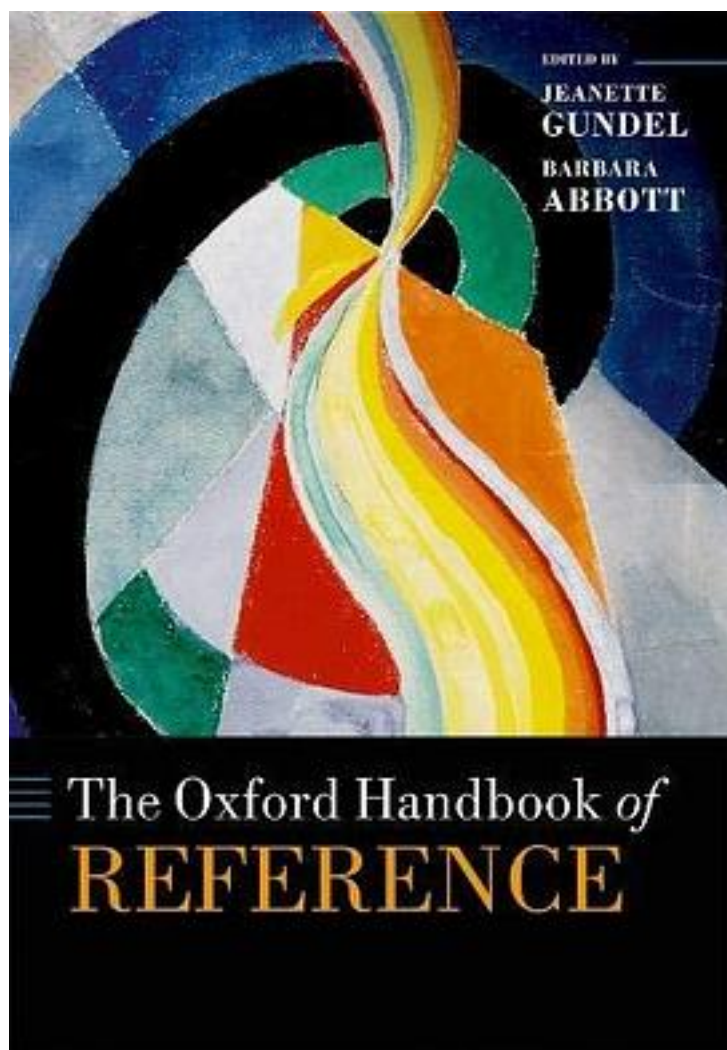


The Oxford Handbook of Reference



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This handbook presents an overview of the phenomenon of reference - the ability to refer to and pick out entities - which is an essential part of human language and cognition. In the volume's 21 chapters, international experts in the field offer a critical account of all aspects of reference from a range of theoretical perspectives.

Chapters in the first part of the book are concerned with basic questions related to different types of referring expression and their interpretation. They address questions about the role of the speaker - including speaker intentions - and of the addressee, as well as the role played by the semantics of the linguistic forms themselves in establishing reference. This part also explores the nature of such concepts as definite and indefinite reference and specificity, and the conditions under which reference may fail. The second part of the volume looks at implications and applications, with chapters covering such topics as the acquisition of reference by children, the processing of reference both in the human brain and by machines.

The volume will be of interest to linguists in a wide range of subfields, including semantics, pragmatics, computational linguistics, and psycho- and neurolinguistics, as well as scholars in related fields such as philosophy and computer science.

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Jeanette Gundel is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where she has been teaching since 1980. She is also Associate Director of the Center for Cognitive Science and an affiliate member of the Department of Philosophy. Her research focuses primarily on the interface between linguistic theory and pragmatics, especially reference and information structure.

Barbara Abbott is an Emeritus Professor of Linguistics and Philosophy at Michigan State University, where she taught from 1976 to 2006. Her main research interests are in semantics, pragmatics, and philosophy of language. She has published multiple journal articles on topics ranging from reference and noun phrase interpretation to conditional sentences, and is the author of *Reference* (OUP 2010).

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目录: 1. Introduction, Jeanette Gundel and Barbara Abbott

Part I: Foundations. Referential forms and their interpretation

2. Reference as a speech act, Peter Hanks

3. Referential intentions, Michael O'Rourke

4. Joint reference, Anne Bezuidenhout

5. Cognitive status and the form of referring expressions in discourse, Jeanette Gundel, Nancy Hedberg, and Ron Zacharski

6. Different senses of 'referential', Nancy Hedberg, Jeanette Gundel, and Kaja Borthen

7. Definiteness and familiarity, Barbara Abbott

8. The indefiniteness of definiteness, Barbara Abbott

9. Indefiniteness and specificity, Klaus von Heusinger

10. De re / de dicto, Ezra Keshet and Florian Schwarz

11. Negative existentials, Leonard Clapp, Marga Reimer, and Ann Spire

12. A taxonomy of uses of demonstratives, Ryan B. Doran and Gregory Ward
 13. Contextual influences on reference, Craige Roberts
 - Part II: Implications and applications. Processing and acquisition of reference
 14. Reference and referring expressions in first language acquisition, Anne Salazar Orvig
 15. Reference resolution: A psycholinguistic perspective, Elsi Kaiser and Emily Fedele
 16. Accessibility and reference production: The interplay between linguistic and non-linguistic factors, Jorrig Vogels, Emiel Krahmer, and Alfons Maes
 17. What can neuroscience tell us about reference?, Berit Brogaard
 18. Processing anaphoric relations: An electrophysiological perspective, Christopher Barkley and Robert Kluender
 19. Computational generation of referring expressions: An updated survey, Emiel Krahmer and Kees van Deemter
 20. Reference in robotics: A givenness hierarchy theoretic approach, Tom Williams and Matthias Scheutz
 21. Computational models of referring: Complications of information sharing, Kees van Deemter
- References
Index
• • • • • ([收起](#))

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Linguistica

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