



The Semantics-Pragmatics of Route Directions

By José Vicente Santos

VDM Verlag Jun 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 220x150x17 mm. Neuware - Have you ever asked for directions to reach an unknown destination Or instead, have you ever given path descriptions to orient people in an unfamiliar environment This is one of the most basic overlap areas between spatial reasoning and language use. How in the world do people conceive of such a text genre, and what are all the conceptual and verbal processes involved in understanding/producing, in a word construing this very specific subdomain of communicative competence The present doctoral dissertation advocates that the complex dynamics at stake when Germans have to meet this challenge encompasses mental-linguistic activities that can be traced back to a three-faceted model: a knowledge dimension is responsible for creating a cognitive map to picture the scenery along and the line linking source and goal. A discourse facet deals with a string of speech bubbles to organize in language the mental landscape highlighted by the cognitive map at hand. And a virtual dialog model is in charge of establishing a partnership uniting the writer of the wayfinding instructions and her reader to agree on a perspective taking to handle their cooperation in absentia fruitfully enough. 288 pp. English.



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