

Communicative Action

Tzu-Wei Hung
Editor

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Selected Papers of the 2013 IEAS Conference
on Language and Action

 Springer

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Institute of European and American Studies
Academia Sinica
Taipei
Taiwan

ISBN 978-981-4585-83-5 ISBN 978-981-4585-84-2 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-981-4585-84-2
Springer Singapore Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

Library of Congress Control Number: 2014936113

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Printed on acid-free paper

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Preface

This book focuses on the relationship between action and language. Despite intensive debates over action and language, few studies have examined how they are related and their shared underlying mechanisms. Some researchers claim that language is a special and highly structural case of action; that sensorimotor circuits form a cortical basis for language, and that language processing can be accounted for by sensorimotor interactions. Hence, the extent to which a mechanism for processing actions also facilitates processing language is an interesting question.

This book aims to foster a conversation among interdisciplinary scholars interested in unpicking the relationship between these two significant human capacities. This book is written for readers from different academic backgrounds—from graduate students to established academics, and readers will benefit from the diverse perspectives and extensive discussions of relevant issues.

Earlier versions of the essays in this book were presented at the 2013 IEAS Conference on Language and Action, held from September 17 to September 18, in Taipei, Taiwan. For financial and administrative support, I thank the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica (Chyong-Fang Ko, Director) and its Philosophy Group (especially Jih-Ching Ho, Wan-Chuan Fang, Norman Y. Teng, Timothy Joseph Lane). Following peer review, only some of the conference papers presented were selected for inclusion here, and I thank the referees for their work. I regret that I had to turn down several quality papers due to space limitations. Finally, I thank the editorial assistants, Yu-Tin Lin, Chih-Wei Wu, Kuei-Feng Hu, and Yi-Hsin Lai, for making this book possible.

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