragmatics & Cognition*, and *Second Language Research*. Indeed, building on the “egocentrism” model (e.g., Keysar and Henly 2002; Barr and Keysar 2005, 2007), alongside the graded salience hypothesis (Giora 1997, 2003), Kecskés (2008) has been able to show that the tendency of language users to egocentrically anchor their judgments in available information, regardless of whether this information is actually useful for solving a given problem or not, may explain why, initially, hearers' and speakers' perspectives may not match. On such occasions, the actual context will come into play and serve as a basis for determining what the speaker means, regardless of degree of literalness.

In sum, István Kecskés' thorough acquaintance with different disciplines, his familiarity with a variety of research methods, his enthusiastic devotion to promoting new research topics, his immense impact on the international scientific community, and his long list of publications, including ten books in well-known publishing houses alongside many tens of articles in top international journals, make him a most conspicuous scholar in the field of cognitive and usage-based linguistics. He is committed to excellence, kindles intellectual interest in new fields of research, and is one of the most frequently invited lecturers and keynote speakers in pragmatics worldwide. The varied contributions of this book reflect

on his diverse yet immensely rich expertise across multiple fields. And so, given the way in which Kecskés consistently advocates an approach in pragmatics that cuts across disciplinary divides, we present this volume as an attempt to do just that, thereby honouring both the spirit and intellectual content of the immense contribution he has made to the field of pragmatics.

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