



**Semantic Primes and Universal Grammar:  
Emperical evidence from the Romance languages  
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# Semantic Primes and Universal Grammar: Emperical evidence from the Romance languages (Studies in Language Companion Series)

## Semantic Primes and Universal Grammar: Emperical evidence from the Romance languages (Studies in Language Companion Series)

This volume is part of a research program which started with the publication, in 1972, of Anna Wierzbicka's groundbreaking work on *Semantic Primitives*. The first within the program to focus on a number of typologically similar languages, it proposes a French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian version of the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) elaborated over the years by Wierzbicka and colleagues. Repetition is avoided through teamwork: a number of authors working on the languages under examination have had equal input in a set of five papers dealing with distinct parts of the metalanguage. Some of the findings presented here invite us to have a fresh look at what has already been achieved, and to amend some of the working hypotheses of the NSM approach accordingly. The volume also contains six case studies (on Italian *sfogarsi*, Portuguese *saudades*, Spanish *crisis*, French *certes*, Spanish expressions of sincerity and Italian and Spanish diminutives, respectively).

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