Acknowledgments

This book is a substantially revised and extended version of my dissertation, Champollion (2010b), which introduced the framework of strata theory centered around the notion of stratified reference. It incorporates subsequent work as described here.

The story of this work begins in the summer of 2008. I had been a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania for four years, and I was just about to finish a summer internship at the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). Partly due to its proximity to Stanford University and Silicon Valley, PARC was a great place to do research at the intersection of linguistics and computer science. Among other things, I had been trying to hack some notion of aspect into the natural-language semantic pipeline they were running at the time. I enjoyed this task: I could feel like the real computational linguist that part of me has always wanted to be, and still read semantics papers all day long. Then my supervisors, Cleo Condoravdi and Danny Bobrow, asked me if I wanted to move to the West Coast and turn my aspect project into a dissertation there. None of us knew back then what it would be about and how much computer science there would be in it. In the end, there is none in it at all. I’m deeply grateful to Cleo and Danny for the trust and enthusiasm with which they embarked on this project with me.

Cleo was the natural choice as my dissertation advisor, and I haven’t regretted that choice a single time. Perhaps most importantly for me, she left me the freedom to take this enterprise in whatever direction I wanted. This is not to say that she was ever uninterested or not fully engaged, despite her many responsibilities at PARC. Cleo kept offering patient encouragement throughout the many unexpected turns this work took, and she always had the right amount of clear advice at the right time. She introduced me to the PARC and Stanford communities and, over the course of numerous hiking trips, also to the beauty of the Bay Area.

I’m deeply grateful to the chair of my dissertation, Aravind Joshi. He has been unerringly supportive as he sponsored my first stay at Penn as an exchange student, and later on as I found my way through graduate school between formal language theory and formal semantics. He selflessly supported my decision to move away from Penn and from his own research agenda.

The other members of my dissertation committee were Maribel Romero and Florian Schwarz. Maribel drew me right into semantics from the very first class I took with her at Penn in 2004. Her classes were the best I ever took. Her approach to semantics might well shape my own work more than I know. Like everyone else, I looked on in amazement as she changed jobs, moved across the ocean to Konstanz, founded a family, became department chair, and kept an eye on my dissertation all at once. I am grateful to her for her generous help. There’s no way to sneak a flawed linguistic
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I finished the dissertation in 2010 as a postdoc at the university of Tübingen, where Sigrid Beck, Fritz Hamm, and Gerhard Jäger have been fostering a lively research environment with help from their wonderful administrators, Sonja Haas-Gruber and Beate Starke. I am grateful to all of them and to the linguist friends I made there, particularly Nadine Bade, Vera Hohaus, Anna Howell, and Sonja Tiemann. Sveta Krasikova had unfortunately already left Tübingen by the time I arrived, but she was still there often enough to give me valuable comments.

I applied for my current position at NYU with a research program based on the dissertation. I have pursued it since I joined the department in 2012. This book summarizes its current state, and I believe it is a stable foundation for future theory-building. I am grateful to the remarkably talented students here and to my semanticist colleagues, Chris Barker, Philippe Schlenker, and Anna Szabolcsi, for the vibrant research environment they have created and for many conversations involving various aspects of this work. For helping me in many ways, I am also grateful to the staff, particularly Aura Holguin, Mike Kennedy, Teresa Leung, and Eddie Quiles. Among my nonsemanticist colleagues, I owe special thanks to Chris Collins for his encouragement and for his detailed comments on Chapters 8 and 9. Among the students, I am especially grateful to Hanna Muller and Linmin Zhang for helping me run web surveys
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I have benefited from many discussions in graduate seminars about this work that I taught at NYU in 2013 and 2014, and in summer school courses that I taught at ESSLLI 2012 and at the 2015 LSA summer institute. Teaching these courses was incredibly inspiring, and I am very grateful to the students who took part in them. Some of the changes in this book originated in discussions in these courses. I owe special thanks to Jeremy Kuhn, who took part in the second NYU seminar and who subsequently presented his work on the word all as Kuhn (2014). Jeremy’s influence is reflected and acknowledged throughout Chapter 10.

I published an overview of strata theory as a target article in the open peer review journal Theoretical Linguistics (Champollion 2015c). I thank Manfred Krifka for encouraging me to write that article, and I am indebted to him and to Hans-Martin Gärtner for their help as editors. I am grateful to the authors of the responses to that article (Corver 2015, Doetjes 2015, Link 2015, Piñón 2015, Schwarzschild 2015, Syrett 2015). These responses prompted me to introduce a number of refinements to the theory, as described in detail in my reply article (Champollion 2015b). This book has been updated to reflect these refinements.

A precursor of Chapter 4 was published as Champollion (2009). Two handbook articles, Champollion (to appear) and Champollion & Krifka (2016), are based in part on the dissertation. While preparing them, I have drawn primarily on the background material in Chapters 2 and 4. This has led to revisions to the text, some of which I have incorporated back into this book. The presentation in Chapter 7 draws in part on section 4 of Champollion (2015b) and on section 3 of Champollion (2015c).

Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 have been only lightly changed, mostly to improve presentation. Chapter 5 has been partly rewritten. I have removed discussion of frequency adverbs that was tangential to its main subject, and of a generalization (labeled the “sufficiently-many events” observation) based on subtle gradient judgments that I have since then tried and failed to reproduce experimentally in collaboration with Hanna Muller and Linmin Zhang. I have also expanded the section describing my account.

Chapter 8 has undergone significant expansion and changes compared with the dissertation, leading to its publication as an article in the open-access journal Semantics and Pragmatics (Champollion 2016a), which is reprinted here with slight modifications. A closely related proceedings paper, Champollion (2013), is not included in this book, but its contents are referenced at the appropriate places.

Chapter 9 is based on work I carried out at the University of Tübingen and at NYU after the dissertation was completed. Its main ideas have appeared as a short proceedings paper (Champollion 2012). Just like the previous one, this chapter has
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been published in its current form as a Semantics and Pragmatics article (Champollion 2016c) and is reprinted here with slight modifications. For their help with the text of Chapters 8 and 9, I am grateful to the journal editors, particularly Kai von Fintel and Kjell Johan Sæbø, and to the journal reviewers, particularly Malte Zimmermann.

Chapter 10 is based on Chapter 9 of the dissertation. It has undergone substantial revisions and expansions, described in the main text. A part of this chapter overlaps with Champollion (2015c); another part has appeared as a short proceedings paper, Champollion (2016b). Significant parts of the chapter are new and not included anywhere else. The original chapter contained an extensive discussion of dependent plurals, most of which has been cut from this book because it is only marginally related to strata theory.

Chapter 11, the conclusion, has been rewritten from scratch and substantially expanded to include a chapter-by-chapter summary of the book. Some of the suggestions for future work have previously appeared in Champollion (2015c).

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