

**INTENSIONAL EMOTIVE CONSTRUCTIONS,
LINGUISTIC MEANING AND COGNITIVE
STRUCTURES OF EMOTIVE EXPRESSIONS**

by

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Intensional Emotive Constructions, Linguistic Meaning and Cognitive Structures of Emotive Expressions**” being submitted by Mr. Prakash Chandra Mondal for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**, to the **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi** is a record of original bona-fide research carried out by him under our guidance and supervision. We are satisfied that the thesis presented by Mr. Prakash Chandra Mondal is worthy of consideration for the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy**.

The results of this thesis have not been submitted to any other University or Institute for award of degree or diploma.

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I dedicate this thesis to the intellectual world where it belongs.

Prakash Chandra Mondal

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ABSTRACT

This thesis investigates the relationship between intensionality, language and the cognitive structures underlying emotive expressions. It begins by clarifying the notions of intensionality, intentionality and emotive content, and then presents some puzzles that involve emotive predicates in intensional contexts. One of the main questions that emerges from this enquiry is: what do the semantic structures of intensional emotive constructions uncover about the cognitive/conceptual structures that characterize expressive/affective content?

A careful inspection of the interaction of intensional contexts and emotive predicates, based on relevant data from both English and some Indian languages, enables some surprising generalizations, of which the central one is: variations in the intensionality of intensional emotive constructions— as a function of the satisfaction of three well-defined criteria of intensionality— result in concomitant variations in the semantic/conceptual structures of emotive expressions.

This helps demonstrate that the structure of linguistic meaning is not merely derived within grammar, but also constrained by a combination of logical, mental/cognitive and linguistic properties as well as properties of embodiment. This is so regardless of how such linguistic meanings are represented in notations or metalanguages, even though the observations have in fact been described using the apparatus from Jackendoff's *Conceptual Semantics*.

This thesis attempts to capture the essential idea outlined above in the form of a theorem entitled 'The Correspondence Theorem for the Cognitive/Conceptual Structures of Emotive Expressions', which states that each intensional pattern/type corresponds to a different cognitive/conceptual structure of emotive expression(s), or vice versa. The thesis argues that the implications of this

seemingly simple theorem could prove to be far-reaching. On the one hand, it lends credence to the view that the intentional content of emotive expressions can have a cognitive grounding as well as a bodily basis, and on the other, it helps determine the operations of an 'interface' that connects language to emotion within the architecture of our cognitive substrate.

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