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**PRAGMATIC ASPECTS
OF
ENGLISH TEXT STRUCTURE**

Larry Bert Jones

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Foreword

In any discourse the speaker/author makes assumptions, consciously or subconsciously, about the knowledge of the hearer/reader. These assumptions and their relation to discourse are a focus of current investigation and theorizing. But has theorizing regarding the structure of human knowledge matured to the point where, confronted with a given discourse, a text analyst can have a reasonable assurance that he has reconstructed the assumptions of the speaker/author? While this volume does not explicitly raise this question, it implies it and gives it an affirmative answer.

Aside from some preliminary matters in the Introduction and in Chapter 1, the meat of the book is found in chapters 2 through 4. Here Jones attempts to refine and extend the use of the "frame" as a basic unit in the structure of a person's knowledge, then puts frame and kindred notions to work in the analysis of text. Fortunately Jones does not assume overmuch regarding his "reader's foregrounded frame" in regard to this subject. Rather, he provides many examples to illustrate his analysis.

In general this volume is a contribution to the *pragmatics* of discourse, i.e., the study of the communication situation and relations between speaker/author and hearer/reader. As such, this volume should be of value to editors, speech writers, teachers of rhetoric and composition, and the like. Furthermore the author believes that it "could have a significant impact on the philological interpretation of various texts," such as ancient Greek medical writings and medieval literature.

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