This selection of original papers written by Hans Kamp—philosopher-linguist-logician-cognitive-scientist and computer-scientist of great repute and lasting influence—presents to you the core of his scientific research on natural language semantics and its relation to logic, philosophy and linguistics. In selecting his best papers we often faced some difficult decisions, but we maintained as editorial guiding principles that (1) the paper should have Hans Kamp as sole author, (2) the paper should have had a significant impact in its field upon first publication, (3) the paper should still have lasting importance for various readerships, and last but not least, (4) easy access to the paper must be guaranteed for future generations. Although the selected papers have been printed here in their original version, some minor corrections, adjustments in formal details or removal of typos have been allowed. Each paper contains a first footnote acknowledging its original place of publication, thanking its publisher for its kind permission to include it in this selection.

The tremendous breadth of Hans Kamp's research is reflected in the distribution of the selected papers over six parts, ranging from philosophical reflection on the foundational issues in the ancient Sorites Paradox with a formal account of what its solution is, to a detailed review of current analyses of presuppositions in dynamic semantic theories. Each part is introduced by Hans Kamp with a new text in which the papers are positioned. Part One *Events, Temporal Reference, and Discourse* contains three influential papers on the logic of time and temporal reference, including Kamp's early and justly very famous paper *Formal Properties of 'Now'*, which established Kamp's reputation at a relatively young age in 1971 as a model-theoretic logician, shortly after completing his Ph.D. at UCLA with Richard Montague. *Events, Instants and Temporal Reference* addresses, among other topics, how instants may be derived from events, following in the footsteps of a historical logical analysis advocated by Bertrand Russell, Norbert Wiener and Alfred Whitehead in the beginning of the 20th century. *Deixis in Discourse. Reichenbach on Temporal Reference* contains a detailed account of how the historic theory of temporal reference from Hans Reichenbach—a logician in the Vienna Circle (±1924–1936), who showed a surprising
sensitivity to natural language at a time this was definitely out of fashion—
currently may help linguists to understand the deictic aspects of temporal
reference times and their dynamics. It reviews also the shortcomings of the
Priorean tense logics, that Montague had adopted in his work on natural
language semantics.

Part Two *Semantics and Pragmatics* contains two classical papers on the
interface of semantics, as the logical theory of truth-functional meaning,
and the pragmatic aspects of interpretation in context. *Free Choice Permis-
sion* addresses the logical properties of disjunctive permission, arguing that
giving permission cannot be reduced to asserting that something is permit-
ted, as had previously been equated in von Wright’s deontic logic. Kamp
investigates in more depth the intensional logical relations between perfo-
rmative acts and assertions in terms of options and continuations of given sit-
uations in *Semantics versus Pragmatics*, showing that even assertions cover
a diverse set of acts whose meaning cannot be adequately captured by con-
cepts of truth and satisfaction only, while maintaining a universal semantics
for logical vocabulary. The paper also addresses Kaplan’s notion of *character
in discussing the essential indexical aspects of making assertions in context,
ending on a more cognitive science note of whether ways in which people
may differ in computing meaning in context should bear on theories of lin-
guistic competence. With our current hindsight both papers may be viewed
as early precursors of the more comprehensive, dynamic theory of meaning
Kamp was to develop a decade later.

Part Three *Vagueness* contains two early papers addressing the semantics
of adjectives. In *Two Theories about Adjectives* Kamp first reviews as possi-
ble solutions multi-valued logics, supervaluations, and vague models with
degrees of satisfaction and a probability distribution over possible comple-
tions, before specifying the notion of a graded context-dependent model as
a first theory of adjectives. His second theory of adjectives proposes to take
coherence of contexts as core notion in the model theory and exploits the
dynamic modification of context as a new semantic tool, leaving the meta-
logical question just what kind of logic it yields wide open. The *Paradox of
the Heap* investigates the consequences of contextual fixing of the exten-
sions of vague predicates. Its semantics for a formal language containing
vague predicates is highly non-standard, worth pursuing for even someone
who questions the assumptions the semantics is based on. Some technical
aspects of this semantics are made explicit in an appendix, added in this
reprint. If a reasonable solution could be found using the fixed point log-
ics the paper defines with some reasonable inferential properties, such a
solution might still qualify as illuminating, since it has been obtained under
what must be about the most unaccommodating preconditions. The two