

Preface

My academic life has in the first place been devoted to the study of argumentation, more in particular to the development of the pragma-dialectical theory of argumentation. In order to realize my scholarly ambitions, I instigated and carried out a systematic research program in the department of Speech Communication, Argumentation Theory and Rhetoric of the University of Amsterdam. Alone or together with other members of the department, I have published the results of the research in a great many papers in journals and conference proceedings and in book chapters in readers.

It has always been my policy to capture after a substantial period of research the main insights gained by the research reported in the separate papers in a concluding monograph about the general theme concentrated upon. This has resulted in the publication of the following book volumes: *Speech acts in argumentative discussions* (1984), *Argumentation, communication, and fallacies* (1992), and *A systematic theory of argumentation* (2004), co-authored by Rob Grootendorst; *Reconstructing argumentative discourse* (1993), written with Grootendorst, Sally Jackson, and Scott Jacobs; *Argumentative indicators in discourse* (2007), written with Peter Houtlosser and Francisca Snoeck Henkemans; *Fallacies and judgments of reasonableness* (2009), co-authored by Bart Garssen and Bert Meuffels; and *Strategic maneuvering in argumentative discourse* (2010).

While working on a historical project, titled *The Making of Pragma-Dialectics*, I recently discovered that the idea that the monographs cover all significant insights advanced in the various papers is not correct. Some papers treat topics not dealt with in any of the monographs or only briefly touched upon. Other papers provide a more elaborate treatment of a particular topic or view than can be found in the monographs. Still other papers go into more detail or pay a great deal more attention to specifics that may be pertinent to some scholars. There are also papers in which certain points are made in a different and perhaps more enlightening way than in the monographs. Some other papers may be particularly worthwhile to scholars interested in the genesis of the pragma-dialectical theory.

The title of this volume, *Reasonableness and Effectiveness in Argumentative Discourse*, reflects my view that reasonableness and effectiveness are the central

issues of argumentation theory and are therefore, as a matter of course, the primary concern of the participants in the ongoing pragma-dialectical research program. The 50 contributions I have selected from the circa 340 papers I have published over the years all relate to the themes of reasonableness and effectiveness, and in some cases particularly to their relationship.

Part I, “Argumentation Theory as a Discipline,” contains contributions in which my general views on the study of argumentation are presented—as in other cases, often in collaboration with others. In Part II, “The Pragma-Dialectical Research Program,” the way in which in pragma-dialectics argumentation is systematically tackled as a topic of research is sketched. Part III, “The Dialectical Dimension of Pragma-Dialectics,” concentrates on the pragma-dialectical coverage of the reasonableness of argumentation. In Part IV, “The Pragmatic Dimension of Pragma-Dialectics,” some contributions are collected which explain how argumentative discourse can be examined as verbal communication in natural language. Part V, “Strategic Manoeuvring in Argumentative Discourse,” discusses the extended version of pragma-dialectics in which insights from rhetoric are included. Part VI, “Analysis as Reconstruction,” includes contributions about the pragma-dialectical method of interpreting argumentative discourse. Part VII, “Fallacies in Argumentative Discourse,” contains papers dealing with fallacies as violations of the pragma-dialectical rules for critical discussion. Part VIII, “Various Theoretical Issues,” explains the pragma-dialectical views of context, the role of logic, verbal indicators of argumentative moves and argument schemes, and the process of writing and rewriting argumentative texts. In Part IX, “Experimental Research Concerning Argumentation,” the pragma-dialectical quantitative approach of empirical research of argumentative discourse is illustrated. Part X, “Case Studies,” presents the applications of the pragma-dialectical method of analysis to specific historical cases of argumentative discourse.

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