



Antonyms in English: Construals, Constructions and Canonicity (Studies in English Language)

By Steven Jones, M. Lynne Murphy, Carita Paradis, Caroline Willners

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The study of antonyms (or 'opposites') in a language can provide important insight into word meaning and discourse structures. This book provides an extensive investigation of antonyms in English and offers an innovative model of how we mentally organize concepts and how we perceive contrasts between them. The authors use corpus and experimental methods to build a theoretical picture of the antonym relation, its status in the mind and its construal in context. Evidence is drawn from natural antonym use in speech and writing, first-language antonym acquisition, and controlled elicitation and judgements of antonym pairs by native speakers. The book also proposes ways in which a greater knowledge of how antonyms work can be applied to the fields of language technology and lexicography.

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- Rank: #9733534 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-26
- Released on: 2015-03-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .39" w x 5.98" l, .56 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 186 pages

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About the Author

Steven Jones is Senior Lecturer in English Language in the School of Education at the University of Manchester.

M. Lynne Murphy is Senior Lecturer in Linguistics in the School of English at the University of Sussex.

Carita Paradis is Full Professor in the Centre for Languages and Literature at Lund University, Sweden.

Caroline Willners is a researcher in Linguistics in the Centre for Languages and Literature at Lund University, Sweden.

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