

PROBLEM SET 3

Due Thursday February, 14 in Class

PHILOSOPHY OF
LANGUAGE

Exercise 1 (15 pts.) Which of the following are instances of natural meaning, and which are instances of non-natural meaning?

- (a) That grumbling stomach means you've got to see the doctor.
- (b) Sasha said "leave!" and he meant it.
- (c) That particular kind of traffic sign means that you should slow down because there's a turn ahead.
- (d) His odd handwriting clearly indicates the letter was written in haste. That means that he must be in trouble.
- (e) The French sentence "Pierre aime les chats" means that Pierre likes cats.

Exercise 2 (15 pts.) Which of the following discuss sentence (or word) meaning, which discuss speaker meaning, and which discuss utterance meaning?

- (a) What Sally meant by saying she was tired was that it was time for us to leave now.
- (b) "Green" on that sign means the same as "environmentally friendly"—it's not talking about the color.
- (c) For just about every expression in French there is an expression in English with the same meaning.
- (d) What do you mean when you say that I'm *overreaching*?
- (e) I can't tell what the writing says. If I only knew what it meant I would know where to go.

Exercise 3 (12 pts.) Which of the following constructions are *factive*? (If you feel there's evidence in favor of both construals, side with the 'majority' of the evidence.)

- (a) "A is glad at the fact that p "
- (b) "A is hopeful that p "
- (c) "A was aware that p "
- (d) "A intends to p "

Exercise 4 (8 pts.) The following case has been presented as a counterexample to what I called Grice's "final" analysis. Figure out why someone might think this. In particular, explain exactly how the counterexample is supposed to work by saying whether it is supposed to be a counterexample to the necessity of certain kinds of speaker intentions for speaker meaning, or to the sufficiency of certain kinds of speaker intentions for speaker meaning. In the process, say for each part of Grice's final analysis whether that part of the analysis ((i)–(iii) on Handout 9) is supposed to be true of the story or not.

Sasha wants to convince Jane that the house she's buying is rat infested (which it is). He does this by letting out a rat in that house. He pretends to do this secretly, but actually Jane can see him release the rat. What's more Sasha knows that she can see him. Jane believes that Sasha doesn't know she can see him, and she also believes that Sasha would only use the rat as a way of getting her to think the house is rat infested if it really was (bless his heart). Moreover, Sasha knows this, and he is releasing the rat knowing that Jane will think "Wow, Sasha would only do that if he were trying to get me to believe the house were rat infested. That's good enough reason for me to believe it's rat infested."