Ackn	owledgements	X
The a	author and series editors	xv
Forev	word	xvii
Text	data, its sources, and presentation	xix
Chap	oter 1 What is vague language?	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Defining vague language	5
1.3	Vagueness and communication	13
1.4	The treatment of vague language in this book	17
1.5	A working definition of vague language	19
1.6	The place of vagueness in the study of language	20
1.7	Organization of the book	21
Chan	oter 2 Theory and methodology of the study of vague	
- Land	language	23
2.1	Idealization	23
2.2	Meaning and what it means to study meaning	24
2.3	Levels of analysis of language	26
2.4	Making judgements about language	27
2.5	Distinguishing between semantics and pragmatics	28
2.6	Semantics	30
2.7	Representations of meaning	30
2.8	Pragmatics	31
2.9	'Context' and 'pragmatics'	34
2.10	Vagueness versus ambiguity	34
2.11	Methodology	38
2.12	Examples and other data	39
2 13	Transcription of recorded data	41

Chapter 3	Approximating quantities with	numbers
	and approximators	

3.1	Introduction	42
3.2	The general meaning of approximator + n structures	44
3.3	About, around, and round	45
	Distribution and structure	
	Meaning	
3.4	Approximately	50
	Distribution	
	Meaning	
3.5	n or m	53
	Intonation	
	Distribution	
	Meaning	
3.6	n or so	59
	Distribution	
	Meaning	
3.7		62
3.8	Combinations of approximators	68
3.9	Numbers in approximations	70
	Approximators with and without round numbers	
3.10	Implicatures and entailments of approximator	
	+ n structures	72
3.11	Cross-linguistic comparison	74
	Summary	75
	•	
Chap	oter 4 Approximating quantities with round numbers	
4.1	Using a precise number with a vague meaning	78
	'Round' numbers = reference point numbers	81
4.3	'Faded' numbers as approximations	86
4.4	How do we know when an apparently exact	
	number is an approximation?	87
4.5	Exaggeration	89
4.6	Using a plural number name to approximate a	
	quantity	90
	Meaning	
4.7	Cross-linguistic comparison	93
4.8	Summary	94

Cnaj	vague quantifiers	
5.1	Introduction	95
5.2	Approach	96
	Plural quantifier $+ of + noun$	100
	Bags (of)	
	Loads (of)	
	Lots (of)	
	Masses (of)	
	Oodles (of)	
5.4	A + singular quantifier (+ of + noun)	104
	A bit of	
	A load of	
	A lot (of)	
	A mass of	
	A scrap (of)	
	A touch of	4.00
	Other uses of pseudopartitives	109
5.6	Vague quantifier + countable noun	111
	(A) few	
	Some	
	Several	
	Many	
<i>-</i> 7	Umpteen	11/
	Adverbs of frequency	116
5.8	Summary	118
Cha	oter 6 Referring vaguely to categories	
6.1	Introduction	119
6.2	An outline analysis	120
6.3	Testing for the meaning of vague category	
	identifiers	123
	Method	

Responses to items in Rosch's categories

General conclusions from the results

Results and discussion

Responses to real examples

6.4	The structure of the tags	131
6.5	Structure of exemplar + tag	132
	Noun phrase + tag	
	Verb phrase + tag	
	Embedded sentence + tag	
	Prepositional phrase + tag	
	Adjectives, adverbs + tags	
	Intonation and vague tagging	
6.6	Co-occurrence restrictions	140
6.7	Summary	143
Chap	oter 7 Thingy and whatsisname: placeholder words	157
7.1	Introduction	157
	Examples	158
	Thingy	
	Thingummy, thingummyjig, thingummabob	
	Whatsisname	
	Whatnot	
	Whosit	
	Whatsit	
7.3	Semantics and pragmatics	162
7.4	Summary	164
Chap	oter 8 The uses of vague language	165
8.1	Introduction	165
	Analytical approach	165
	Three scenarios showing vagueness	166
0.0	Eighty or so pence	
	Elaborated code and things like that	
	Humorous effects	
8.4	Giving the right amount of information	173
8.5	Deliberately withholding information	178
	Using language persuasively	179
8.7	Lexical gaps	180
	Lacking specific information	184
	Displacement	186
	Self-protection	188
	Power and politeness	190

8.12	Informality and atmosphere	191
8.13	Women's language	192
8.14	Summary	194
Chap	oter 9 Going beyond the information given	196
9.1	Summary	196
9.2	Implications for language understanding	198
	Vagueness and categorization	
9.3	Language and the world	201
9.4	Consequences for linguistics	202
9.5	Applications of the study of vague language in	
	English	204
	English language teaching	
	Communication skills teaching	
	Vagueness and politeness	
	Lexicography	
9.6	An exercise on the analysis of vague language	206
9.7	Looking forward	208
Bibli	ography	210
Glos	sary	216
Inde	x	222