

PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

PHIL 123/224 (LING 123)
Winter 2003
T, Th 6:00pm–7:45pm
Cowell 134
Teaching Assistant: Sean Oliveira

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Texts

(Available at Literary Guillotine)
A.P. Martinich [M], *The Philosophy of Language* (3rd or 4th ed.) (OUP).
Devitt and Sterelny [D&S], *Language and Reality* (1st or 2nd ed.) (MIT).
Other readings [r] will be on reserve.

Requirements

3 papers, due at start of class on:
Th 1/30 (4 pages), Th 2/20 (4 pages), and Th 3/13 (6 pages).
Plus regular in-class quizzes.

Topics

Required readings (@), and optional supplementary readings (*).

1 Meaning and Reference

1.1 The “Fido”-Fido Theory of Meaning

- @ Mill, “Of Names” [M]
- @ Devitt and Sterelny, *Language and Reality* [D&S], ch. 1.

1.2 Sense and Reference

- @ Frege, “On Sense and Reference” [M]
- @ Devitt and Sterelny, *Language and Reality* [D&S], chs.1 and 2
- * Kenny, *Frege*, ch. 7 [r]

1.3 Names and Descriptions

- @ Russell, “Descriptions” [M]
- @ [D&S], ch.2 (esp. 2.5–2.7), ch.3
- * Russell, “On Denoting” [M]
- * Strawson, “On Referring” [M]
- * Donnellan, “Reference and Definite Descriptions” [M]
- * [D&S], 5.7

1.4 Causal Theory of Names

- @ Kripke, “Naming and Necessity” [M]
- @ [D&S], ch.4
- * Evans, “The Causal Theory of Names” [M]

1.5 Natural Kind Terms

- @ Putnam, “Meaning and Reference” [M]

1.6 Defending Descriptivism

- @ Searle, “Proper Names and Intentionality” [M]
- @ Devitt, “Meanings Just Ain’t in the Head” [r]
- @ [D&S], ch.5
- * Searle, “Proper Names” [M]

2 The Basis of Meaning

2.1 Tarski’s Theory of Truth

- @ Tarski, “The Semantic Conception of Truth and the Foundations of Semantics” [M]
- @ Tarski, “Truth and Proof” [r]

2.2 Truth and Meaning

- @ Davidson, “Truth and Meaning” [M]
- @ [D&S], 2.1–2.4 and 15.4–15.5
- * Strawson, “Meaning and Truth” [M]
- * Foster, “Meaning and Truth Theory” [r]
- * Soames, “Truth, Meaning, and Understanding” [r]

2.3 Speaker's Meaning and Literal Meaning

- @ Grice, "Meaning" [M]
- @ [D&S], 7.4–7.6

2.4 Convention

- @ Lewis, "Languages and Language" [M]
- * Plato, *Cratylus* [r]

Further Reading

Optional.

- * Wittgenstein, *Tractatus* (1922), and *Philosophical Investigations* (1953)
- * Ayer, *Language, Truth, and Logic* (1946)
- * Quine, *Word and Object* (1960)
- * Lewis, *Convention* (1969)
- * Kripke, *Naming and Necessity* (1980)
- * Loar, *Mind and Meaning* (1981)
- * Evans, *The Varieties of Reference* (1982)
- * Salmon, *Frege's Puzzle* (1986)
- * Neale, *Descriptions* (1990)
- * Hale and Wright, *A Companion to the Philosophy of Language* (1997)
- * Stroll, *Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy* (2000)
- * Soames, *Beyond Rigidity* (2002)