UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MPHIL EXAMINATIONS

for internal students

Philosophy of Language

10:00-13:00, Tuesday 14th May, 2002

Candidates should answer THREE of the following questions.

Please avoid overlap in your answers.

1.   Expound and defend what you take to be the best account of the semantics of indexical expressions.

2.   What problems does 'Ortcutt believes that someone is a spy' pose for semantic theory? How may these problems be solved?

3.   'Tarski defined truth in terms of meaning; Davidson defined meaning in terms of truth.' Critically discuss this claim.

4.   In what sense, if any, is it true to say that someone who understands a natural language tacitly knows a syntactic and semantic theory of that language?

5.   Is the perspective of the radical interpreter the best one to adopt in giving an account of meaning?

6.   What problems are caused for philosophical accounts of meaning by the phenomenon of metaphor? What is the best way to solve these problems?

7.   Are definite descriptions quantificational expressions?

8.   'No word or sentence of natural language has a context-independent meaning, therefore any attempt to provide a formal semantics for a natural language will fail.' Discuss

9.   Explain and defend what you take to be the best solution to Sorites paradoxes.

10.   What is the best account of the link between a referring expression and the item that it refers to?

END OF PAPER