

# Introduction

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The authors and editors of this book dedicate it to Sandra Annear Thompson on the occasion of her sixtieth birthday. By presenting articles on complex clauses in discourse and grammar, we honor Sandy's spirit, creativity, steadfastness, and intelligence. The centerpiece of her intellectual enterprise is the study of grammar as it arises and manifests itself in natural discourse. In the course of this study she has produced scores of exciting and original studies of the discourse function of, among others, complex clauses, adjectives, datives, transitivity, relative clauses, unattached NPs, Japanese postpositions, and pronouns. She has done this in addition to her work on Chinese grammar and its history, Wappo grammar, grammaticalization theory, and her many discourse-related contributions to typology, including studies of subject and topic, word order, core and oblique distinctions, interrogation, and negation. As a complement to her own contributions, she has inspired a generation of linguists to look at grammar from a new angle, an angle that situates grammar in a communicative context and explains both the how and the why of grammatical properties.

Though her academic contributions are ample cause for celebration, we are moved to honor Sandy for the love and friendship that she has bestowed upon her students and colleagues. Sandy is a kind, supportive, funny, gentle, wise, steady, thoughtful and co-operative member of the academic community and indeed, the human race. As the record shows, she prefers working in collaboration with other people to working alone. Her kind and sympathetic nature allows her to get as excited about other people's projects as her own. She views science as a dialogue, a co-built, negotiated affair — in short, a conversation. In fact, a problem several authors faced in working on their chapters for this volume was that if they discussed their topics with Sandy (without her knowing the ultimate destination of the articles) she was characteristically so supportive and enthusiastic that she offered to work on the paper with them!

Given the way Sandy is loved, a major challenge for the editors was restricting the number of papers so that a volume of manageable size could be produced. A general call for contributions would have produced enough articles for several volumes. The contributors to this volume are primarily people who have been Sandy's co-authors. Our apologies to all those who would have liked to contribute. The editors feel that one volume in honor of a researcher with the stature and influence that Sandy has is probably not enough, and we invite others to dedicate volumes to her. This is only the beginning.