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Type	Dissertation
Title	Models of language: towards a practice-based account of information in natural language
Author	E.J. Andrade-Lotero
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities Faculty of Science
Year	2012
Pages	xi, 206
ISBN	978–958–44–9760-4

FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS:
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Acknowledgments

This thesis is a philosophical work that has not been written by a philosopher. Though educated as a mathematician, I grew more and more passionate about philosophy over the years, yet never did I take a philosophy course. Sometimes I believed, as many of my fellow mathematicians did, that nothing is an academic work worth its salt if it is not formal and rigorous as a mathematical demonstration. Consequently, as I wrote down my first few drafts of a philosophical piece, I pretended to write down a demonstration. Just as many, though not all, of my fellow philosophers, I was under the wrong impression that philosophy ought to be an endeavor of writing down demonstrations. I owe Martin Stokhof the realization that this is not how things work in philosophy, let alone how they ought to. Martin taught me that there is a difference between a demonstration and an argument, and that there can be non-formal yet fully rigorous arguments. Needless to say, these lessons showed me the way to both a more humble and a more clearly structured manner of writing. Having finished my thesis, however, I feel that a long way still lies ahead before I can produce a truly satisfactory philosophical work.

Many people deserve mention for having helped me in the writing of my thesis, either by directly providing feedback, clarification of thoughts through lively discussions, or moral and material support. First of all, my supervisors, Martin Stokhof and Michiel van Lambalgen, who believed that I could live up to their expectations and produce a not completely nonsensical piece with some interesting ideas and arguments in it. I owe to them not only clearing up my blurry ideas, but also the method of study and a tireless love for work (though I still have a tiresome love for procrastination). There are not enough words to thank them for their effort to read my drafts and peel the onion of my ideas. I should also mention my 'non-official supervisor', Catarina Dutilh, who pushed me to improve and clear up my ideas and provided valuable feedback on many of my pieces; we had a very productive collaboration, and she became a very good friend. My fellow students provided a rich and productive environment full of interesting and

challenging discussions and a friendly and human atmosphere; in the hope that I don't forget any of them I dare to give their names here: Erik Rietveld, Chantal Bax, Dora Achourioti, Marc Staudacher, Dimitris Gakis, Inés Crespo, Floris Roelofsen, Tikitu de Jager, and Michael Franke. My friends in Amsterdam, and especially my wife, Juli, provided the moral support and distraction that I needed to complete an enterprise of the magnitude of this thesis. Moreover, Juli not only encouraged me to pursue my philosophical enterprise, but enhanced my academic life as well; we share a passion for books, typography, LaTeX, and some philosophical topics; she also provided a lot of help for the thesis and cover layouts. I should also mention Elli Bleeker, who was extremely kind to help me with the Dutch translation of the abstract.

Finally, I would like to thank the Department of Philosophy and the ILLC, which provided me with the position and hence the material means for my study at the UvA; the ILLC staff for all their cooperation and support, especially Tanja Kasenaar and Peter van Ormondt; and the Universidad del Rosario, for allotting enough time in my work description to finish my thesis.

Bogotá Edgar J. Andrade-Lotero
January, 2012.