

Causality and non–iconic order in French

Jacques Moeschler

Jacques.Moeschler@unige.ch

University of Geneva

This article explores the semantics and pragmatics of causal discourse, which is defined in terms of discourse segments that are used in consequence-cause order, otherwise known as causal non-iconic order. It will provide linguistic and pragmatic arguments in favor of non-iconic order, as well as thorough semantic and pragmatic analyses of the French connectives *parce que*, *donc* and *et*. Argumentative uses of *parce que* will be analyzed in terms of epistemic use, which obliges the causal relationship to be compatible with the conclusion argument order imposed by argumentative relationships. Finally, the semantic and pragmatic status of *parce que*, *donc* and *et* will be defined in terms of semantic entailment, implicature and explicature.

Key words: causality, *parce que*, entailment, implicature, explicature