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To my parents

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Preface

This book is a revision of my doctoral dissertation, completed at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in September, 1990. Although I have retained the overall structure and organization of the original, within each chapter I have made numerous substantive revisions and additions. In chapter 2 I have added some discussion of the relationship between focus and NP interpretation. I have expanded the discussions of both presupposition accommodation and specificity in chapter 3 and have re-worked much of the analysis in chapter 4. Finally, I have expanded the introductory chapter in the hopes of providing a theoretical introduction to the syntactic and semantic frameworks assumed here that will be useful to a wide range of readers.

The list of people who have offered me comments and criticisms during the various stages of completing this work is rather long, but I'd like to single out a few of them for special thanks. Angelika Kratzer and David Pesetsky have been of central influence from beginning to end, both through their comments and suggestions, and through the example set by their own scholarship and high standards. Among those who have read and extensively commented on earlier versions are F. Roger Higgins, Manfred Krifka, Robert May, Arnim von Stechow, and Koichi Tateishi. I would also like to thank Andy Barss, Maria Bittner, Mürvet Enç, Irene Heim, Eloise Jelinek, Kyle Johnson, Dick Oehrle, Barbara Partee, and Wolfgang Sternefeld. The students in my Spring 1991 colloquium seminar at the University of Arizona provided much lively discussion and also helped me remedy at least some of the expressive defects. I have also benefited from the comments and questions of audiences at Swarthmore College, The University of Arizona, the University of California at Irvine, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Toronto, the 1989 LSA Meeting in Washington, D.C., and the 1990–1991 LSA Meeting

in Chicago. An earlier version of part of chapter 2 appears in *Linguistic Inquiry* 23.3.

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Indefinites