Dirk Geeraerts. 2006. *Words and Other Wonders:Papers on Lexical and Semantic Topics.*Berlin – New York: Mouton de Gruyter, 493 pp.[1]

   Words and Other Wonders: Papers on Lexical and Semantic Topics represents a collection of papers written by Dirk Geeraerts, one of the leading linguists in the fields of lexicology and lexical semantics within the framework of cognitive linguistics. As the author explains in the preface, the book consists of seventeen selected papers written in the period of his linguistic research from 1988 to 2003. The papers were chosen so as to cover a variety of topics and issues within the areas of lexicology and lexical semantics, but also to interconnect and make a compact whole within the landscape of cognitive linguistics. All of the papers are more or less reprinted in their original forms, with some corrections, additions and typographical reorganizations, with permission of the original publishers.
   The book is organized into six sections that represent separate thematic groupings – the first dealing with prototypicality (chapters 1-4), the second depicting polysemy (chapters 5-6), the third discussing idioms and constructions (chapters 7-8), the fourth concentrating on the cultural aspects of meaning (chapters 9-12), the fifth looking closer at lexicography (chapters 13-14), and the sixth focusing on the history and methodology of lexical semantics (chapters 15-17). Each section comprises several chapters, each of which will be presented in short.
   In the first chapter, "Prospects and problems of prototype theory" (3-26), the author explains the concept of prototypicality and tries to clarify some problematic aspects of the concept. The chapter slowly introduces the reader to the topic and deals with the history of prototype theory. Furthermore, the author systematically elaborates on the four main characteristics of the theory, which is very helpful as they will be needed for further understanding throughout the course of the book.
   The second chapter, "Where does prototypicality come from?" (27-47), deals with the hypotheses about the sources of prototypicality. After presenting all four hypotheses formulated by Eleanor Rosch (1978) – physiological, referential, statistical and psychological, the author focuses his attention on the last one. Relying on the functionality of the psychological hypothesis, the author performs an analysis of a Dutch pair of synonyms, showing that precisely this hypothesis is the most convenient for explaining the source of prototypicality.
   In the third chapter, "The semantic structure of Dutch *over*" (48-73), Geeraerts depicts the Dutch preposition *over* in terms of analyzing its multidimensional semantic structure, trying to further explain prototypicality. The author includes not only examples, but also graphical representations of the semantic structure, which can make it easier for the reader to follow the text and better understand the exercise and its results.
   The fourth chapter, "Salience phenomena in the lexicon. A typology" (74-96), explains the phenomenon of salience as one of the major concepts within prototype theory. Geeraerts defines salience as the place where structure and use meet, and tries to provide a systematic overview of different forms of salience effects. Due to the complex nature of this typology, the author incorporates schematic representations for each type of salience in order to make the matter easier to understand.
   In the fifth chapter, "Vagueness's puzzles, polysemy's vagaries" (99-148), Geeraerts focuses his attention on polysemy and the distinction between polysemy and

vagueness. He first explains the relation between polysemy and prototypicality, and then provides a detailed elaboration on the criteria used to determine polysemy and to differentiate it from vagueness, together with some critical remarks and possible problems. He deduces that different criteria are in mutual conflict, which means there is not a stable distinction between vagueness and polysemy.

In the following chapter, "Classical definability and the monosemic bias" (149-172), polysemy is further studied in relation to the notion of definability. What the author attempts to find out is whether lexical semantics can retain both a monosemic bias and the ideal of classical definability. After explaining both phenomena and analyzing examples of Dutch clothing terms, Geeraerts concludes that there are examples which indicate that monosemy can be present without the possibility of the item to be classically defined and the other way around.

The seventh chapter, "The semantic structure of the indirect object in Dutch" (175-197), has as its aim to show that prototype theory can be applied not only to lexical items, but to grammatical constructions as well. The multidimensional analysis is performed on the indirect object construction in Dutch, proving that the construction is semantically cohesive. Thus, Geeraerts points out that same relations and same mechanisms apply to grammatical constructions as the ones that apply to lexical items.

The next chapter, "The interaction of metaphor and metonymy in composite expressions" (198-223), deals with semantic characteristics of idioms and compounds as composite expressions and the ways in which processes of semantic extensions work on them. Using the notions of isomorphism (syntagmatic transparency) and motivation (paradigmatic transparency) and by combining them, the author shows that semantic specialization is a matter of degree.

In the ninth chapter, "Looking back at anger. Cultural traditions and metaphorical patterns" (227-251), Geeraerts turns the focus on meaning and culture, attempting to prove the importance of cultural environment and socially interactive nature of language for cognitive approach. He depicts the topic of humoral theory and the way it influences the concept of anger. He critically observes Kövecses's explanation of physiologically motivated patterns of anger (1989) and uses the theory of four humors to explain the same patterns and to show the influence of the theory on the contemporary emotional vocabulary.

The tenth chapter, "Beer and semantics" (252-271), provides an illustration of the salience phenomena on the examples of brand names for Belgian beer, thus also shedding light on the study of proper names within cognitive linguistics. It is necessary to point out the unusual corpus of proper names chosen for the study of salience phenomena, clearly aimed to interest the reader.

In the eleventh chapter, "Cultural models of linguistic standardization" (272-306), what is studied are the so-called cultural models or folk theories about language as a social phenomenon. Geeraerts talks about several important models, concentrating on the rationalist and the romantic models as the basic ones and their later transformation into the nationalist and the postmodern models.

In order to present how the analyses of cognitive linguistics can be spread to other disciplines such as the study of religious language, Geeraerts dedicates the twelfth chapter, "Caught in a web of irony: Job and his embarrassed God" (307-324), to a discussion about the Book of Job. Instead of accepting the postmodern interpretation of meta-textual reading or the traditional interpretation of philologically heterogeneous character of the text, Geeraerts develops his own interpretation – incoherent parts of the text are seen as symptoms of humor.

In the thirteenth chapter, "The lexicographical treatment of prototypical polysemy"

(327-344) and the fourteenth chapter, "The definitional practice of dictionaries and the cognitive semantic conception of polysemy" (345-363), Geeraerts pays due attention to the field of lexicography by studying the impact of prototype theory on the problems of dictionary making and dealing with some other lexicographically relevant aspects of cognitive semantics.

In the final chapters, Geeraerts focuses on theory and method in lexical semantics. The fifteenth chapter, "Cognitive grammar and the history of lexical semantics" (367-397), has as its aim to show that cognitive semantics is not a radical break but rather a kind of a return to the prestructuralist form of semantics known as the historical-philological approach. Geeraerts dedicates the following chapter, "The theoretical and descriptive development of lexical semantics" (398-415), to other significant semantic theories, especially the ones that exist alongside cognitive semantics – structuralist, neostructuralist, generativist and neogenerativist approaches. The last chapter, "Idealist and empiricist tendencies in cognitive semantics" (416-444), is written in the form of a philosophical dialogue. The exchange of the ideas and arguments between three dramatic personae – a cognitive linguist with an empirical approach, another cognitive linguist with an idealistic approach and their mutual friend that stands for academic tolerance – gives the reader an insight into the main characteristics of these two opposing approaches and an objective picture of the current situation in cognitive semantics.

An overall impression of the book is that it represents a very exhaustive study on the topics mainly related to cognitive linguistics, exhaustive to the extent that at some points the reader may lose track in a large number of references to various linguists and theoretical backgrounds or in the complex explanations of complicated linguistic phenomena. However, due to the quantity of this study and its elaborateness, it would seem even pretentious from the reader not to put serious effort into understanding this linguistic work. The author evidently tries to make everything organized and understandable, by introducing each chapter, putting it in a certain context, clearly stating its aims and providing examples and representations. Due to his empirically-oriented approach, almost every chapter is enriched by a segment with the analysis of corpus data, thus giving the chance to the reader to comprehend something on their own. This objective approach is present even when criticizing other authors – he pays their work due respect, mostly just giving his own remarks based on the presented arguments and elaborating on the potential improvement. Another important feature is that, at the end of almost every topic, there are new ideas given about the possible further examination and future development.

In conclusion, the book is definitely an important contribution to the studies of lexicology and lexical semantics, on several levels, within the framework of cognitive linguistics. A good organization of the selected topics into thematic sections and a logical sequence of chapters only adds to the successfulness of the subject matter presented. Not only does it explain the foundations of cognitive semantics, but also elaborates on the close relationship of lexical semantics with culture and other disciplines such as lexicography, and even provides a historical overview of the main traditions of lexical semantics, thus showing the course of its development. Considering all of that, its linguistic significance is unquestionable.

Aleksandra Š. Kardoš
Filozofski fakultet
Univerzitet u Novom Sadu
sandra.kardosh@gmail.com